

50p

LINK

Monthly Magazine

January
2019



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

Serving the whole community



Regular Services

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

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Language</i>
SUNDAYS			
Weekly	8.00AM	Said Holy Communion	Traditional
1st	10.00AM	All Age Sung Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre	Modern
2nd–5th	10.00AM	Sung Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre	Modern
		Children's Church in the Church Centre (during term time)	
2nd Weekly	12.15PM 6.00pm	Holy Communion Evening Service	Modern
WEEKDAYS			
Tue	9.30AM	Holy Communion	Modern

Contacts

The code for all 6 digit telephone numbers is 01923, unless otherwise indicated.

Church	Address: Church Street Rickmansworth WD3 1JB
	Website: www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk

Ministers at St Mary's

Vicar and Minister authorised to serve within the Methodist Church	The Revd Deborah Snowball 772627 vicar@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk
Methodist Minister at St Mary's, and three other Methodist churches	The Revd Richard Lowson 223906
Associate Priest: Self-supporting Minister	The Revd Scott Talbott 07802 244877 scott.talbott@talk21.com
Reader Emeritus	Michael Baker

Officers

Churchwardens (A)	David Carruthers 07831 387541 Jane Earl 711695 David Hibbert 773735
Senior Steward (M)	June Poppleton 773388

Church Office

Church Secretary	721002
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LINK

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and contributors wanted, copy
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The photograph on the cover
is by David Hibbert



Dear Friends in Christ,

In the last edition of LINK, Brenda Bell gave notice that she intends to step down at the end of 2019 from being one of the Editors of LINK - after more than twenty years of being part of the Editorial Team. What amazing and sterling service she has offered us through both contributing regularly to the content and always to the production of our Church magazine, LINK.

This is an opportunity therefore to invite others to step forward into taking a role in the editing and production of our Church magazine. Brenda has given a year's notice, but if no-one comes forward it will leave only Geoff Hall in the role of 'typesetter' ably assisted by Jane Pummell in the role of joint Editor. Two people will not be enough.

Life at St Mary's relies on many people giving of their time and talents in various ways - answering the call to serve. None of us are volunteers when it comes to life in the church, we are all responding to a call to serve; to make use of the skills and gifts we have been given by God, in service of God and God's purposes. I do encourage you to give prayerful consideration as to how God might be calling you to serve more fully in the coming year, most especially possibly with the editing and producing of LINK. (It's printed in the Church Office - don't worry, there's no mass-stapling involved these days!)

Many people read LINK, both in paper form and via the website. The readership reaches across the world - quite literally. I often hear from people in far-flung places who have read an article and who would like to know more. LINK is one of our 'mission tools' through which we serve the whole community - and it sits alongside the website, the Season of Welcome initiative, Twitter, newsletters and word of mouth.

Writing this particular Leader - with its focus on LINK - affords the perfect opportunity for me to pay tribute to Geoff, Jane and Brenda who have been the Editorial Team for quite some years now, as well as the serried ranks of proof-readers who assist them. Our magazine

appears on time every month - for the modest price of 50p - and it is a reflection of their sterling efforts that this happens. Thank you to each person who is part of the process.

Might you be someone who joins them in the coming year?

With my prayers and good wishes for 2019.



The Revd Deborah Snowball

Readings at Communion

6 Jan	Isa 60.1-6	Eph 3.1-12	Matt 2.1-12
13 Jan	Isa 43.1-7	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15-17,21,22
20 Jan	Isa 62.1-5	1 Cor 12.1-11	John 2.1-11
27 Jan	Neh 8.1-3,5-6,8-10	1 Cor 12.12-31	Luke 4.14-21

Prayer Suggestions

Week beginning:

6 Jan	Awareness of the presence of Christ in our world
13 Jan	Willingness to listen to God and to each other
20 Jan	Reconciliation to God and to each other
27 Jan	Peaceful resolution of differences

For Local Churches

The Deanery

The Methodist Circuit

6 Jan	All Saints', Croxley Green	Hemel Hempstead
13 Jan	Christ Church, Chorleywood	High Street, Harpenden
20 Jan	Mill End, W Hyde & Heronsgate	Kings Langley
27 Jan	St Oswald's, Croxley Green	Ley Hill

