

LINK

Monthly Magazine

August
2019



God be with you wherever you go



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth
The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership
Serving the whole community

Minister's Letter



When I look back and remember those endless summer holidays of my childhood, the sun always seemed to be shining and one day slipped seamlessly into the next. Is it just nostalgia or were things really different then? Whatever the reason, it appears that we have a tendency to see the past as a golden time when everything was better, gentler, when people were friendlier and life far less complex.

When reading the Bible, however, I am often surprised by the way in which human nature actually doesn't seem to have changed much over time at all. Scandal, tragedy, power plays are all in there, as are joy, compassion and selflessness. That is why the Bible and Christian faith are just as relevant today as they have always been. We may have the internet and smart phones and communication may be simpler and definitely quicker, but we still need to have a personal relationship with our neighbours and with God.

How do we connect with God today? How do we experience anything of His love, patience, forgiveness, peace and guidance as we bear witness to our faith? Well, we believe that this is made possible through God's active presence in the world through the Holy Spirit. To meet and experience God's Spirit in the world is a source of immense joy and peace and I pray that we can all find room in our hearts to seek out new opportunities to share this with those we meet as we build tomorrow's memories.

God bless and have a great summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott". The signature is stylized with long, sweeping strokes.

The Revd Scott Talbott

Readings at Holy Communion

4 Aug	Eccles 1.2, 12-14; 2.18-23*	Col 3.1-11	Luke 12.13-21
11 Aug	Gen 15.1-6	Heb 11.1-3, 8-16	Luke 12.24-30
18 Aug	Jer 23.23-29	Heb 11.29 – 12.2	Luke 12.49-56
25 Aug	Isa 58.9b-end	Heb 12.18-end	Luke 13.10-17

*At the 8.00am Service only

Prayers

Prayer Suggestions

Week beginning:

- 4 Aug Divided families and their children
- 11 Aug Social workers and probation officers
- 18 Aug Paramedics and firefighters
- 25 Aug Lifeboat crews and rescue teams

For Local Churches

The Deanery

- 4 Aug St Lawrence, Bovingdon
- 11 Aug St Mary's, Rickmansworth
- 18 Aug All Saints', Croxley Green
- 25 Aug Christ Church, Chorleywood

The Methodist Circuit

- Southdown
- St Andrew's, Bushey Heath
- St Martha's, Tring
- St Mary's, Rickmansworth

People Living Locally

- 4 Aug Ebury Road, Ebury Court
- 11 Aug Goral Mead
- 18 Aug High Street, Station Road
- 25 Aug Wensum Way, Wensum Court

A Prayer for August

Heavenly Father we give thanks for holiday times: those opportunities for breaks from routine when we seek new vistas, meet new people and become more aware of the wonders of your creation; for quieter times in our lives that help us to refocus and regain our energies; for the joy of fresh approaches to worship in churches we may visit, for time to reflect on our lives; and for the creation of happy memories to recall in darker days. Thus refreshed help us to make good use of our time and energies in the service of your kingdom in the days that follow. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Please note: there is no Evening Prayer on Sundays in August, or at the Patronal Festival.

Readers and Intercessors: All Change

David Carruthers will now be organising lesson readers and Jean Dodds the intercessors. You will find David's details on the cover of LINK, but the news for intercessors came after the cover had gone to print. Until September, if you don't have Jean's phone number, she may be contacted at jeanrdodds@btinternet.com or via the Church Office.

Patronal Festival Weekend

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September

This year, like last, our weekend of celebrations to mark the Saint to whom our church is dedicated, Mary, includes the actual Feast Day - The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary - on Sunday 8 September.

On Saturday 7, we have our annual **Patronal Pilgrimage Day**, this year to **Guildford Cathedral**. It is a fine cathedral, and the only one in the UK dedicated to the Holy Spirit. We shall leave from The Vicarage at 9.15am, to arrive at the cathedral in time for coffee - and a Tower Tour for those who wish. The day will include a Guided Tour, and the Tower Tour for those who have booked one, and time for lunch, as well as to explore the Cathedral and locality at leisure. Travel will be by minibus or car, and a sign-up sheet is available in church now. If you wish to go on the Tower Tour, you will need to book individually. Tickets (£5 each) are available online in advance (or from the Cathedral Shop on the day of the Tour, if spaces are available).

On Sunday 8, we shall have two morning Services, as usual. The 10 o'clock Service will be our main **Patronal Festival Celebration Service** with The Venerable Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans, as our Preacher. At 12.15pm we shall have a **Bring-and-Share Lunch** - hopefully with sunshine and fizz. (The last one for Pentecost was an amazing feast!)

I do hope you will be able to share in this important weekend in the life of St Mary's this year.

