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# LINK

Monthly Magazine

March  
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>
<b>SUNDAYS</b>			
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
<b>WEEKDAYS</b>			
Tue	9.30AM	Holy Communion	Modern

## Contacts

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

<b>Church</b>	<b>Address:</b>	Church Street Rickmansworth WD3 1JB
	<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk">www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk</a>

## Ministers at St Mary's

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

## Officers

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

## Church Office

<b>Church Secretary</b>	721002
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:churchoffice@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk">churchoffice@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk</a>



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## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Lent is almost upon us as this edition of LINK is published and I am most grateful to Scott for preparing the ground for observing Lent in last month's edition.

Preparing the ground is a good metaphor for the life of faith - preparing the ground by tilling the soil, picking out the stones and weeds, dividing plants and clearing away that which is dead or decaying. Preparing the ground and feeding it in order for perennials to have space to be reborn and flourish, for new bulbs to have good, clear soil in which to be planted. Preparing the ground - even allowing it to be fallow for a while in order to rest and be renewed.

If you are reading this on the day that LINK is published - there is still time to consider how you might prepare the ground in order to mark the Holy Season of Lent. As you consider your spiritual life you might like to consider...

### ***How do I till the soil of my faith?***

What are the stones and weeds that need to be cleared away? What in my spiritual practice is dead or decaying? What plants - what practices - need to be divided so that there is more space for them to grow and develop?

### ***How do I nourish the soil of my faith?***

What do I do that offers nourishment to me in my journey of faith? Do I pray each day - and is this prayer enriching and fulfilling? Do I need to find new ways of praying and talking with God (rather than just talking at God)? Are there books or websites or apps that will help me? How might I read my Bible more diligently and gain better insight and understanding? Who could help me? Might a conversation with Deborah be useful?

### ***What new plants would I like to plant in the garden of my faith?***

Might I consider a Quiet Day - or even a few days of Retreat? What new spiritual practices might I explore that will offer new colour and beauty for my walk with God?

### ***What in my practice of faith needs a rest?***

What is tired and not working well for me any longer? What is not

feeding me any more, even though I am diligent and faithful in practising? Do I need some space for silence and reflection? How can I rest well with God? How is God calling me to 'Come aside and rest a while?' Who might help me to listen?

One of the great joys of the Christian faith is that there are many others who have walked it before and from whom we can learn. Nothing is ever wasted in our explorations, and so I do encourage you to get out your holy trowel and start digging. I'm always really happy to meet and talk with you if you would like some encouragement along the way.

With good wishes for a good and holy Lent.



The Revd Deborah Snowball

## Readings at Communion

3 Mar	Ex 34.29-35	2 Cor 3.12 - 4.2	Luke 9.28-43
10 Mar	Deut 26.1-11	Rom 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13
17 Mar	Gen 15.1-12, 17-18	Phil 3.17- 4.1	Luke 3.31-35
24 Mar	Isa 55.1-9	1 Cor 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9
31 Mar	Ex 2.1-10	2 Cor 1.3-7	Luke 2.33-35

## Prayer Suggestions

*Week beginning:*

3 Mar	The ability to face the truth about ourselves
10 Mar	Self-control in words and deeds
17 Mar	Ireland, North and South
24 Mar	The ability to forgive one another
31 Mar	Our children's future

## For Local Churches

### The Deanery

3 Mar	All Saints', Croxley Green
10 Mar	Christ Church, Chorleywood
17 Mar	Mill End, W Hyde & Heronsgate
24 Mar	St Oswald's, Croxley Green
31 Mar	Sarratt and Chipperfield

### The Methodist Circuit

St Andrew's, Bushey Heath
St Martha's, Tring
St Mary's, Rickmansworth
Studham
Trinity Watford

## **People Living Locally**

3 Mar	Woodcock Hill, Shrubs Road
10 Mar	Moor Lane, Moor Lane Cottages
17 Mar	Anson Walk, Astons Road
24 Mar	Askew Road, Sandy Lodge Road
31 Mar	Wolsey Mansions, Park Mansions, Main Avenue

## **A Prayer for the Month**

Father we pray for your guidance throughout this month: for the world's leaders; for those in positions of influence throughout the European Union and not least in our own country; for those faced with hard decisions of whatever kind; and for all Christians as we embark on our Lenten journey. May faithfulness, honesty, truth and love accompany us as we try to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ not only in the coming weeks, but for the rest of our lives.

Amen

## **Lent – Part 2**

*The Revd Deborah Snowball*

*A reminder of the information given in the February edition of LINK, as well as further information for Passiontide.*

## **Getting Things Ready**

### **Palm Crosses to Make the Ashes**

We burn last year's Palm Crosses to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday (Deborah has a special tin used only for this task!) Please place crosses into the basket at the back of church. The crosses will be burnt on Shrove Tuesday.

## **The Journey Begins...**

### **Ash Wednesday – 6 March**

There will be services of Holy Communion at 10.00am and 7.45pm on Ash Wednesday - both with the Imposition of Ashes. Please do try to attend one of these services so that we begin the journey through Lent together - it is always good to have companions in faith by one's side.