People Living Locally

6 Jan	Uxbridge Road
13 Jan	Moss Close, Heron Close
20 Jan	Frogmore Lane, Frogmore Court
27 Jan	Harefield Road

A Prayer for January

The New Year stretches before us like recently-fallen snow, ours to tread; one of those times to take stock. Acknowledging our successes and failures in the journey through the year that's past, let us set out with confidence on the way ahead, safe in the knowledge that you Lord are with us on each step of the journey. Grant us courage and strength in the difficult times, cast out fear and anger and help us to be wise and loving whatever may befall. Amen

The Naming and Circumcision of Christ

9.30am Tuesday 1 January Holy Communion

A reminder that after the Service there will be mince pies and mulled wine at the vicarage, followed by a walk around the Aquadrome for those who wish.

***START* Course**

There will be a ***START*** course of six weekly sessions about Christianity, to be held at the Vicarage from Tuesday 22 January, not 7 February as shown on the Newsletter. Details are on the Newsletter.

Report from the United Church Council

Buzz Coster (UCC Secretary)

At its meeting in November, the United Church Council discussed a range of issues which included:

- The location of the new Garden of Remembrance, details of which were published in the December 2018 issue of LINK.
- The budget for 2019 was discussed. A deficit of £10,000 is forecast although it was sincerely hoped that this might be avoided.
- Safeguarding training is planned for those who work with children and vulnerable adults at St Mary's. Reluctantly, the Council agreed that anyone who was unable to undertake this training by February 2019 would be asked to step down from their role until such time as they had undertaken the training.

Meetings of the United Church Council take place on the second Monday of alternate months. For details, please see the calendar on the church website or in LINK.

Safeguarding Training

**Saturday 9 February
Church Centre 10am-1pm**

Helen Swain - Safeguarding Officer

We have been lucky enough to secure Safeguarding Training C2 at our church. Everyone who helps with any of our Church Groups in a leadership role is required to undertake training, but we would like to invite all members of the church community to attend this training in order to be informed as to how to look out for vulnerable members of the local community - both young and old alike, all God's people.

If you would like to register for the course send me an email at safeguarding@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk or call the Church Office and I will contact you to supply details for registration. Places go quickly so if you are interested, I suggest that you book onto the course as soon as possible. It really is open to anyone and provides an opportunity for us all to learn how to care for those who are vulnerable.



St Mary's Remembrance Collection

***A letter from Suzanne Harding on behalf of
The Royal British Legion***

Many thanks for the sums of £519.29 (with Gift Aid) and £356.56 (without) - a total of £875.85 received for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal as a collection on Remembrance Sunday. Please can you pass on our grateful thanks.

Every year over 300,000 ex-service people and their dependents turn to The Royal British Legion -the country's leading charity - for practical assistance and emotional support.

Thanks to the funds raised for the Poppy Appeal, the Legion is able to offer wide ranging services to those desperately in need of our help. We make home and hospital visits to veterans, provide mobility aids, run retraining programmes for people leaving the Armed Forces and fight for War Disablement Pensions that are rightfully owed.

Once again many thanks for your support.

Sleeping Beauty -

The Motley Crew Pantomime

11 and 12 January



Chris Hillier

Once again - at enormous expense - St Mary's own drama group The Motley Crew are putting on another of their long running series of pantomimes. This time the pantomime, once again written by our friends at St Edmund's Church Northwood, will be *Sleeping Beauty* and an afternoon or evening of entertainment is guaranteed.

The performances will be in the Cloisters Hall on Friday 10 January at 7.30pm and Saturday 11 January at 2.30pm and 7.30 pm.

You won't want to miss this year's pantomime; it includes a talking horse and no less than *five* Fairy Godparents! Even if the cast will be asleep for 100 years at one point the audience should stay awake, lest they miss some of the jokes - or the plot!

Book now! Tickets are available from Sue Hillier (779580); and you can also contact me at hilli01@globalnet.co.uk if you would like further information.

