

LINK

Monthly Magazine

July
2019

50p



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

Serving the whole community

Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

All those fish, all those flames, all those ribbons. All that colour, all that creativity, all that chaos! Some will have loved it, some will have loathed it, and some will have been completely indifferent. Doesn't this reflect our community and our world perfectly though? There are things some of us will love, things some of us will loathe, and things

about which some of us will be completely indifferent... in the life of the Church and without.

Being indifferent to the things of the life of the Church is risky though, as indifference reflects a level of disinterest and, possibly, disregard. When one feels strongly - like or dislike - it shows an engagement which means that we care. Indifference, well, I don't think that this is such a good thing. Not today as I write this, anyway.

Indifference is what I'd like to invite each of us to turn our back on in the months ahead. The months of Summer that stretch ahead - as glories of the celebrations of Easter drift away to become what might seem like a distant memory. I'd like us to turn our back on indifference because I'd like to invite each one of us to engage more deeply with our faith in these coming months - before the round of festivities begin again... they will soon be upon us...: The Patronal Festival, Harvest, All Saints and the round will begin again.

Here are some ways you might wish to engage:

Consider the past few months in your life of prayer. What has God revealed to you in your life of prayer that you didn't know before?

Is there is a particular Service or activity that has stayed with you from the period of Lent, Holy Week and Easter? How might you like to explore this more in your daily life of prayer and faith?

Is there anything that has exercised you in your Bible Study or prayer? Who have you talked to about it? Who could you talk to about it?

Who were you led to pray for at Five@5? How will you continue to hold them in prayer?

Whose names did you write in the flames on the doors at the back of church? How will you let them know? Will you let them know? What do you want them to know about the love of God? How might you tell them?

Who did you invite to the Community Picnic or who will you invite to Jesus Christ Superstar? Who do you know who would welcome being part of the community at St Mary's - however loosely?

Who will you let know about the events that will be coming up in the Autumn, listed on the Season of Invitation Leaflet? Who will you invite?

How has being asked to invite people, being encouraged to invite people, being challenged to invite people, made you feel about your own faith? If you feel a lack of confidence, who could help you grow in confidence? If you feel confident already, how could you support others?

As followers of Christ, we are not invited to be indifferent, we are invited to be different and to make a difference - in Christ. Perhaps this could be a mantra... *I am invited to be different and to make a difference in Christ.* Try it out, and see where it takes you.



The Revd Deborah Snowball

Readings at Communion

7 Jul	Isa 66. 10-14	Gal 6. [1-6] 7-16*	Luke 10. 1-11, 16-20
14 Jul	Deut 30. 9-14	Col 1. 1-14	Luke 10. 25-37
21 Jul	Gen 18. 1-10a	Col 1. 15-28	Luke 10. 38-42
28 Jul	Gen 18. 20-32	Col 2. 6-15	Luke 11. 1-13

*At 8.00am only

Prayer Suggestions

Week beginning:

- 7 Jul Retired Clergy and Ministers
- 14 Jul Writers and artists
- 21 Jul Actors, entertainers and the theatrical profession
- 28 Jul Musicians and singers

For Local Churches

	The Deanery	The Methodist Circuit
7 Jul	Mill End, W Hyde & Heronsgate	Ley Hill
14 Jul	St Oswald's, Croxley Green	Markyate
21 Jul	Sarratt and Chipperfield	North Watford
28 Jul	St Andrew's, Chorleywood	Redbourn

People Living Locally

7 Jul	Church Street
14 Jul	Skidmore Way, St Mary's Court
21 Jul	Bury Lane, The Bury, Bury Meadows
28 Jul	Bury Mews, Chesswood Court, The Forge

A Prayer for July

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, through Jesus your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Collect for Trinity Sunday

Looking Ahead into the Autumn

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above...*

So begins the second verse of the wonderful hymn, *Great is thy faithfulness*. These are good words to reflect on as we move through the Summer months and prepare for the coming Autumn. With it will come a whole host of Festivals and events which will give us all opportunity to celebrate the turning seasons and the richness of life and experience that they reveal.

As the months go on, more information will be given about the events and Services listed below, but so that you can 'save the date', here is a rundown of just a few of the things coming up.

Patronal Festival Weekend: 7/8 September

Saturday 7:	Patronal Festival Pilgrimage to Guildford Cathedral
Sunday 8:	Patronal Festival Service - with the Archdeacon of St Albans as Celebrant and Preacher followed by Patronal Festival Lunch

Mary: Exploring the life and witness of our Name Saint

Tuesdays, 7.45pm: 10, 17, 24 September, 1 October, or

Saturdays, 10am: 14, 21, 28 September, 5 October

(Tuesday and Saturday material is the same - attend one group or the other.)

Back to Church Sunday – Season of Invitation

Sunday 29 September

Harvest Festival Weekend: 5/6 October

Saturday 5: Mini-Arts Festival - with creative work by members of the Congregation on display

Harvest Supper and Beetle Drive

Sunday 6: Harvest Festival Service

Mini-Arts Festival continues

From Cradle to Grave...

Originally the Diocesan Children's Adviser was coming on Saturday 18 May to work with us to help us to support children and young people more effectively within the Church Community (see May 2019 LINK). This session was postponed and will now take place on Saturday 13 July from 10.00am to 12.30pm. It is not only for those already teaching and supporting the children and young people in our Church in so many ways, but for the whole congregation. Whether you have any experience in this area or not you are encouraged to come and be part of the conversation.