## **Through the Season**

*The annual Lent, Holy Week and Easter (LHWE) Leaflet is available in church, and details of all events, activities and services will also be*

on the church website. Please note the information about our collection for WaterAid; we shall be collecting each week during Lent.

### **Midweek Communion: Tuesdays at 10.00am**

With Meditations linked to the Psalm for the day. Further details in the LHWE Leaflet and February edition of LINK (available on our website if you no longer have yours).

### **Lent Groups: #LIVEPILGRIM – The Beatitudes**

Following the great success of last year's Lent Groups and the Lent Booklet that was used, this year's Lent Groups will use the #LentPilgrim material again. If you'd like to join (or host) a Group, please indicate this on the sheet in church. The material looks really interesting, and the theme will give much pause for thought too. Further details are in the LHWE Leaflet and in the February edition of LINK.

### **Mondays at the Museum/Gallery**

Join Deborah on a *Magical Mystery Bible Tour* as we visit the V&A, National Gallery or Tate Britain to view an artefact or painting associated with the events of Holy Week and Easter. Further details are in the LHWE Leaflet and February edition of LINK.

### **Mothering Sunday (definitely not Mother's Day!)**

#### **Sunday 31 March**

Mothering is offered in a whole host of different ways - and they are most definitely not restricted solely to those who are mothers; thus we make a point of including everyone on this day. Come along to our *All-Age Communion Service* at 10.00am when all the adults receive flowers as a symbol of our thankfulness for all that each person present does to offer care and nurture in our community.



### **Passiontide**

#### **Passion Sunday 7 April**

**12 noon** Lent lunch; a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of Church. Any money donated will go towards WaterAid.

**6.00pm** Alongside readings for the season, the choir will be singing *The Requiem* by John Rutter.

# Jesus Crucified

David Hibbert has provided further pictures from his collection of Stations of the Cross, from which we hope readers may find Lenten inspiration.

1



2



3



4



1. Wells Cathedral

2. St Magnus the Martyr, London

3. St Marks Church Betws-y-Coed

4. Our Lady of Victories RC, Kensington

(Three are 12<sup>th</sup> stations, of Jesus on the Cross, and one the 13<sup>th</sup> when he was taken down from it)



# **Report from the United Church Council**

*Buzz Coster UCC Secretary*

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

A number of trees in the churchyard are in need of attention and a Letter of Authority has been received from the Diocese giving permission for this work to go ahead. The work will be undertaken by Three Rivers District Council although this may not happen for a little while as the Council is short-staffed.

The Council members discussed our Mission Action Plan goals and warmly encourage members of the congregation to contribute to meeting these goals. A number of the projects and initiatives were outlined in the Church Giving letter which you will have received in January.

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.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (C of E) and Methodist Annual General Meeting**

**23 April**

*Jane Earl (Churchwarden)*

It is Wednesday afternoon and I am sat in my office in Victoria - in an hour's time I will be sitting through two presentations which are due to finish at 6pm. I promised to write this piece for LINK about the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting (C of E) and Methodist Annual General Meeting to be held together on 23 April and I have realised this is my only time to get it done!

Why am I telling you this? It is because we are really keen to expand the membership of the United Church Council (UCC). St Mary's is our Church and it is important that this group - which shares in the leadership and decision-making processes for our church - includes members from across our worshipping community. We are all busy people. We all have commitments - spouses/partners/friends who want our company, children's homework to supervise, pets who don't

want to be left alone. But can you spare some time to help with the running of your Church?

Please consider standing for a position on the UCC yourself or think about someone you know who you would like to nominate and ask them if they would be willing to stand. If you are new to St Mary's please don't think you are excluded – we would love to hear from you. (Please do also sign up for the Electoral Roll which is being renewed this year.) [*See the following article.*]

There are various elections to be held. In addition to the UCC members, we also need representatives for the Deanery Synod and Methodist Circuit Meetings; Churchwardens and a Senior Steward to be appointed; and Sidespeople too. Nomination forms will be in Church or may be obtained from the Wardens, Senior Steward or current representatives of the UCC. Generally serving on the UCC involves one meeting a month on a Monday evening starting at 7.45pm.

Thank you!

## **Renewal of the St Marys (C of E) Electoral and (Methodist) Membership Rolls**

*John Glidden Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Key Message**

We have to renew our membership rolls completely this year and so, during March, could *everybody* please fill in an Electoral Roll application form and return it by Monday 1 April. Thanks.

### **And Now the Details and Background Information!**

Although St Mary's is a Church of England (C of E) and Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership, there are times when we have to go our separate ways before re-joining each other. Updating the separate C of E Electoral Roll and Methodist Membership Roll is one of these times.

The C of E Electoral Roll has to be completely renewed every seven years. Additionally, we are taking the opportunity to completely renew the Methodist Membership Roll. These rolls are effectively the membership lists for St Marys, and are purely for use in elections related to church activities. They are completely separate from the Electoral Rolls drawn up for political elections.

Because the two rolls are being renewed, this year **everybody** who wishes to show that, beyond being very welcome members of the congregation, they want to be an 'official' member of St Mary's (as C of E, Methodist or both) **must** complete a new Electoral Roll form.

