

# LINK

Monthly Magazine

FEBRUARY  
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
<b>SUNDAYS</b>			
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	
<b>WEEKDAYS</b>			
	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.*

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Opening Hours		9.30AM-1.30PM, Mon, Thu, Fri, and 1.00-3.00pm Wed, in school term time	

CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK OF COVER



## **LINK**

### **February 2013**

*In This Month's Issue*

#### **4 Reader's Letter**

Was it like this in the Garden of Eden?

#### **5 Sunday Service Readings**

#### **6 Prayers**

Monthly pointers, local churches, People in Rickmansworth, St Mary's Network

#### **7 A Prayer for February**

#### **8 Christmas at St Mary's**

Some recollections

#### **8 Lent - Part 1**

What is happening this year

#### **10 Easter Newsletters**

Help needed with these

#### **11 A Church Trail at St Mary's**

Learn more about the building

#### **13 Bellringers' News**

A new member in our tower

#### **14 February Calendar**

#### **16 Stations of the Cross**

Other sets like ours

#### **17 St Mary's People**

Some congratulations

#### **17 From the Registers**

#### **17 St Mary's in the Past**

Notes from 1923 and 1973

#### **19 Nature Notes**

Egrets, herons and other birds: newts, water voles, salmon and foxes

#### **21 A Christmas Smile**

#### **21 An Old Recipe for a Cup of Tea**

#### **21 Watersmeet**

Films this month

#### **22 Valuation Evening Reminder**

In aid of Christian Aid

#### **22 RDFAS Meeting**

Conservation topics

#### **23 Horticultural Society**

Photographs 'Secret Britain'

#### **23 Old Time Music Hall**

Presented by Masonic School

#### **23 Eating in the UK in the 1950s**

Many things have changed!

#### **24 Deanery Quiz**

Team from St Mary's

#### **25 Dave Walker Cartoon**

#### **25 A Prayer of Sir Francis Drake**

#### **26 LINK**

E-version up and running

Dates to note



## Reader's Letter

*Michael Baker*

'It looks like being another busy day today, dear', said Adam to Eve, as they sunned themselves after a refreshing early-morning bathe in the River Pishon (which, as you know, is one of the four rivers of Eden). 'You do seem to be very busy these days,' said Eve. 'Is it something important?' 'Very important', said Adam. 'It's this new Naming of Animals Sub-Committee'. 'Oh', said Eve, 'Who else will be there?' 'The animals will be there, of course' Adam said, 'and the Recording Angel, to take the minutes. We have to have a note of the names'. 'I didn't know about this', Eve said. 'Where is it to be?' 'Oh, you don't need to come', Adam said airily, 'you'd find it very boring'. 'But surely I should be there if it's important?' Eve asked. 'I'd have some ideas for names'. 'Oh I don't think so', Adam replied. 'It's a man's role, to be in charge. I am the Chairman, the Head of the Sub-Committee. There aren't any more of me, after all, are there? You find yourself something to do that's more in your style; arranging the flowers for example. You could name them, while you're about it. You're just as pretty as they are, after all', he added laughingly, and patted her cheek.

So they parted affectionately, and went their own separate ways. Eve went through the garden, arranging the flowers, feeling ever so slightly let down. If they had both named the animals, the job would have taken half the time, and they could have had lunch together. Then Adam could have helped her to arrange the flowers. She liked them to be together; it felt more as if they were one whole, somehow.

While she was musing along these lines, she found she had reached a part of Eden that she had not visited before. There was an open, grassy sward and in the midst of it there grew a wonderful Tree, laden with luscious-looking, many-coloured fruit. An alluring scent

came from them. Eve, wondering, looked at it; and suddenly realised that this must be the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, about which she had been warned. ‘We mustn’t eat the fruit’, she said to herself, ‘but surely there can be no harm in looking’.

Suddenly there was a movement among the leaves, and Eve saw a creature she had never come across before. Its sleek scaly skin was patterned like the fruits of the Tree, and its head swayed as it looked at her, its forked tongue flickering. ‘Well, Lady Eve’, it said, ‘I’ve been expecting you’.

The rest, as they say, is our history (or, if you insist, mythology).

The point of this little fable is that men and women are indeed different from each other and have differing skills and attributes that are complementary, but can be interchanged. It is the assumption of automatic superiority of status, and consequent permanent position of one-downness on the part of one or the other, and their exclusion from areas that should be shared, that causes hurt and harm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael." followed by a long, sweeping diagonal stroke.