Christian Aid Event – A Date for Your Diaries



Gill and Martyn Gowing

As has become the custom the Rickmansworth and Croxley Green Christian Aid Committee runs an annual event to raise both awareness of, and money for, Christian Aid. We try to do something a bit different from the usual events run by individual churches and have in recent years held a comedy evening, an evening of magic and in 2018 an entertaining lecture on Gilbert and Sullivan.

It is now time to tell you about the event for 2019 which will be held on **Saturday 23 February at 7.30pm for 7.45pm** at All Saints Church and Hall.

We will be entertained by the choral group *Omnia* and will start in the church and transfer to the adjacent hall for cheese and a glass of wine and the second half of the entertainment.

Omnia is a London-based vocal octet. Set up initially to bring music into community settings, *Omnia* has sung in care homes, hospices, for the Grenfell Tower Support Centre and performed concerts in churches in and around London, Devon and Norfolk.

www.omniavoices.com

Please put this date in your diary and be ready to buy your tickets, at £12.50 a ticket, from us - Gill and Martyn Gowing in the New Year.

Omnia



...an evening of song

Omnia present an evening of choral music in collaboration with Christian Aid. Sacred & secular songs in the church, with a break for cheese & wine in the church hall, followed by light and popular songs.

www.omniavoices.com

Library News

Michael Baker

Many thanks to Paul Dawson for the gift of books from his collection.

Stamps

Jenny Woods

Thank you to everyone who has contributed used postage stamps over the past year in aid of the Charity Care and Relief for the Young. They come thick and fast throughout the year! If it's not too late, please remember to donate the ones you have on this year's Christmas card envelopes. Please put them in the box by the North door, preferably in an envelope.

The Harvest Lunch

David Carruthers

The Harvest Lunch held in October was highly successful and was attended by around 46 people who all enjoyed tasty home-made hot pots and delicious fruit crumbles.

In the last edition of LINK we reported that the event made a profit of around £56; however this figure did not include another £120 of takings that were collected on the day and banked separately. The total profit was therefore over £176.

This is a tremendous effort and thanks go to all the team lead by Sue Hillier who made the event so enjoyable.

LINK Team

We regret we were unaware that the amount reported in November was not the total profit from this event and that the error was not discovered in time to correct in December LINK.

From the Registers

Baptism

25 November

**ANNABEL CAVERS DAVIES
GEORGIA CAVERS DAVIES**

St Mary's in the Past

We have been delving into our church archives for some years now in a fairly random way, sometimes moving forward or backwards a number of years. In response to reader request, we choose an older and a more recent year, the choice limited by our incomplete sets.

1913

This year we jump forward 5 years from 1908 to 1913, 106 years ago. The Revd Charles Meredith Octavius Parkinson was still the Vicar. He seems to be in a more jovial mood than before. Was it the 'Christmas spirit' that caused him to begin "My Dear Friends and Parishioners" instead of launching straight into that month's homily, and even to end, "as ever, your affectionate friend and vicar"? We shall see!

He first summarised the 'weal and woe' of the previous year: the sinking of the Titanic, 'astonishing events in the Balkans', Welsh disestablishment and Home Rule in Ulster, the 'vast Coal strike' that put some one and a half million men out of work and cost them £11 million in wages. On a happier note the King and Queen were greeted with 'loyalty, affection and fervour by their myriad subjects' during their visit to India and 'the Duke of Connaught was welcomed in Canada with like fervour' and subsequently 'offered three super-Dreadnoughts worth £7 million for the service of the Empire and towards the maintenance of her undisputed sovereignty of the sea'. In addition the Mikado of Japan had died and a bloodless revolution had occurred in China. The Revd Parkinson called for prayers:

to bring to nought all schemes of earthly rulers which are not righteous in His sight, defend His Church from all He sees that would not be for her progress and welfare, to safeguard the lawful rights and liberties of minorities in Ireland, to raise up large numbers of men and women to go forth to China, Japan, Korea, India, Africa, from whence, and indeed all parts of the heathen world, hands of welcome are outstretched and imploring cries to bring them to the knowledge of Christ are heard.

Turning to parish matters, he reported that people were generally in good health and a dozen people who had contracted scarlet fever were recovering. There had been one death from a motor accident in Suffolk and he gave road safety advice.