Being on the Electoral Roll does not commit you to anything, but it does give you some privileges if you want to be become more involved with St Mary's. For example only those whose names are on the Electoral Rolls may:

- stand for membership of the Church Council (whose various committees decide on and organize many of the practical aspects of running our Church).
- stand for election as a C of E Churchwarden or Methodist Steward (whose roles are to represent the Church Members and to support Deborah, Richard and Scott in their Ministry).
- In particular, only those whose names are on the Electoral Rolls can vote in the elections relating to these important posts in the life of St Mary's to be held at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting (Tuesday 23 April).

If you wish your name to be included in either or both of the rolls please complete an Electoral Roll application form. These can be found at the back of church from the beginning of March. The completed forms must be returned to me (via the Parish Office or directly) by Monday 1 April.

### **And, some further points:**

As we are a C of E and Methodist Partnership, all of our members may place their name on either or both of the rolls - you can indicate your choice on the application form.

We have been asked by the Diocese to collect ethnicity information about our congregation, and so we will be doing this at the same time as we update the rolls. However, please note that providing this information is completely confidential and voluntary.

Under the GDPR Data Protection measures we have to confirm how you wish to be contacted over Church matters, so we will also be using this opportunity for you to provide us with this information. If you have any questions then please contact me (223613).

# Updating Church Member Contact Information

You will, no doubt, have been inundated over the past year with requests from organisations and businesses for permissions as to how they may use your information - all relating to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). St Mary's will be doing this too (Groan!) - from the beginning of March. Alongside updating our Electoral and Methodist Rolls, we wish to update our database with both contact information and permissions for the members of St Mary's. We shall be moving to a wholly secure web-based system, which will allow us to become GDPR compliant, offer targeted contact based on people's interests and requests, allow individuals to make available to other members of the church such contact as they are happy to share - through the secure website for which each person will have their own log-in details. You can explore the system we shall be using here: churchsuite.com

## Christmas Collections

*Parishioners may like to know a breakdown of collections over Christmas; the money is sent to various charities:*

Carol service: £815.46

Crib service: £456.11

Midnight Mass: £443.09

Christingle (candles only): £191.47

Christmas Day services: 8.00am £95, 10.00am £345.35

## Homeless Sunday

*A letter of thanks from Mick Hayter, WTRRP Volunteer for  
Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership*

Dear Friends

We are very grateful for your continuing support which is a real encouragement for us. The toiletries from your recent 'Homeless Sunday' collection are now all sorted and ready for distribution to those in need. These will be very well received, thank you.

Most months sees an increase in the number of clients we help with a monthly food parcel plus toiletries. However, I'm pleased to say that some do leave. One of our clients from Syria, who didn't come here under the Government scheme, has recently been advised that he will be given Leave to Remain. He will now seek employment and in due course cease to need our help. This was also the case for another client who received his Leave to Remain after 5 years of applying.

Our Drop-In Centre now opens twice a week, where clients can meet socially, and obtain legal help as well as receiving help to deal with any problems.

Your continued support and interest in our work is appreciated and we would thank you again for your generous donations. Do please visit our website: [www.wtrp.org.uk](http://www.wtrp.org.uk) for more up to date information.

## The Teapot Club

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend or neighbour or come on your own. No membership is required.

*Please note the later time.*



## Threads for Change

*Beryl Baker*

Firstly, I would like to say a very warm thank you to all the knitters of stars for Christmas. It wasn't an easy pattern - tricky for me too! - but you persevered and produced wonders.

Secondly, an update on the blankets. Seven completed blankets were taken to 'Knit for Peace' in Hampstead. These were gratefully received as they were needed for Syrian refugees. I also took thirteen men's hats which were going to St Mungo's charity for the homeless. Finally, I took sixty-six baby hats, twenty pairs of tiny mittens and four baby blankets to Watford Maternity Unit.

All the items are welcomed so please don't stop knitting. I will leave yarn and patterns at the back of Church for you to help yourselves. Do you have any spare wool tucked away in a cupboard? De-clutter and give it to our group. We can usually find some use for whatever you give us.

(Remember to leave long ends for sewing up and *please* use soft wool for the hats. These are for tiny neo-natal babies and the smoothness of the yarn is vital.)

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

### **1913**

In those days Lent was obviously a stark and solemn time, with the Revd Charles Parkinson beginning his letter, "The shadows of Lent are gathering around the children of the Church who are keeping faithful watch with 'the Man of Sorrows'. Soon, the darkest day in all the Church's year, Good Friday, will be upon us. ...We have to witness with bruised and contrite hearts, and heads bowed low with shame the Great Sacrifice of Calvary".

He suggested being alone and in quiet contemplation as much as possible on Good Friday.

The March 1913 magazine also contained tributes on the deaths of 'our Antarctic heroes' (the members of Scott's expedition) and of the Hon. Victoria Grosvenor. She had been St Mary's 'voluntary Organist and Choir Trainer for many years' in the building prior to our present one.

During Lent there were to be Lantern Services entitled: *Herod*, *Pilate's wife*, *Pilate*, *Mary*, *Mother of Jesus* and *The Way of Grief*.