General Synod

The Church of England General Synod meets from 5-9 July. Members will receive and discuss a large number of papers on a wide range of issues affecting today's church. You can find the list of titles by searching under 'General Synod July 2019' and you can watch sessions live online.

Methodist Conference 2019

Announcement in the weekly Methodist newsletter

The Week Ahead 13 June

Members of the Connexional Team and many willing volunteers are getting ready for the 2019 Conference which is taking place in Birmingham from Thursday 27 June to Thursday 4 July. The Revd Dr

Jonathan Hustler has been stationed as Secretary of the Conference following the departure of the Revd Gareth Powell.

The Conference first met in 1744 under John Wesley, who gathered together his assistants to talk about 'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do'. The contemporary Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church, made up of representatives from each Methodist District, along with some who have been elected by the Conference, ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly and other connexional bodies. You can also watch proceedings of Conference live online.

Let us pray for all who are taking up new responsibilities and moving to new circuits, especially the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson appointed President of Conference from September, Professor Clive Marsh, her deputy and the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler new Secretary of Conference.

St Mary's: 750 in 2020

If you look at our website you'll discover the following: ...there is no indication at all of there being a church, or chapel [in Rickmansworth], until the reference to one 'Adam' as being Chaplain to Rickmansworth at some time between 1191 and 1216. Then, in 1219, Pope Honorius III confirmed the church to the Abbot and, around 1270, Richard de Chelveston was Vicar, the earliest recorded.

This means that this year it is 800 years since our church was given to the Abbey and next year it will be 750 years since the first Vicar - with a sense of the Parish first coming into existence. We're taking the opportunity to celebrate and planning has started! We'd like to organise a year-long series of events. There was an inaugural meeting in June to gather as many ideas as possible for events, activities and projects, such as Sponsored Quarter Peals, Art Festivals, Concerts and Social Events.

If you were unable to attend the meeting on 15 June and would like to be involved in planning the year (or have any further ideas) do let Deborah or one of the churchwardens know - and keep an eye out for the date of the next meeting.



Brenda Bell

We are now halfway through 2019 and no-one so far has come forward who is interested in editing and setting out LINK. The two remaining editors need help if LINK is to continue in something like its present form and would be happy to show you what to do, if needed - and I would be happy to help too.

You probably imagine that the task is more difficult than it is. At work some years ago I started from where you may well be now, just using Word to type reports. I was thrown into producing the organisation's Annual Report after a very basic two day introduction to computers - and loved the work from the start.

We have recently discussed with Deborah the future for LINK - or lack of it. Obviously it is not viable to depend on just one editor (who is busy doing other things, too) to prepare it every month. Possible solutions are to simplify the magazine, publish it less often, have some kind of newsletter or do without.

Although our Church magazine's A5 format has changed little since the 1960s during Michael Baker's and Scott Talbott's editorships, we have responded to parishioner's requests for items that made more work, as did adding to the number of pages, partly by writing items ourselves. (That's not really an editor's job!) I am really looking forward to stepping down in December and writing for LINK without qualms of guilt - if indeed there is one! Certainly LINK could be shortened and simplified, and as an editor you would have some say in that.

To this end we are trying two changes this month. The first is to omit the contents page. Useful though it is, it is a lot of extra careful work at a time when tiredness from completing the rest of the magazine is

setting in. The second is to move the Calendar to the end of the magazine so that by the time we insert it we know how much material we need to find or carry over to another month.

Please have a word with Geoff Hall, Jane Pummell or Deborah, or drop us an email, if you are at all interested in helping with LINK or have any comments.



Threads for Change

Beryl Baker

Firstly I would like to thank our army of keen knitters who have helped us to make:

230	Baby Hats
20	Baby Blankets
61	Pairs of Baby Mittens

All these were sent to Watford General Hospital Maternity Unit this year alone.

This year we also made 26 blankets from 1,268 individual squares! I have listed all these items so that the other members of the congregation can see that we are very busy.

The blankets are taken to 'Knit for Peace' in Hampstead. The last consignment went to women's refuges in London and elsewhere in Britain. Abused women often leave their homes with only the clothes they stand up in. We are pleased to be able to help them.

The squares to make the blankets are still needed but I am having a little respite from storing them in my house as I need to clear the space. Please keep on knitting though and I will collect them again in the autumn.

If you need a change, fingerless gloves are needed for autumn - both for men and women. I have two patterns which I will put in Church. Please keep collecting yarn for us as we can use even small amounts and recycle as we go!!

We are also sewing altar linens from an old High Altar cloth. These will be used for all Communion services.

Lastly I would like to thank Barbara Owen who welcomes us into her home on Monday afternoons. This always involves tea and cake but lots of sewing too.

Hughenden Manor Trip

David Gilbert

On a fine morning in May, a small (but perfectly formed) band gathered at the Vicarage, destination Hughenden Manor, country home of Disraeli. Deborah donned her chauffeuse's cap and off we went in the minibus. At a steady 62 mph (max speed allowed) we made our way to Wycombe, the Vicar negotiating the roundabouts with alacrity. Once there, we split up into two groups, one to do the garden tour and one the house tour. The house tour was excellent, with our guide Mavis very knowledgeable about Benjamin Disraeli, his wife Mary-Ann and the eventual warm friendship between the Prime Minister and his monarch, Queen Victoria, whose many gifts to them can be seen throughout the house. Disraeli was a dissolute young man in the style of Byron, and entered Parliament mainly because MPs could not be prosecuted for debts. However, he clearly found his metier there, eventually becoming a reforming PM whose legislation did much to prevent labour exploitation and improve public health.