The Revd Heygate was leaving to take charge of a parish in Suffolk and the Church of England Men's Society presented him with a silver cigarette case. He said that he would always treasure it and urged them to remember that the Society had both social and spiritual sides and not to forget the spiritual one. He would be replaced in February by Mr Pain.

The Christmas school treat and Prize and Medal Distribution was for 279 children invited because of their good conduct and regularity. They enjoyed 'an excellent and abundant tea' at the Girls' School before transferring to the Ebury Hall for the prize-giving and entertainment. Fourteen of 'Lady Ebury's beautiful medals' were awarded to pupils who were 'never absent, never late' and of invariable good conduct. Silver medals were awarded to four pupils 'never absent, never late' for 5 years and bronze medals to ten pupils for a year's unbroken record. Gifts of garments having been distributed earlier in the day, the children were entertained by two dancers demonstrating Indian, sword, tambourine and Indian club dances and an Irish jig, followed by a story and finishing with a tableau of *Rule Britannia*.

There had been a talk on *The History of Church Bells*, illustrated with lantern slides. In January there was to be a play, *Iris of the Rainbow* in the Town Hall, with proceeds going to the Organ Completion Fund.

1994

Twenty-five years ago, was a very interesting time in our church's history. By this time the Revd Bruce Drive was Vicar, the Church Centre was complete and in use, the Methodists had moved in. Although we still had separate Sunday morning services we had a United Church Council, a joint magazine, renamed LINK and edited by Scott Talbott. Anglicans and Methodists worked together in other ways and the great 'Renewal' was well under way. As a public appeal had helped to pay for the Church Centre it was too soon to have another to pay for largely maintenance work on the church building. The onus of fundraising rested with the congregation, who raised the money needed through a variety of enjoyable events, large and small. It was a time of 'Spiritual Renewal' too. A 'Renewal newsletter' was incorporated into LINK each month.

Name labels were to be worn during January to help people to get to know one another better.

A second part of the book *Living Flame about the history of Methodism* from 1968 to 1994 was now available, either separately or together with part 1. During research the author discovered that there was a 150 year history of Methodism in Rickmansworth, with 'some direct relationship with John Wesley himself'.

The Revd Bruce Driver was to run a Deanery Day of Watercolour and Prayer. It would be a quiet day with conversation only during lunch, and a Eucharist.

Bill Sylvester, then head of Sunday School, wrote simply about the Bible, as he would have explained it to the children. He had nearly reached his target of filling the front four rows with children during the Sunday morning service.

The Centre Club were holding a Bistro; everyone was invited to one of two sittings: at 12 noon for members of the 10.45am congregation and 12.45pm for those at the 12 noon service.

Centre Club members were also asked what for them would make a 'perfect church'. Among twenty-eight innovations suggested (at that time) were younger vicars, 'exciting' sermons, sermons on moral issues, women priests, intercessions in rap style, later services followed by Sunday lunch, and 15 minute services every hour. The list ended with a number of ways they wanted the church to help the community, like providing a soup kitchen open all day, and keeping the Church Shop open permanently. [The Church took over an empty shop in Penn Place and ran it to raise funds for the Renewal].

As numbers for Evensong were falling, there were to be 'Sunday Evening Specials' - Evensong two Sundays in the month, the ASB service and a Methodist preacher another, and 'something special' on the Third Sunday of the month.

The Renewal Section: Most of the building and maintenance work was complete. The church had been redecorated inside, the South clerestory windows made safe, new lighting installed, fire resistance and electrical work done and the stonework on the tower attended to. However, it still had to be paid for and fundraising continued. One event advertised was a cake decorating demonstration by Mabel Tindall. The crafts group was to become a permanent feature of St Mary's life, meeting on one afternoon and one evening each month. The shop had raised £7,000 and would reopen in the autumn. The programme up to November included a Starter Party at the Leveridges, a Valentine Junior Disco, a Jumble Sale, an Antiques Evening, a Coffee Morning, a Garden Event, a Musical Evening, Frank Topping's Show and the Vicar's Pilgrimage along the Pilgrim's Way from Southwark to Canterbury.