### **1994**

How different was the March 1994 leader written by former Methodist Minister, Derek House. He had been fascinated by a TV Horizon programme on 'cell death' and picked up on the facts that living cells are genetically programmed to grow and to die and if they do not receive messages from other cells they self-destruct. He drew analogies with Mark 8.34-35, and Paul's concept of dying to sin to rise to new life with Christ through God's forgiveness; and made a parallel with how people relate to one another. He had the dream that if Christians started by sharing a cup of tea or coffee, laying aside 'British reserve and urban fragmentedness' they might discover one another and grow in confidence and understanding until they were

able to share hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, and what it meant to follow Christ day by day, pray together without embarrassment, learn to die to what is amiss in themselves and grow in true humanity.

There was to be a conference at Wesley Hall, Barnet, *A Heart and Soul for Europe*, with speakers giving talks: *The European Union - Getting it Right, Looking out* (concerned with living in Eastern Europe under the Communist regime) and *A Role for Churches*.

A long *Ad Clerum* from Bishop John, then Bishop of St Albans entitled *The Ordination of Women to the Priesthood and the Unity of the Diocese* was included in the magazine. The Revd Dr Anne Shaw was to be among the first women to be ordained in St Albans that April and would preside at an evening Eucharist that would be followed by a party.

In the Renewal Section of the magazine, we learn that the Valentine's Day Disco was 'terrific' and attended by seventy-two children, and soft furnishings for the 'renewed church' were being chosen, but work on the [north] clerestory windows meant that part of the carpet-laying in church would be delayed. There was to be an antiques valuation evening, plans for the Revd Bruce Driver's sponsored pilgrimage from Winchester to Canterbury were announced, Joan Martin had called for a meeting to launch plans for the Church Shop and Paul Harding was seeking sponsorship at £1 a second for running the London Marathon, with a prize for the person purchasing the second that matched his finishing time.

## **World Day of Prayer – a Reminder**

**Friday 1 March at 2.00pm**

*Janet Lucas*

The Rickmansworth 2019 World Day of Prayer will take place at the very beginning of March in our own St Mary's, and be followed by refreshments. The service this year has been prepared by women from Slovenia and is entitled "Come - Everything is Ready!" Do come! All are welcome at this service and it would be good to have a record attendance, especially as it is 'our' year. There are fuller details in February LINK.

*This was formerly called The Women's World Day of Prayer but has always been open to everyone.*

# CALENDAR

## March 2019

- 1 Fri DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES, c601  
2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service, *in our Church*
- 2 Sat 10.00am Safeguarding Training, *in Church*
- 3 SUN THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT *BCP: Quinquagesima*  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am All-Age Holy Communion  
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 4 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Sewing Group  
3.15pm *J Club* at St Mary's School
- 5 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion  
7.45pm Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee Meeting
- 6 Wed ASH WEDNESDAY  
10.00am Said Holy Communion, with Imposition of Ashes  
12 noon Clergy Chapter Meeting with the Bishop of St Albans  
2.30pm Collective Worship at St Mary's School  
7.45pm Said Holy Communion, with Imposition of Ashes
- 7 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddler Group, *Cloisters Hall*
- 10 SUN THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
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 (Youth Group) meets
- 11 Mon >10.30am Mondays at the Museum/Gallery (see p 7)  
2.00pm *Threads for Change* Sewing Group  
3.15pm *J Club* at St Mary's School  
7.45pm Meeting of United Church Council, *Cloisters Hall*
- 12 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion, *Meditation on Ps 34.4-6, 21-22*
- 13 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School  
7.45pm Charitable Giving Committee meets
- 14 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddler Group, *Cloisters Hall*  
*Copy deadline for April LINK*
- 17 SUN THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am Sung Holy Communion  
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer



- 18 Mon >10.30am Mondays at the Museum/Gallery  
 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Sewing Group  
 3.15pm *J Club* at St Mary's School  
 2.15pm *LINK* Editors' Meeting
- 19 Tue **JOSEPH OF NAZARETH**  
 10.00am Said Holy Communion, *Meditation on Ps 89.26-36*  
 11.30am Home Communions through the day
- 20 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School  
 2.30pm *The Teapot Club* (see page 13)
- 21 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddler Group, *Cloisters Hall*
- 24 SUN THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
 8.00am Said Holy Communion  
 10.00am Sung Holy Communion  
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer  
 7.00pm X Team (Youth Group) meets
- 25 Mon THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
 >10.30am Mondays at the Museum/Gallery  
 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Sewing Group  
 3.15pm *J Club* at St Mary's School
- 26 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion, *Meditation on Ps 25.3-10*  
 12 noon 10-bell ringing practice, *All ringers welcome*  
 7.45pm Chiltern Choir Rehearsal, *in Church*
- 27 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School
- 28 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddler Group, *Cloisters Hall*
- 30 Sat 7.30pm Chiltern Choir Concert, *in Church*
- 31 SUN THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Mothering Sunday**  
 2.00am *NB Clocks go forward 1 Hour*  
 8.00am Said Holy Communion  
 10.00am All-Age Holy Communion  
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer  
*April LINK is published*

## **April**

- 1 Mon >10.30am Mondays at the Museum/Gallery  
 2.00pm *Threads of Change*, *in Church*  
 3.15pm *J Club* at St Mary's School
- 2 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion, *Meditation on Ps 46.1-8*
- 4 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddler Group, *Cloisters Hall*
- 5 Fri 9.00am St Mary's School End of Term Service
- 6 Sat 1.00pm Service of Holy Matrimony