After both tours, we adjourned for lunch, and subsequently, some of us walked down to the nearby church, St Michael and All Angels, where Disraeli and his wife are buried, and in which there is a memorial plaque to him from Queen Victoria. Eventually, it was back to the car park and time for our driver to plot a different route home, this time via Great Missenden. Many thanks to Deborah for taking us - it was a most enjoyable trip aided by some lovely weather. If anyone has any requests for other places to visit, please let me know.

Seen outside Hughenden Church



Christian Aid Week 2019

The total raised by St Mary's in Christian Aid Week this year is an amazing £1746- more than last year's £1551. Also the proportion Gift Aided has increased. Very many thanks are due to all those who contributed to the week in any way. The money collected will make a real difference to people's lives.

Christian Aid Event 2020

Save the Date - Saturday 7 March 2020 - for *An evening with Paul Kerensa, Live and Unrude* - a return visit.

Paul Kerensa describes himself as 'The Kneel-Down Stand-Up'. He is a writer for BBC1's *Miranda* and *Not Going Out*. Paul is the in-demand comic who plays comedy clubs and cathedrals. He's one of the few to have appeared both at London's Comedy Store and on Radio 2's *Pause for Thought*.

A Charity Coffee Morning

Dorothy and Keith Champion

We would like to thank everyone who came and helped to make our Charity Coffee morning so successful. Thank you so much to all the helpers who came with cakes, plants, gazebos, and were prepared to sit in the rain all morning.

Fortunately, by the time people started to arrive the rain had stopped and later on we even had a small amount of sunshine.

The total amount we raised, £630, exceeded our expectations and will be split equally between Watford Sheltered Workshop -a charity supported by St Mary's - and Medical Detection Dogs, which is this year's nominated charity for the Townswomen's Guild.



Matthew: *The Man with Wings*

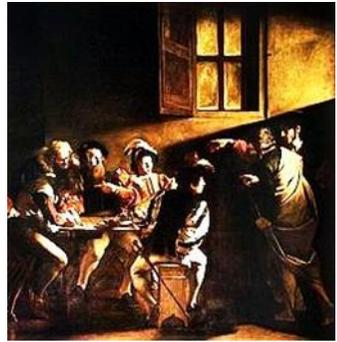
Dorothy Entwistle

He was the tax-collector for the Romans. Tax-collectors may be notoriously unpopular, especially in an occupied country, but money can be a great charm-enhancer even when the head of Tiberius is on it. So there he is in Caravaggio's painting, *The Calling of Matthew*, at his ease in a suit of black velvet, lounging in the guard-room, hobnobbing with the

soldiers perched there with great plumes in their hats. (This was painted in about 1600.) He looks taken aback to be summoned by that pale bony hand pointing from the shadows.

He obeyed that summons all the same, and the first thing he did then, so he tells us himself, was to throw a dinner-party for his fellow tax-collectors in Capernaum to meet this newcomer from Nazareth, as well as for a crowd of what he calls sinners but whose sins he does not specify.

Perhaps it is this reassuring presence of sinners that has encouraged bankers and bookies, gamblers and speculators through the ages to look upon



The Calling of Matthew



Matthew as their patron and protector (and possibly because of the unavoidable fact that half the parables that Matthew recounts in his gospel are about money). The wealthy Cantarelli family of Rome paid for *The Calling of Matthew*. The large bronze statue of him outside the church of the Arte del Cambio in Florence was commissioned in 1420 by who else but the local guild of bankers and sculpted by *Lorenzo Ghiberti (1419-23)*.

However, there was not much money about for the gospel-writer later. Artists have chosen to assume a long interval of years and departure of both friends and funds. Even Caravaggio shows him now, in his *Inspiration of St Matthew (1602)*, as elderly and bald with an unkempt beard and dirty feet while a clean and youthful-looking angel hovers above in a swirl of white sheeting. Rembrandt's *Matthew (1661, in the Louvre)*, another old man just like the painter himself in his sad self-portraits, even to wearing the same hat, has a more sober-looking angel talking politely over his shoulder. But in Carlo Dolci's (Paul Getty Museum) 1670 painting Matthew has a small angel standing beside him looking quiet though trying to be helpful by holding the inkpot.

From his symbol, from art and from what he tells us himself, Matthew seems to have been worldly and convivial but also devout. These might be just the qualities for an apostle, and possibly therefore those of just the person to receive that day in the guard-room at Capernaum the irresistible summons: "Follow me".



*L to R: Inspiration of St Matthew, Caravaggio;
Matthew, Rembrandt; Matthew, Carlo Dolci*

Young Ricky Champions for 2019

We used to see Miss Rickmansworth and her two attendants leading the Ricky Week Procession in an open car immediately behind the Town Cryer. At first the winner was announced at a Ricky Week Ball and Miss Rickmansworth performed her duties of attending functions and visiting local societies. Later schools took turns to nominate someone for the honour of being crowned Miss Rickmansworth and she and her attendants were chosen by their classmates. Now in these days of greater sex equality we have 'Young Ricky Champions', two young people honoured for their contribution to their community rather than looks or popularity, a boy and a girl nominated by the head of their school or organisation. This year their medals were presented by Cllr Phil Williams. We congratulate the following and are proud of their links to our school and church.