## **Sunday Service Readings**

### **8.00am and 10.00am**

3 Feb	Gen 2.4b-9,15-25*	Rev 4.1-11*	Luke 8.22-25
10 Feb	Exod 34.29-35	2 Cor 3.12-4.2	Luke 9.28-43a
17 Feb	Deut 26.1-11	Rom 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13
24 Feb	Gen 15.1-12.17-18	Phil 3.17-41	Luke 13. 31-35

\*8.00am service only

# Prayers

## Weekly Pointers for the Month

*Week beginning:*

- 3 Feb For continuing commitment to Christ
- 10 Feb For willingness to make sacrifices
- 17 Feb For openness to others
- 24 Feb For willingness to welcome the unexpected

### For Local Churches

#### The Deanery

#### The Methodist Circuit

- |        |                            |                          |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Feb  | St Oswald's, Croxley Green | Wheathampstead           |
| 10 Feb | Sarratt and Chipperfield   | Abbots Langley           |
| 17 Feb | St Andrew's, Chorleywood   | All Saints', Berkhamsted |
| 24 Feb | St Lawrence, Bovingdon     | Batford                  |

### People Living in Rickmansworth

- 3 Feb Penn Place, Swan Fields, George Fields
- 10 Feb Ashleigh Court
- 17 Feb Langdale Lodge, Swan Close
- 24 Feb Millennium Court, Hutchings Lodge

### St Mary's Network

- 1 Feb Harry Stevenson, Mary Stevenson
- 4 Feb Hilary Stevenson, John Watkinson, Michael and Eileen Stickler
- 5 Feb Maurice Such, Helen Swain
- 6 Feb Joanna Swan, Andrew and Ann Sykes
- 7 Feb Bill and Alyson Sylvester, John Thacker
- 8 Feb Brett and Sue Thomas, Brendan and Sarah Thomas
- 11 Feb Hugh and Mary Thomas, Eilian and Carol Thomas
- 12 Feb Renny and Gillian Thomas, Mark and Annie Thompson
- 13 Feb Nick Tibbles, Timothy and Elizabeth Tims
- 14 Feb Alice Tims, Mabel Tindall
- 15 Feb Andrew and Lynne Turner, Neil and Rachel Turvey

18 Feb Mark and Louise Ungar, Alison Vincent  
19 Feb John and Helen Walker, Brian and Pat Warmington  
20 Feb Mary Weatherilt, Jackie Wilcox  
21 Feb Roger and Frances Willett, Nesta Williams  
22 Feb Marion Willmore, Margaret Winder  
25 Feb Gillian Winder, Malcolm and Jenny Woods  
26 Feb Pat Woollams, Margaret Wronski  
27 Feb David and Jaleh Yeaman, Nana and Ivy Addison-Quarshie  
28 Feb Simon and Julie Allard, Steve and Pat Allard

**A Prayer for February**  
*A member of the congregation*

Dear Lord

Not so long ago we were praying for rain. Thank you for filling up our rivers and reservoirs and watering the land. But you are too generous; we didn't ask you to fill up our roads and houses too - or is it our fault that we burn so much fuel that we pollute the atmosphere. If it's up to us Lord, show us what to do, and give enough people the will to do it. I can't forget those whose homes became uninhabitable and who lost many of their possessions in this winter's floods and I pray that you and their local community will help them rebuild their lives.

The world is in a financial crisis and it hits some people hard. I know that is our fault. We in the western world were too greedy and borrowed too much. I worry about those, so many in the world and here too, who go hungry or sleep rough or cannot find jobs - and about those who have to work too hard to keep theirs. There must be a way out of all this mess; Lord help us to see it and lead others to it. Lord, there is so much to pray for in this world of ours, but that's enough for now.

Your loving servant

# Christmas at St Mary's

*Brenda Bell*

It would not be right to let this magazine go without any appreciation of the Christmas events. We give especial thanks to Deborah and all the many people who worked so hard to make it magical, as ever.

What would Christmas be like if I weren't a Christian is a question I often ask myself, and cannot quite imagine, but it is a bleak prospect, pleasant to catch up with friends and relatives of course, some eating and drinking no doubt, but otherwise pointless.

