

LINK

Monthly Magazine

APRIL
2013

50p



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth
The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

Serving the whole community



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REGULAR SERVICES

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR ON CENTRE PAGES FOR FURTHER DETAILS, AND OCCASIONAL VARIATIONS AND ADDITIONS

	TIME	SERVICE	FORM
SUNDAYS			
Weekly	8.00AM	Holy Communion	Anglican BCP
1st	10.00AM	Family Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre	United Rite
2nd-5th	10.00AM	Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre Children's Church in the Church Centre Crèche in the Tower	
2nd	12.15PM	Holy Communion	United Rite
Weekly	6.00PM	Evening Service	
WEEKDAYS			
	Mon-Fri 8.30AM	Morning Prayer	
	Tue 9.30AM	Holy Communion	United Rite
	Mon-Fri 5.45PM	Evening Prayer	

CONTACTS

The code for all telephone numbers is 01923, unless otherwise indicated.

CHURCH WEBSITE	www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk		
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Parish Secretary	Louise Wotherspoon	Church Street, Rickmansworth	721002
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Opening Hours		9.30AM-1.30PM, Mon, Thu, Fri, and 1.00-3.00pm Wed, in school term time	

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April 2013

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Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

Having sung in a Church Choir for many years, and been involved in various Church Music ‘circles’ for many years too, many of the words of the Prayer Book Collects and scripture passages are ingrained in my mind as hymns, songs and anthems. These inform a lot of my theology, just as they were, or are, intended to.

Singing sets things into the heart and mind - even if we don’t sing all that well! Thus we arrive at Easter and reeling (as in musically reeling!) around in my mind will be the hymn, *This Joyful Eastertide*. You may know how much I value good hymnody and fine music: this hymn has them both. There are two things I love about this hymn particularly though.

Firstly, I am captivated by the second phrase of the first verse: *My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow*. It captures something of Mary Magdalene in the garden ‘on the first day of the week’ meeting the gardener who revealed himself as Jesus: ‘*My Love*’. Many of you will have seen paintings of the moment when Mary reaches out to Jesus - wanting to touch again, her love, the crucified, the one who is - impossibly, amazingly - alive and standing before her.

Secondly I also love the clear and categorical statement of the refrain:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

There is no doubt, Jesus is arisen - and if he were not, there

would be no point to our faith. The Resurrection is the foundation for our hope, and for this we must say, Alleluia Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

Deborah

Sunday Service Readings

8.00am and 10.00am

7 April	Acts 5.27-32*	Rev 1.4-8*	John 20.19-31
14 April	Acts 9. 1-6	Rev 5.11-14	John 21.1-19
21 April	Acts 9. 36-43	Rev 7.9-17	John 10.22-30
28 April	Acts 11.1-18	Rev 21.1-6	John 13.31-35

*8.00am service only

Prayers

Weekly Pointers for the Month

Week beginning:

7 April	Healers and carers
14 April	Teachers
21 April	Godparents
28 April	Children

For Local Churches

The Deanery

7 Apr	Sarratt and Chipperfield
14 Apr	St Andrew's, Chorleywood
21 Apr	St Lawrence, Bovingdon
28 Apr	St Mary's, Rickmansworth

The Methodist Circuit

Gaddesden Row
Hemel Hempstead
High St, Harpenden
Kings Langley

People Living in Rickmansworth

7 April	Bury Lane, The Bury, Bury Meadows
14 April	Bury Mews, Chesswood Court, The Forge
21 April	Ebury Road, Ebury Court
28 April	Goral Mead

St Mary's Network

- 1 April Georgina Clyde, Dennis and Margaret Collins
- 2 April Margaret Cook, Janet Coombs
- 3 April Irene Corner, Gary and Buzz Coster
- 4 April Jose Couch, Graham and Diana Crocker
- 5 April Merry Crumpler, Colin and Lina Date
- 8 April Derek and Jennett Day, Dorothy Denzer
- 9 April Peter and Dorothy Doughty, Margaret Down
- 10 April Lucy Drake, Vi Dudgeon
- 11 April Beatrice Durham, Barbara Earl
- 12 April Jane Earl, Joan Eastgate
- 15 April Ursula Fahey
- 16 April Bob and Catherine Fenton, June Field
- 17 April Jessica Fisher, Phil and Julia Flash
- 18 April Melita Foat, Lewis and Susan Foreman
- 19 April Janet Foster, Joan Fox
- 22 April Karen Frakes, Anthony and Andrea Fraser
- 23 April Edith Frow, Sally Furr
- 24 April Louise Garbet, Mary Ann Gibson
- 25 April David Gilbert, John and Roseanne Glidden
- 26 April Brian and Anne Godfrey, Michael and Kay Gosling
- 29 April Doug and Olwen Gouldson, Lilly Gowing
- 30 April Martyn and Gill Gowing, Joan Gravestock

A Prayer for April

A Member of the Congregation

Lord of life, as we experience the joys of lengthening days and the song of the birds and wonder at buds opening to reveal each new leaf or flower, may we rejoice in your parting gift of new life to us and look forward to the greater joys and wonders that await us in your eternal presence when our time on earth ends.
Amen

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and Methodist Annual Meeting (AM)

The Church of England APCM and Methodist AM will be held on Tuesday 16 April at 7.30pm in the Church.