CALENDAR

January 2019

1 Tue	THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST 9.30am Said Holy Communion, followed by seasonal refreshments at The Vicarage and Walk (see p 6)
6 SUN	THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 8.00am Said Holy Communion 10.00am All-age sung Holy Communion
8 Tue	9.30am Said Holy Communion
9 Wed	9.00am St Mary's School Start of Term Service in Church
10 Thu	9.30am <i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall February LINK copy deadline
11 Fri	7.30pm <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> , Cloisters Hall (see p 8)
12 Sat	2.30pm <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> , Cloisters Hall 7.30pm <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> , Cloisters Hall
13 SUN	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY) (BCP The First Sunday after Epiphany) 8.00am Said Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Holy Communion 12.15pm Said Holy Communion 1.00pm Lunch Club 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer 7.00pm X Team meets
14 Mon	3.15pm J Club at St Mary's School 2.15pm LINK Editors meeting 7.45pm Meeting of the United Council, Cloisters Hall
15 Tue	9.30am Said Holy Communion 12.30pm Home Communion through afternoon
16 Wed	1.10pm Collective Worship at St Mary's School 2.30pm <i>The Teapot Club, in Church</i> 7.45pm Housegroup (for contact, see cover)
17 Thu	9.30am <i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
20 SUN	CHURCH GIVING SUNDAY 8.00am Said Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Holy Communion 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
21 Mon	3.15pm J Club at St Mary's School
22 Tue	9.30am Said Holy Communion 10.15am House Group (for contact, see cover) 12 noon 10-bell ringing practice (all ringers welcome)
23 Wed	7.45pm START Course begins at The Vicarage (see p 6) 1.10pm Collective Worship at St Mary's School

25 Fri THE CONVERSION OF PAUL

27 SUN HOMELESS SUNDAY

8.00am Said Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Holy Communion

6.00pm Said Evening Prayer

7.00pm X Team meets

February LINK is published

28 Mon 3.15pm J Club at St Mary's School

29 Tue 9.30am Said Holy Communion

7.45pm **START** Course, The Vicarage

30 Wed 1.10pm Collective Worship at St Mary's School

31 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall

February

2 Sat PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)

3 SUN THE FIFTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Choir and Bellringers Regular Weekly Practices

Wed 7.30pm Bellringing

Thu 7.45pm Choir

New members welcome at both practices – just come along

Nature Notes

Angela Hall

In my first Nature Notes in 2008 I mentioned that we had an alpha woodpigeon in the garden which was wont to sit brooding on the bird table to the exclusion of other birds, and I was reminded of this as I looked out and saw one, perhaps a descendant, not actually eating but thinking “certain thoughts”.

When I took over from Brenda Bell I decided to try to keep the column going for ten years as she had done so ably. Well, the ten years are up and I really feel that I have written myself out. During that time I have covered mostly local observations, my own and other people's, plus some things that I have read about and occasional additions from holidays abroad.



Wood Pigeon

There really do seem to be far fewer birds than we have seen in the past. I can remember seeing greenfinches, siskins, bullfinches, tree-creepers and nuthatches in the garden. Nowadays we remark on the arrival of house sparrows, starlings and the occasional song thrush. As my dog walking is curtailed by the ancientness of the dog I cannot go so far afield very often thus limiting access to farmland and the lakes. My thanks to all those who have encouraged me and contributed but, one way and another, I feel it is time someone else had a go; if not Nature Notes perhaps something else.