Continued overleaf

## Calendar continued

**7 SUN THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Passiontide begins)**  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am All-Age Holy Communion  
12 noon Lent Lunch  
6.00pm Music and Readings for Passiontide,  
including *Requiem* by John Rutter

### **Choir and Bellringers Regular Weekly Practices**

Wednesday 7.30pm Bellringers  
Thursday 7.45pm Choir  
*New members welcome at both practices; just come along*

## **Easter Monday Pilgrimage**

*Geoff Hall*

Easter Monday is late this year on 22 April which (possibly?) means it will be a bit warmer than most years. The diocesan-wide pilgrimage to the Abbey at St Albans will be taking place as it has for over sixty years.

For those wishing to go from St Mary's, we meet outside the church at 8.30am. The distance to the Abbey is about twelve miles but we generally make a stop for breakfast at St Lawrence's at Abbots Langley. (I think they charged £3 for this last year.) If you think twelve miles is too far for you then you could meet us at Abbots; the distance is about five miles from there. If you would like to come to the service in the Abbey but are unable to walk, then you could travel by car or public transport. The pilgrims start to process into the Abbey at 2.30pm and the service is usually a communion service with several rousing Easter hymns.

It would be nice to see a good turnout from St Mary's; we have only been about ten or a dozen for the last few years. If you would like to join us, please sign the list at the back of Church or give me a ring (720543). Also, if anyone could give lifts back from St Albans, at about 4.30pm, please let me know.

## ***Sleeping Beauty – The Motley Crew Pantomime***

*Chris Hillier*

I would just like to thank all those who came along to support the performances of *Sleeping Beauty* in January. We managed to sell all the seats and even had to borrow extra chairs from the Church Centre.

I would also like to thank those who helped the production in any way: the ladies who helped with the interval refreshments, the members of St Mary's family who helped to transport and build the stage – and then take it all down again afterwards, the props and stage crew and of

course the cast. I think we all had a lot of fun at the rehearsals and got to know each other better. The ticket sales made a profit of over £850 for Church Funds and the donations for the refreshments raised £125 which we have sent off to the Albert Valley School in Uganda.

## **Some Notes from a Part-Time Motley Crew Member**

*Geoff Hall*

I had already bought my ticket for the Motley Crew pantomime when, just before Christmas, I received an SOS from Chris Hillier asking if I could take part in *Sleeping Beauty* as one of the cast had had to drop out owing to an operation which had not gone as planned. I was welcomed by the rest of the cast and it was interesting to meet members of the congregation in a completely different context. All the cast were doing their best to learn lines and movement about the stage. Owing to various commitments that people had it was only at the dress rehearsal, on the Sunday before the performances, that all the cast actually rehearsed together. Also this was the first occasion when the stage had been completed so that the size and entrances and exits were known: the sectional stage from St Mary's had been transported to the Cloisters Hall to extend the fixed stage there.

The pantomime, written by Mike Godden and Mike Warrick of St Edmund's Northwood Hills, was a variation on some I had seen before in that the whole cast were sent to sleep for 100 years rather than just the princess. As well as the traditional Godmother(s) there was a Godfather, played in true mafia style. There was a magic horse and a sub-plot of two characters, Gaudy and Nott, looking for and finding treasure and encouraging audience participation. The response from the audiences was most enthusiastic; no cajoling was necessary. The evil witch gave the audience plenty of opportunities to boo. Most of the cast remembered most of their lines ...but it was a pantomime!

We did have some young children for two or three scenes and the prince and princess were from the younger members of the Church but it seems a pity that most of the cast, including me, are past the first flush of youth. Personally I need to thank David Gilbert, the other half of our double act, for helping me with my lines and actions.

*We heard glowing reports of the panto from members of the audience.  
What a shame no-one bothered to express their appreciation in LINK*

## Some Photos from the Pantomime



The children and chorus



Duchess, Queen, King, Nott, Gaudy,  
Count



The Prince and Princess



The Godfather



Horace the Horse,  
the Young Prince



Curtain Call



The Fairies

*Photos by David Hibbert and Jane Pummell*

# Events at St Alban's Cathedral

*David Gilbert*

*Parishioners may like to know about events our Diocese offers*

**Talks** There are often talks taking place at 7.30pm on various weekday evenings. Ones this month include:

18 March *Shakespeare's major heroes; flawed saints or deliberate sinners?*

20 March *Henry VI and the Battle of St Albans*

25 March *The Seven Churches of Revelation*

**Study days** are also popular

9 March *Imagination and Spiritual Perception*

16 March *Serious answers to serious questions*

## **Forthcoming Events**

Saturday 2 March *Sacred Jazz at the Cathedral*

Tuesday 5 March *Faith in the Livery today: "Rules for the Conduct of Life"*

Saturday 16 March *Catholic Evangelism for All Christians: Resources from the Anglo-Catholic Tradition to help you share your faith*

Details of all of the above can be found at

[www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk)

## **Retreats and Educational Events**

Details of those at The Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield and Oxford University Theology Summer School in August are available via the following websites: <https://www.mirfield.org.uk/retreats/>, and <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/theology-summer-school>

## **Diocesan News**

You can access more Diocesan information about other churches, events and people by exploring the Diocesan website: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/>

## **Make Room! Make Room!**

*Michael Baker*

Unfortunately, our Church Library does not possess a Tardis, or a magic wardrobe, or a stable which is bigger on the inside than the outside. Our shelves are full to bursting, and our display space is jam-packed.

