

LINK

Monthly Magazine

June
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)	
3rd	12.15PM	Holy Communion	Modern
Weekly	6.00pm	Evening Service	
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 Lawson	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 Administrator	Katrina Bond	721002
Email:	churchoffice@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9.00am-12.30pm, Thursday and Friday 9.30am-1.00pm		



LINK

June 2019

To be found in this issue

4. **The Minister's Letter**
 5. **Readings at Holy Communion**
 5. **Prayers**
Topics and for local churches and people; for each day of *Thy Kingdom Come*
 7. **AGM Election Results**
 7. **From Karen to Katrina**
A change in the Church Office
 8. ***Thy Kingdom Come***
What our church is doing
 9. **A Summer invitation Picnic**
in the Vicarage garden
 9. **The Lunch Club and 12.15pm Holy Communion**
On Third Sunday from June
 10. **Lent WaterAid total**
 11. **Looking Back at Easter**
A Fire at the Alleluia, a new Easter Garden and St Albans Easter Monday Pilgrimage
 12. **The Alban Festival**
Preachers at Festival Services
 12. **Coffee after Church**
Needs more to help make it
 12. **The Church Plate**
A correction
 13. **The Sacred Menagerie**
The history of these symbols
 14. **From the Registers**
A wedding
 14. **The Rt Revd Richard Inwood**
former Bishop of Bedford has died
 14. **A Visit to Sandhurst**
- And Stations of the Cross
 15. **St Mary's School Fair**
On 22 June
 16. **CALENDAR**
 18. **St Mary's in the Past**
Parish concerns in 1913 and 1915; happy days in 1994
 21. **A Nature Note or Two**
A jay, birds nesting and a high-jumping fox
 22. **What's On in the Town**
Watersmeet, The Arts' Society Townswomen's Guild, Garden, Arts and Homecrafts Society and Young Musician of the Year
 24. **Willow Foundation**
Need help to raise funds by holding tea parties
 25. ***By the Way***
A review of May
 27. **Hacked!**
Useful contact information
 28. **Biblical Cliches**
Did you know where the phrases originated?
 28. **A Congregation Encouraged**
Bishop Eustace prefers them not to be!
 29. **The future of LINK**
Won't someone save it?
 30. **Dave Walker**
Vacancies in a PCC
 30. **Dates for July LINK**
-



Minister's Letter

Anyone sitting GCSEs, A levels, or any public examination will almost certainly have been exposed to the external pressure that requires them to shrink their universe into the outcome of those test papers. Of course exams are important, but they only tell a fraction about the people sitting them.

Tests do have their benefits. For one thing, they can provide a focus for honing and developing skills and for another, they can offer an answer to the question that everyone who has brought up a child, or kicked a football, or used their creativity to produce something new asks themselves at times: I wonder how I'm doing in relation to everyone else; I wonder how good I am at this?

Not for nothing do the sports of rugby and cricket describe their highest competitive level as 'test matches'.

I wonder what a Christian theology of testing looks like? I've heard people at various stages of their lives describe the endurance of a difficult period as a 'test from God'. When we think about the Israelites in the desert, Jesus in the wilderness, or the sacrifices that the first Christians made for the sake of the Gospel, the idea that these things are 'tests' does lend a certain perspective as to how we might make sense of them. But the idea that God tests us provides an open question about His character. Is it not capricious and unloving to expose humans to conditions in which they might suffer merely to prove that even if they pass such a test, they still fall short?

Furthermore, Jesus' rebuke to the Tempter in the wilderness is that it is not for us to put God to the test. Does God ask something of us that God is not prepared to undergo alongside us? That seems to me to be the antithesis of the Christ of the Gospels. So what should we say about testing? Here are some thoughts.

Firstly, and this might be an obvious thing to say, tests only provide the answers to the questions they ask. All of us are complex, diverse, and 'wonderfully made'. That's not a truth that is revealed through comparison to others, or in an examination transcript. We lose sight of education as a gift when we treat it as an imposition or a means to an end, and that's part of the reason why it's unwise to test God. What possible question could we ask that could quantify how God feels about us? God is revealed to us through a relationship and a person, not as the answer to a question.

Secondly, preparation for tests, what Christians call "formation", is a healthy part of the Christian life. But I don't believe that the purpose of such formation is for some sort of cosmic quiz. It's simply to get us ready for heaven. Heaven is not a test of who we are, it's an exposure

to the reality of what we look like in the full glory of God. And that's something that is more than worth preparing for because it does what we hope that our teachers do: inspire us, challenge us, broaden and deepen us, and change us into the fullest beauty of the people we were created to be.



The Revd Scott Talbott

Readings at Holy Communion

2 Jun	Ezek 36.24-28	Acts 16.16-34*	John 17.20-end
9 Jun	Gen 11.1-9	Acts 2.1-21	John 14.8-17
16 Jun	Prov 8.1-4, 21-31	Rom 5.1-5	John 16.12-15
23 Jun	Isa 65.1-9	Gal 3.23-end	Luke 8.26-39
30 Jun	1 Kings 19.15-16	Gal 5.1,13-25	Luke 9.51-end

*8am Reading

Prayers

Prayer Suggestions

Week beginning:

2 Jun	Those suffering persecution or ridicule for their faith
9 Jun	Awareness of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us
16 Jun	That we may enter the joy at the heart of the Holy Trinity
23 Jun	Courage to follow the path of Christ
30 Jun	That we may be willing co-workers with God