This is the third time that the Anglican APCM and Methodist AM will take place at the same time. Both Churches have business to do but, just as we worship together each Sunday, we come together after the formal part of the meeting where elections are conducted, to hear about the life of St Mary's during the past year, as well as the plans for the coming year. We will also hear about our current financial situation from our Treasurer, and receive reports from the various groups associated with our church.

There are various elections to be held by both churches: people to act as representatives on the United Church Council, Deanery Synod and Methodist Circuit Meeting. In addition, Churchwardens will be elected and Stewards appointed. Nomination forms for both Churchwardens and PCC members may be found at the back of the Church. Nominations for Churchwardens must be received before the meeting - and should be returned, duly completed and signed, to the Parish Office by Sunday 14 April. Nominations for PCC members may be received verbally at the meeting, but completed nomination forms are preferable. These should also be forwarded to the Parish Office so that balloting slips can be prepared. Again, these forms should be completed, with a Proposer and Seconder, and returned to the Parish Office by Sunday 14 April.

I do hope that you will be able to come along.

Ricky Week Quiz

The Church will be organising a quiz, as usual, for Ricky Week on the opening Saturday, 11 May, at 7.30 for 8.00pm, in the Church Centre. The cost will be £10 to include supper. Further details will appear on the pew sheet.

Open Tower

The tower will be open on the Saturday afternoon, 11 May, from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. Visitors will be able to climb to the top to admire the view and see the bells and clock. The cost will be £1 for adults and 50p for children. Also, visitors are welcome on Wednesday evening, 15 May, to see the ringers in action. Anyone interested in joining the ringing band will be particularly welcome.

Jolly Jam Jars

Barbara Paterson hopes you have been busy filling jam jars with goodies and knick-knacks ready for our stall at the Bury Fête on 11 May and will start bringing them to church this month. However, there is still time. Tickets for them will be sold for £1. Her requests are: clean jars, value for money, no chocolate, and sweets to be wrapped please.



She would also like to hear from people who would like to help on the stall (720356).

The Rickmansworth Festival 18, 19 May

We will be having a stall with a water or wine game for which bottles of wine and empty wine bottles are needed (all screw-capped, not corked). Barbara Paterson will need helpers on this stall too and there will be a rota to sign nearer the day.

Community Big Tea Party

This event, similar to last year's Jubilee Picnic, will be held on Sunday 2 June and everyone is invited to bring their picnic tea, blankets and chairs. We are promised entertainment and activities for all the family, including teddy bears parachuting from the tower. Put the date in your diary now and see if you can help or come and join in the fun.



Pilgrimage to Turkey, Spring 2014



Deborah is leading another pilgrimage to Turkey, similar to the one in 2008. She says, “It is a wonderful visit for capturing sight of the places to which our forebears in faith travelled to share the news of the gospel”.

The journey begins with three days in Istanbul, one of the great cities of the world with a culture that looks both east and west. It continues with some long drives in the countryside visiting the ruins of the seven churches of Revelation. The final days will be spent at a resort hotel by the Aegean Sea, a comfortable and relaxing end to the odyssey. Details are available at the back of church, and those who went in 2008 will be able to tell you more about their experiences.



‘Heaven’ – What Do We Mean by the Word?

Michael Baker

At the end of last year the Theology Reading Group was asked to discuss a book by Paula Gooder entitled, simply, *Heaven*. The author considers the concept of ‘Heaven’ in the Judaeo-Christian tradition and the way in which it has evolved, as demonstrated by scripture.

The word originally meant just ‘the sky’. In Hebrew tradition, the idea arose that there was something beyond the visible sky, which was only a thin dome or membrane to keep us from seeing what lies beyond. (Interestingly, Baden-Powell in *Scouting for Boys* cites an African tradition that the stars are places where courageous warriors have fought their way through at their death to reach the abode of the gods.) Heaven was thought of as the

place where God had set his throne and held court among the Heavenly Host, as recounted in the Book of Job. CS Lewis once remarked on the difference in emotional charge between the concepts of 'outer space' and 'deep heaven' - a contrast he pursues in his three 'scientifiction' novels.

There was, originally, no place for mortals in Heaven, though chosen individuals might sometimes be granted a glimpse of the Heavenly Court, as Isaiah was. Angels were God's messengers, not mortals who had passed through death, a belief, says Paula Gooder, which is unwarranted by Scripture. (Though she passes over Jesus' answer to the conundrum of the widow with seven husbands - 'They neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels in Heaven' - which may have led to the misunderstanding.) The book ends with a short consideration of what does happen to the souls of the dead - are they in a sleeping state awaiting resurrection, or are they immediately in the Heavenly realm? In the perception of those who have died, one would hazard a guess that the distinction is probably one without a difference.

The book is thought-provoking, interesting, readable and short. It has been placed in the Church Library.

Churches I've Known High and Low

Kenneth Hillier



After a lunch-time chat recently, I thought back over my connection with the Anglican Church. Both my parents lived in Anglican families. As children they lived in Upper Edmonton where they attended what might be called a 'middle-of-the-road church'.

The Edmonton parish had been split up as suburban London crept northwards. The boundary with Tottenham to the south provided two new parishes, St John's

(the names of its new roads, Ladysmith and Kimberley, give their date) and St James' by the main road that was made famous by John Gilpin's ride.