Of my abiding memories of our Christmas this year, one will be of a little terracotta crib, beautiful in its simplicity, that visited me and moved me to reverent silence among all the busyness, and the people that brought it to me and those I took it to. I recommend *Posada* next year if you have not yet received it. Another will be of the beauty of the Christmas tree in Church, decked solely with hundreds of little white paper stars, each representing a prayer for someone or something in someone's thoughts over Christmas. And then there was the sheer majesty of the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, Church packed, favourite familiar carols and the inspired beginning of St John's Gospel. However sleepy one feels, one can never fail to be uplifted by the final verses of *O Come All Ye Faithful*, with the sound of all the people's voices and the descant of the Choir rising through the roof.

## Lent 2013 – Part 1

The season of Lent, with its emphasis on penitence, affords the opportunity for reflection on both our manner of devotion to Christ and our manner of living as Christians in our world. Christ's journey through the wilderness, and his journey to the cross provide the focus for devotion and prayer. Meaningful observances are, to many, something of the past, but past practices are something from which we can always learn, alongside new possibilities for prayer and increased understanding.

The journey begins on Ash Wednesday with ashed crosses...

### **Palm crosses to make the ashes**

The previous year's Palm Crosses are burned to make ashes for Ash Wednesday - completing the cycle of the year. There will be a bowl at the back of church for you to place your crosses in, please drop them off by Sunday 10 February.

### **Ash Wednesday**

There will be services of Holy Communion at both 9.30am and 7.45pm to mark the start of Lent - both with the Imposition of Ashes. The physical mark of the sign of the cross is a reminder of our Baptism and that we belong to Christ. Please do attend one of these services so that we begin the Lenten journey with our companions in Christ here at St Mary's, as well ending it with them on Easter Day.

### **Frugal Lunch/Supper**

Many people talk with 'fond remembrance' of the Coffee Gatherings that took place during Lent three years ago so this year we have an idea from the UCC to build on them. All you need to be able to do is offer a simple lunch or supper of soup and a roll - giving an opportunity for people to meet and chat. There will be a bit of a twist with some 'spiritual' conversation starters... but nothing too arduous, I promise! If you'd like to host a gathering, let me know, and if you'd like to go along, sign up!

*Living God's Love*

### **Lent Challenge: *Take Another Step***

Wherever you are on your journey of faith this is a chance for you to **take another step**. Whether you are just beginning to follow Jesus, or have been working at it for years, or even are still thinking about it, this is for you. *Take Another Step* is the 'Live the Challenge' initiative for Lent 2013 from the Diocese of St Albans. It begins on Wednesday 13 February.

The words of Jesus are truth and life, not simply to know in our heads but to live each day. Lent offers a great opportunity to take up that challenge and make a difference in our lives, our relationships and our communities.

So why not sign up today to receive a daily email or text?

- Take time to **read** and **think** about something Jesus said
- Make time to **pray** and then **act** on it
- Journey through the Gospel of **Matthew** from the beginning of Jesus ministry through to the events of Holy Week.

Emails will include a section designed for **children** which can be used by families, schools or church groups.

You can download a weekly sheet with the verses and reflections and read previous verses on the website. In addition you can add your comments on each day's verse or post videos.

Visit [www.livethechallenge.co.uk](http://www.livethechallenge.co.uk) to find out more.

There is more to follow next month. Don't forget to pick up a leaflet from church with details of all the events and services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter so that you can mark them into your diary.

With prayers for a holy and blessed Lent.



## **Easter Newsletters**

We are planning another Spring Newsletter in which to advertise Easter services and events from Palm Sunday onwards and which should be available for delivery throughout the parish on **Sunday 3 March**. We are hoping that many of the same people will deliver in the same roads as they did for the Christmas one, but you will need to confirm that via a list to be available on **Sunday 17 February** or to tell Colin Bailey or Sally Morgan if you are away that day. We will then ask for volunteers to fill the gaps the following week. This is to avoid leaving trusty people like Michael Baker or Geoff Hall, who do so much else for us, to deliver to a large slice of the parish.

Then we need some people to fold newsletters and count them into the bundles ready for distribution. Folding and counting will take place on **Thursday 28 February from 2.00pm-4.00pm** in the Children's Corner in Church and **Saturday 2 March from 10.00am**.

Please come along and help and enjoy tea or coffee and a chat to friends - or even get to know someone new.

## **A Church Trail for St Mary's**

*Gill Gowing*

The Rickmansworth Decorative and Fine Arts Society (RDFAS) has agreed to prepare a NADFAS Church Trail for St Mary's. This will be the Society's first Church Trail.