For Local Churches

The Deanery

2 Jun	St Andrew's, Chorleywood
9 Jun	St Lawrence, Bovingdon
16 Jun	St Mary's, Rickmansworth
23 Jun	All Saints', Croxley Green
30 Jun	Christ Church, Chorleywood

The Methodist Circuit

Flamstead
Gaddesden Row
Hemel Hempstead
High Street, Harpenden
Kings Langley

People Living Locally

2 Jun	Ashleigh Court
9 Jun	Langdale Lodge, Swan Close
16 Jun	Salters Close
23 Jun	Norfolk Road
30 Jun	Talbot Road



A Prayer for *Thy Kingdom Come*

Being celebrated from Ascension Day to Pentecost (see page 8)

From *Nine Days of Prayer I hear you differently!* (the Methodist Church's booklet of reflections:thy-kingdom-come-methodist-novena-2019.pdf)

- Day 1** Listening God, light up the world through us today. Help us to hear your word and put it into practice.
- Day 2** Listening God, set fire to our complacency, turn anger into action, indignation into protest. Fill us with your radical passion for justice and prompt us to persist in the face of deaf ears.
- Day 3** Listening God, dare us to reckless generosity so that we say “Yes” before we ask “How?” to enable us to open the door on surprising conversations and life changing encounters.
- Day 4** Listening God, don't let us shout today, either in frustration or anger. Help us not to mistake volume for righteousness; break open spaces in arguments so that we can wait for wisdom. In the face of destructive noise, let quiet love be strongest.
- Day 5** Listening God, when people tell us weird things, help us to listen without judgment, carrying the message of grace in the way we receive another's truth, willing to hear of your risen presence from unlikely witnesses.
- Day 6** Listening God, help us to ask questions that open up conversation as we fall into step with companions on the road. Show us how to understand your story and find meaning for our lives day by day, step by step.
- Day 7** Listening God, it is hard not to know what will happen next, whether we are going to grieve or rejoice, what good news might look like, what bad news might imply. Help us not to rush ahead but to live with unknowing to dwell in your uncomfortable mystery.
- Day 8** Listening God, we speak in many tongues but your Spirit gives discernment in the babble. Help us to value diversity and complexity, seeing in people who don't go together the wonderful possibility of your reconciling grace.
- Day 9** Listening God, blow away the cobwebs of our insecurities, make us so sure of your love that we dare to live differently, so confident of a fresh start that we are unafraid of making mistakes and so immersed in your Spirit that our doubts can surface and be aired. Inspire us to listen and question until such time as you gather us in, like chicks under your wing.

Daily Listening God, open my ears today to the world, to the
Ending stranger, to myself.

Pause, sit quietly, breathe deeply, let the day greet you kindly.

AGM Election Results

Methodist

ELECTED

Methodist Member of United Council (UCC): Petra Hedges

POSITIONS REMAINING UNFILLED:

Steward (1)

Church Council (4) *NB Not the UCC*

Circuit Steward (1)

Members of the UCC (1)

Church of England

ELECTED

Churchwardens: David Carruthers, Jane Earl, David Hibbert

Members of the UCC: Andrew Bilton, Buzz Coster, David Gilbert, Martyn Gowing, Judith Haigh, Rob Kay, John Payne, Adam Shiels

ELECTED PREVIOUSLY AND REMAINING ON THE UCC:

Deanery Synod Member

Sue Hillier

Diocesan Synod Member

John Rhodes

POSITIONS REMAINING UNFILLED

Deanery Synod Members (3)

UCC Members (4)

Should you be interested in being elected to any of the above vacant positions, please speak to Deborah.

All Change in the The Church Office

Farewell and Welcome

On 10 May we said goodbye to **KAREN ELLIS** after nearly 3¾ years in the Church Office. She has been an extraordinary Parish Secretary, always cheerful, willing, efficient and caring. We on the LINK team are particularly grateful to her for all her work producing LINKs.

She was formally thanked on behalf of the Church by the two Churchwardens, David Carruthers and David Hibbert and presented with a bouquet and a bottle of bubbly (Neither Deborah nor Jane Earl were able to be there.) We wish her well in her new teaching job.



The Presentation to Karen

We extend a warm welcome to **KATRINA BOND**, who took over in the Church Office on 13 May with the new title of Church Administrator. We shall soon find out what extra this entails, but she will be in the Church Office every weekday morning. Please be patient and helpful while she is finding her feet and getting to know us all.

For the time being Katrina's hours will be:

Monday-Wednesday	9.00am-12.30pm
Thursday and Friday	9.30am-1.00pm



Karen showing Katrina the Ropes



Passing over the Office Keys



Thy Kingdom Come: Ascension Day to Pentecost

We gave full details of our programme for *Thy Kingdom Come* (during the 9 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost) in May's LINK (available on the website). This is a brief summary of how we are joining in this growing international and ecumenical movement. On Ascension Day (30 May) there is a Deanery Service at St Peter's, Mill End.

You can pick up from church a special booklet of **Novenas**: readings, reflections and prayer prompts to use at home during the Nine Days,

and in addition you are asked to join with others at 5.00pm in praying for up to five people you know who you would like to come to know Jesus Christ (***Five @ Five***).

There is an ***Icthus Trail*** of twenty St Mary's fish around the Parish, that were made in a workshop on 19 May and put in place.

In the Church, there will be ***Prayer Stations***, encouraging different ways of praying, linked to the *Lord's Prayer*.

Finally at **Pentecost** (Sunday 9 June), there will be a ***Celebration Bring and Share Picnic*** at 12.15pm (please indicate your contribution on the list in Church). We are asked to wear something (or everything red - or white).

