

LINK

Monthly Magazine

50p

August
2014



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	Sung Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre Children's Church in the Church Centre Crèche in the Tower	
2nd Weekly	12.15PM 6.00PM	Holy Communion Evening Service	United Rite
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	
VICAR	Revd Deborah Snowball	The Vicarage, Bury Lane vicar@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	772627
ASSISTANT PRIEST	Revd Scott Talbott	40 Berks Hill, C'wood scott.talbott@talk21.com	07802 244877
READER	Michael Baker	5 Parsonage Farm, Townfield	776109

PARISH OFFICE			
Parish Secretary	Louise Wotherspoon		721002
Address		Church St, Rickmansworth WD3 1JB	
e-mail		parishoffice@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
Opening Hours		9.30AM-1.30PM, Mon, Thu, Fri, and 1.00-3.00pm Wed, in school term time	

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The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

I have been assisted recently in completing a task that I have spent the last fifteen years saying I would get round to eventually (and in case you are wondering, the task was updating my Will!) Other things have been more pressing, more interesting and certainly more exciting. The person who helped me is a qualified and paid up member of the Law Society and, whilst I have some idea of how much the writing of my Will should have cost, I was assisted for free. The person said they were genuinely happy to undertake the task free as a way of thanking me for my ministry. I was surprised - and rather embarrassed - and allowing this person to do this for me has made me think a little more about the gifts of both humility and of saying thank you.



It is lovely to be thanked - in whatever way - but the art of saying thank you with a card or note or flowers seems to be a dying art. An email or text may be sent, and, whilst they are good to receive, for some they are not the same as a hand-written note or phone call that somehow seems to reflect a deeper connection. (I sent flowers and a note to say thank you to my legal assistant - and a bottle of wine!)

We are told in Colossians (3.15b): *And be thankful*. It is so easy to forget to thank God, just as it is so easy to forget to thank those around us who do so much for us to make our lives more comfortable, more easy, more pleasurable.

If it is some time since you last stopped to give real thought to whom, out of the usual run of people, you might wish or need to say thank you, then pause for a moment - and say thank you for them now - and then, perhaps, let them know in a more personal way that you are thankful to them and for them.

With good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah". The script is cursive and elegant.

Readings at Communion

3 Aug	Isa 55.1-5*	Rom 9.1-5*	Matt 14.13-21
10 Aug	1 Kings 19.9-18	Rom 10.5-15	Matt 14.22-33
17 Aug	Isa 56.1, 6-8	Rom 11.1-2a, 29-32	Matt 15.10-28
24 Aug	Acts 5.12-16	1 Cor 4.9-15	Luke 22.24-30
31 Aug	Jer 15.15-21	Rom 12.9-21	Matt 16.21-28

*8.00am service only

Prayers

Weekly Pointers for the Month

Week beginning:

3 Aug	Journalists
10 Aug	Actors, Entertainers and 'Personalities'
17 Aug	Carers
24 Aug	New Christians
31 Aug	Writers and Broadcasters

For Local Churches

The Deanery

The Methodist Circuit

3 Aug	Christ Church, Chorleywood	Gaddesden Row
10 Aug	Mill End, West Hyde, Heronsgate	Hemel Hempstead
17 Aug	St Oswald's, Croxley Green	High Street, Harpenden
24 Aug	Sarratt and Chipperfield	Kings Langley
31 Aug	St Andrew's, Chorleywood	Ley Hill

People Living in Rickmansworth

3 Aug	London Road
10 Aug	The Byeway
17 Aug	Cedars Avenue
24 Aug	Chorleywood Road
31 Aug	Loudwater Lane

St Mary's Network

- 1 Aug Brenda Bell, Neill and Sarah Bennett
4 Aug Tony and Jean Berry, Geoffrey Birch
5 Aug Andrew and Isabelle Bond, Geoff Bond
6 Aug Michael and Suzanne Bond, Ann Bott
7 Aug Anthea Brennan, Marjorie Broadhurst
8 Aug Marion Brooks, David and Gertrud Brown

11 Aug Allen and Elisabeth Browning, Michael and Christine Butler
12 Aug Ruth Butler, David and Janet Carruthers
13 Aug Loretta Chambers, Keith and Dorothy Champion
14 Aug Don and Celia Clark, Georgina Clyde
15 Aug Dennis and Margaret Collins, Margaret Cook

18 Aug Janet Coombs, Irene Corner
19 Aug Gary and Buzz Coster, Jose Couch
20 Aug Graham and Diana Crocker, Merry Crumpler
21 Aug Derek and Jennett Day, Dorothy Denzer
22 Aug Peter and Dorothy Doughty, Margaret Down

25 Aug Lucy Drake, Vi Dudgeon
26 Aug Beatrice Durham, Barbara Earl
27 Aug Jane Earl, Joan Eastgate
28 Aug Greg Fahey, Ursula Fahey
29 Aug Bob and Catherine Fenton, Jessica Fisher

A Prayer for August

An old Irish prayer

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow
May the soft winds lighten your spirit
May the sunshine brighten your heart
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
And may God enfold you in love. Amen

We Say Goodbye to David Goodwin

Sadly we had to wish the Revd David Goodwin and his wife Kay goodbye on Sunday 15 June, at the end of his last service at St Mary's before he leaves to take up his new ministry in Chester. At the end of the service we presented him with a small gift from everyone to thank him for his support of St Mary's.