ETHAN SUMPTER, Boy Champion

Ethan, Head Boy at St Mary's School, was nominated by the Head, Emma Edwards. Moved by a school assembly that concerned the plight of the local homeless at Christmas, he did something about it. He wrote a moving letter to the school business manager setting out his vision of how he would like to help. He asked for a sleeping bag as a

Christmas present so that he could give it to a homeless person. His teacher had told him that a big bar of chocolate or a pair of thick warm socks would mean a lot to someone living on the street on Christmas morning and so he also asked if he could address Assembly and ask other children to bring these items to school to be donated to New Hope for the Homeless. Then he made chocolate fudge cake and cookies and took a stall at the School's Christmas Fair to raise money to buy more sleeping bags. He made over £100 for New Hope, which was enough to buy ten of them. He wants to continue helping homeless people and has inspired others in his class to do so too. One of them is making up care packages to hand out to people living on the street.



JEMMA SHILLING BAWDEN, Girl Champion



Jemma is the granddaughter of Thelma and Geoff Shilling, former members of St Mary's, and is following in the family's Scouting tradition. She was nominated for the award by Richard Saunders, Scout Leader of the 1st Rickmansworth Elite Scout Troop for her commitment to Scouting for the past 8½ years first as a Beaver, as a Cub and then a Scout. This year she achieved a Chief Scout's Gold Award. Her other awards were for Expedition, Creative and Outdoor Challenges that contributed to a Gold award. She is a young leader of Beavers (aged 6-8 years), and part of the Nomads Youth Kayak Polo Team, based at the Aquadrome.

St Mary's People

Annette Leveridge: a Lifetime Achievement Award

Colin Leveridge (a very proud husband)

Last month Annette Leveridge received the news that she is to be given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy. This is an honour recognising the contribution made by selected hand therapists from across the world.

Hand Therapy is practised by specialist occupational therapists and physiotherapists and is the treatment and rehabilitation of patients

with hand disability and injury. Working at Mount Vernon Hospital for many years with other therapists and dedicated plastic surgeons including our own Brian Morgan, Annette was a founder member of the British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT) formed in 1986 by an interest group of about 50 therapists, which today has a membership in excess of 700. From 1989-92 Annette was Chairman of BAHT and in 1997 received the UK Nathalie Barr Award for service to Hand Therapy. Annette developed expertise in the therapy management of the burned hand, working in the Burns Unit at Mount Vernon and subsequently contributed to books and journals on that specialty.

Postgraduate Education has been of great importance to Annette. In the UK and abroad Annette has been part of teams setting standards, lecturing, organising and assessing courses in different aspects of treatment of the hand, continuing this work up until 2017.

From 1992-1995 Annette was the UK representative on the Executive Council of The International Federation, which today has representation from 55 member countries, about 8,500 members worldwide. Subsequently she was given the roles of Historian and then Secretary General of the Federation. Her service on the Executive Council culminated in the privileged position of President of the Federation from 2001-2004. During this time Annette was able to visit Hand Therapy Societies in many parts of the world, lecturing and teaching and promoting postgraduate education in Hand Therapy.

Unable to attend the International Congress in Berlin to receive her award personally, Annette sent the following message to the gathered assembly: "I feel humbled and privileged to receive this inaugural award. I send my love and thanks to all the hand therapists and surgeons who I have worked with over the years, giving me the opportunity to achieve so much in a career that I have loved."

From the Registers

Wedding

14 June *May God bless the union of*
LIAM GRACE and EMMA CROSS

Funeral

13 June *May he rest in peace*
STEPHEN ALLARD

St Mary's in the Past

1913

The Revd Parkinson described the Hyde Park meeting protesting against the Welsh Disestablishment and Disendowment Bill as the most impressive and heartening event in which he had ever been permitted to take part. He had been 'kindly invited' to stand on the Bishop of London's Platform and was surrounded by a sea of faces as far as the eye could see on every side, a crowd estimated at 140,000 and a veritable army of banners, over 1,000, of every hue. They were told that the Bill was "in the hands of the Parliamentary machine that [would] grind it into an Act". The Vicar appealed for support for his Watford meeting so that they would feel that "at least we have striven to place the matter in God's hands."

He went on to say how much he was missing the bells, now away for renovation: "We seem very sad and subdued ... without our silver-tongued friends of the belfry....If absence makes the heart grow fonder, an appreciative welcome will be ready for our inanimate, yet animate friends on their return." [There followed 'interesting notes on the history and use of bells that he had gathered' and he promised more to follow in his August magazine. These deserve to be reproduced as an article.]

The GFS [Girls' Friendly Society] held their Festival in the Vicarage Garden in 'ideal weather', with 'games and competitions and an excellent tea served at little tables'. A Sale of Needlework and Fancy Articles raised £1:2s for the St Albans Diocesan Sick Fund. Three GFS members were presented with cards by the Vicar for three years 'faithful discharge of duties' and one a bonus on Savings in the Post Office. A talk about the work of the Society in 'other places' followed, and then 'a particularly bright and happy' Service in Church.