Also at 5pm a minibus will leave for the ***Beacon Celebration Service*** at St Albans (please sign up in Church if you'd like a seat on it).

For daily prayers see page 6, and for further details watch the Pew Sheets.

St Mary's Summer Invitation Picnic

Everyone was warmly invited, via the Easter Newsletter, to a picnic on Sunday 23 June at 4pm in the Vicarage Garden (or in the Church Centre if the weather doesn't co-operate) and promised scones, cakes and cups of tea a-plenty. The idea was to invite family, friends and neighbours. If you are planning to join the merry scrum (we hope!), please bring a seat or a blanket if you can.

St Mary's people please watch the Pew Sheet and your emails for further details. No doubt there will be requests to produce those scones and cakes, as we do so well!

This month's cover photograph taken by David Hibbert, looks out from the top of St Mary's tower over Church Street, and is meant to celebrate those things we do in and for the local community.

The Lunch Club

A reminder to members of the Lunch Club that it is changing from the Second to the Third Sunday in the month from this month, still at 1.00pm.

The monthly said Holy Communion Service at 12.15pm will also be changed to the Third Sunday.

Dates for the next four months are Sundays 16 June, 21 July and 15 September; there is no Lunch Club in August.

For any queries about the Lunch Club, please contact Gill Gowing: telephone 777715; email gmgowing@btopenworld.com

Lent Donations to WaterAid

At the time of compiling LINK the total sum raised for WaterAid, including the proceeds from the Lent Lunch was £1062.58.

Easter

The Easter Alleluia

Never had the sun shone brighter upon this delightful outdoor short service.

Numbers of people attending remain fairly constant; by the time everyone had gathered there were around thirty-five people this year - and a number of dogs. Those who go much appreciate the service. At least one person (below) appears to be having a Pentecost experience!



Neither had the fire burned so enthusiastically; someone in a nearby house rang the fire brigade - but those in the fire engine saw no threat and drove by without stopping.

Photos by Jane Pummell



The Easter Garden

Alison Vincent Edwards

The idea this year was to make an Easter garden outside. Deborah had seen this done with a Christmas stable scene and it would enable everyone walking through the churchyard to share it and maybe reflect on its meaning.

After much discussion between Deborah and myself the garden was planned as a simple affair on the top of a conveniently placed flat tomb. It was created with the help of Cameron and his Mum, Deborah and me.

Hopefully the garden would be easier to manage. The idea was that it would look after itself, extra plants could be added [as indeed they were] and nature would take care of the watering. We were not to know that the temperatures would be 10° above average over a dry Easter period and that the wind would be strong enough to keep blowing our weighted figures over!

It was also easier for everyone to come out of church on Easter Sunday and stand around the garden to watch the stone being rolled away.

Photos by Alison Vincent Edwards, David Hibbert and Brenda Bell



The Easter Monday Pilgrimage

Ten people from St Mary's completed the traditional walk to St Albans in the Easter sunshine and joined others from all over the Diocese for the traditional great Easter Monday Service.

The Alban Festival and Pilgrimage

Saturday 22 June

In addition to the details given in the May LINK on page 20, the Alban procession that includes giant puppets will start at 11am from St Peter's Church in St Albans. Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral will preach at the Festival Eucharist, and Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Oxford University, at the Festival Evensong.

Coffee after Church: *Vale et Salve!*

Anne Kay

Over the past eighteen months we have said "Farewell" to several loyal helpers who have given unstinted service to this scheme for refreshments after the 10 o'clock Sunday Service over many, many years. They all reluctantly felt the time had come to 'retire' and I thank these ladies most sincerely for their cheerful commitment always.

Mention should be made of a trio of fairly new parishioners who so readily came to my assistance at a difficult moment. I am so grateful for their support and it is pleasing that they will continue to help in the future.

Further helpers are always welcome to join a team. We just about manage to fill the slots each quarter. One lady kindly does monthly sessions, but without her offer, we could be in trouble!

If anyone can give a hand, usually twice a year, I would be delighted to tell them more.

Erratum: The Church Plate

Last month we mentioned the importance of the right **letter**; ironically we failed over the right **number** in our review of Graham Martin's book. This is his correction:

The fire at St. Mary's, (see Appendix 1, pp.2-3) was in 1522, when ornaments (silver etc) were destroyed; I speculated whether all had been replaced by 1552 or not.

Our apologies; do read the original, available in the Church Library.

The Sacred Menagerie

Dorothy Entwistle

Never mind Noah's ark being full of animals. The Bible itself abounds in them. For a start, Adam named them all in the Garden of Eden and from then on there are creatures everywhere. Most are fairly ordinary and familiar to us like the sheep abiding in the fields and the fish in the lake, the ram in the thicket, the fatted calf, the dogs that ate most of Jezebel after she was thrown out of the window, the camel that couldn't get through the eye of the needle, and the pale horse whose rider was Death. But a few of them might be called rather peculiar.

Consider the four oddities in St Mary's east window. Admittedly one is a man and quite reasonable-looking except that he's got wings, but of the others, one is a winged lion, another is a winged ox, and the fourth is a contorted eagle.



There have been attempts to explain what these dumb creatures could possibly signify. The one who started this off, it is said, was Ezekiel. Ezekiel, being an Old Testament prophet, had his work cut out trying to subdue his people into good behaviour. They were already miserable enough being exiles in Babylon. Ezekiel did his best by facing them with horrifying visions of half-human monsters. Each of his four monsters, as well as having four wings, had four faces. On the sides of their heads they had a man's face, a lion's face, an ox's face and an eagle's face.