While, of course, we are always gratified by offers of books, there has to be a limit to the amount we can accept. Books, particularly paperbacks, deteriorate with age and the passage of time also means that some become out-of-date or irrelevant. From time to time I do a check and remove some from the shelves, with the inevitable result that the following week someone asks me what has happened to one of the books in question, as they want to consult it.

But the time has come to call a halt. Please do not leave any more donations of books on the library surface. Always ask me first. In particular, we cannot accept any more coffee-table size books, there just isn't room. And we have plenty of books on the Holy Land and Oberammergau, thank you. Books with 'foxed' or loose pages, or dodgy bindings will not be accepted, no matter how holy. And the Church Library is not an unlimited receptacle for unwanted 'improving' books given as confirmation or christening presents. I am sorry if this seems disobliging or ungrateful, but one has to face facts. If more books are added, some will have to go.

## **News from Former Methodist Deacon, Phil Osborne**

*Part of a letter from Phil to Dorothy Denzer, which she is happy to share with LINK readers*

I went through the process of re-candidating to become a Presbyter, and have returned to study and training - after 13 years as a Methodist Deacon, I wonder what the church is doing?! My time is divided between the Mid-Glamorgan Mission Circuit (South Wales Valleys) and the Queens Foundation for Theological Education. The Circuit work is a joy, the study... not so much! I am a rather unique specimen now - a 'Student-Probationer Presbyter'.

Elijah [Phil's son] is now in Year 10 and is hard at work on his GCSE subjects. In his spare time he is a young leader for Cubs and has piano and tennis lessons. At 14 years he has topped 6'1" and takes great delight in looking down on his mother and me. Helen [Phil's wife] continues as a Lay-worker at Cyncoed Methodist Church in Cardiff and is in her third year with them - it is both challenging and rewarding for her, and the people love her - no surprise!

Thank you for taking the time to track us down. Please do pass our regards, love and seasonal greetings to everyone at St Mary's. With much love

## ***Not a Lot of People Know That***

### **At the Eleventh Hour**

**Bill Sylvester**

‘At the eleventh hour’ indicates something has occurred at the very last moment. First used in the Bible (Matthew 20.9), the phrase can be traced to the parable of the labourers and the practice of a 12-hour working day. In the vineyards the very last of the day’s labourers would be taken on during the eleventh hour (around 5pm) in an effort to finish the day’s scheduled work on time.

With acknowledgement to Albert Jack for information from his book *Red Herrings and White Elephants*.

## **What’s On in Rickmansworth**

### **Watersmeet**

Film: <i>Colette</i>	Wed 6	11am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
<i>The Drifters</i>	Sat 9	7.30pm
Film: <i>The Front Runner</i>	Thur 14	2pm, 5pm , 8pm
<i>The Magic of the Beatles</i>		
Tribute show	Fri 15	7.30pm
Film: <i>A Star is Born</i>	Thur 21	2pm, 7.45pm
<i>The Dreamboys</i>	Fri 22	8pm
Film: <i>The Mule</i>	Tue 26	2pm, 5pm, 8pm
Film: <i>Mary Queen of Scots</i>	Thur 28	11am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

### **The Arts Society, Rickmansworth**

Sarratt Village Hall  
Tuesday 12 March

#### **Henry Moore: a revolution in British Sculpture**

*Jo Walton*

11.00am; tea and coffee from 10.30am

For further information contact Gill Gowing (777715)

## **Rickmansworth Garden, Arts & Homecrafts Society**

Open Evening  
Wednesday 20 March  
**Introduction to Herbal Medicine**

*Jackie Power*

8.00pm

Mill End Baptist Church Hall, Field Way Rickmansworth

## **St Mary's People**

### **Deaths**

#### **GUIL BOSHOF**

We were sorry to hear of the death of Guil Boshoff peacefully in his nursing home at the end of January and we extend our love and prayers to Jean.

#### **SHEILA NUNN**

Those who knew her will be sad to hear of Sheila Nunn's death. With husband John she was a regular, active and much loved members of St Mary's in years gone by, until age and failing memory made attending church impossible. John survives Sheila and although he also suffers from dementia, was able to attend her funeral, which took place at West Herts Crematorium on 29 January. He will miss Sheila greatly. May we remember him and the rest of the family in our prayers.

### **Smile**

*Thanks to Michael Baker*

### **Land of My Fathers**

One night, a stranger knocked at the door of a house in a small Welsh town. The householder opened the door.

"Mr Jones?"

"Yes, that's me."

'In the East, the sky is red', hissed the stranger in a low voice. The householder looked puzzled.

'In the East, the sky is red', the stranger repeated, a little louder.



The householder's face cleared. 'Ah', he said, 'Come to the wrong house, you have, boyo. I'm Jones the Coal. It's Jones the Spy you want. He's next door.'