### **What is NADFAS?**

NADFAS, the **National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies**, is an arts-based charity with members pursuing a mutual interest in the arts through monthly lectures. There are 92,000 members in 350 Societies throughout the UK of which RDFAS is one with a membership of nearly 250, quite a few of whom are also members of St Mary's. The Society has a network of over 6,000 volunteers offering help with heritage conservation and church recording projects, as well as an outstanding reputation for working with young people to encourage and enhance their appreciation and understanding of art and our artistic heritage.

Regular readers of St Mary's LINK will know that RDFAS publicises its monthly lectures there. Visitors are welcome at the lectures.

### **What is a NADFAS Church Trail?**

The NADFAS website describes a Church Trail as 'a questionnaire designed by members of NADFAS for children aged 8 -12' but is really for people of all ages! The trail guides the participant round a church looking at the architecture, history and furnishings. An answer sheet is provided for accompanying adults. The aim is to encourage both children and adults to explore the building, to learn about it and enjoy the experience so that they are inspired to visit other churches.

The trail may be used by children's groups, by families visiting the church, by clergy and staff and by school parties. One incumbent, using half the trail with a class and then inviting the parents to

finish the trail with their children, announced that he had learned “so much about his church from the NADFAS Trail!”

The questionnaire is an A4, black and white, two-sided sheet in a child-friendly design. The simplicity of this format keeps the cost of reproduction to the absolute minimum. The answers, on two sides of A4, are knowledgeable and properly researched. When a trail has been designed and tested, a CD and hard copy of the questions and answers will be presented to the church to use as it wants. The local NADFAS bears the initial cost of making the trail and setting it up in the church. The church then funds the supplies of the trail.

The Chairman of RDFAS is Margaret Owen and I am the Programme Secretary . We both attended an area meeting of NADFAS and heard about Church Trails and we both had the same thought ‘let’s do one for St Mary’s’. I said that I would be happy to lead the preparing of a Church Trail for St Mary’s. The RDFAS Committee and Deborah both agreed.

### **What Next?**

Before Christmas I asked a couple of people who are both members of St Mary’s and of RDFAS if they would be interested in joining me in developing a Church Trail for St Mary’s and happily they were. If there is anyone else who is interested please let me know as soon as possible especially if you are good at drawing/illustration, have computer skills or knowledge of churches. Once the team is assembled we get a visit from an appointed Church Trail Advisor who will provide ‘lighthearted training’ and get us started. I will aim to arrange this visit sometime in February.

Richard Taylor’s book ‘How to Read a Church’ and the accompanying DVD were recommended as background material by NADFAS’s Church Trail Advisor. I got both for Christmas and they make fascinating reading/viewing.

## **How does this fit with our MAP Priorities?**

Church Trails are fun and will contribute to making St Mary's a welcoming, inclusive and joyful church. They will also help in making the Church more accessible to the community as a whole. For me personally I anticipate that learning more about the Church building and the meaning behind artifacts and symbols will help me to develop and grow in my relationship with God and it should for other adults who use it.



## **Bellringers**

### ***Congratulations!***

*David Hibbert*

On Saturday 5 January 2013, the bellringers of the Watford District\*, part of the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers, held their Annual District Meeting at St James, Bushey.

Ringling took place from 3.00pm till 4.30pm followed by sung evensong and then by a sumptuous tea held in the adjacent church hall. Our annual meeting took place once the tables had been cleared.

During this meeting our youngest recruit from Rickmansworth, Oliver Bond who only had his 12th birthday the day before, was elected as a Probationary Member of the Associations.

*Well done Oliver and Many Congratulations!*

\*The Watford District comprises the following churches:

Abbots Langley, Aldenham, Bushey, Bushey Heath, Elstree.  
Great Stanmore, Langleybury, Oxhey (bells now unringable),  
Rickmansworth, Watford (St Mary's).