As if that wasn't enough, much later similar monsters appeared to the solitary visionary, John, on Patmos, the sort of sights that solitary persons living on islands perhaps tend to have. At least they were not quite so scary as Ezekiel's for they only had one face each, though there were lots of wings and a curious number of eyes. There they are again in his book called Revelation: the very same fearsome beings.

An ancient bishop called Irenaeus, who lived in about 200AD and who specialised in having ideas, after thinking for a bit came upon the notion of where these grim oddities fitted in. He said they stood for the gospel writers. After all there are four of them. He worked out good reasons why this must be so and his views were taken up and widely disseminated and have inspired people ever since.

In art the members of this sacred menagerie have often been depicted not as frightening but soothingly as household pets keeping the writers company at their toilsome task, and, odd as it may seem, it certainly draws the eye, as not many people, for instance, have oxen lying about in the study.

So these writers weren't of course themselves ethereal angels or grotesque magical beasts. They were four ordinary men who had known, or known of, an extraordinary man to whom very strange things happened. And they felt compelled to write about them. Their names were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John...

From the Registers

Wedding

May God bless the marriage of

20 April **DOMINIC BENSON** and **SOPHIE ALLARD**

Death

May he rest in the peace of Christ

14 APRIL **THE RT REVD RICHARD INWOOD**, Bishop of Bedford
2003-2012

A Military Set of Stations of the Cross

David Hibbert

On 10 April Roger Willett and I went with our wives and some other guests on a Rickmansworth Townswomen's Guild outing to the Royal



Military Academy at Sandhurst. The Academy is world famous, not just as a Military Academy, but as a training ground for future statesmen and rulers. Winston Churchill trained there, as did King Hussein and his son the current King Abdullah II of Jordan. The current site has been in use for more than 200 years.

We watched the Army rehearsing their display for the final parade later in the week. After lunch we were given a conducted tour round the Academy's buildings and grounds that included a visit to the Roman Catholic Chapel. To my delight it had a set of 15 Stations of the Cross instead of the usual 14.



The scenes of the first 14 Stations were painted by Stella Schmolle in 1948. The 15th was painted by Luke Elwes in 2005, all on the lids of wooden ammunition boxes. If you look carefully, especially at the photo of the Fourth Station, you can see the holes where the lids were fastened in the corners.



*Stations of the Cross in the Roman Catholic Chapel at Sandhurst:
IV, XII and XV*



St Mary's School Fair

Our School Fair takes place on
Saturday 22 June between noon and 4pm
Do support them.

CALENDAR

June 2019

- 1 Sat 7.00pm Hertford County Association of Bellringers
- 2 SUN **THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
BCP The Sunday after Ascension Day
8.00am Said Holy Communion
10.00am All-age Sung Holy Communion
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 3 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Group meets
3.15pm J Club at St Mary's School
7.45pm Community & Outreach Committee, Cloisters Hall
- 4 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
- 5 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School
7.45pm Rickmansworth Deanery Synod
- 6 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
2.15pm *Meet for Tea*
- 9 SUN **PENTECOST** *BCP Whit Sunday*
8.00am Said Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Holy Communion with incense
12.15pm Pentecost Picnic Lunch
5.00pm Minibus for TKC Beacon Celebration, St Albans
7.00pm *X Team* meets
- 10 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Group meets
3.15pm J Club at St Mary's School
7.45pm Fabric & Churchyard Committee, Cloisters Hall
- 11 Tue **BARNABAS THE APOSTLE**
10.00am Said Holy Communion
6.00pm Wedding Rehearsal
- 12 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School
7.30pm West Herts and Borders Circuit Meeting, in Church
- 13 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
12.15pm Rickmansworth Clergy Chapter Meeting
Copy deadline for July LINK
- 14 Fri 1.00pm Service of Holy Matrimony
- 15 Sat 5.00pm Durham University Society of Change Ringers
- 16 SUN **TRINITY SUNDAY**
8.00am Said Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Holy Communion
12.15pm Said Holy Communion
1.00pm *Lunch Club*
6.00pm Said Evening Prayer

Bellringers and Choir (weekly): Wed 7.30pm Bellringing; Thu 7.45pm Choir
New members welcome; just come along

17 Mon	10.30am	Cloisters Hall Committee meets
	2.00pm	<i>Threads for Change</i> Group meets
	3.15pm	J Club at St Mary's School
	7.30pm	LINK Editors meeting
	7.45pm	Stewardship & Finance, Cloisters Hall
18 Tue	10.00am	Said Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Home Communion through afternoon
19 Wed	11.30am	Collective Worship at St Mary's School
	2.30pm	<i>The Teapot Club, in Church - All welcome</i>
20 Thu	DAY OF THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION	
	9.30am	<i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
22 Sat	9.30am	Minibus leaves for Albantide Pilgrimage
	12 noon	St Mary's School Fair (see p 15)
23 SUN	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00am	Said Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Summer Invitation Picnic, <i>The Vicarage (see p 9)</i>
	6.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	7.00pm	X Team meets
24 Mon	THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST	
	2.00pm	<i>Threads for Change</i> Group meets
	3.15pm	J Club at St Mary's School
25 Tue	10.00am	Said Holy Communion
	12 noon	10-bell ringing practice - <i>All ringers welcome</i>
26 Wed	11.30am	Collective Worship at St Mary's School
27 Thu	9.30am	<i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
29 Sat	PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES	
	11.30am	Quarter Peal with Visiting Ringers
30 SUN	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00am	Said Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Holy Communion
	11.00am	Alex Huzzey is being ordained Deacon at St Albans
	12 noon	Holy Baptism
	6.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
		<i>July LINK is published</i>
July		
1 Mon	2.00pm	<i>Threads for Change</i> Group meets
2 Tue	10.00am	Said Holy Communion
3 Wed	THOMAS THE APOSTLE	
	11.30am	Collective Worship at St Mary's School
4 Thu	9.30am	<i>Little Angels</i> Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
7 SUN	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00am	Said Holy Communion
	10.00am	All-age Sung Holy Communion
		Home Communion
	6.00pm	Said Evening Prayer