Bullfinch



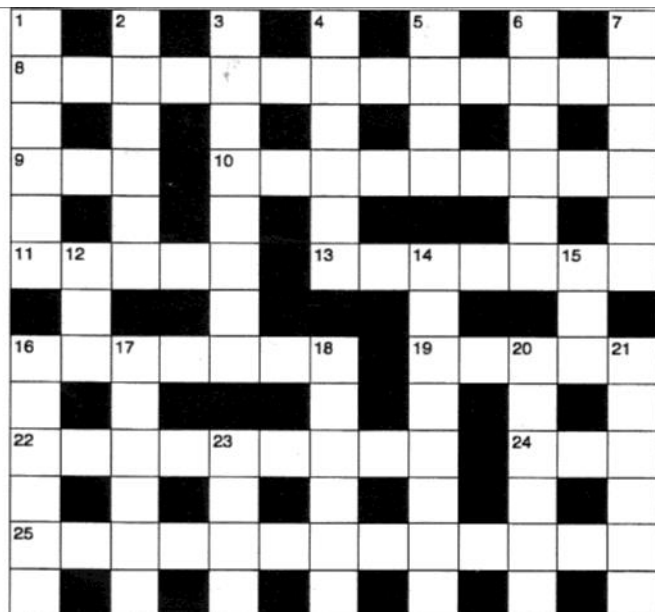
Nuthatch

Warm thanks are due to Angela for continuing her regular and interesting column for so many years. We recognise that the articles get harder to write as the years pass, because similar things happen year after year, but she has kept the interest going throughout. We too have received many appreciative comments about her articles - more than anything else in our magazine!

The question is what now? It is good to be able to count on one or two dependable articles at times when copy is a bit thin. We also like to include something of general interest both for our readers and perhaps to attract a wider readership. Does anyone feel like picking up the gauntlet on this or another subject. For instance we know there are a number of keen and experienced gardeners in our congregation. Would any of you perhaps like to do a series of articles, at least for the next year - or perhaps several of you would like to get together to make the task easier. Any offers? Eds

Crossword

From *Minehead Matters*



Across:

8. How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version
(Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
9. Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
10. The Ten Commandments (9)
11. In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
13. Des cons (anag.) (7)
16. 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
19. Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
22. Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
24. Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
25. First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down:

1. Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
2. Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath
(1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
3. 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
4. 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)

5. United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
6. 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
7. Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
12. Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
14. 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
15. Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
16. Vat car (anag.) (6)
17. 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
18. 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
20. Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
21. Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
23. What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

The solution to the crossword is on page 21

What's On in Rickmansworth

Watersmeet

Film: *Fantastic Beasts:*

Crimes of Grindelwald

Sun 6

11am, 2pm, 5pm

Film: *First Man*

Wed 9

2pm, 5pm, 8pm

Film: *Crazy Rich Asians*

Thur 10

2pm, 7.45pm

The Madness of George III, NT Live

Fri 11

7pm

Hairspray

Thur 17-Sat 19

7.30pm

RARE Productions

Sat 19

2.30pm

Film: *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Wed 23

2pm, 5pm, 8pm

Anthony & Cleopatra NT Live

Thur 24

7pm

The Little Mix Experience

Sweeney Entertainments

Fri 25

6pm

The Ultimate Genesis Los Endos

Sat 26

7.30pm

The Arts Society, Rickmansworth

Sarratt Village Hall

Tuesday 8 January

The History of Underwear from the 18th to the 20th Century

Kate Strasdin

11.00am; tea and coffee from 10.30am

For further information contact Gill Gowing (777715)

Rickmansworth Evening Townswomen's Guild

St Mary's Church Centre

Thursday 17 January

7.30 for 7.45pm

Man on the spot: Story of a News reporter

Bill Hamilton

Contact Suzanne Hill (772809) for further information

New members always welcome

Rickmansworth & District Horticultural Society

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 16 January

The Ridgeway

John Tyler

8.00pm

Mill End Baptist Church Hall, Field Way

Pause for Thought

Success

Supplied by Lilly Gowing

Success is speaking words of praise
In cheering other people's ways
In doing just the best you can
With every task and every plan
It's silence when your speech would hurt
Politeness when your neighbour's curt
It's deafness when the scandal flows
And sympathy with others' woes
It's loyalty when duty calls
It's courage when disaster falls
It's found in laughter and in song
It's in the silent time of prayer
In happiness and in despair
In all of life and nothing less
We find the thing we call success.

Anon

Missing the Guest of Honour

From Minehead Matters, with thanks to Joan's sister Janet

Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews (Matthew 2.2)

There's a story that runs like this: there was a mayor of a small town who had brought so many improvements into local life that over several years he had transformed the town, and so the community decided it was high time to pay him a tribute.

The party was held at the local town hall and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and noisy.

Over coffee the next morning in the local café someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No-one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually no-one had even seen the mayor there that night. Later they discovered that the mayor had been at home all evening, waiting for the lift into town that he had been promised. But people were so busy preparing for the party that no-one had remembered him. And so he had missed the party in his honour. Apparently no-one had even noticed his absence.