David was our 'official Methodist contact' in the local circuit, and although he was not able to visit us frequently, his knowledge, quiet humour, wisdom and care left a deep impression. As well as taking services, he attended UCC meetings and guided us in our Local Ecumenical Project (LEP) as well as the change to the new Herts and Borders Circuit.

He left with our prayers and good wishes.

May Meeting of the United Church Council

Rather belatedly, below is information from the May meeting of the United Church Council (UCC).

Matters discussed included: the investment of the Myers Bequest (with the Epworth Fund) and work on the War Memorial for which we needed to apply for an Archdeacon's Letter of Permission. Members of Council were invited to indicate on which Sub-Committee they wished to serve - and the list for these is below.

Community and Outreach

Chair: David Carruthers
UCC Members: Andrew Bond, Claire Husbands, Sue Johnson
Co-opted: Heather Allum (Safeguarding Officer) or
Mary Weatherilt (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)
Others: Churchwarden, Steward, Vicar

Fabric and Churchyard

Chair: Deborah

UCC Members: Madge Ayres, Petra Hedges, Ashley James
June Poppleton

Co-opted: Martyn Gowing (Chair of Church Centre Management
Committee), David Hibbert (Secretary)
Maxine Platzman, Robert Todd

Others: Churchwarden and Steward

Stewardship and Finance

Chair: John Rhodes

UCC Members Buzz Coster, Gill Gowing, Sue Hillier
Rob Kay (Treasurer)

Co-opted: Brian Warmington (Stewardship Recorder)

Others: Churchwarden, Steward, Vicar

Other Committees

Charitable Giving

Chair: John Shaw

Members: Jane Earl, Rob Kay, Deborah Snowball, Jackie Wilcox

Church Centre Management Committee

Chair: Martyn Gowing

Members: David Gilbert (Treasurer), Darryl Sharp (Secretary)
Kasia Todd (Bookings Sec)

Others: Churchwarden or Steward, Vicar

Communications

Chair: Deborah

Members: Brenda Bell (LINK Rep), Buzz Coster (Webmaster)
Sally Morgan (Newsletter Co-ordinator)

Events Committee

Chair: Deborah

Members: David Gilbert, Chris Hillier, Anne Kay, Rob Kay
Hilary Pearce, John Poppleton, Rachel Turvey

100th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the First World War

Many Services and activities are taking place this year to mark the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914 and at St Mary's we shall be offering two services on the one hundredth anniversary of this date, Monday 4 August 2014.

At 11.30am there will be a simple service - particularly for children and families (but not precluding others) - at which we shall light a Candle for Peace which will then be placed by the Memorial Book in Church where a candle will burn for the next four years. The candle holder has been made especially by members of St Mary's School J Club.

In the evening, at 9.30pm, there will be a service which will include the lighting of candles around the War Memorial. This service will link us with services and events across the country marking this commemoration by keeping the British Legion *Lights Out* initiative. Please bring a candle if you can to this service.

Neither of these services replaces Remembrance Sunday events later in the year and, indeed, consideration has been given as to how we may mark Armistice Day more particularly this year. In addition, the commemorations of the First World War will continue over the next four years, so other events will take place at St Mary's in due course.

Home from Home



As many of you will know already, we have a Church *Home from Home* weekend planned for the weekend of 5-7 September - this year! The weekend is planned to coincide with our Patronal Festival Weekend and we are delighted that we shall have the Sub-Dean of St Albans Cathedral with us as our speaker on the Saturday. The weekend starts with a pudding party at 7.30pm on the Friday.

We hope it will be a really good weekend of meeting and greeting and eating together - allowing us to continue to grow as a

community. **We need you there though!** Lots of people have said they are planning to come, but haven't yet returned the Booking Form. If you are planning to join us, can you let us know by returning your form asap. We need to know soon for catering and planning purposes.

I look forward to seeing you there (and even more to hearing from you beforehand to let me know you've booked up!)

VIVA ITALIA – The Italian Evening

Beryl Baker

Congratulations to all in organising and delivering such a splendid evening's entertainment on 14 June.

I was very worried at the outset, though, when the doors of the Church Centre opened and a posse of sharp-suited Mafia types (with violin case) came in - 'Oh no!' I thought, 'we are going to be sent to sleep with the fishes!' It turned out that they were only here for the supper.



The 'Mafia'

We were entertained for the evening by Tonic Opera (accompanied by Andrew Sykes at the piano) before and after the meal, with a varied programme of arias, operatic choruses, and dance. The evening menu was lasagne and green salad, tiramisu and/or fruit salad, and cheese in abundance, also vino bianco or rosso. Viva Annette Leveridge and her wonderful team.

The evening ended with a raffle with very good prizes. Alas as usual my ticket purchase turned out to be a donation!

A big thank you is due to Hilary Pearce for having the initiative, and vision to carry through such a fun event.

Next year Greece? Morocco? Brazil?