St Mary's in the Past

1913

The Revd Parkinson began his June letter with the good news that the whole £300 needed for “the renovation of our fine and ancient church bells” had been raised by “all classes... according to their several ability”. They were recast by Messrs Warner of Spitalfields, London, who were at that time recasting peals of ten bells from both Chelmsford Parish Church (soon to become the Cathedral) and York Minster, whose tenor weighed 56 cwt. The work on St Mary's bells would be started at once and completed in 3 months.

At this time the Church of England was giving considerable support to the Welsh Church in opposing its Disestablishment and Disendowment Bill. The Bill would mean that Welsh churches would lose 12 shillings of every pound of endowments given to them, leave 193 incumbents without a penny of theirs and others less than 5 shillings a week. They would hand over control to a central body and leave many poor Welsh parishes without a resident minister. Yet it wouldn't relieve tithe payers, help ratepayers or benefit Nonconformity. There were to be big demonstrations against this ‘unjust and unholy bill’ in Hyde Park and Hatfield Park, and the Revd Parkinson, as Rural Dean, was to organise one in Watford, ‘now such a populous and important centre that it seemed right that it should have its own’. He urged each parish to have its own committee and organise its own contingent of men and women protesters against the Church making ‘unrighteous attempts to despoil, curtail and destroy age-long rights and liberties and interfere where interference is an impertinent intrusion’.

Controversial proposals to open Batchworth Lake to Sunday traffic apparently had seriously alarmed people who imagined ‘a miniature Welsh Harp locally, with all its Sunday disturbance and desecration’. It was argued that no-one knew how many Sunday trippers from London might be attracted to visit it. There was also alarm about a very large influx of fishermen, ‘whose weekly advent, though orderly enough, [did] nothing to encourage the Primary Duty of Man, worship on the Lord's Day’.

The Revd Parkinson dismissed possible arguments for opening the Lake, maintaining that hiring boats out was a commercial undertaking, which was absolutely forbidden on the Lord's Day. He argued that opening the Lake involved other Sunday labour that was also forbidden by God's Law: including hiring out boats, collecting the Bridge toll and protecting life. (The lake had 25 feet of spring water and sheer banks.)

He added that publicans deserved a day of rest on a Sunday, and incidentally so did postmen - could they not do without a Sunday post? He finished by extolling the rights of every man to ‘a full and free opportunity of joining in Public Worship’.

1915

Our *Parish Magazine's* news was almost exclusively of WW1. Revd Parkinson began his June letter:

It is hard to get away even for a moment in our thoughts and prayers from anything but this great and awful War, especially when our Parochial Community has had it pressed home to us yet more closely as it has been by recent sad losses.

Seven more men in the parish had died since the previous month. The Vicar picked out one of them for special mention:

Jack Jarvis was only 17, and will be remembered by many of us as a bright and bonnie fair-haired Choir Boy, one of the nicest and most reverent boys we have ever had in our Choir.

Following the Vicar's letter, there was a long article entitled, *Our Soldiers at Netley Hospital and the Sinking of the Lusitania*.

The only purely local church news other than a death announcement was a report on the first meeting of the new PCC. It concerned Church Finance and those appointed to deal with it. PCC members were listed under the bodies within the Church they represented. An extract from a recent 'Bishop's Charge' concerned the Parochial Quota and teaching Church members their obligation to all share 'in the maintenance and extension of the Church', suggesting that Parish Quotas might be a new concept.

1994

In his June 1994 Leader, the Revd Bruce Driver, wrote about daily Morning and Evening Prayer. This is a much abridged version.

I arrive in the Lady Chapel well before the start and light the candles; it's good, particularly in the morning, to have half an hour for meditation and contemplative prayer before Matins. There is a serene atmosphere in St Mary's which is especially noticeable in the Lady Chapel. Quite often I am joined by others. Whether I am alone or not, the service from the ASB is said out loud; in the course of each week I pray for dozens of people by name, local deanery, diocese and worldwide, regularly remembering every soul who lives in Rickmansworth, for whom we have a care...

"Whether I am alone", that is strictly not true. I am never alone. I never feel alone. The greater family of the Church is by now "living and departed in the Lord Jesus", they are all there. ... How close they seem when God is in our hearts and minds at prayer. I never quite feel that I have a job to do... so if someone asks, "What have you done at Ricky", I am inclined to answer,

There was a recipe for Elderflower Fritters, that have a distinctive flavour. They are made by dipping gently-washed insect-free elderflower heads in batter and frying. When cooked the stalk can be easily detached before serving.

The Mother and Toddler Group, which was held three mornings a week, needed a new leader.

Roddy Martin (Graham and Celia's son), David Charterhouse and Paul Harding had completed the London Marathon.

In the Renewal Section, there were details of the Canterbury Pilgrimage and requests for people to support The Revd Bruce Driver en route, walk with him or join him for Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral (places to be booked on coaches). Meanwhile during the Summer there was to be a *Garden Party* with swimming at the Moons', the Catering and Social Committees were combining in *A Midsummer Feast of Food and Music*, and a *Grand Barbecue would be held* during the Summer. There were still spaces in the Autumn diary though.