## **Eye Test**

"Mr Brzyzcozcxski, can you read what's on the chart?"

"Read it? That's the name of my best friend!"

## ***By the Way*** **February 2019**

*John Shaw*

January, unlamented, may be gone but the Brexit roller-coaster rumbles on. Since there seems general consensus at home and abroad that a 'no deal' exit would be bad for all concerned, I still hang on to the straw that sooner or later an agreed exit will emerge. The EU has a well-earned reputation for doing deals as 'midnight' - or even five past midnight - strikes. So, perhaps they will run true to form once more. But it is a pretty nerve-wracking and dangerous wait in the meantime. But what do I know about these things (cries of "nothing" from the wings)? Like most other people, I was hopelessly wrong about the referendum outcome itself, so may be just as wrong this time.

In the meantime, while Ministers focus on Europe, problems back home continue to pile up in the pending tray: rising knife crime, recruitment problems in the NHS, prison and probation services just below boiling point, an obesity epidemic, and anxieties about the excessive exposure of children to screens of all kinds. Further abroad, we are all holding our breath that the impending catastrophe in the Yemen can be averted and that the situation in Venezuela, made all the more dangerous with the West ranged on one side against China and Russia on the other, doesn't slide into civil war or other armed conflict. All this and relations between the West and Russia are at an all-time low.

On a more cheerful note, as I write, England have just got off to a cracking start in the Six Nations rugby by soundly beating the Irish, the current champions and strong favourites, on their home patch. Can 'our boys' keep it up, in their next match, I wonder? Best not to talk about cricket, as England have just lost their last two Tests and the series against the West Indies, who completely outplayed England, despite having been written off before the start of the series

by Geoffrey Boycott who declared them to be ‘ordinary, average cricketers’! The Premiership race (football, you know) is hotting-up nicely between Liverpool and Manchester City. Someone has described it as a “two horse race with three runners”, Tottenham being the dark horse coming up on the rails.

How many of the following news items since last month passed you by, I wonder?

- Record numbers of people are in employment, according to Government figures and job vacancies are their highest since 2001. Average incomes rose by 3.4% in the year to November last, the highest for a decade
- In the last four years shoplifting in British supermarkets rose by more than 7%
- The Kumb Mela festival, attended by some 30 million Indian pilgrims, has taken place at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers. Pilgrims halt in prayer before stripping down and plunging into the water
- The BBC are sending eight celebrities on a pilgrimage from the Swiss Alps to the Vatican where they will be received by Pope Francis. In *Pilgrimage: The Road to Rome* Les Dennis will be joined by Dana Scallan (who she?), Stephen K Amos, Lesley Joseph, Greg Rutherford, Mehreen Baig (ditto) and Brendan Cole
- Janet Street Porter is to appear as herself in *Neighbours* on Channel 5 on 19 April (you have been warned)
- If you like statistics, M&S experienced a 35% increase in waistcoat sales as a result of the Gareth Southgate World Cup effect
- The number of Jaffa Cakes in a tube has reduced by 16.7 %
- And the average London pigeon has 1.6 feet

## **The Beatitudes**

*Anon*

(From Michael Baker)

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain  
And gathering them around him he taught them saying  
Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven  
Blessed are the meek  
Blessed are they that mourn  
Blessed are the merciful  
Blessed are they that thirst for justice  
Blessed are all the concerned

Blessed are you when persecuted  
Blessed are you when you suffer  
Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven  
Try to remember what I'm telling you.

Then Simon Peter said "Will this count?"

And Andrew said "Will we have a test on it?"

And James said "When do we have to know it for?"

And Philip said "How many words?"

And Bartholomew said "Will I have to stand up in front of the others?"

And John said "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."

And Matthew said "How many marks do we get for it?"

And Judas said "What is it worth?"

And the other disciples likewise.

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan and enquired of Jesus His terminal objectives in the cognitive domain.

And Jesus wept.

*Will he weep at the response from our Lent House Groups? We hope not.*

## **Top Tips to Keep Your Home Secure**

### ***Advice from Hertfordshire Constabulary for Neighbourhood Watch***

- Leave lights on in the property. If you are out for longer periods of time invest in timer switches
- Ensure all windows and doors are secure and locked. Install a 'dusk to dawn' exterior light, also leave a radio on.
- Keep car and house keys out of sight. Don't leave them on display,  
Don't keep large amounts of cash at home
- Keep photos of your valuable items and register them at <https://www.immobilise.com/> for investigation and insurance purposes
- Secure mobile devices by downloading tracking software from your app store

*For more information including a printable home security self- assessment, visit:*

[www.herts.police.uk/protectyourhome](http://www.herts.police.uk/protectyourhome)

# January Newsletter from the Food Bank

*Iris Bangs, Rickmansworth Foodbank Manager*

[info@rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk)

Dear All,

Thank you so much for all your support, donations and prayers throughout 2018. We would not be able to manage without these. Here is an update of Mill End Community Trust Activities for 2018. We opened a night shelter every Friday night as a trial during the month of February. Following this we will review the service and the needs of the community. Please pray for this initiative, that those that are homeless or sleeping rough have the courage to come and try it out. We have located one person so far; please pray that he comes.