The Vicar was touched to receive a moving letter inviting him to go to the States to marry one of his former parishioners ('only a rough pit lad') and a local girl in Minnesota. He had emigrated to better himself. The 'lad' said that he was trying to 'go straight' and ended his letter, "I say that prayer ever (sic) day, or most days at 12" (that prayer being the Prayer of St Richard).

1994

The Revd Derek House, Methodist Minister, used his July letter to announce that he was about to go on a 3 month sabbatical, during which he and Rowena would visit his sister who lived in the north of New York State and he would spend some time walking, sketching, painting and reflecting in that rural area and also at Cornell University, a few miles south. He hoped this might “throw some light on the rise of fundamentalism and the New Age movement and on attitudes to social issues, particularly Third World and environmental attitudes to social issues and the question of appropriate lifestyles for today”.

Innovative Sunday Evening Services were continuing with The Office of the Order of St Francis, Compline with address, a Healing Service and a Taizé-style one.

At the Confirmation Service at Pentecost four St Mary's youngsters and five adults were confirmed together with candidates from other churches. At that service the churchwardens had to process without wands, which had been vandalised the night before; one finial was later recovered in the Bury grounds.

An evening House Group was to discuss the Trinity, but as none of them had any real difficulty with it, they moved on to discussion of Hinduism, Krishna consciousness and Transcendental Meditation!

Gill Bayley, Rickmansworth District Commissioner reported that three Guides had achieved Baden Powell Trefoil Awards, helped by their Guiders of which Barbara Paterson was one. Forty-seven children from St Mary's School had enjoyed a School Journey to the Isle of Wight.

A ramble in the Stokenchurch area attended by 25 people and three dogs was voted one of the best ever, despite the leader having led the group into 'impenetrable bushes' and fighting the way out had lost most of the group and very nearly made them too late for drinks at the pub.

Joanna Swan welcomed the Church Library back, and also thought that the almost finished new houses in Bury Lane were an improvement on the empty site [of the Bury Lane Garage?], but felt it was time to decide to stop future developments there, as they benefit the owners but not local people. She reported the sale of Moor Park Mansion to the Moor Park Golf Club; monthly guided tours of the Mansion were continuing during the Summer.

The magazine included an informative article by the Revd Dr Anne Shaw on Holy Oils.

The Renewal Team reported that a recent Garden Event raised £750. The ‘Splat the Rat’ rat nearly drowned at the Ricky Fête, but the weather was kind for the Moons’ Sip and Dip party, the garden looked lovely, the tea was superb and there was much chatting and some swimming and badminton. Handmade and other items were being accumulated ready for the shop that was re-opening in Penn Place in the Autumn for its third year, Sue and [the other] Geoff Hall were taking orders of food for their barbecue and the plans for the Revd Bruce Driver’s Canterbury Pilgrimage were well in hand.

What’s On in Rickmansworth

Watersmeet

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Sharpe Academy	Thur 4-Sat 6	7.30pm
	Sat 6	2.30pm
Film: <i>Rocketman</i>	Wed 10	11am, 2pm, 8pm
Rhythm of the Dance - 20th Anniversary Tour	Thur 11	7.30pm
Film: <i>The Green Book</i>	Fri 12	2pm, 7.45pm
Russell Howard & Friends	Tue 16	8pm
NT Live <i>Small Island</i>	Wed 17	7pm
Film: <i>Stan and Ollie</i>	Thur 18	2pm, 7.45pm

Rickmansworth Folk Festival

Saturday 13 July

Official Opening	Outside Watersmeet	10.45am
Morris Dancing	In the High Street	11am-12 noon
	Conservative Club, Bury Lane	12 noon-1pm
	The Feathers	2pm-3pm
	Batchworth Lock	3pm-4pm

Local group *Phoenix Morris* will be joined by *Merrydowners*, *Whitethorn* and *Wicket Brood*.

(If wet, there will still be Morris dancing at the Feathers; at the Conservative Club dancers will perform in the back bar and, at the Lock, in the Education Centre.)

Folk at the Lock
singer songwriters

Compere Julian Mount introduces excellent local
11.15am-3.00pm

The Feathers

Singing led by Jon Bickley and Steve Yarwood of
the *Invisible Folk Club*; with emphasis on traditional songs 12noon-
4.30pm.

Conservative Club

Sing-around run by Steve and Andy McLennon
featuring singers from local folk clubs 12 noon-2pm and 3pm-4.30pm

*This event is run by the Rickmansworth Town Team and organised by
Phoenix Morris and Ricky Folk*



**Rickmansworth Young Musician
of the Year**

THE CONCERT

Saturday 6 July at 7.00pm
High Street Baptist Church

Tickets £15/£5 for under 19s (available at the door)
Promoted by Three Rivers Music Society, Chorleywood Music
and the Rotary Club of Rickmansworth

By The Way

A Review of June 2019

John Shaw

Easter, Ascension Day, two Bank Holidays (not complaining but why two such holidays within the space of three weeks?), the Chelsea Flower Show and the 75th D-Day anniversary commemorations are all now safely behind us. Summer is here and that's official. That said, after a very dry and sometimes warm spring, we have suddenly at last acquired a spell of prolonged and badly needed rain (hurrah!), accompanied by some pretty cool and un-summery temperatures and breezes. Have a thought for those who are taking their holidays in the UK at this time. It reminds me forcibly of childhood holidays many

years ago ‘enjoying a dip’ in the icy waters of the North Sea at Whitby while my parents, swathed in rugs and scarves, urged us children ever onwards from a sedentary position on the beach.