My maternal grandfather was in the gas industry and was in charge of the works at Wood Green where my mother was born in 1897. The family moved to the main works shortly afterwards and attended St John's Church. My paternal grandfather was a plumber when that trade was chiefly involved with lead roofing. He and his family had lived in Islington but before my father was born, in 1893, had moved to north Tottenham and then to Upper Edmonton so my father went to school in the nearby elementary school where he would have met the older siblings of my mother. Grandfather Rook believed in apprenticeships and his children were all apprenticed. Grandfather Hillier was more inclined to education and my father went to the new secondary school by winning a scholarship and, after matriculating, went to St John's Teacher Training College in Battersea which was a middle-of-the-road Anglican college.

My father was called up at the beginning of World War I and spent the war years in India. He had completed his teacher training in July 1914 and was employed by the Edmonton Education Committee taking up his teaching post in 1919 after demob. He spent 22 years in the school nearest his parents' home in Edmonton and in 1942 was appointed head of the Church school at St James' in Upper Edmonton.

When he married my mother in 1921 we lived in south Tottenham and both I and my younger brother were baptised in the chapel about 5 minutes from our home. In the early thirties we moved to the south of Enfield. Our parish church was now St Stephen's, another parish formed from the Edmonton parish; this was slightly higher than our previous church, St Anne's, in Tottenham. I was still at school in 1939 and was evacuated to March in Cambridgeshire. Although March Parish Church was

middle-of-the-road there was a higher church at the south of the town and I used to travel across the town on Sunday mornings to Eucharist there since my girlfriend Kay (from Tottenham) attended there. I left school in 1940 and rejoined St Stephen's Church. Kay completed her education at a Teacher Training College, evacuated to Durham and our friendship lapsed.

Back in North London my social life was centred on the church where I met Barbara who was to become my wife. My wife's paternal grandparents lived in lower Edmonton and attended the original parish church of Edmonton which I would consider slightly higher than St John's. Barbara's maternal grandmother, a widow (her husband died a year after Barbara's mother was born) had cousins who were connected to the low church and one (Francis Kelly) became a curate at Edmonton in the early years of the twentieth century. He became the Vicar of St James'. The parish included some of the slums of Edmonton and he had a fine reputation for his social work in the parish. He often preached wearing "bands" to emphasise his Low Church beliefs. I attended a chemistry summer school in a Cambridge college in 1947 and experienced my first spoken communion service. Barbara and I were married at St Stephen's in 1946 and in 1951 moved to Harpenden and in 1955 to Harrogate. By this time Anglican churches were moving 'upstream' although St Mark's in South Harrogate where we lived and worshipped tried to join with the Methodists. I was churchwarden and wrote to our Bishop (John Moorman Bishop of Ripon). He was very much against it as he was trying hard to find a relationship with the Roman Catholics! Some years later we moved to another house on the NW side of Harrogate and joined St Wilfrid's Church; that was a much higher church. In fact a bachelor friend of ours, a Roman Catholic, often attended our church because the Roman Catholic Church in Harrogate was less ritualistic than our Anglican one. However when he became Mayor he asked Barbara to be his Mayoress and

we sampled the Roman Catholic service, which as he had said was lower!

After 39 years in Harrogate we retired to Exeter in Devon. By this time Holy Communion had replaced Mattins as the major service and the parish we joined there was certainly higher. Within the parish there was a chapel, built towards the end of the nineteenth century, which outdid everything that I had ever attended in its ceremonial and dress. It was part of the parish and had a very small regular congregation but was retained within the parish although financially it was a drain. Illness forced us to leave Exeter in 2009. I have come full circle and here at St Mary's Rickmansworth I have joined a church that has achieved the amalgam of Anglican and Methodism we tried to achieve in Harrogate 50 years ago!

My message to you all is not to allow prejudice to prevent you from attending other parts of the "broad" church. A new look at the service will be your reward.

In telling us about churches to which he has belonged, Ken has unwittingly told us quite a lot about himself. The LINK Committee would love to publish more about people in the congregation. We meet Sunday by Sunday, but do you know much about the people in the pews near you? Please don't be shy! Write us a piece - or encourage someone else to if you think you or they have an interesting story to tell.

St Mary's School



Exciting news this month - new cycle and scooter storage has been installed at the school. To celebrate, the school participated in The Big Pedal competition on 8 and 20 March. What a wonderful opportunity to use the new storage facilities and have a bit of fresh air and exercise too!

Year 5 recently visited Hertford Museum, a very interesting trip to help their learning about Victorian life. Towards the end of March, Year 4 took part in the Rickmansworth Dance Festival along with other primary schools in the area, it is always a joy to see the high standard and variety of performances. The pupils were also busy preparing for Easter and learning about why it is important for Christians.

The KS2 garden club have been beavering away and their efforts are starting to pay off as we see spring bulbs in bloom and other shoots grow from seeds that we have planted. Soon the garden will be full of life and we will need extra helpers to show the children how to look after their garden. If you can help from 12.15 to 1.15 on Tuesdays please contact us at admin@stmarys698.herts.sch.uk or call the school (776529) and leave your contact details.