Bell News

David Hibbert

Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers (HCACR) The Coburn Trophy

On Saturday 28 June, the Watford District of the HCACR, rang in the Coburn Trophy striking competition at St Augustine's in Broxbourne. The other ringing bands came from the Western, Eastern and Bishops Stortford Districts plus two bands from the Northern District (Lights and Stars). Each band consisted of eight ringers and four of the ringers from Watford and District came from St Mary's, Rickmansworth. In the photo from left to right they are 1 Jenny Chapman, 3 Hugh Thomas, 4 David Hibbert, 8 Renny Thomas.



After the draw, in which the Watford District drew second place, the ringing commenced. The Watford band rang Grandsire Triples for about ten minutes. Once all the bands had rung and lunch eaten, the judges gave their results:

1st	Eastern	2nd	Northern Lights
3rd	Bishops Stortford	4th	Western
5th	Watford	6th	Northern Stars

Though it was disappointing that we came 5th when we had come first last year, it was all good practice and good meeting ringers from other churches.


Striking Competition for Young Ringers

The Ringing World over a number of years has organised a striking competition for young ringers (ringers not over the age of 19). From the area covered by the HCACR, Oliver Bond was selected from St Mary's. Oliver met the team and took part in a number of practice rings. His band was called "Young @ Herts". Saturday 5 July

was booked for the competition to take place on the 10 bells of Old St Martin in Worcester.

The bands could either just ring rounds or ring methods. Oliver's band chose to ring rounds and they came second out of ten bands.

The results were:

First	Bedfordshire	
Equal Second	Essex Young Eagles and Young @ Herts	<i>Oliver</i>
Fourth	Three Spires	
Equal Fifth	Bath & Wells and Lincolnshire Poachers	
Equal Seventh	St Martin's Youths and Ely DA Young Ringers	
Ninth	Worcester Cathedral	
Tenth	Vectis Youths	

Afterwards, ringing took place at Worcester Cathedral. Here they have 12 bells, the tenor, the heaviest bell, weighs 48cwt 2lb (Our tenor at St Mary's weighs only 20cwt 2lb). Oliver chose to ring the Treble, the lightest bell, at only 3cwt.

Christian Aid: Some Results

John Shaw

Christian Aid Week is fast becoming a distant memory. But the final envelopes have now been opened, the proceeds banked, and individual collectors thanked for their efforts and given their outcome. The upshot for the whole of Rickmansworth and Croxley Green was £7,352 - slightly down on 2013 (£7,575) but a handsome figure all the same. In addition, £2,223 of that amount was Gift Aided.

St Mary's share of this total was £1,982 - again a bit down on last year (£2,283). In addition, some £600 of that amount was Gift Aided. All in all, this is a good outcome in the present economic circumstances. In addition, some of 'our' collectors had greater difficulty this year in actually catching people at home. My own personal theory is that the weather during the week was so good that householders were either out and about in the lovely sunshine

or, alternatively, were in their gardens and out of earshot of their front door-bells or door knockers. In any event, grateful thanks to all who gave and to all those who 'stepped up to the plate' and actually did the collecting. In addition to the important fund-raising aspect of the Week, it also strikes me as another opportunity for us to demonstrate St Mary's commitment to 'serving the whole community'.

Incidentally, you may like to know that in 2013 the local Rickmansworth and Croxley Green Christian Aid Committee raised a total of £9,929.68. This substantial figure included £1,000 from the annual book sale at the Baptist Church in Croxley and £1,063 from the Quiz Supper/Auction of Promises event at St Mary's. The rest, including £281 in donations during the year, came from Christian Aid Week. Renewed thanks, everyone.

Charitable Giving: Any Suggestions?

John Shaw

This is the annual invitation to members of St Mary's congregation to propose a charity which you think deserves support from the money (£28,000 last year) which we give away each year from our Church income. If you feel strongly that a particular charity deserves consideration, then please let Deborah or myself know, and give us a copy of the charity's most recent newsletter and/or annual report and a note setting out why you think the charity is particularly deserving of our support. The Charitable Giving committee meets in early September to decide which charities we will be recommending to the United Church Council for support in 2016 (we are a forward-looking lot, you see). By the end of August, please.

Library News

Michael Baker

A number of beautiful illustrated books, mainly on the Holy Land, have been added to the Church Library. We are grateful to the donor.

A Very Pious Funeral

Graham Martin

In late November 1558 a very sick John Palmer would have been gazing across from The Bury, then his 'ferme of the burye', at our church of St Mary the Virgin. No doubt he was in prayerful mood for he was making his will: 'I John Palmer of Rykmersworthe....late surveyour of the quenes Maiesties stable'.

This was just twelve days after the death of that queen, Mary I, who had so harshly re-imposed Roman Catholicism in her short five year reign; and her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth was newly come to the throne. But John Palmer took no account of any likely religious upheaval - his funeral rites were to be of a most pious Catholic form. After committing his soul to Christ and the Virgin, he desired to be buried in St Katherine's (the north) aisle in the church and a small tomb to be raised there. And having made donations to the church and to the poor, he set out the arrangements: there were to be five poor men of the parish, dressed in black and carrying torches, and likewise five women carrying tapers; and there were to be five priests (with their clerks) who were to say five masses in honour of the five wounds of Christ. Then once a year for five years there was to be a memorial service (which would have taken the form of a mass). As John Palmer must have died at the very end of November or in December, it is quite possible that his funerary wishes were met before such 'popish' practices were swept away; his further wish for an annual mass would have been prohibited as were all masses for the dead. Requiescat in pace.