The rather glum atmosphere produced by the weather is worsened by the continuing unresolved cloud of Brexit still hanging over the country. We have acquired a stay of execution till 31 October but most of that time will be taken up by the current search for a new Leader of the Conservative party and successor to Theresa May as Prime Minister. There now follows a bizarre procedure involving the whittling down of ten candidates to two by Tory MPs and then the 160,000 members of the Tory party deciding between the two ‘winners’. What a weird way to appoint a new Prime Minister. The rest of us just stand around and hope that someone sensible emerges, apparently by the end of July.

As usual, I have been scanning the newspapers in the last month for items which you may have missed or which tweaked my funny bone. Here are my findings for this month. An 80 mile wide cloud of ladybirds was seen flying over Southern California. Simon Armitage, a Yorkshireman, has been appointed the 21st Poet Laureate. His only perk is ‘a butt of sack’, equivalent to about 600 bottles of sherry. Pope Francis has given his blessing to the first women’s football team to represent Vatican City. The Leicestershire WI, who has been supplying a local hospice with cakes for 40 years, has been told it must stop, unless its members register their kitchens as food outlets. A painting of *Haystacks* by Monet has been sold for £86.5 million, a record for an impressionist painting.

The Archbishop of Canterbury interviewed Pope Francis as part of the launch of the recent *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer campaign. The number of fitness clubs in the UK grew by 2.9 % to 7,239 in the year to 31 March and membership grew beyond 10 million for the first time. A variety of elm, resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, has been developed and was launched by Dame Judi Dench at Chelsea. The Spice Girls (sans Posh) are on tour again. W H Smith has once again been voted the UK’s worst high street shop in a *Which?* Annual Survey (consistent, if nothing else). A baby, called Sabie, born after only 23 weeks, weighed only 8.6 ozs, (a world record). Nicknamed ‘Tiny but Mighty’ by nursing staff, Sabie, now weighing five pounds, has gone home safely. Rabbit Awareness Week began on the first of June.

Those who have died during the month include Ken Kercheval (aged 83), who starred as Cliff Barnes and JR’s arch enemy in *Dallas*. Judith Kerr (aged 93), the children’s author and illustrator, most famous for

The Tiger Who Came to Tea; Jean Vanier (aged 90), influential Canadian humanitarian and philosopher who founded the L'Arche communities in which people with disabilities live on equal terms with their carers; and Doug McAvoy (aged 80) who was for many years Secretary of the NUT and well known for taking on left-wing activists and fighting Tory cuts. He was instrumental in persuading Tony Blair to adopt his 'education, education, education' mantra in the run up to the 1997 General Election. Also deceased are Niki Lauda (aged 70), world champion racing driver, who survived a horrendous crash in 1976 and yet went on to regain the Formula One title; Bob Hawke (aged 89), charismatic Prime Minister of Australia from 1983-1991 and well known for his love of beer, women and cricket; and The Revd Canon Michael Green (aged 86), an influential evangelist, sometimes known as the British Billy Graham. During his time on the staff of the London School of Divinity both George Carey and Janani Luwum were among his students. Freddie Starr (aged 76), the gifted but unpredictable comic who 'was a true clown and could sing like Elvis' has also died. The infamous headline in the Sun claiming that 'Freddie Starr ate my hamster' was wholly untrue.

Do you remember the days of the telegram where the skill was to keep the price per word down by being creatively brief? The two most famous examples are the exchange between a foreign editor and an idle correspondent,

"Why unnews?" "Unnews good news." "Unnews unjob."

and Robert Benchley's cable to his editor at the New Yorker on arrival in Venice, "Streets full of water. Please advise". Those were the days!

Book Review

Jenny Woods

The Professor and the Parson: - A story of Desire, Deceit and Defrocking by Adam Sisman

I was intrigued by the title of this book and borrowed it from the Church Library. I was not disappointed. It tells the story of Robert Peters, born in 1914, who was a conman, fraud and bigamist. He succeeded in getting university teaching and clerical positions all over the world (in spite of questionable qualifications), being deported several times, imprisoned and marrying at least eight times, sometimes bigamously. It reads like fiction but is actually true. I recommend it.

Not a lot of People Know That **To Separate the Wheat from the Chaff**

Bill Sylvester

To separate the wheat from the chaff means to divide the valuable from the worthless. It is easy to see how, during a harvest, it is important to thresh to separate the grain from the husk. But the answer to how it became a popular and widely used expression can be found in the Bible and the suggestion that the 'wheat' are those loyal to Christ and the 'chaff' are those who have rejected his ideals. Luke 3.17 has a passage including the line 'His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff in his fire.'

Information from the book *Red Herrings and White Elephants* by Albert Jack.

Bird Reports



Christine Butler saw this fledgling on her dustbin 'refusing to fly'(!) and thought it was a young magpie because of the shape of its tail, but it's colouring and head shape suggest a jay. Wisely she left it alone and went out and by the time she returned it had flown off.

The sparrows reported last month left the nest unseen and the hard-working parents were flying to and fro again every few minutes all over Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Meanwhile the air was filled with the cheerful chirping of, presumably, the first brood, a joyous sound not heard in this corner of Rickmansworth for some years! The second brood chose an unpromising wet and windy evening to flutter into the world. One male clung onto a wind-tossed branch for some time, just in front of the window, his smart new plumage still covered on his back by a cloud of baby down. Let us hope they too are thriving; cold damp weather hasn't been much to chirp about.