St Mary's was visited by Ofsted for their regular inspection of the school. The report will be published shortly and you can access it via our school website once it is available.

As I write, we are looking forward to Easter and an exciting term of events to come in the summer. Please note that the summer fair organised by the PTA will be held on 15 June so please keep this day free and do come along to enjoy the event!

Nature Notes

Angela Hall

Now here's a mystery. While walking through Ladywalk Wood recently with our friend's dog, Geoff noticed that she was chasing something which she caught and killed and brought triumphantly back to him. Look what I've got! It was a glis glis or edible dormouse, grey, with a bushy tail, and rather smaller than a squirrel. The puzzle is, what was it doing running round the woods on a bitterly cold day when it should have been hibernating? We can only think that it must have been disturbed.

The edible or fat dormouse is not indigenous to England but was introduced near Tring where six escaped from captivity in 1902. It is now found in a relatively small area of the Chilterns and Vale of Aylesbury. It forages high in the branches at night where it damages trees by chewing bark and buds and growing shoots. In autumn they may come into houses or sheds where they can become a nuisance by gnawing woodwork and scuttling about in lofts at night.

Funnily enough I had a report of one found hibernating in a large kilner jar in a loft only recently. It escaped when disturbed, so perhaps they don't sleep all that deeply.

They are a protected species and must not be killed or deliberately released into the wild.



Glis glis

Also in the very cold weather in February I at last managed to see some waxwings just up the road, perched in a tree or on phone wires. Between six and twenty-one were to be seen for several days, looking rather subdued, before heading north on migration. I wondered if they were still hungry as they are usually full of chatter.

Now we have spring at last and there are two kites instead of the usual solitary one wheeling round mewing to each other. The coal tit mentioned last month now has a mate. We have never had a pair in the garden before so this is good news. Also good news is the return of the little owl which sits in the gable end of an outhouse in the Masonic grounds. We thought it had gone for good but, of course, it might not be the same one.

The heron I mentioned last month has been visiting our garden regularly and is quite tame. Though it is nice to get such a close up view of this beautiful bird we are beginning to realise that there soon won't be any frogs left in the pond as it nearly always catches and eats one. Has anyone any frogspawn they don't want?

CALENDAR

April 2013

- 1 Mon **Monday of Easter Week**
8.30am Easter Monday Pilgrimage; Walkers depart from Church
12.00noon Non-walking pilgrims meet at The Vicarage to travel to St Albans
- 2 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion United Rite
6 Sat 10.30am Visiting Ringers ringing a Quarter Peal
- 7 SUN THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP
10.00am Family Communion United Rite
Home Communions
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 8 Mon **The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
11.30am Prayer for Healing Group (in Church)
8.00pm Communications Team Meeting
- 9 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion United Rite
1.00pm Deanery Chapter meeting
7.45pm Exploring Prayer Group (at Vicarage)
- 10 Wed 7.45pm Church Centre Management Committee Meeting
7.45pm Housegroup (for contact, see cover)
- 11 Thu *Copy deadline for May LINK*
- 14 SUN THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP
10.00am Parish Eucharist United Rite
12.15pm Holy Communion United Rite
1.00pm Lunch Club
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
7.00pm X Team
- 15 Mon 10.00am Cloisters Hall Management Committee Meeting
12.30pm J Club at St Mary's School
7.30pm LINK meeting
- 16 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion United Rite
12noon Home Communions through afternoon
7.30pm Methodist Annual Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church

17 Wed 7.45pm Theology Group meets: *Newcomers welcome!*
 18 Thu 10.45am Assemblies at St Mary's School
 19 Fri 7.30pm Three Rivers Music Society Concert in Church

21 SUN THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP
 10.00am Parish Communion United Rite
 6.00pm Choral Evensong

22 Mon 12.30pm J Club at St Mary's School

23 Tue **George, Martyr, Patron of England, c304**
 9.30am Holy Communion United Rite
 10.15am House Group (for contact see cover)

27 Sat 9.30am Churchyard Tidy-up

28 SUN THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP
 10.00am Parish Communion United Rite
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
 7.00pm X Team

The May LINK is published

29 Mon 12.30pm J Club at St Mary's School

30 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion United Rite

May

5 SUN THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP
 10.00am Family Communion United Rite
 Home Communions
 2.00pm Wedding of Betty Bux and Neil Brennan
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer

Regular Weekly Practices

Wed 7.30pm Bellringing
 Thu 8.00pm Choir

New members are welcome at both—just come along

From the Registers

Baptism

27 Feb CAMERON COULTER, son of Philip and Louise Coulter

St Mary's People

MARJORIE ETHERINGTON: we were sorry to hear of Marjorie's death in early March. Her funeral was held at Breakspear Crematorium on 18 March. Marjorie worshipped at St Mary's for longer than most of us can remember and it was only during the last few months that illness prevented her attending the 8.00am service each Sunday morning.

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me

Gill Gowing

This was the theme of the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March.

Janet Lucas, St Mary's representative for the Women's World Day of Prayer, asked me to participate in the service. I agreed to do so and attended both the associated Bible Study held two weeks beforehand and the rehearsal the week before. The service was prepared by Christian Women of France and our local service was held at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, West Hyde.