It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate, the food is great, the music warms the heart - but has anyone seen the guest of honour? We sing about him, we act out our nativity plays about him, but in reality the season has become about us: our menus, our travel plans, our presents, our decorations. At what point in the proceedings do we give ourselves time to notice whether he is among us or not?

It's not too late even now: Christmas goes on until Epiphany.

Wise Words for 2019

Advice which Brenda's cousin, a priest in India, received on his birthday

Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend".

When God solves your problems you have faith in his abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, he has faith in your abilities.

A blind person once asked a saint, "Can there be anything worse than losing your sight". He replied, "Yes, losing your vision".

When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. Sometimes when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace.

Some 'Christian One Liners', given to us by Peter Loosely

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen is:

1 Cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Answers to the Crossword

ACROSS: 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

DOWN: 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.

Smile

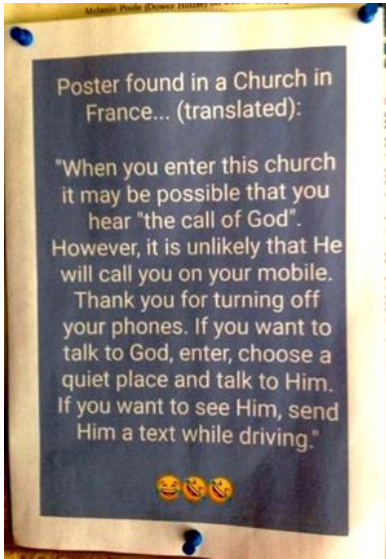


Photo by David Hibbert

And from *Minehead Matters*

The vicar was making an appeal for more help with the Sunday School: "At the moment I'm just carrying on with two single ladies".

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought God had given him two feet. Without hesitation the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator".

Rickmansworth During World War 1

1915

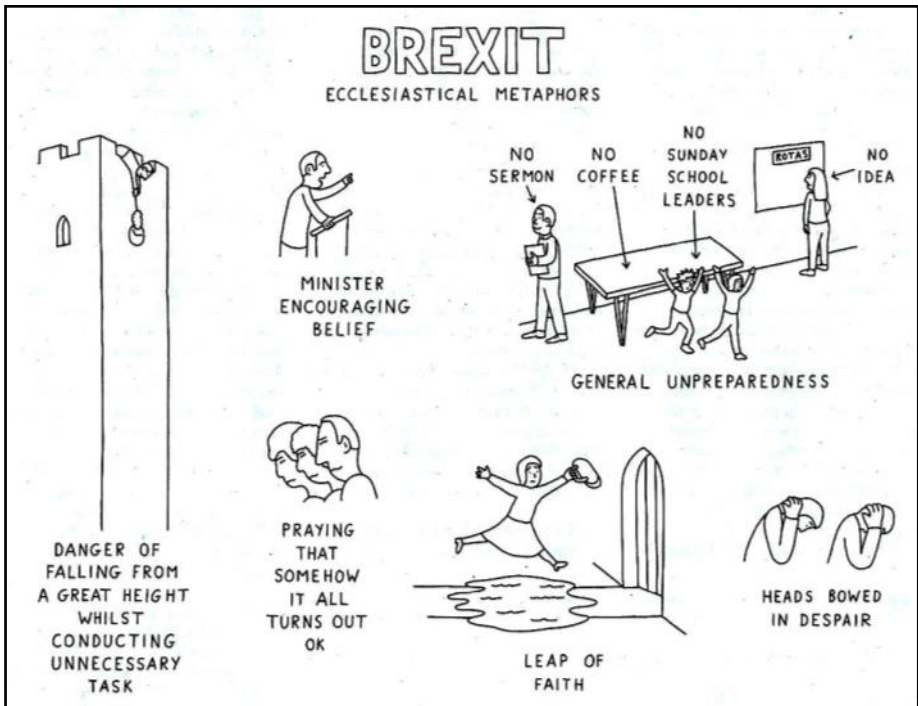
During the sorting of the archives in 2018 a bound copy of our 1915 magazines was discovered and immediately borrowed by members of the Historical Society for World War 1 research. One of the letters from it was read at the town's Remembrance Service. We may include news from this magazine from time to time especially about what was happening at home in Rickmansworth at that time.