From In Focus

Two items of topical Church of England news reported in the June edition of *In Focus* that may be of interest to readers are that a scheme that is intended to provide support for churches, communities and credit unions by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Task Group on Responsible Lending has been launched at St Martin-

in-the-Fields and is intended to be expanded throughout the nation. Also the Church of England is opposing the HS2 Bill in its present form, purely because there is no clause making provision for the treatment of burial grounds and reburial of human remains. Thousands of exhumations are likely to be required, principally at three sites: Euston St James Gardens, Stoke Mandeville, St Mary old church and Park Street-Curzon interchange, Birmingham. The Archbishops' Council has submitted a petition to Parliament, regarding this oversight.

St Mary's People

LENNOX BARTON Those of us who have been around at St Mary's for some years will remember Lennox and Elizabeth Barton well as active members of St Mary's before they decided a while back to move to the Baptist Church. Lennox fought a long battle against illness, but died in early July. Our thoughts are with Elizabeth at this time.

GEOFF HALL is celebrating 50 years' service to Scouting this year, and this has just been marked by the award of a certificate from the Scout Association. Congratulations Geoff; that is a record of which to be proud.

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the church

22 June **LILY and BEATRICE HYLAND**, twin daughters of **PETER** and **EMMA**

MARIA SMITHSON, daughter of **PETER** and **NADIA**

Weddings

We ask God's blessing on the union of

12 July **DAVID OVERTON** and **DAYANIS LIMA**

CALENDAR

August 2014

- 3 SUN THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- | | | | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 8.00am | Holy Communion Service | Anglican BCP |
| | 10.00am | Family Communion Service | United Rite |
| | | Home Communion | |
| | 12.15pm | Barbecue for UCC members | |
| | 6.00pm | Said Evening Prayer | |
| | 6.45pm | Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony | |
| | | Barbecue, at the <i>Vicarage</i> | |
- 4 Mon 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I**
- | | | | |
|--|---------|--|--|
| | 11.30am | Service of Commemoration (see page 9)
<i>with the lighting of the Candle of Remembrance</i> | |
| | 9.30pm | Service of Commemoration with Prayers for Peace | |
- 5 Tue**
- | | | | |
|--|--------|--|-------------|
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion Service | United Rite |
| | 7.45pm | Community and Outreach Committee meeting | |
- 6 Wed THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**
- | | | | |
|--|--------|------------------------|-------------|
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion Service | United Rite |
|--|--------|------------------------|-------------|
- 10 SUN THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- | | | | |
|--|---------|------------------------|--------------|
| | 8.00am | Holy Communion Service | Anglican BCP |
| | 10.00am | Sung Communion Service | United Rite |
| | 12.15pm | Holy Communion Service | United Rite |
| | 1.00pm | Lunch Club | |
| | 6.00pm | Said Evening Prayer | |
- 11 Mon**
- | | | | |
|--|---------|---|--|
| | 11.30am | Prayer for Healing Group (in Church) | |
| | 7.45pm | Fabric and Churchyard Committee meeting | |
- 12 Tue**
- | | | | |
|--|--------|---|-------------|
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion Service | United Rite |
| | 12noon | Ten-bell Ringing Practice <i>All ringers welcome</i> | |
| | 7.45pm | Exploring Prayer Group (at Vicarage) <i>All welcome</i> | |
- 13 Wed**
- | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | 7.45pm | Housegroup (for contact, see cover) | |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|--|
- 14 Thu**
- | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | 6.15pm | Wedding Rehearsal | |
| | | <i>September LINK copy deadline</i> | |
- 16 Sat**
- | | | | |
|--|--------|---------------------------|--|
| | 2.00pm | Service of Holy Matrimony | |
|--|--------|---------------------------|--|
- 17 SUN THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
- | | | | |
|--|---------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | 8.00am | Holy Communion Service | Anglican BCP |
| | 10.00am | Sung Communion Service | United Rite |
| | 12noon | Service of Holy Baptism | |
| | 6.00pm | Said Evening Prayer | |

- 18 Mon 7.30pm LINK Committee meeting
7.45pm Stewardship and Finance Committee meeting
- 19 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion Service United Rite
12.15pm Home Communion through afternoon
5.45pm Stewards, Churchwarden and Vicar meet
- 24 SUN BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**
8.00am Holy Communion Service Anglican BCP
10.00am Sung Communion Service United Rite
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 26 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion Service United Rite
10.15am House Group (for contact, see cover)
11.00am Service at Seymour House
3.30pm Service at Westerley
- 30 Sat 2.30pm Cream Teas in the Church Centre (see page 29)
- 31 SUN THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
8.00am Holy Communion Service Anglican BCP
10.00am Sung Communion Service United Rite
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
The September LINK is published

September

- 2 Tue 9.30am Holy Communion Service United Rite
- 5 Fri 7.30pm 'Home from Home' Weekend begins
- 6 Sat 9.00am 'Home from Home'
- 7 SUN THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
8.00am *No Service*
10.00am Family Patronal Festival Eucharist United Rite
Home Communion
12noon Bring and Share lunch
- 8 Mon THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
7.45pm Meeting of United Church Council

Regular Weekly Practices

Wed 7.30pm Bellringing
Thu 7.45pm Choir

New members welcome at both practices - just come along

Concert to Celebrate Music Sunday

Pat Loosley

Surely one of the greatest joys of life is the rich diversity of music we can all appreciate.