# CALENDAR

January 31 Thu

*Copy deadline for March LINK*

## February

- 2 Sat **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**  
9.30am Holy Communion United Rite  
7.30pm Deanery Quiz Evening, St Oswald's (see page 24)
- 3 SUN **THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP  
10.00am Family Communion United Rite  
Home Communions  
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 4 Mon 10.00am Cloisters Hall Meeting  
12.30pm J Club at St Mary's School  
7.30pm LINK Committee  
7.45pm Community and Outreach Committee
- 5 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion  
8.00pm LEP Constitution Meeting
- 7 Thu 10.45am Assembly at St Mary's School
- 8 Fri 7.30pm Music Hall Evening at Cloisters Hall (see page 23)
- 10 SUN **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**  
8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP  
10.00am Parish Communion United Rite  
12.15pm Holy Communion United Rite  
1.00pm Lunch Club  
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer  
7.00pm X Team
- 11 Mon 11.30am Prayer for Healing Group (in church)  
12.30pm J Club at St Mary's School  
7.45pm Fabric and Churchyard Committee meets
- 12 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion  
1.00pm Deanery Chapter  
7.45pm Exploring Prayer, the Vicarage, *All welcome*
- 13 Wed **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
9.30am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes  
12.30pm Deborah celebrating Communion at Diocesan Offices  
7.45pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
- 14 Thu Deanery Clergy Study Day
- 16 Sat 10.00am Marriage Preparation Day in the Church Centre

- 17 SUN THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
 8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP  
 10.00am Parish Communion United Rite  
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
- 18 Mon 7.45pm Stewardship and Finance Committee meets  
 19 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion  
 12.00noon Home Communion - and through afternoon  
 4.00pm *Dress a girl around the world* sewing group  
 (Room 1)
- 20 Wed 7.45pm Theology Group, Vicarage  
 22 Fri 7.30pm Antique Valuation Evening for Christian Aid,  
 Church Centre (see page22)
- 24 SUN THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
 8.00am Holy Communion Anglican BCP  
 10.00am Parish Communion United Rite  
 12.15pm Baptism Service  
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer  
 7.00pm X Team  
*March LINK is published*
- 25 Mon 12.30pm J Club at St Mary's School  
 7.45pm Charitable Giving Working Party  
 26 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion  
 10.15am House Group (for contact see cover)  
 11.00am Holy Communion at Seymour House  
 3.30pm Holy Communion at Hunters Lodge  
 28 Thu 2.00pm Newsletter folding and counting, in Church

### **March**

- 2 Sat 10.00am Newsletter folding and counting, in Church  
**3 SUN THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
 10.00am Parish Communion  
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer  
 7.00pm X Team

**Practices each week**  
 Wed 7.30pm Bellringing                      Thu 8.00pm Choir  
*New members are welcome at both—just come along*

# Stations of the Cross

*David Hibbert*

While visiting churches on bellringing outings, I became interested in the varied designs of Stations of the Cross that a number of these churches have and compared them with those we have at St Marys.

In 2010 during our Oberammergau visit and in 2012 in the Holy Land, the number of different Stations I have seen has increased considerably!

The standard set of Stations of the Cross comprise fourteen stations, but there are some that have a fifteenth, that of Christ's Resurrection.

Our own set, which I have recently discovered is not unique to us, was produced by Sister Dorina of the order of the 'Sisters of the Church'. These stations were originally designed in the 1920s, though our set was not purchased till the early 1950s. The sisters at that time were based in Kilburn but have since moved to Ham, near Richmond, Surrey.

In an article on the website [www.saintsilas.org.uk/section/131](http://www.saintsilas.org.uk/section/131),



nineteen sets are listed, with a possible further two in North America, in the Old Cathedral, Colombo and St Philip's, Buffalo. Of the nineteen sets, twelve are located in London, others are in Uxbridge, Manchester, Broadstairs, Leigh-on Sea, New Lakenham (Norwich), ours in Rickmansworth and Toronto, Canada.

Some are still in the original sepia colour whilst others have been repainted in various ways.

*St Mary's*

So far I have only managed to visit those at St Andrew's in Uxbridge which are a light

brownish colour but I think that ours at St Mary's are exceptional in their colour scheme. If you have the e-version or look on the website you can see the colours. I hope to visit the other churches at some point, but will need some help for those on the North American continent, so if anyone is heading to that part of the world, please contact me (773735).



*St Andrew's*

## **St Mary's People Congratulations**

To **PIPPA HAMPTON** who has been accepted by the National Youth Orchestra to play the French Horn.

## **From the Registers Wedding**

28 Dec     **ROBERT DAVIS** and **CAROLINE ARIES**

## **St Mary's in the Past 1923**

Sunday morning services had recently been changed and now all those except the first Sunday in the month were similar: Matins followed by the Holy Eucharist, which was clearly new to many people. The Revd Newton reported that many were beginning to appreciate the Eucharist "as the simplest, yet most glorious form of Sunday worship that could be devised". It was "utterly evangelical". He was saddened by those who would not attend, and commented, "we are all tarred with one brush of inherited ideas; some have rubbed off more than others, but few, if any, are altogether free of it".