'Women in scarves' introduced us to the women of France who had prepared the service. I was Woman 2 wearing a vermillion red scarf and I told of Jeanne, a woman from Cameroon who became French when she married and lived in Lyon where she worked as a GP.

We listened to God's instructions from the book of Leviticus that we are not to exploit strangers and 'that the alien who resides with you shall be as the citizen among you: you shall love the alien as yourself'. Essentially Jesus' commandment that 'you shall love your neighbour as yourself'.

We then heard about the experiences of women in France who had been exploited or who had experienced discrimination.

This was followed by a reading from Matthew 25:31-40 which is when Jesus says that what we do for others we do for him with the words ‘for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me’.

Anne Peat spoke on the theme and made the point that Britain was very similar to France and that people’s experiences here would be similar to those of the women in France. She challenged each one of us to review what we do to make the stranger welcome and drew attention to the many opportunities that there are locally such as the Food Bank, the Credit Union, Herts Young Homeless, the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Project, the New Hope Trust, and hospital and prison visiting.

At the conclusion of the service we were all invited to share a cup of friendship with someone we had not met before. Most people did stay and mingle, enjoying one another’s company and the hospitality offered by St Thomas’ congregation who had laid on a wonderful spread.

I found the service both thought provoking and challenging. I was very glad that I had been invited to participate because without that specific request I would not have made the effort to attend.

Stations of the Cross

Graham Martin

Further to the most interesting discoveries by David Hibbert about our Stations of the Cross (see Feb LINK), my understanding is that these were probably first re-coloured in the mid-1960s by the prominent decorating firm of Campbell, Smith & Company; this was when the interior of St Mary’s was redecorated. At that

time only the background was changed to a strong blue which tended to overpower the low-relief modelling of the figures. In the 1992-94 Interior Renewal scheme, for which I was the designer, these Stations were carefully cleaned and redecorated by Ann McCool, conservator and artist; the modelling was left in the original colour, but the background was painted a lighter 'washed' blue and the outer frame was decorated in a 'stone' colour (as with other woodwork such as the west tower screen) and with a gold leaf border.

How Much?

John Shaw

In the event, the Valuation Evening for Christian Aid on 22 February went really well. Some 80 people attended and enjoyed the expertise of Mike Neill from Bonhams as he appraised and valued 51 'valuables' brought along by members of the local community and Churches. I say 'in the event' because, ten days before the 'off', interest seemed to be so limited that we wondered whether we ought to cancel the whole thing. But in the last few days interest increased to the extent that we finally had to turn one or two items away, as there was a limit to the number of curiosities which Mike Neill could value in one short evening. Is this 'leaving things to the last minute' a new Anglican disease, I wonder? [*No, it happened for all the years I was involved with the Social Committee! Ed*]

Mike Neill was brilliant. Very knowledgeable, laid back, and humorous, he handled each item and made brief remarks about all of them. 'Now this is interesting', said with emphasis and a gleam in his eye, meant that a more valuable item was in hand. On the other hand, 'This is an attractive piece, which is likely to gain value in the years to come' probably meant that the item in question was of limited interest or value. In short, when appropriate, he let the proud owners down gently.

The items ranged from a carved elephant tusk to a tiled picture of Old Bournemouth; from silver tongs to pictures of two donkeys; from Wedgwood to Coalport; from a collection of 'apostle' spoons to an 'Indian wife tamer'. None of the items caused Mike Neill to gasp and ask the owner to see him afterwards. Star items were a battered wall clock badly in need of restoration which came in at £1,000, as did a silver cruet set by Omar Ramsden. Two ceramic jugs with lead lids were valued at £600 each, as was a Victorian water-colour painting of a woodland scene. And so on.

The biggest laugh of the evening came when someone's rare first edition of a book came under scrutiny and attracted cries of 'I've got one of those, too' from at least two other members of the audience!

The main messages I took away were that 'rarity' and 'condition' are key considerations (obvious when you think about it). Just because something is a hundred years old doesn't make it valuable. Indeed, the reverse could well be the case (as with an early Wedgwood dinner service, because it can't be put in a dishwasher). Hand-painting on china beats transfer decoration out of sight. Anything Chinese is much sought after these days, whereas Granny's furniture, china, paintings, and silver are not (unless 'special' in some way). Items with a local connection are best sold in that locality; and old letters, postcards and suchlike are of little value, unless they relate to some famous historical or royal figure.

So, we learnt a lot (not always to our financial advantage), drank a little, talked cheerfully, and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. Grateful thanks to Mike Neill, (who generously gave his services free of charge) without whom the evening would not have been possible; also to everyone who came along and supported the event, which raised £753.70p (approximately!) for Christian Aid.

St Mary's in the Past

1923

The then recent discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen prompted the Editor to write of funeral rites and to question practices in this country usual at that time (some surviving to some extent even today). He dismissed the custom of closing the blinds when someone died as an unhealthy and inconvenient practice calculated to make those already grieving feel even more miserable and doing no-one, dead or alive, any good. He questioned what black clothes and black-edged writing paper were actually saying. Instead he advocated candles, that he thought were full of meaning and symbolism and prayer for the departed that was entirely natural.