Writing in LINK last year about the Concert I ended by saying “can’t wait for next year!” On Sunday 22 June this year, the programme reminded us, “Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Music Sunday is a celebration of the music and musicianship that are a vital and beloved part of church life”.

Deborah introduced the evening by saying, apart from Andrew Sykes (our organist) and herself, all those taking part were under 18 years old. Many chuckles and quizzical looks came from the Choir! They opened the evening and, although fewer in number, sounded very melodious.

The five instrumentalists were Ruth Yardy (17) on flute, Michael Swain (17) clarinet, and Jess Bradley (16) piano - all three around Grade VIII standard and also coping with GCSEs and A Levels - Michael Sidoli (12) on piano had amazed us last year also with his expertise, and young Eloise Murray on violin, nearer the beginning of her musical journey, courageously faced the audience. We appreciated the amount of practice needed and enjoyed the variety of pieces played, including Jess’s second one with a syncopated passage, aptly named “Wild Mushrooms”.

This year Deborah herself sang and delighted us with two folk songs and the Choir closed the evening.

Many thanks to all who participated, but the most grateful thanks go to Andrew who gave his time to rehearse and accompany the instrumentalists and treated us on the piano to the 1st movement of Schumann’s Fantasia in C, proving again how very fortunate we are to have such a musician at our church.

For two weekends running, the Italian Evening and the concert have given us such pleasure.

I'm Fine, Thank You

*Given to us by Lilly Gowing
- most of us come to some of it!*

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to walk on the street,
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm all right.
My memory's failing, my head's in a spin
But I am awfully good for the shape I'm in.
The moral is this as my tale I unfold –
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.

'It's a Wonderful World'

Gill Gowing

The theme of this year's flower festival at Holy Cross, Sarratt, was 'It's a Wonderful World'. There were 34 arrangements in all, starting with an absolutely superb decoration at the entrance to the Church entitled 'Aurora Borealis' and ending with an outside display by the 1st Sarratt Scout Group of arrangements in all kinds of footwear from walking boots to dance shoes to illustrate the range of activities undertaken by Scouts.

It was hard to choose a favourite arrangement since they were all so varied with clever interpretations of the theme. I loved the display with a number of jeroboam champagne bottles, 'Wine - I cook with

wine, sometimes I even add it to the food'. Hearing me expressing my admiration for the display a gentleman standing nearby told me that the bottles came from his family who had been in the wine business. And that the contents of two of the bottles had been drunk at his daughter's wedding and another, which was only a display piece, had formed a centrepiece to a table decoration at her wedding.



'Between the pages of a BOOK is a wonderful place to be' was an interesting display and I was particularly taken by the following advice which was on a card peeping out of a Bible.

Bible Helps in Times of Difficulty

If you are depressed, read the Twenty-Seventh Psalm

If your pocket-book is empty, read the Thirty-Seventh Psalm

If you are losing confidence in people, read the Thirteenth Chapter of First Corinthians

If people seem unkind, read the Fifteenth Chapter of St John

If you are discouraged about your work, read the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Psalm

If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, keep silent and read the Third Chapter of St James

If you are at all out of sorts, read the Twelfth Chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews

Other notable displays were 'The Colours of the Rainbow' decorating the arch at the end of the nave; 'I hear babies cry' where some of the flowers were arranged in different sizes and shapes of babies' bottles, 'Seaside' complete with deckchair, bucket and spade and 'English Garden' including watering cans and a trug. The display on and around the altar illustrating 'Resurrection, Creation of the World, Day and Night' was stunning with wonderful colours.

In a field adjoining the churchyard there were plant, cake and book stalls and of course tea and cakes. There was also a burger stall run by (big) Geoff Hall. It was good to see both him and Sue. Despite the rain it was a most enjoyable visit and I hope the Festival raised a goodly amount of money for Holy Cross to warrant the huge amount of work that had been undertaken by the Sarratt community.

St Mary's School News

Meera Chauhan

Those of you who visited the Rickmansworth and District Horticultural Society Show on Saturday 5 July may have seen our exhibit. Key Stage 2 Garden Club displayed a variety of their produce, including flowers, houseplants, herbs, rhubarb and vegetables. We were very thrilled to be presented with a special certificate



and look forward to the next show on 6 September! At the show someone asked how old the children were in Key Stage 2. Our keen gardeners are aged between 7 and 11 years old.

The school's 'Walk Once a Week' initiative is proving to be popular and many of the children collected their June WOW badges designed to commemorate World War II by remembering Our Finest Hour. The badge depicts a Spitfire in flight during the Battle of Britain. The July badge commemorates the lunar landing forty-five years ago.

Other events before the end of term in July:

Sports day was very thrilling as the children competed in their houses: St George, St David, St Andrew and St Patrick.