We continue to operate four distribution points:

Mondays at The Baptist Church in Croxley Green

Tuesdays at the Mill Café in Mill End

Fridays at the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Rickmansworth

Monday-Friday at St Lawrence's Church Abbots Langley.

Currently there are discussions for the pop up café in Sarratt to also become a distribution point, as residents in this locality struggle to access the foodbanks

In the Financial year April 2017-March 2018 we provided food for 1049 individuals of whom 376 were children and 673 adults. Recently we have seen an increase in referrals to the foodbank across all distribution points and currently the number we have provided food for is 1067. Seventy-nine Christmas Hampers were once again provided across Three Rivers District and surrounding communities. Our monthly prayer diary is sent direct to forty-two supporters and all the churches, if you would like to be added to the direct circulation list, please email.

## **At the Main Base**

The Men's workshop continues to be open every Thursday evening and has regular men attending, servicing bikes or undertaking woodwork projects amidst general banter. We did open alternate Tuesday afternoons, but unfortunately our volunteer, Malcolm, has moved out of the locality. However this is something we would really like to develop, as being open when the café and associated activities are occurring has the potential for reaching other socially-isolated men. Anyone interested in leading this activity please contact us via email or attend on a Thursday evening 7.30-9 pm.

The Community Garden provided an array of vegetables for the café and a pleasant sitting area for all to enjoy. This continues to be led by dedicated volunteers but assisted by some of the clients, helping to boost self-esteem.

The Mill Café continues to provide refreshments on Tuesdays and Fridays and low cost lunches. Many of our clients are unable to pay the suggested donation, and so much is provided free of charge, but clients are encouraged to contribute as and when they are able. On Monday and Thursday evenings we are offered bread, sometimes fruit and vegetables, from Tesco's that they are unable to sell on those days and we are able to offer it freely to anyone attending the café or Food Bank.

In the café on Tuesdays we continue to host:

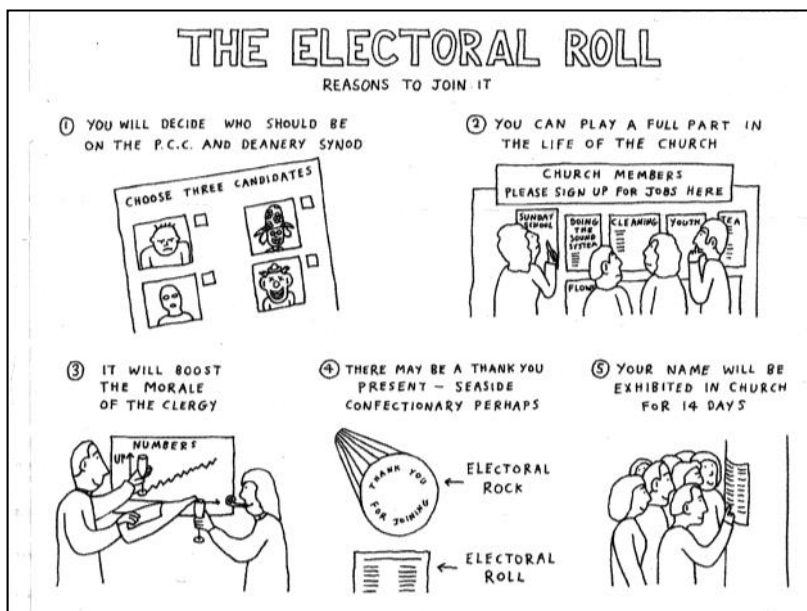
- Literacy support on 1:1 basis for clients.
- Watford Credit Union at lunchtime - providing an opportunity for people to learn to save small amounts of money.
- An adviser from the Citizens' Advice Bureau (the Trust funds 50% of the cost). This is available as a service to anyone in the community to access, but invaluable to many with benefit problems.
- The drug and alcohol outreach service from Watford-CGL (Change Grow Lives), has increased the number of clients now seen locally and has an impact on changing their behaviour. Also one of our volunteers meets with family/friends of those affected by substance misuse, allowing them to voice the ripple effect that they are dealing with.

We link with the services available from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) offering 1:1 budgeting advice and debt help when required and signposting to local CAP money courses.

- Counselling and Mentoring has been provided by Christian volunteers occasionally during the year.
- On Fridays in the café we provide basic computer and IT support for clients.
- The *Knit and Natter* group have diversified now including other art and craft projects.
- The photography group had a rest in the autumn term but is restarting in the spring.

So once again thank you for all your prayers and support, helping to sprinkle God's love in our communities.

## Dave Walker Cartoon



Reproduced with permission from [cartoonchurch.com](http://cartoonchurch.com)

## LINK

The months are ticking by! LINKs for a quarter of this year have been prepared. Will the same be true next year; who will save our magazine! Please let Deborah or a member of the LINK team know if you are at all interested in becoming an editor (see January and February LINKs)

## April LINK

**Copy deadline:** Thursday 14 March

**Publication date:** Sunday 31 March

Advanced warning: the copy date for May will be 4 April

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](mailto: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
	gmgowling@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

**Communications**

LINK (Church Magazine)		
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	Geoff Hall	720543
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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
See Round-on-line by email	LINK link www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	