He was encouraged that amounts of collections had risen steadily; by 27% between 1920 and 1922. There were apparently different numbers of separate collections for different aspects of the Church's work for: the Church, our own poor, Diocesan church funds, general church funds outside the Diocese, works of mercy, missions overseas and benefits (ie special collections for vicar, curate or organist). "The Church should be thankful less for the 'hard cash' than for the conviction that Christian work is worth doing."

Two mystery plays, *A Mirror for Souls* and *The Shepherds*, performed by the girls' Bible Class were voted a great success. Dancing at the Parish Party continued until 11.30pm, with the Canadian Barn Dance causing much amusement.

## 1973

Forty years ago The Revd Norman Hill reported that Christmas services had been well-attended, despite some people being down with 'flu. The Methodists had joined St Mary's congregation for the Carol Service.

There was to be a Christian Stewardship 'Time and Talents' campaign led by John Shaw. Someone had suggested to him that some 200 groups were associated with the life of St Mary's, but he said that there were never enough people to do the hundreds of jobs needed and the purpose of the campaign was to find the extra hands.

Ten teams of visitors were to be recruited and briefed. Each member of the congregation would be sent information and an invitation to pledge or re-pledge their time to one or more of a great list of activities. If people attended a meeting at the end of February, they would spare the visitors a call. At a service at the end of March all pledges would be offered to God.

John Furness, the Curate then, reported on his month's clergy refresher course at Chichester Theological College, where he trained 10 years before. He was introduced to 'new thinking in

doctrine, ethics, liturgy, communications and the Bible'. He found college life to have become much more relaxed, with wives or girlfriends able to accompany students to some lectures and chapel services. He wrote, "I was completely taken by surprise on the first morning in chapel by the approach of several students, a warm handshake and a 'Good morning, nice to see you'. One couldn't help feeling that this was exactly what was needed at 9.15am [the time the main service then was] at St Mary's on a Sunday morning".

The school nativity play was inspired by their visit to the Tutankhamun exhibition earlier in the year and the script was devised by one of the staff. Called *The Magic Scarab*, it began with a child receiving a present from a rich uncle in Egypt containing a magic scarab gem, and moved to a scene in the Ancient Egypt of Tutankhamun's time, where the search for one universal God began. From there the story moved on 1500 years to Bethlehem, where the search for the one true God came to fulfilment and Christ's birth was celebrated with the help of Christmas carols. Eventually the story travelled forward in time to return to Christmas Eve 1972.

## Nature Notes

*Angela Hall*



Several members of the heron family can be seen at the moment. As well as the little egrets in the Chess Valley there has also been a great white egret; large, like a grey heron only white and very beautiful. I think I got a brief glimpse of it in a field near Chenies. We have also had two visits from the more common grey heron to our garden pond. It poised motionless and alert, peering into the water before suddenly shooting out its rapier beak to grab and eat a



feebly struggling frog just emerging from hibernation on a relatively mild day.

As well as a shortage of many common birds due to a wet breeding season there seem to be very few winter migrants, though some waxwings and lapwings have been reported in the Maple Cross area and I have seen quite a good sized flock of golden plovers.

Heavy rain has, however, been good news for some wildlife. Salmon are apparently spawning in greater numbers than for the past decade in the chalk streams of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. There has also been an explosion in numbers of great crested newts at a site in York which has delayed the building of a new shopping development. They are a protected species and have to be moved to other suitable places.



*Great Crested Newt*

A water vole has been identified near Stockers Lake for the first time in ten years since they were wiped out by the mink. It seems that others are not so lucky in the West Country as their burrows and the holts of some otters have been flooded. There have also been reports of otters run over as they cross roads when floods prevent them going under bridges.

Sadly the little owl that we so often saw in the Masonic School grounds seems to have gone. When we last passed by a squirrel was hanging languidly out of the hole in the gable end where it had been living. In spite of the heavy skies and sodden fields spring is in the air. A song thrush has appeared in our garden for the first time for months and I have heard one singing. The bulbs are coming up and very early the other morning I heard a dog fox give three short barks several times, but there has not yet been the tortured sounding scream of a vixen coming into season. Despite the recent setbacks nature presses inexorably on.