Years 2 and 3 enjoyed their Scooter Training session. The training developed their road safety skills and taught them how to use their scooters safely.

International Day gave pupils opportunities to learn more about other countries and cultures in the world with a variety of practical and research tasks.

Year 3 visited the Lincolnsfields Children's Centre where their visit focussed on Children at War - The Evacuee's Experience, the Home Front, and Women in War.

Our musicians performed wonderfully in the Summer Music Gala demonstrating a talent and love of music that we look forward to them developing further.

Methodist Conference News

A brief summary of news from their press release

- Boobs aren't news, says Methodist Conference [*A petition to sign*]
- Church marks 20 years since genocide in Rwanda
- Get serious about mental health, young Methodists urge Church
- The Conference elects President and Vice-President Designate for 2015/16 [*They will be the Revd Steve Wild and Mrs Gill Dascombe*]
- Methodist Conference receives report on same-sex marriage
- Methodist Conference celebrates vital role of chaplains in today's Forces
- Methodists step up to the challenge of the Covenant
- Membership statistics are a 'challenge to the Church', says General Secretary
- Newly elected Vice-President lays out four new building blocks for Methodism [*scripture, science, culture and community*]
- Back to the Bible, forward to the world: Inaugural address of the Methodist President
- Podcast: Pastoral Address by the Revd Ruth Gee
- Presbyteral Session slide show - the Revd Dr Leach
- Highlights for Journalists at Methodist Conference 2014
- *If you would like to know more about any of these topics, there are leads accessible from The Week Ahead.*

Local Events

Watersmeet

Thu 21 August 2.00pm & 7.45pm Film: *Calvary*

After he is threatened during a confession, a good natured priest must battle the dark forces closing around him.

Local societies start their new season's programmes in September.

General Synod

It is hoped to have an account next month about the July General Synod, but as you are probably aware, it was agreed that women could be selected to join the episcopacy.

Meet for Tea

Joan Martin

This rather strange name was given to a St Mary's Group so long ago (at least 30 years) that the origins are vague. If you haven't heard of it and thought it sounded vaguely carnivorous (meat versus meet); meat could only refer to ham sandwiches!

We meet on the first Thursday of every month except January in someone's home and door-to-door transport is provided. We enjoy talks from a variety of speakers and then follow with tea and chat. Until recently the group included men and women, but sadly at the moment no men remain. We have vacancies at the present time and if you or someone you know would be interested in coming, please contact me (775433) or Sally Morgan (773922).

Nature Notes

Angela Hall

Unlike foxes, one predator that doesn't normally come out before dark is the badger. I am told that two have been seen in Meadow Way, (definitely two, not the same one twice.) They certainly seem to be getting more common. Will we have urban badgers like urban

foxes? It might be one reason why hedgehogs are becoming a rarity round here.

The tail-less wood mouse living under our garden birdbath can sometimes be seen in the late afternoon chasing another one (with tail) that lives under the back step. I don't know if this is courtship or aggression but, my goodness, they move like greased lightning. High above them, the wood pigeons have taken to eating the lilac leaves and the top branches are looking rather ragged. I don't ever remember seeing this before.

The uncultivated area between Shepherds Lane and the cornfield above the M25 is, I believe, part of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme. It has gone back to nature and is a wilderness of long grass, brambles, wild flowers and small trees such as hawthorn. It is a good place for wildlife. I have seen a nursing vixen carrying a rabbit and, more recently, a small flock of linnets and a yellowhammer. A rasping "churr" turned out to be from a whitethroat, and it is also the haunt of various butterflies, including the marbled white.

Woodoaks Farm, to which this land belongs, also boasts a magnificent sixteenth century barn which can be seen from the A412 just before Maple Cross. It is, unfortunately, becoming a picturesque ruin and is badly in need of restoration. Great efforts are being made to raise money and a grant has been obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund. There are plans to create a Farming Heritage Centre so that school children and others can learn something of farming and local history. More information about this project can



Sketch by Sheila Lee

be obtained from: nadia.igsiz@groundwork.org.uk

The Vicarage Chickens

Sadly HENNY and PENNY are no more. They fell prey to a fox about a month ago. All those attending meetings at the Vicarage on summer evenings will miss seeing them moving contentedly around the garden, Deborah most of all. We send belated commiserations.

A Pilgrim's Highlights, Discoveries and Reflections

Gill Gowing

Highlights

At the time of writing it is a little over a month since the return of the pilgrims who travelled to Istanbul and the Seven Churches of Asia. I was one of those pilgrims and having had time to reflect can now share with LINK readers my personal highlights of the pilgrimage, some of the discoveries I made and some of my reflections in relation to my Christian journey.



The Pilgrims

The highlight of the whole trip for me was Ephesus. The ruins of Ephesus are the best preserved of any Roman site in the Mediterranean. Although only 5% of the city has been excavated, the wealth of the surviving detail makes it easy to imagine the lives of the people who lived there: the streets they walked, on which



Library in Ephesus

had both drainage and lighting, the many temples, the huge agora or market place, the vast amphitheatre that can seat 25,000 people, bath houses, communal latrines and above all the recently excavated terrace houses or 'the houses of the rich' since only the very wealthy could afford to live in houses such as these. The rooms of these houses are decorated with extensive

frescos on the walls and mosaics on the floor, had hot and cold running water, toilets with waste running off to the mains drainage pipe in the street and were heated by hot air conducted through pipes beneath the floors and behind the walls.