The Revd Newton was keen to see a large number of Confirmation candidates - 'anyone from 10 to 100', but he wanted to be sure that 'he or she who presented themselves would be a real addition to the fighting strength'. He was also thinking about the meetings 'of the Vestry and the Parochial Electors' to choose churchwardens and PCC members. "The Church's work is the work of every member", and voting he considered a part of it, as well as laying plans and helping to carry them out, for example by delivering Parish Magazines.

One of their first tasks was to pay for heating to be installed before the next winter. There was £180 already in the fund, but an estimated £300 remained to be raised. The vicar thought that should be easy simply by reducing the amounts spent on tobacco, sweets, the pictures and 'unnecessary' clothes and contributing what was saved to a ten thousand shilling fund.

The Church would be closed for almost a week for spring cleaning, except for three weekday services.

The Children's Guild were to give a missionary play and a pageant and would arrange a lantern lecture (tickets 6d or 1/-);

the money would go to the SPG (later USPG, now US) General Fund. The Guides, started 'a few months ago' at St Mary's, now had 75 members from Rickmansworth and Mill End who were 'full of keenness' and numbers were 'growing day-by-day'.

1973

The Revd Norman Hill wrote of the need for perseverance in Lent, his plans for Holy Week, which included a play at the Baptist Church, and Good Friday, when the conductor of the Three Hours Service would be the Vicar of St Mary's Finchley.

He was pleased with responses to the 'Time and Talents' campaign and with a service and discussion evening, when two short thought-provoking talks on the importance of marriage were given by Dr Jack Dominian, psychiatrist and Roman Catholic and The Revd John Richardson, then Vicar of Chipperfield, which included some 'very straight thinking' about the importance of the Church in helping people through their marriage difficulties.

The PCC would be deciding whether to adopt the new Series 3 Communion Service at their April meeting. Father Hill had been to a service where it was used at St Albans and was very taken with it.

From a survey of 500 Parish Magazine readers, the 60 who replied variously requested more of existing items and suggested extra ones; Michael Baker, the then editor pointed out that the magazine would be uneconomic to produce if expanded significantly.

The Music Society were entertained by three young musicians from the Royal College of Music on piano, cello and clarinet, 'a performance *par excellence*', and later by pupils from the Masonic School.

Charity, Stewardship, Giving...

Graham Martin

The first on the list was the Vicar of St Mary's who gave ten shillings. Only three others gave as much; a few only gave two pence each. Yes, this was a long time ago - in 1642 - when the vicar was William Edmonds, and this was meant to be a nationwide 'free and liberall' collection to relieve the suffering of Protestants in Ireland. Several thousand people had been killed, and very many more had died of, or were suffering from, exposure and privation, as a result of the rebellion in 1641 against English rule and growing Protestantism in England.

This list was an account for 'Rickmersworth Towne'; there was a separate one for Rickmansworth manor: *Sir Thomas ffotherley and his house*, which listed twenty-two contributors, probably all servants except for Sir Thomas and his son John, and an eight-year-old boy, Philip Smythe, 2nd Viscount Strangford, who was in the guardianship of Sir Thomas. There were four gifts of ten shillings, but Sir Thomas and his ward gave the then substantial sum of five pounds each. At that time the parish was very extensive and the rest of the area was covered by separate lists for 'Charly wood, Cro[x]ly greene, and West hide'. (TNA E.179/248/18)

'Souper Soup'

Once again Joan Martin will be organising a 'Souper Soup' lunch, this time during Christian Aid Week itself. It will be super home-made soup; those who have been before can vouch for that. Do drop in at The Bury on Thursday 16 May between 12 noon and 2.30pm, enjoy good food and company, and make a donation to Christian Aid. If you are intending to attend, please contact Joan (775433, also for full address) so that she knows for how many she needs to cater.

Dress a Girl Around the World

Sally Morgan

A small group of us have been making dresses for girls living in poverty in developing countries which we are sending to the UK Co-ordinator for Hope-kids-International.



We have had fun over tea and biscuits once a week for 2 hours and have completed 22 dresses so far and hope to send more than 30 dresses by the beginning of April.

The dresses were displayed on Mothering Sunday in church. We are aware we have not made shorts for boys and if there are others interested we might do it again next Jan/Feb/March.



Many thanks to Beryl Baker, and Sue Hillier as well as all those who donated time and materials - it has been fun.

Watersmeet

April

Thu 4 2.00pm

Film: *Hotel Transylvania*

A boy finds his way to Dracula's resort and falls in love with the Count's teenage daughter

Fri 5 7.30pm

Sleeping Beauty, Vienna Festival Ballet

Th 18 2.00pm & 7.45pm

Film: *Les Miserables*

Fri 19 7.00 for 7.30pm

Quiz Night, Friends of Watersmeet

Tu 23- 7.30pm

Sweet Charity, Harrow Light Opera

Sat 27 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Company

RDFAS

Tuesday, 9 April

My Day With Salvador Dali

*A fascinating day with the artist and an examination of his
extraordinary ideas*

Peter Webb

Sarratt Village Hall

11.00am, with coffee or tea from 10.30am

Visitors are always welcome

For further details call Diana Jenkins (01494 874507)