Great Wall of China Trek

The Willow Foundation(see June LINK for information about Willow) is organising a trek on the Great Wall of China. The trip will involve repair work on the wall. The cost is just £299 but you will need to secure fundraising of £2900 for Willow.

If you are interested in this challenge and would like to find out more, call the office (01707 259 777) or visit the Willow website at <https://www.willowfoundation.org.uk/chinatrek>.

Smile

The Story of the Taxi Driver and St Peter

From St Margaret Olton's magazine

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven, St Peter was at the pearly gates waiting for them.

“Come with me,” said St Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic-size pool. “Oh my word, thank you,” said the taxi driver.

Next, St Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. “Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,” said the priest. “Shouldn’t I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day and preached God’s word.”

‘Yes that’s true’ St Peter rejoined, “But during your Easter sermon people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.”

Heard at Kew Gardens

by Michael Baker

Parent: No, we’re not lost. Look at this map they’ve put up. It says ‘You are here’.

Child: ‘But how does it know?’

The Importance of Being Witty

Found by Michael Baker

Oscar Wilde was once at a party where someone else made a particularly clever remark.

‘Damn!’ muttered Wilde, ‘I wish I had said that.’

‘Oh, but you will, Oscar, you will!’ remarked a friend of his.

Wildacre Art Exhibition

Members of the original Wildacre Art Group still meet regularly and will be holding an exhibition of their work on Sunday, 25 August from 2.00-5.00 pm and Monday, 26 August from 10.30-5 pm at Chenies Baptist Church. There will be many pictures on display, both framed and unframed in a variety of media, watercolour, pastel, acrylic and oil. There will also be many greetings cards for sale and refreshments, of course, will be available. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be given to charity.

CALENDAR

July 2019

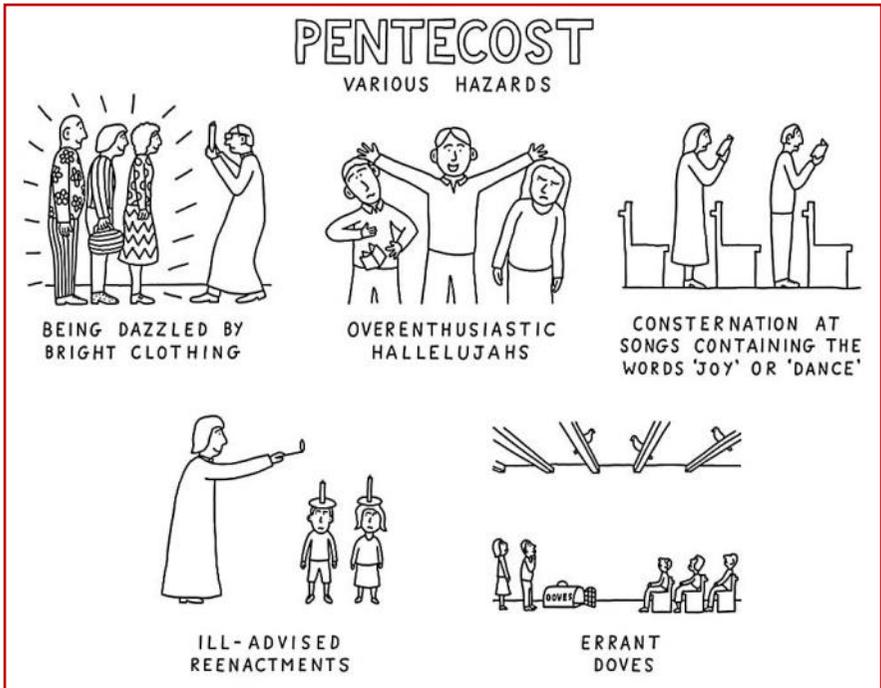
1 Mon	2.00pm 3.15pm	<i>Threads for Change</i> Craft Group <i>J Club</i> at St Mary's School
2 Tue	10.00am	Said Holy Communion St Mary's School Governors' Day
3 Wed		THOMAS, THE APOSTLE
	11.30am	Collective Worship at St Mary's School
4 Thu	9.30am 2.15pm	<i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall <i>Meet for Tea</i>
7 SUN	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00am	Said Holy Communion
	10.00am	All-age Sung Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
8 Mon	2.00pm 3.15pm 7.45pm	<i>Threads for Change</i> Craft Group <i>J Club</i> at St Mary's School United Church Council meets, Cloisters Hall
9 Tue	10.00am	Said Holy Communion
10 Wed	11.30am 7.45pm	Collective Worship at St Mary's School Housegroup (for contact, see cover)
11 Thu	9.30am 12.00 noon	<i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall Clergy Deanery Chapter
13 Sat	10.00am	August LINK copy deadline <i>From Cradle to...</i> , postponed from 18 May (see p 6)
14 SUN	THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00am	Said Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	7.00pm	<i>X Team</i> meets
15 Mon	2.00pm 7.30pm	<i>Threads for Change</i> Craft Group LINK Editors' Meeting
16 Tue	10.00am 12.30pm	Said Holy Communion Home Communion through afternoon