And this is the city in which St Paul spent over two years of his life and where *'God did extraordinary miracles through Paul so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them'* (Acts 19.11). This is the city where the silversmith Demetrius who made silver shrines of Artemis felt his livelihood threatened by Paul who *'has convinced and led astray large numbers of people'* and where Paul's companions were seized and taken to the



Street in Ephesus

theatre, the very amphitheatre that still exists today. It really did feel that we were walking in the footsteps of the early Christians.

Two other places we visited stand out in my memory. The first is the church of Chora. Chora means to a land outside a city or village in this case Istanbul. The church is considered to be one of the most beautiful surviving examples of a Byzantine church. It is now a museum and at the time of our visit the nave was closed for restoration; however there was still much to see. The interior of the building is covered with fine mosaics and frescos. The mosaics in the outer narthex illustrate the story of Jesus' birth, life and resurrection. The mosaics in the first three bays of the inner narthex give an account of the Life of the Virgin, and her parents based on the apocryphal gospel of St James. Frescos adorn the walls of the side chapel or parecclesion. It was fun trying to decide what story each illustration depicted.

The other particularly memorable place we visited was the house of the Virgin Mary. It is known that St John came to Ephesus and it is

assumed that since Jesus, whilst on the cross, gave his mother into his care and *‘from that time on, this disciple (John) took her into his house’* (John 19.27) John, when he came to Ephesus, brought Mary with him. The house is a Catholic and Muslim shrine located outside Ephesus. The house was discovered in the 19th century by following the descriptions in the reported visions of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824), a Roman Catholic nun and visionary who had never travelled. The Catholic Church has never pronounced in favour or against the authenticity of the house, but a number of Popes have visited and celebrated mass there since its discovery. Deborah also celebrated communion here. The House of the Virgin Mary was, despite the hordes of tourists many visiting from cruise ships, a surprisingly peaceful and spiritual place and it is for this that it is memorable.

Discoveries – in no particular order

- That the Asian part of Turkey is called Anatolia.
- That the six-winged seraphims in the Hagia Sophia kept their wings but lost their faces in the conversion from church to mosque.
- The importance of meatballs in the Turkish diet - each area has their own specialty.
- That David Hibbert is a railway man - does this explain his interest in the Stations of the Cross?
- That pomegranate vinegar is a delicious salad dressing.
- That Heather studied archaeology and was therefore really knowledgeable about all the ancient sites we visited.
- That a narthex is a portico at the west end of a basilica or church, especially one that is at right angles to the nave. Traditionally the narthex was a part of the church building, but was not considered part of the church proper.
- That Deborah loves swimming even when the water is a bit nippy and the sea a bit choppy.
- That buying one of anything in a Turkish market is nearly



6-winged seraphim

impossible - one dolmade (vine leaves stuffed with rice) roller 15 euros; 2 dolmade rollers 20 euros - too good a bargain to miss.

- That once upon a time there was a caravan in the (old) vicarage garden and this was frequented by the young people of St Mary's and led to a number of unions which are still going strong today, including those of two couples on the pilgrimage.
- That apparently after expenditure on defence the Turkish government spends most on the promotion of the Muslim faith.

Reflections

I have always struggled with the book of Revelation and in consequence tend to ignore it. Deciding to go on the pilgrimage made me read it once again. However it still seemed decidedly weird and other worldly. Now that I have visited the locations of the 'seven churches' it does mean rather more to me. The churches referred to would not have been buildings but communities of Christians. The distance between these communities is huge; it took us hours by coach to get from one to another. It seems to me incredible that the Gospel spread so far so quickly, relatively speaking, when the messengers were probably on foot or perhaps on a donkey.

The most significant remains at most of the locations were the temples and it was clear that these were huge buildings of enormous significance. It was into a culture dominated by the worship and sacrifice to a variety of gods in splendid temples that the Christian message was delivered. It seems miraculous to me that there were people living in these places that heard the word and believed. How hard it must have been for them and how very easy in comparison it is for us today. And still I find it hard to convey my faith to others. Yet John's letters to the Churches whilst giving some praise also admonish and urge them to do better, much better. I wonder what he would write to the Church in Rickmansworth where we have it so easy compared to the early Christians in Asia. I rather dread to think as the seven letters to those early churches are very challenging.

A Summer Cream Tea

Jack and Julie Smethurst

As everyone who worships at St Mary's is aware, our 10 year old granddaughter Tansy has been on the prayer list for almost a year now. Our son-in-law John Foy, who went every week to sit with Tansy in King's College Hospital, saw what wonderful work was being done in the neurological ward and was inspired to take part in the Ride 100 charity bike ride on 10 August, to raise funds for the Neuro Foundation. Our daughter Jane wishes to swell the contributions by having a cream tea event in our Church Centre on Saturday 30 August between 2.30pm and 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome - especially all those good people who have followed Tansy's recovery progress with such concern and compassion. John's sponsorship funds, together with Jane's cream tea takings will be donated to the Neuro Foundation Charity. We hope to see you there.