Joan Martin was already appealing for goods to sell in the Church Shop that was opening in October, as storage space had been found.

A Nature Note or Two

Brenda Bell

This month David Hibbert sent us this superb photo of a jay taken in his garden. We reproduce it because if someone wants me to identify a strange bird they have seen, inevitably it usually seems to be a jay! Their plumage is spectacular, but you don't really want them in your garden, especially with eggs and young birds around.

This gave me the excuse to share my excitement that some 'rare' birds in this neck of the woods have squashed a nest under the tile cladding of our building - sparrows! They must be doing well, judging by the number of journeys the parents have made to and from the



nest during Easter weekend and since—and now the parents are encouraging them to fledge. I've so missed their cheerful chirping in recent years; there has been a small colony at the other end of the flats, even though there is less cover there, but they haven't ventured up to this end for years. Blue tits are also busy feeding

young under another loose tile and I am glad to see and hear a robin nearby again, after a robin-less year.

As spring progressed, I watched pigeons and jackdaws tugging at thin birch branches for nesting material, and possibly the ringed-neck parakeets taking twigs from the Indian bean tree. It was hard to tell, as they were further away and still feeding on those now very dry bean pods that also need pulling off the tree to eat. They were now in brilliant breeding plumage. I noticed that a broody pair were regulars before the leaves obscured them; on one occasion five arrived together. Now the may blossom is out and pigeons are feasting on it.

One morning earlier in the spring I drew my curtain to see a smart young *beige* and white fox, nearly fully grown, standing poised near my window in the early morning spring sunshine. He had been stopped in his tracks by a fence at the top of the steep bank. In front of him over 6 feet away was a 4 foot high wall; to his left the spiky fence. He stood very alert there for several minutes, before suddenly taking a breath-taking leap onto the wall, scrambling over and disappearing. I was astounded. He didn't take a run before he jumped; he didn't seem to make a big effort, he apparently just rose into the air from standing. What athleticism!

What's On in Rickmansworth

Watersmeet

Film: The Case for Christ	Sat 1	2pm, 5pm
Sylphide , West Herts College	Tue 4- Wed 5	7pm
The Tina Turner Experience	Thur 6	7.30pm
Razzamataz Showcase 2019	Sat 8	5.30pm
Wannabe: The Spice Girls Show	Fri 14	7.30pm
Spring of Talents 2019 Bhavini's <i>Bollywood 'n Beyond</i>	Sun 16	3pm
Film: The Bookshop	Thur 20	2pm,7.45pm
The Magic of Musicals , Stagecoach	Sun 30	5pm

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland brought out a new hymn book. In the first print a hymn for funerals was unfortunately included in the marriage section. The opening words were, "Go happy soul, thy days are ended."

The Arts Society, Rickmansworth

Sarratt Village Hall

Tuesday 11 June

Rimpa Art: Literary Inspiration for design*

Meri Arichi

11.00am; tea and coffee from 10.30am

For further information contact Gill Gowing (777715)

*A Japanese style

Rickmansworth (E) Townswomen's Guild

St Mary's Church Centre

Thursday 20 June

7.30 for 7.45pm

The Secrets of Latimer House

Colin Dakes

Contact Suzanne Hill (772809) for further information

New members always welcome

Rickmansworth Garden, Arts & Homecrafts Society

Open Evening

Wednesday 19 June, 8.00pm

Sam Ryder

Stephen Potter

Mill End Baptist Church Hall, Field Way



rickmansworth
**young
musician**
of the year **2019**

The Concert
Saturday 6th July 2019, 7pm

£15 / £5 for under 19's
Tickets available on the door

**The Baptist Church, High Street,
Rickmansworth WD3 1EH**

This competition is promoted by:
Three Rivers Music Society, Chorleywood Music and the Rotary Club of Rickmansworth

Willow Foundation

Some readers may remember the wife of Bob Wilson, TV sports presenter, coming to talk about Willow at our main service some years ago. They founded the charity because they saw what would help their terminally-ill daughter and perceived a wider need. We supported Willow for several years through Church Giving funds. They asked us to spread the word through LINK about this year's fundraising campaign seeking people to either arrange a tea party (from June onwards) or support their lottery.

Willow is the only national charity working with seriously ill 16-40 year-olds to fulfil uplifting and unforgettable Special Days. Each day is a life-affirming experience that can lift spirits, reunify families and be a source of strength when it's needed most. To date, Willow has provided more than 16,000 Special Days for young adults diagnosed with a life-threatening condition such as cancer, motor neurone disease, cystic fibrosis and Huntington's disease. For more information on fundraising for Willow, visit <https://www.willowfoundation.org.uk/support-willow/fundraising>. If you are interested in holding a tea party (see next page), please visit <https://www.willowfoundation.org.uk/tea> or call 01707 259 777.



Fancy a cuppa?



Take Time
for Tea

**Take Time for Friends. Take Time
for Family. Take Time for Special Days
this June with Willow.**

Take Time for Tea is the perfect way to take some time and create memories over a slice of something nice. By enjoying a tasty treat you will be helping to create more smiles in 2019 for seriously ill young adults experiencing the darkest of times

Whether it's at home with friends and family, at one of your community group meetings or at work with colleagues, your fundraising will enable Willow to continue to support 16 to 40 year olds across the UK.

**For more information or to sign up visit willowfoundation.org.uk/tea
or call 01707 259 777.**



Willow Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales No. 1106746
and a registered charity in Scotland No. SC045811.