- 17 Wed 2.30pm *The Teapot Club*
 18 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
 19 Fri 9.00am St Mary's School End of Year Service
- 21 SUN THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am Sung Holy Communion
 12.15pm Said Holy Communion
 1.00pm *Lunch Club*
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 22 Mon MARY MAGDALENE**
 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Craft Group
 6.30pm Vicar and Wardens meet
- 23 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
- 25 Thu JAMES THE APOSTLE**
 11.00am Service at Seymour House
 12 noon 10-bell ringing practice (all ringers welcome)
- 28 SUN THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am Sung Holy Communion
 12 noon Holy Baptism
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
 7.00pm X Team meets
August LINK is published
- 29 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Craft Group
 30 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
 7.45pm *Jesus Christ Superstar, Barbican Theatre*
- August**
 1 Thu 2.15pm *Jesus Christ Superstar, Barbican Theatre*
- 4 SUN THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am All-age Sung Holy Communion

Choir and Bellringers Regular Weekly Practices

Wed	7.30pm	Bellringing
Thu	7.45pm	Choir

New members welcome at both practices – just come along



...or being caught up in fishing nets - but that was the idea!

This cartoon that appeared in *Church Times* is published by arrangement with Dave Walker of CartoonChurch.com

August LINK

Copy deadline: Thursday 11 July
Publication date: Sunday 28 July

We are very pleased to receive contributions of interest to members of the Church and the local community. Your name should be included (we will respect requests not to publish it) and items should not be subject to copyright. Please let a member of the LINK Committee* have them by the above copy date, preferably by email at link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk; 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.

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 phone numbers, unless otherwise stated, is 01923

Officers (continued)

Church Council Secretary	Buzz Coster	via Church Office
CofE Electoral Roll and Methodist Members Roll	John Glidden	223613
Methodist Council Secretary	Petra Hedges	222715
Church Giving Advisor (A)	David Gilbert	via Church Office
Treasurer	Adam Shiels	07950 262798

Worship

Altar Servers	Chris & Sue Hillier	779580
Bellringers	David Hibbert (Captain)	773735
Intercessors	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Lesson Readers	June Poppleton	773388
Organist and Choirmaster	Andrew Sykes	07943 601717 07519 318049 organistsmr@gmail.com
Sacristan	David Gilbert and team	via Church Office
Sidespeople	David Hibbert	773735
Welcomers	David Carruthers	07831 387541

Christian Teaching and Prayer

Bible Reading Fellowship	Sue Hillier	779580
Exploring Prayer Group	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
House Groups Tues am:	Gillian Baker, Brenda Bell	775890 772482
Wed pm:	Jane Pummell	774343

Pastoral

Baptism (Christening)		via Church Office
Confirmation	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Children's Communion	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Home Communion		via Church Office
Home/Hospital Visiting	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Wedding Bookings		via Church Office
Coffee after Church	Anne Kay	773470
Handbell Ringers	Suzanne Warren	01442 385922
Meet for Tea	Joan Martin	775433
Motley Crew (Drama Group)	Chris and Sue Hillier	779580
Sunday Lunch Club	Gill Gowing	777715 gmgoing@btopenworld.com
	Maxine Platzman	896622

Children and Young People

Children's Church Leader	Rachel Turvey	via Church Office
Sunbeams (3-5s)	Rachel Turvey	via Church Office
Shooting stars (6-11)	Christine Martin Ayling	via Church Office

The code for all phone numbers, unless otherwise stated, is 01923

Contacts (continued)

Children and Young People (continued)

X Team (Youth Group, year 7+)	David Carruthers	07831 387541
<i>Little Angels</i> : babies & toddlers, Thurs am, Cloisters Hall	Gillian Thomas	07957 749636
Girlguiding UK		
Rainbows:	Yvonne Wells	via Church Office
Brownies:	Ali Hampton	via Church Office
Guides:	Tracy Jenkins	via Church Office
Church School	St Mary's CofE Primary	776529
Headteacher:	Mrs Emma Edwards	
School website:	www.stmarys698.herts.sch.uk	

Administration

Charitable Giving Committee	Jane Earl (Chair)	711695
Community and Outreach	David Carruthers (Chair)	07831 87541
Harvest Giving	Jennett Day	237248
Safeguarding officers:	Mary Weatherilt	07593 532567
	Helen Swain	07593 532567
email:	safeguarding@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
Stewardship and Finance	John Rhodes	via Church Office

Buildings and Support

Church Centre Booking	Church Office	721002
Church Centre Committee	Martyn Gowing (Chair)	777715
Church Bookings	via Church Office	
Cloisters Hall Bookings	Janet Carruthers	07799 050532
Cloisters Hall Committee	The Revd Deborah Snowball (Chair)	772627
Fabric & Churchyard	David Hibbert (Chair)	773735
Flowers	Hilary Pearce	896025
Library	Michael Baker	776109
Steeple Keeping	David Hibbert	773735
Threads for Change	Beryl Baker	776109

Communications

LINK (Church Magazine)		
editors:	Brenda Bell	772482
	Geoff Hall	720543
	Jane Pummell (& Subscriptions)	774343
email:	link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
Newsletter	c/o Communication Committee	
Website	Buzz Coster	775908

Representatives for Organisations Beyond St Mary's

Action for Children	Christine Butler	778001
CARE (07935 269144)	Jenny Woods (St Mary's Rep)	447417
The Children's Society	Suzanne Powell	via Church Office
Christian Aid	Gill & Martyn Gowing	777715