Horticultural Society

Spring Show

Saturday 13 April, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

At the Church Centre

Afternoon teas, plant stall and raffle

Admission to the show 50p

Open Evening

Wednesday 17 April, 8.00 pm

At WRVS Centre, Bury Lane. Rickmansworth

Plants for Homeopathic Use

Jo Firth

There will be an interval for tea and biscuits and a raffle

Members and visitors are welcome

Three Rivers Music Society

Friday 19 April at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Rickmansworth

Arta Arnicane -piano

Schumann *Waldszenen* Op 82

Arabesque Op 18

Ginastera *Tres Danzas Argentinas*

Brahms *Three Intermezzi* Op 117

Debussy *Suite Bergamesque*

Tickets available at the door

CHURCH YARD TIDY

Colin Leveridge

Spring must surely have sprung by the 27 April. That is the date for the second Churchyard Tidy of the year when we hope to tidy and clean up ready for the summer. Please come along and join the merry band of regulars. We'll even find you a cup of coffee if you're lucky! Hope to see you on the 27 April at 10.00 am.

Library News

Michael Baker

Joanna Swan has kindly donated to our own Church Library a copy of *The Parker Library - Treasures from the Collection*, by Christopher de Hamel, a beautifully illustrated outline of the history of the collection and its most notable contents (which, in addition to pictures of various evangelists, saints and prophets, also include some magnificent elephants, lions, dragons and a unicorn). Joanna and her late husband Allan shared an interest in Matthew Parker and his library. Allan was an alumnus of Corpus Christi and those attending his funeral were invited to make a donation to the Library. See Joanna's article below. **And there's more . . .** We are also grateful to Julia and Piers Hedley, and David Smith for donating books from their collections.

Matthew Parker: His Library and His Work

Joanna Swan

Donations in Allan's memory went to the Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge his old college. Why should St Mary's people be interested in this? Here is a brief answer.

Matthew Parker lived when the English church separated from Rome under Henry VIII; a Fellow of Corpus Christi College he took holy orders as fellows were required to do: his role in state affairs was in some ways similar to but more dangerous than that of a senior civil servant today; during his life he amassed quantities of books; his purpose was to help reform a decadent church and bring religion to the people with a prayer book and Bible in English not Latin. Henry VIII made him Master of Corpus; during the destruction of the monasteries he saved from the rubbish manuscripts used by the monks in work and prayer.

He had married when the law permitted but while Mary Tudor was on the throne he retired with his wife as married priests were not allowed; his colleagues Latimer, Ridley and Cranmer were burned at the stake!

When English Protestant Elizabeth succeeded her half-Spanish, Roman Catholic sister, she persuaded Parker to become her Archbishop of Canterbury. There in the drafting of the 39 Articles and a new prayer book he was instrumental in laying the foundations of the church in England today.

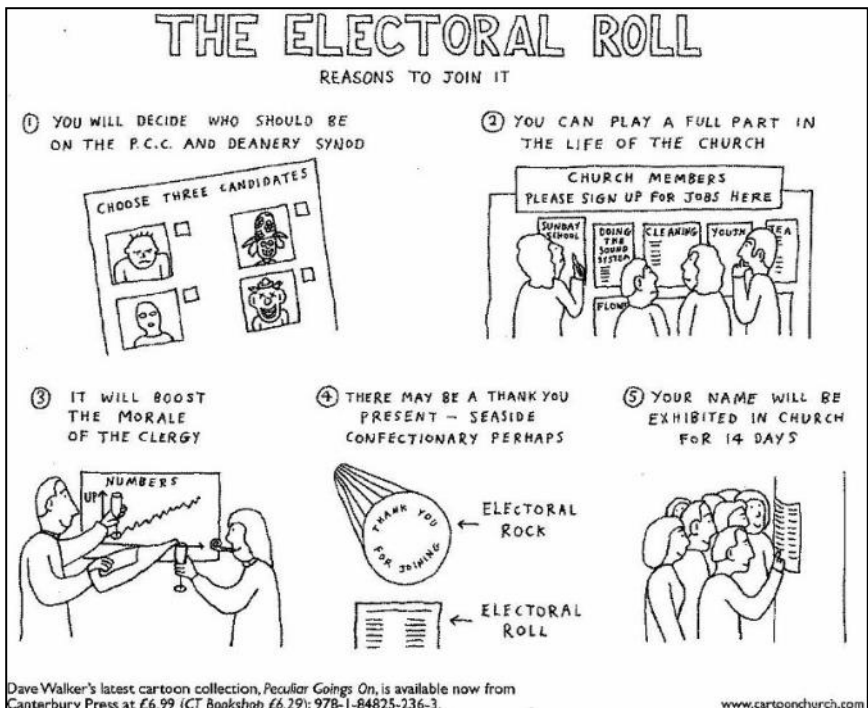
His library at Lambeth Palace he gave to Corpus Christi College in Cambridge to be kept intact for future generations. In the collection are priceless, old and beautiful manuscripts with pictures of the life and work and worship of the mediaeval monks. The fourth century Gospels, said to have been brought to Canterbury by St Augustine, have been used in the enthronement of a new archbishop over 400 years and are now carried from Cambridge in an armoured car.

There is an interesting story about Queen Elizabeth and Matthew Parker and his wife. The Queen wouldn't accept the need a good man has for a good woman and was unwilling to grant status to his wife. After dining at Lambeth Palace she gave special thanks to Matthew then turning to Margaret said, "And 'Madam' I may not call you and 'Mistress' I am ashamed to call you, but yet I do thank you". This is why bishops' wives are not ladyships.

