

April 2016

St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

Serving the whole community



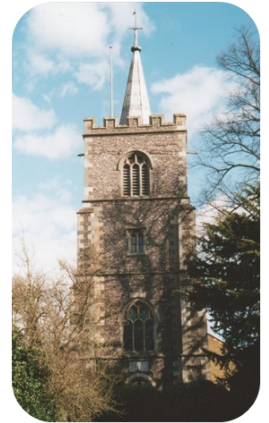
Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Happy Easter to you all! Yes, it is still Easter - as it lasts for a full 50 days, right through until Pentecost (known by some as Whitsun). In church you can still see the Easter Garden, the Happy Easter message made by children and their parents at the Craft Workshop on Good Friday, as well as the Easter Egg Tree. Feel free to drop in - you'll find the church open during daylight hours.

As Spring is here, there are many activities taking place in the local community - and you'll find us at many of them. In addition, we're planning a Community Picnic to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. We hope to see you around.

This Newsletter comes with the good wishes of everyone at St Mary's.

Reverend Deborah Snowball,
Vicar of Rickmansworth



Ricky Week Activities **Saturday 14th - Sunday 22nd May**

Saturday 14th May

Ricky Week Fair: Come and 'buy' a Jar and see what you win - as every Jar's a winner!



Tower Tours: You get one of the best views of the town from St Mary's Tower. The Tower will be open 2-4pm, and you'll also be able chat to one of our bellringers if you'd like to know more about learning to ring.

Church Discovery Afternoon: All our church 'finery' will be on display (something which doesn't happen all that often) so you'll be able to see the silverware that has been given to us over the years. We'll have plenty of Guides available to help you find your way around, as well as our Children's Church Trail for those with youngsters (although adults seem to quite like it too!)

Ricky Week Quiz: Starting at 7.15pm in the Church Centre, this is a great opportunity to test your brains! Tickets are available from the Church Office: 01923 721002 (£10 to include a Fish and Chip supper). Cash bar on the night.



Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May



Rickmansworth Festival: We'll be running a Cookie & Biscuit Stall. We're planning to bake 2,000 biscuits - so we hope there'll be a flavour for everyone!

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations **Friday 10th - Sunday 12th June**

Friday - Sunday



Flower Festival: with arrangements from local Groups and Organisations, as well as our own Flower Arrangers, the church will be bedecked with flowers. Entry will be free, with any donations made being passed on to The Patron's Fund. You can visit the Flower Festival: Friday 10th, 1-5pm; Saturday 11th, 10 - 5pm; Sunday 12th, 1-5pm.

Saturday 11th, 7.30pm

Merrie England: Local singers and performers will provide an evening of music and song with an Elizabethan Theme, in the Church Centre. Tickets are available from the Church Office: 01923 721002 (£15 to include a 3 Course Meal). Cash bar on the night.

Sunday 12th, 2- 5pm

Come and join us as we celebrate with the whole country the Big Birthday! Bring a picnic and join us for jelly and cake, a Fancy Dress Competition (7 yrs and under, 8 - 15, 16 and over), Teddy Bear Parachuting (bring your own Teddy and homemade parachute in Union Jack colours!), Craft Activities for children - and entertainment too. We also have the return of the Bunting Competition for local groups! There will be party games for all, as well as a Photographic Exhibition of Rickmansworth through the past 90 years. It should be a great afternoon!

Remembering one of our local Fallen *Sunday 15th May*

The War Memorial in the churchyard records the names of many men and women from the local area who lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars, as well as during the Falklands Conflict. One of the people named on the Memorial, Ralph Ball, is to be remembered in the place where he died, on a specially commissioned Memorial Stone.

The families of the German Fighter-Pilots who shot down Ralph and his associates have reached out to their British descendants and commissioned the Memorial Stone that will make its way round the UK to the places where the British Airmen lived. It will then be set in the place in Germany where the British Aircrew were shot down.

As Ralph lived in Rickmansworth, the Stone will be brought to St Mary's on Sunday 15th May and placed in church for the 10am Service, alongside the Candle of Prayer and Remembrance - first lit in August 2014. At noon the Stone will be carried to the War Memorial for a Service of Prayer and Remembrance.

There will be a display in church which relatives of those who died will be sharing. You are warmly invited to both view the display and attend either or both of the Services.

EU Referendum Debate *7.30 - 9pm, Tuesday 21st June*



We are hosting a debate in Church for local people to discover more information about this important vote relating to the future of the UK in the EU. Our local MP, Mr David Gauke, will speak on behalf of the Remain campaign, and we have invited a member of the Leave campaign group to attend as well. There will be a time for questions, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Activities for all ages throughout the year

Our **Toddler Group** 'Little Angels' continues to be very popular. meeting between 9.30 - 12 am on Thursdays during term time at Cloisters Hall. With homemade cakes and plenty of activities - it's a good place to meet other Parents and Carers.

For **children and families** we have a **Family Service** on the first Sunday of the month. It's for everyone, but offers a more relaxed approach, with children in mind.

On the other Sundays of the month during term-time, **Children's Church** meets in the Church Centre during the 10am morning Service for songs and prayers: Sunbeams: 3-5s, Junior Church: 5-11s. They explore Bible stories through play, stories and craft activities.



For Young People (Y7 and up) **X Team** (our Youth Group) meets on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month during Term-time from 7-9pm in the Church Centre. We have games, cook, watch films, go bowling (and seem to eat a lot of pizza!) There is also the opportunity to explore what it means to be a Christian today. For anyone in Y6 who wants to come along in June or July before the Summer Holiday, give us a call and we'll let you know when and where we're meeting: 01923 721002.



Recognising that not everyone of a 'certain age' finds it so easy to get up in the morning (and we're talking pensioners not teenagers here!) we have a monthly **Holy Communion Service at 12.15pm** on the third Sunday of the month. It's a said Service which lasts about 25 minutes. Following on from this we have our monthly Lunch Club for people who are a 'bit more mature'. If you'd like to know more, please call our Church Office: 01923 721002.

Not just Sunday...

For some people church on Sundays just doesn't work. If this is the case for you, you may like to come one of our Services during the week. On Monday to Friday, we have Morning Prayer at 8.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.45pm. We hear passages from Scripture, read the Psalms and pray together - remembering the people of our community each day. On Tuesday morning, we have a said Holy Communion Service at 9.30am, followed tea and coffee and a chance to chat.

Contact details for St Mary's

St Mary's Church Office, Church Street,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1JB

The Church Office is usually open 9.30am - 1pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Church Office: 01923 721002

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