## A Smile from Christmas

Joan Martin tells me that after *The Holly and the Ivy*, a Year 3 pupil at St Mary's School asked her, "What are holly bears?" (Remember, each verse starts "The holly bears a...") She had found it most confusing.

## Making a Good Cup of Tea

*This verse appealed to David Hibbert, who found it in an old cookery book, 'The Main' Cookery Book, 1929 on a shelf in a café in Chorleywood.*

Be sure to heat the earthen pot,  
And your water boiling hot.  
Put in a teaspoonful per cup  
That each of you intend to sup,  
Allow to stand for minutes four.  
Then of the leaves be sure to pour,  
When serving put the milk in first,  
Add sugar, and allay your thirst,  
With this delightful, fragrant brew  
You'll be refreshed and live anew.



## Watersmeet

### February

- |        |                 |  |
|--------|-----------------|--|
| Thu 14 | 2.00pm & 7.45pm | Film: <b><i>Great Expectations</i></b><br>Note that this is a change from the film originally advertised, <b><i>People Like Us</i></b>   |
| Sat 16 | 2.00pm only     | Film: <b><i>The Lorax</i></b><br>About a 10-year-old boy searching for the 'secret of winning the girl of his dreams', finds he must discover the story of the Lorax, a creature that fights to protect the world. |

## Valuation Evening; A Reminder

*John Shaw*

In case you missed the full details in the January edition of *LINK*, here is a brief summary by way of a reminder.



**Date:** Friday, 22 February

**Place:** St Mary`s Church Centre

**Time:** 7.00 pm for items to be valued  
7.30 pm start more generally

**Prices:** £5 a head for admission (includes a glass of wine and some nibbles)  
£8 additional charge for each item to be valued

**Valuer:** Mike Neil of Bonhams

Items to be valued include ceramics, objets d`art, bronzes, silver, pictures and prints but no jewellery or furniture, please.

*All Proceeds to Christian Aid*

Tickets for admission and application forms for items to be valued are available from me (775219)

*Come and have a ‘Really? That Much?’ moment with us!*

### **RDFAS**

#### **The Conservation of Paintings, Polychrome Sculpture and Frames**

**Julia Korner**

*Sarratt Village Hall*

**Tuesday, 12 February**

11.00am, with coffee or tea from 10.30am

*Visitors are always welcome*

For further details call Diana Jefkins (01494 874507)

## **Horticultural Society : Open Evening**

**Andrew Sands**

*a leading wildlife photographer, invites you  
to take a journey with him through*

### **Secret Britain**

**Wednesday 20 February, 8.00 pm**

**WRVS Centre, Bury Lane. Rickmansworth.**

There will be an interval for tea and biscuits and a raffle  
*Members and visitors are welcome.*

*No admission charge, but contributions accepted on exit.*

## **Old Time Music Hall - Friday 8 February**

Students, Staff and Friends of the Royal Masonic School will be performing for us at Cloisters Hall at 7.45pm. Tickets, price £6, to include a light supper, are available now from the Parish Office.

## **Eating in the UK in the Fifties**

*With thanks to Peter Loosley*

- \* Pasta had not been invented.
- \* Curry was an unknown entity.
- \* Olive oil was kept in the medicine cabinet
- \* Spices came from the Middle East where we believed that they were used for embalming
- \* Herbs were used to make rather dodgy medicine.
- \* A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
- \* A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- \* All crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
- \* Soft drinks were called pop.
- \* Coke was something that we mixed with coal to make it last longer.
- \* A Chinese chippy was a foreign carpenter.
- \* Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.
- \* A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.