By the Way

A Look Back at May

John Shaw

Easter (warm and sunny) and the May Bank Holiday (grey and cold) are now behind us. So, too, are the local Council elections, from which both Tories and Labour emerged with bloodied noses, while the LibDems, Greens and other smaller parties emerged beaming broadly. And, just to keep us all in election trim, we face European elections which everyone had hoped would not be necessary, particularly as they carry a price tag of some £120 million, apparently. In the meantime, the talks between the Government and Labour, designed to find a compromise Brexit deal, drag on and, apart from the occasional spark of hope, seem doomed to failure. So, on we go. Embarrassing, or what?

To counter much bad news in the papers (continued tension in Venezuela, unrest in the Middle East, natural disasters in India and Mozambique), Spring teeters on the brink of Summer. Blossom has given way to a thousand shades of fresh green leaves, birds are busy nesting, potatoes need earthing-up and it's time to break out the dahlia tubers once again. And it's heart-warming to see how a sixteen year-old Swedish school girl, Greta Thunberg, has been able to galvanise world opinion on the seriousness of climate change, even if it brought Oxford Circus to a standstill for a week. And I'm proud of my granddaughter Flo, aged 14, who (with the active support of her parents and the tacit support of her teachers) has twice left school in order to demonstrate concern about climate change. And two 13 year-old girl cousins from Bradford upon Avon have nursed 400 hedgehogs back to health in a hedgehog clinic which they run from a garden shed. Well done, girls, Every little helps.

Less dramatic news items which caught my attention in the last month include Jeff Bezos' wife, Mackenzie, settling for a mere \$36 billion by way of a divorce settlement. The new railway company planning HS2 has bought comedian John Bishop's house in Cheshire for £6.8 million. The famously faked images of the Cottingley Fairies sold for £50,000 at auction. Salisbury has been named the best place to live in the UK. In the last decade airports have reduced the number of lost luggage to a mere 25 million items. Kathy Clugston, the new Chair of *Gardeners' Question Time*, has confessed that her own garden is, in fact, a window box. The ninth annual Boring Conference was held recently in the Conway Hall in London. Attended by some 400 people it discussed such issues as car park roofs, the advance of the hand drier, and the life and times of Budgens supermarkets.

On the sporting front, the football season reached a climax with Manchester City and Liverpool competing for the title down to the wire. Lionel Messi scored his six hundredth goal for Barcelona in their first leg win over Liverpool, but this was overtaken by Liverpool's heroics in the second leg; they came back from a 3-0 deficit to beat Barcelona at Anfield by 4-0. Extraordinary! 'Tiger Roll' won the Grand National for the second time running; and Ruby Walsh, aged 39, retired from the saddle with 2,757 winners in Great Britain and Ireland to his name.

Recent deaths have included those of Ian McDonald (aged 82), whose lugubrious tones brought us news throughout the Falklands conflict. John Nott, the then Defence Secretary, said that McDonald "was extremely dull and boring... but brilliant at what he did". Also Tommy Smith (aged 74) who made 638 appearances for Liverpool, won the FA cup in 1965 against Leeds, and, viewed as one of the game's enforcers, and was said to have been 'quarried not born'. Others include: Les

Reed (aged 83) who wrote hit songs for Tom Jones, including *Delilah*, *The Green Green Grass of Home* and *It's not unusual*; Peter Mayhew (aged 74) who captured imaginations as Chewbacca in *Star Wars* (personal confession, I have never seen any of the *Star Wars* saga); and Lord Toby Jug (aged 53), founder of the Eccentric party, whose policies included five-day week-ends and two day weeks; sleeping policemen should be replaced by members of the House of Lords; and obesity should be tackled by putting strong glue in lip balm. Oddly, he never won an election.

Want a joke (or two) to finish with? Apparently London cabbies' code name for the Houses of Parliament is 'The Gasworks'. Or how about the man who goes into a pet shop and asks to buy a wasp. "We don't sell wasps", says the shopkeeper. "Yes, you do", he replies, "you've got two of them in the window." Or if you prefer something a bit more sophisticated, how about the story of a somewhat patronising English foreman on a London building site who asks an Irish labourer, "Now, Paddy do you know the difference between a joist and a girder?" "I do, Sorr", replies Paddy, "Joist is the autor of Ulysses and Girder is the autor of Faust". *Boom, boom...*

Hacked!

Brenda Bell

I thought some readers might find it helpful to have to hand the information about how to report it if their computers are hacked, as the LINK email told me mine was recently. Unfortunately it is all too common these days. Of course the police don't follow up each report individually, but adding up all the shreds of evidence just might help them to stop a few of these menaces.

This It wasn't just an email delivered to every one of our contacts following which we would just change my password and carry on. This hacker claimed to have inserted malware on my computer and money was demanded. I was advised by my computer helpline to report the matter to the police cyber-crime division, and they gave me the following contact information is:

Email: www.actionfraud/police/uk

Phone 0300 123 2040 (choose first option 1 then option 3)

I chose to phone, and was glad I did, despite having to hold for some 45 minutes, as the man in the police department was able to reassure me that my computer had not been affected; it was just a demand for money. Also he patiently guided my arthritic computer to the right simple report form. (He said I reminded him of his mother - at least he

didn't say grandmother!) I filled in the form on-line and forwarded a copy of the offending email as requested.

Briefly, I had opened the email because the subject was 'link'. Although the hacker wrote that we should change our password 'right now', there seemed little point as he went on to say that he knew all my passwords and, if I updated them, his software would tell him what the new ones were. Of course I did so nevertheless.