I gave a copy of the book on the Parker collection to Michael Baker for the library. I would be delighted to let people see other books which I have.

Can anyone find a memorial in the church to another Corpus graduate? Clue: it is near the library.

Dave Walker Cartoon



Giving Blood

Following last month's announcement of the new 'fleshandblood' Campaign (March LINK, p27) appealing to Church members to give blood and donate organs Gill Gowing sent us the dates of the next few blood donor sessions in our Church Centre; there is one this month. Appointments can be booked or you can just turn up. There is more information on the web site

www.blood.co.uk

Next session:

Friday 5 April, 1.00pm to 3.00pm and 4.30pm to 7.30pm

May LINK

Dates to Remember

Copy Deadline: Thursday 11 April

Publication Date: Sunday 28 April

We are very pleased to receive contributions of interest to members of the Church and the local community. Copy should reach a member of the LINK Committee* by the above copy date, preferably by email (please leave the formatting to us) at link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk, but we can accept handwritten copy. We may have to edit for space or other reasons and tight deadlines do not always allow for discussion of changes with authors. We like good quality photographs with enough contrast to reproduce well in black and white. Please note that opinions expressed in LINK are not necessarily those of the Editors of *LINK* or St Mary's Church.

*Please see back cover for phone numbers.

CONTACTS (continued)

The code for all telephone numbers is 01923, unless otherwise indicated.

CHURCHWARDENS		Barbara Paterson	720356
		Roger Willett	443586
METHODIST STEWARDS		Derek Day	237248
		Julie Smethurst	282927
THE UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL			
Secretary		Tracy Phillipps	718775
Treasurer		Robert Kay	773470
CHURCH HALLS			
Church Centre	Bookings	Kasia Todd	07801 049687
		centrebookings@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
		Treasurer	Simon Allard 776641
Cloisters Hall	Bookings	Sarah Bennett	775613
		Treasurer	Michael Butler 778001
CHURCH MUSIC	Organist & Choirmaster	Andrew Sykes	718561
SACRISTAN	Team Leader	David Gilbert	332572
<hr/>			
ALTAR SERVERS		Chris Hillier	779580
		Sue Hillier	779580
BAPTISMS		Contact Parish Office	721002
BELL RINGING	Tower Captain	David Hibbert	773735
		Sun 9.15-10.00AM, 5.15-6.00PM	
		Wed 7.30PM-9.15PM	
		Handbells	Suzanne Warren 01442 385922
BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP		Sue Hillier	779580
CARE	Representative	Angela Hall	720543
CATERING COMMITTEE		Barbara Owen	772325
CHARITABLE GIVING	Working Party	John Shaw	775219
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Sun 10.00AM, Church Centre		
Junior Church		Libby Kershaw	776251
Sunbeams (3-5 years)		Christine Martin-Ayling	825159
CHURCH CLEANING		Derek Day	237248
COFFEE AFTER CHURCH		Anne Kay	773470
COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH		Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
ELECTORAL ROLL		John Glidden	223613
FABRIC & CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE			
Secretary		David Hibbert	773735
FLOWER ROTA		Julie Smethurst	282927

CONTINUED ON BACK OF COVER

CONTACTS (continued)

The code for all telephone numbers is 01923, unless otherwise indicated.

HEALING MINISTRY		Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
HOUSE GROUPS	4th Tue, 10.15AM	Gillian Baker	775890
	Brenda Bell	772482	
	2nd Wed, 7.45PM	Jane Pummell	774343
LIBRARY	Librarian	Michael Baker	776109
LINK	Published monthly Copy to:	On last Sunday of previous month link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk or an editor, by the date given on the last page of the previous copy	
	Editors	Brenda Bell	772482
		Geoff Hall	720543
		Jane Pummell	774343
	Subscriptions :	Jane Pummell	774343
LUNCH CLUB	2nd Sun	Joan Martin	775433
MEET FOR TEA	1st Thu	Joan Martin	775433
MOTLEY CREW		Chris Hillier	779580
		Suzanne Harding	770992
SIDESPEOPLE		Roger Willett	443586
SOCIAL COMMITTEE		Chris Hillier	779580
ST MARY'S NETWORK		John Hill	772809
		Suzanne Hill	772809
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE		John Hill	772809
STEWARDSHIP RECORDER		Brian Warmington	775360
SUNDAY SERVICE ROTAS			
Bible readings		Jane Pummell	774343
Intercessions		John Glidden	223613
TODDLERS' CLUB	Church Centre, Wed 10.00AM	Gillian Thomas	446931
UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS			
Rainbows	Tue	Janet Eavis: contact via Parish Office	721002
Brownies	Mon	Carol Thomas	447622
Guides	Fri	Tracy Jenkins	336771
WEDDINGS			
Bookings		Contact Parish Office	721002
Marriage Preparation		The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
		Marian Lantree	01727 862602
YOUTH GROUP	X-Team	David Carruthers	897928

CHURCH SCHOOL	St Mary's Church of England Primary		
	Headteacher	Helen Gill	776529
	Address	Stockers Farm Road	
	School Website	www.stmarys698.herts.sch.uk	