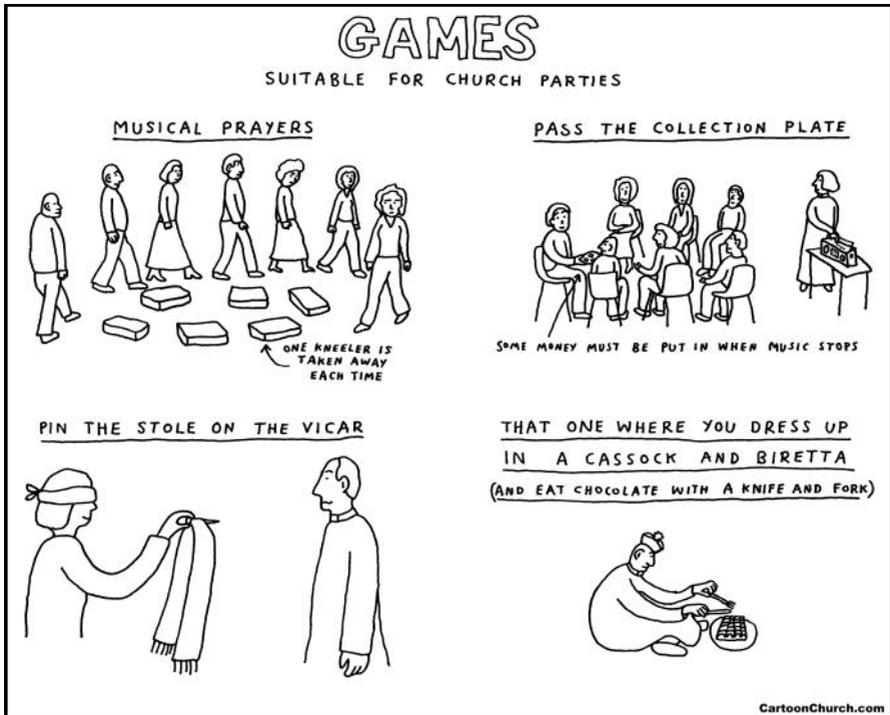
- \* A microwave was something out of a science fiction movie.
- \* Oil was for lubricating your bike not for cooking, fat was for cooking
- \* Bread and jam was a treat.
- \* Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves, not bags.
- \* The tea cosy was the forerunner of all the energy saving devices that we hear so much about today.
- \* Tea had only one colour, black. Green tea was not British.
- \* Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- \* Coconuts only appeared when the fair came to town.
- \* Salad cream was a dressing for salads, mayonnaise did not exist
- \* Hors d'oeuvre was a spelling mistake.
- \* Soup was a main meal.
- \* Water came out of the tap, if someone had suggested bottling it and charging treble for it they would have become a laughing stock.
- \* Food hygiene was only about washing your hands before meals.
- \* However, the one thing that we never ever had on our table in the fifties? *Elbows!*

## Deanery

# Quiz

There will be a Deanery quiz on Saturday 2 February at 7.30pm at St Oswald's Church in Croxley Green, (just a few days after the publication of LINK). This is to be an inter-parish contest with teams of eight from each parish to find the top team in the Deanery! Deborah will be asking, or will have asked by the time you see this, members of our congregation to take part. The cost, for them, will be £6 per person to include fish and chips but their own drinks need to be supplied.

# Dave Walker Cartoon



*This cartoon is taken from the Dave Walker Guide to the Church and first appeared in Church Times.*

## A Lent Prayer Sir Francis Drake

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servant to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same until the end, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through him who through the finishing of thy work laid down his life, our redeemer Jesus Christ.

Amen

## LINK

Publication of our first email edition appears to have gone smoothly and several people took the trouble to email us to say they liked it. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but it appealed to over 40 of our readers, some ordering both formats.

From now on it's much more efficient if you sign up yourself to receive LINK by email on the St Mary's website, [www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk](http://www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk) and you will find it is quite easy. It would be helpful if you would let one of the LINK Committee know if it is instead of a printed copy.

You can sign up for printed copies on the website too, but also using the forms available at the back of church. We do encourage you to sign up for the year. We then know how many copies to produce and it is much safer than just leaving the money in the plate each month.

***Please note that next month's copy deadline will be a week earlier than normal*** in order to get magazines printed before half term. Please start thinking what you need to send us . If you have any ideas for a suitable item, please send it to us.

### March LINK

<b>Copy Deadline</b>	Thursday 31 <u>January</u>
<b>Publication Date</b>	Sunday 24 February

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](mailto: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.*

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Roger Willett 443586

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Julie Smethurst 282927

### THE UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

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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

### 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

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### FLOWER ROTA

Julie Smethurst 282927

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HOUSE GROUPS	4th Tue, 10.15AM	Gillian Baker	775890
	Brenda Bell	772482	
	2nd Wed, 7.45PM	Jane Pummell	774343
LIBRARY	Librarian	Michael Baker	776109
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	Subscriptions :	Jane Pummell	774343
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MEET FOR TEA	1st Thu	Joan Martin	775433
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		Roger Willett	443586
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		John Hill	772809
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE		Brian Warmington	775360
STEWARDSHIP RECORDER			
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

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	School Website	www.stmarys698.herts.sch.uk	