The January magazine suggested a fairly upbeat mood for meeting adversity and a strong belief in the cause, as in the Vicar's letter:

The New Year opens amid deep national anxiety, but not over-anxiety because we trust and believe that our cause, being a righteous one, will prevail. ...we have abundant cause for thankfulness. Our sailors and soldiers are worthy of our pride in them; acquitting themselves with splendid gallantry and supreme fortitude under circumstances extremely trying and behaving in all ways as Christian gentlemen.

And we civilians at home are responding wonderfully - both men and women - to the call of duty. The war has already done us good, and we are learning many lessons.

Dave Walker Cartoon



This cartoon that appeared in Church Times is reproduced with permission from cartoonchurch.com

Nostalgia

New school opened

Rickmansworth traffic ground to a halt on Saturday to make way for a 400-strong procession headed by the Bishop of Willesden and various clergy. Their destination was the completed new Rickmansworth St Mary's Church of England Primary School at Juniper Hill.

[October 25, 1968]



Procession for opening of St Mary's Church of England School

This picture recently appeared in the Nostalgia section of *The Watford Observer* and is reproduced with their permission. Older members of the congregation may recognise some of those in the procession. Norman Hill, the vicar, is second from the left of the picture and John Furness, the curate, is behind the Bishop, acting as chaplain. One of the servers is still active at St Mary's.

LINK

Karen Ellis: Firstly, we should like to say a big thank you to our Church Secretary, Karen for printing LINK so cheerfully, willingly and efficiently throughout her time in the Office, despite the temperamental old copier she had to coax to keep working. We shall miss her and her emoticons very much and wish her well.

Wanted: a columnist. Please note our plea for someone to write a regular column, whether it be Nature Notes or something else (see page 16).

Needed: an Editor, or two. See Deborah's leader for this month.

Subscriptions: May we remind you that it is time to pay your annual subscription for LINK 2019, if you have not already done so. Thank you to those who have paid already.

If you collect your copy from church or it is posted to you there are order forms available in Church, in front of the LINK pigeon hole by the North door.

If your copy is delivered your distributor will collect the money and you don't need a form.

We do encourage you to sign up and pay £6.00 (£14.00 by post) for the year for three reasons. We will have a good idea of how many copies to print to avoid wastage; you don't have to remember 50p on the last Sunday of the month; there is less loose cash lying around.

LINK by email: The printed version is a handy reference for dates, contact phone numbers etc but if you want to fully appreciate the colour photos (and possibly enlarge them) why not look at the e-version as well. If you sign up for this you will get a notification each month when LINK is published. We can add you to the mailing list if you email link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk or you can sign up yourself via the LINK page of the church website www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk.

We use MailChimp which is a free, secure mailing service and your details will only be used for sending you LINK each month. There is no charge for e-LINK but donations to the Church to cover general production costs would be much appreciated.

Of course you can subscribe to both versions.

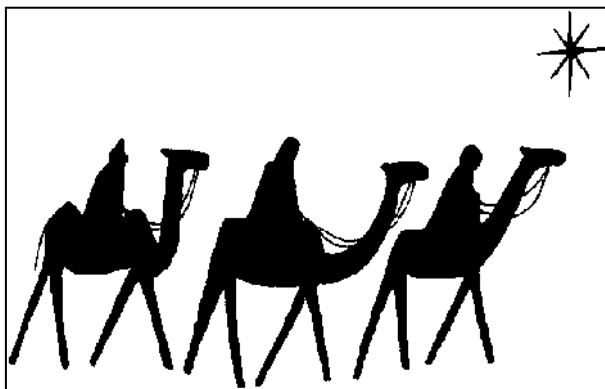


February LINK

Copy deadline: Thursday 10 January

Publication Date: Sunday 27 January

Will the Deadline Beast encourage people to send us copy?



A Happy New Year to all our Readers

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,	775890
	Brenda Bell	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	
Church Cleaning	June Poppleton	773388
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

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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
See Round-on-line by email	LINK link www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