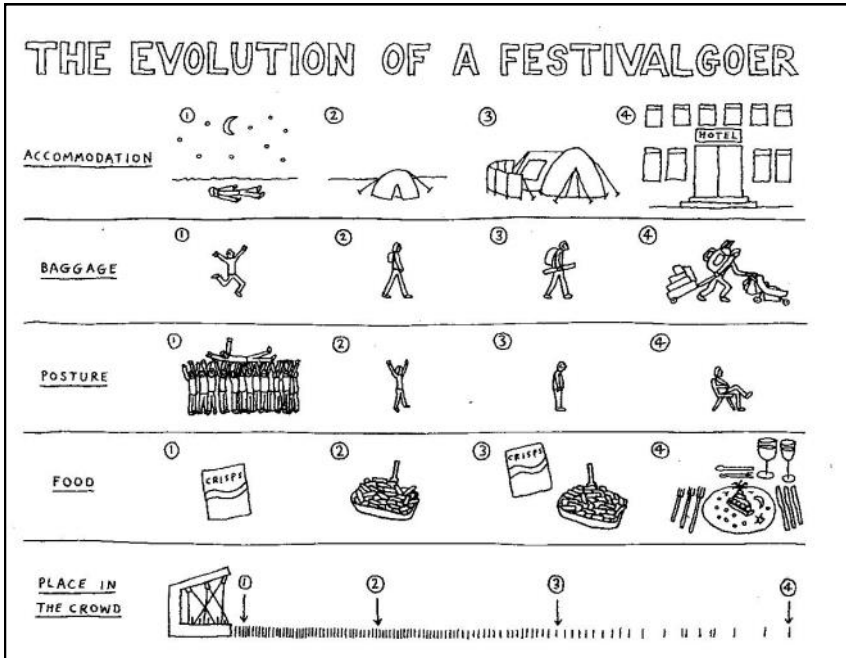
LINK

We are very sorry if you had trouble accessing the email version of the July LINK and opened June's instead. I hope you closed that and tried again or clicked a different button. We can only explain the strange behaviour by saying that a gremlin had crept into the system, but the fault should have been corrected by now.

Before each deadline, we circulate a reminder of the copy date (no more than that) to a list of people who have asked us to, or we think might have material for us. Recently addressing it to Michael has caused some confusion. It is just that his surname begins with a B and Deborah has asked us to send 'bcc' to all but one person for security reasons. Brenda didn't know that it could be sent addressed to one's own email. Problem solved! Please let me know if you would like to be added to or removed from the list.

The photos in this issue are of necessity rather small. If you have access to the website, you can enlarge them there.

Dave Walker Cartoon



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September LINK

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Publication date: Sunday 31 August

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.

CHURCHWARDEN		Barbara Paterson	720356
METHODIST STEWARDS		Derek Day	237248
		June Poppleton	773388
THE UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL			
	Secretary	Louise Wotherspoon	721002
	Treasurer	Robert Kay	773470
CHURCH HALLS			
Church Centre	Bookings	Kasia Todd	07801 049687
		centrebookings@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
	Chair	Martyn Gowing	777715
	Treasurer	David Gilbert	332572
Cloisters Hall	Bookings	Sarah Bennett	775613
	Treasurer	David Morgan	779740
CHURCH MUSIC	Organist & Choir Director	Andrew Sykes	718561
SACRISTAN	Team Leader	David Gilbert	332572
<hr/>			
ALTAR SERVERS		Chris and 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
CHARITABLE GIVING COMMITTEE			
	Chair	John Shaw	775219
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Sun 10.00AM, Church Centre		
Junior Church		Libby Kershaw	776251
Sunbeams (3-5 years)		Rachel Turvey	c/o 721002
CHURCH CLEANING		Derek Day	237248
COFFEE AFTER CHURCH		Anne Kay	773470
COMMUNICATIONS		Deborah Snowball	772627
COMMUNITY & OUTREACH COMMITTEE			
	Chair	David Carruthers	897928
ELECTORAL ROLL		John Glidden	223613
EVENTS COMMITTEE	Chair	Deborah Snowball	772627
EXPLORING PRAYER		Deborah Snowball	772627
FABRIC & CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE			
	Chair	Deborah Snowball	772627
	Secretary	David Hibbert	773735

CONTINUED ON BACK OF COVER

CONTACTS (continued)

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

FLOWER ROTA		Julie Smethurst	282927
GOD MATTERS	3rd Wed, 7.45pm	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
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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	
ST MARY'S NETWORK		John Hill	772809
		Suzanne Hill	772809
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	Chair	John Rhodes	779491
	Stewardship Recorder	Brian Warmington	775360
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	Bible readings	Jane Pummell	774343
	Intercessions	John Glidden	223613
UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS			
Rainbows	Tue	Samantha Swinchatt	c/o 721002
Brownies	Mon	Ali Hampton	07803 928158
		Yvonne Wells	07790 935192
Guides	Fri	Tracy Jenkins	c/o 721002
WEDDINGS			
Bookings		Contact Parish Office	721002
Marriage Preparation		Marian Lantree	01727 862602
YOUTH GROUP	X-Team	David Carruthers	897928

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