The man pretended that he had gained access to my computer some time ago, and that, among other unpleasant things like using malware to link it to pornography sites, he had made a backup of my device and 'a video' of all my files and contacts. He thought 1000USD was cheap for 'sorting this out' and told me how to pay in bitcoins within two days - even how to obtain them. If I did not you would all receive the 'video'. When I checked my spam folder, it contained a number of emails offering me bitcoins at favourable rates.

Ten Cliches from the Bible

Repeated from St Mary's LINK, June 1994

All things to all men	1 Cor 9.22
Apple of your eye	Ps 17.8
By the skin of your teeth	Job 19.20
Crumbs from the rich man's table	Luke 16.21
In the twinkling of an eye	1 Cor 15.52
The left hand does not know what the right is doing	Matt 6.3
A man after his own heart	1 Sam 13.14
See eye to eye	Isaiah 52.8
Wheels within wheels	Ezek 1.16 and 10.10
A wolf in sheep's clothing	Matt 7.15

Why Not to Encourage Your Congregation

Another letter from retired Bishop Eustace to nephew Darren, a young vicar, from Minehead Matters via Joan Martin's sister

My Dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course, "Taking Responsibility for your Church" among our congregation, I am unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota or give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who was eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and has fired -up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning—although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymn books. That is unheard of in this church—we always ignore people and leave them to find hymn books—if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take prayers, produce new orders of service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group that sought to ‘beautify’ the church who proved most tiresome. Hanging fairy lights around the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears - although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a goldfish in a polythene bag.

Our pulpit has been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off—probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back.

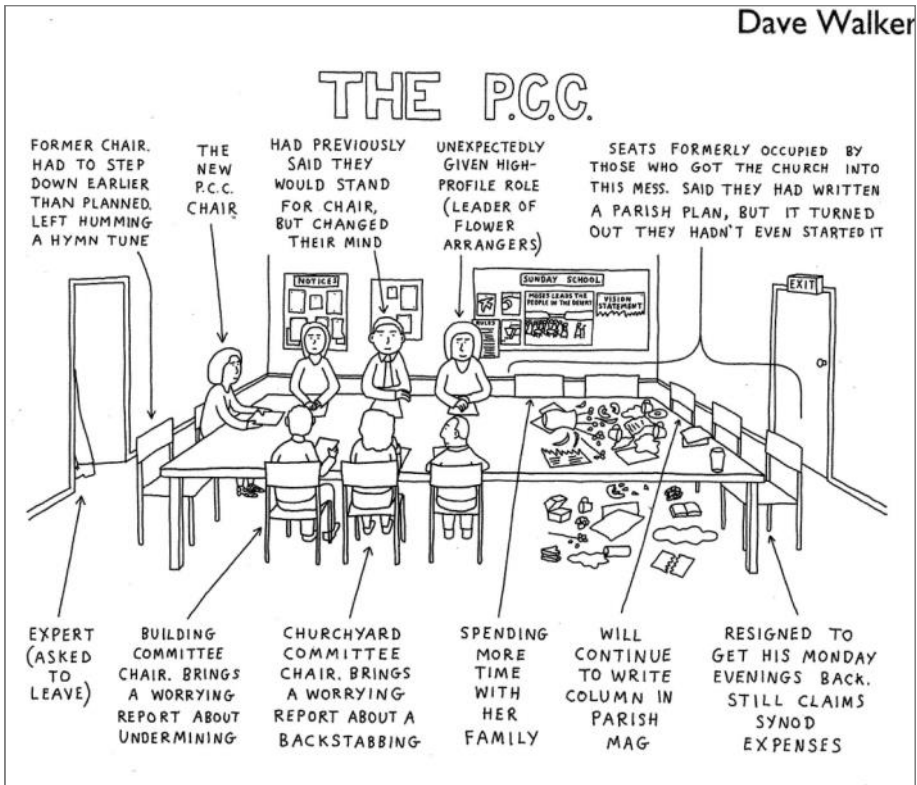
Your loving Uncle Eustace

LINK—Help!

Brenda Bell

To answer the two questions I keep on getting asked: No I’ve not retired yet. As you mostly pay by the year, I undertook to soldier on for the whole year. And no we haven’t yet found anyone to replace me—and we are still very keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the rest of the team. Half the year has gone. Ideally someone should be starting very soon so that they get up to speed ready to typeset the January or February issue.

Could you be the person or people to enable LINK to continue?



This cartoon from Church Times is reproduced by arrangement with Dave Walker

For PCC, read UCC; it needs YOU!

July LINK

Copy deadline Thursday 13 June

Publication date Sunday 30 June

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, whose phone numbers are on the back cover, 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.*

Contacts (continued)

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

Officers (continued)

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

Worship

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

Christian Teaching and Prayer

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

Pastoral

Baptism (Christening)		via Church Office
Confirmation	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Children's Communion	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Home Communion		via Church Office
Home/Hospital Visiting	The Revd Deborah Snowball	772627
Wedding Bookings		via Church Office
Coffee after Church	Anne Kay	773470
Handbell Ringers	Suzanne Warren	01442 385922
Meet for Tea	Joan Martin	775433
Motley Crew (Drama Group)	Chris and Sue Hillier	779580
Sunday Lunch Club	Gill Gowing	777715 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)		
editors:	Brenda Bell	772482
	Geoff Hall	720543
	Jane Pummell (& Subscriptions)	774343
email:	link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk	
Newsletter	c/o Communication Committee	
Website	Buzz Coster	775908

Representatives for Organisations Beyond St Mary's

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