MARY

Discovering the real *Mary* ~ a journey for all

Come and discover more about the woman to whom our church is dedicated. Looking at scripture, art and prayer, this is an opportunity to learn more together about this woman who has such important part to play in the life of the church.

The *woman*

The *Mother*

The *contemplative*

The *radical Messenger*



Tuesdays, 7.45pm at The Vicarage
10, 17, 24 September, 1 October

Saturdays, 10am in Church
14, 21, 28 September, 5 October

Saturdays repeat the Tuesday material

All *welcome*

Report from the United Church Council

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

- The Treasurer presented the figures for the year to date. Expenditure has exceeded the budget for the period and, together with an overall deficit forecast for this year, there was considerable concern about future finances.
- The Council approved the charities to be supported from the 2018 planned giving. Further details about these can be found on the website.

- Plans are being drawn up for a project to include better access to the church building for those with impaired mobility. This work will be funded by the Myers bequest.

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.

The Season of Welcome

From Back to Church Sunday (29 September) right through to the services that form part of our Christmas celebrations, the *Season of Welcome* offers one opportunity after another to invite people to events, activities and special services at St Mary's. Last year we saw a number of new people come as a result of receiving an invitation handed over in person, and we hope that even more will respond this year.

Research shows that it takes more than just a 'one-off' meeting or event for a sense of connection to be made. At St Mary's we continue to build on the work we have undertaken over the years by inviting people to each successive event. In addition, in the period after Easter this year, much prayer, activity and preaching took place to remind us of the call to each of us to join in the task of making new disciples.

As last year, we wish to be more intentional. Invitations for each of the services/events listed below will be produced, and provided in packs for you to take away. Many people took multiple packs last year, which was great - and new people came. Please begin to pray now for guidance as to whom you will invite - to everything, or just to one or two things. Think of your friends and family - and anyone else who might need just a small, friendly nudge - and a warm invitation (from you) to bring them through the doors of our church.

Back to Church	Sunday 29 September
Harvest Celebrations	6 October
Bereavement Service	Saturday 2 November
Remembrance-tide events	Weekend of 8-10 November
Advent Services and events	from 1 December
Christingle Service	Sunday 15 December
Christmas Experience	from 9 December
Christmas Services	from 22 December

START

Let's Get *START*ed

Tuesday evenings, 7.45pm at The Vicarage, from 5 November

Following on from Back to Church Sunday we're running a **START** Course for anyone interested in discovering more about Christianity - wherever you are on your journey of faith. Over six sessions at The Vicarage, we'll be exploring together what it means to be a Christian... and how to get **START**ed (or even, re-**START**ed!)

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please mention the course and dates to them and, if they are, come along with them. Invitations will be available from September from the back of Church.

If you are interested in attending for yourself, just call the Church Office (721002) to let us know, and we'll do the rest.

START is an opportunity to invite others in, as well as be encouraged in our own faith. It'll be lovely to see you and your friends.

A Step Towards Intercommunion

For at least 60 years our two churches have been working towards reuniting, but the Church of England General Synod had so far been unable to achieve the required majorities in favour. A major obstacle has proved to be the value Anglicans place on the Apostolic Succession, the passing down of the authority of Christ from the Church's first bishop, St Peter, from bishop to bishop down the centuries until today through the laying on of hands. Understandably Methodist ministers, some of whom had served for many years, do not welcome a requirement for re-ordination in a bishop's presence, nor like to be not considered real ministers.

In June, *Church Times* reported that this year's Synod would receive a further report to be voted upon in July. This included the proposal to appoint President Bishops to attend the ordinations of all new Methodist Ministers in future. Existing Methodist Ministers ('practising presbyters') were to be regarded as 'temporary anomalies' [!]. As we prepare to go to press, we hear via *The Week Ahead* that Synod has at last voted in favour of these measures towards bringing our two churches together.

The Methodist Church has welcomed a vote by the Church of England's Synod backing further steps towards intercommunion between the two churches through the interchangeability of ministers.

The report in *The Week Ahead* went on to say:

The Faith and Order bodies of the two churches will now work on drafting a series of texts, including a formal declaration of a new relationship of communion between the two churches. The progress will be reported back to the Methodist Conference and the Church of England in the next quinquennium along with a recommendation from the House of Bishops as to the next steps. This will happen as soon as possible but before 2025.

Thus, further work was required before appropriate legislation is drawn up and agreed.

The Gramble



**A ride into the Chilterns and afternoon tea
at St John the Baptist Church, Little Missenden
Sunday 29 September**

The trip is intended for members of our congregation who do not go out very much. Invitations will be sent in early September

Your driver will call at 2.30pm and return you about 5pm

We should be grateful for some new drivers if possible this year

Please contact Anne Kay (773470) to offer help or with any queries



St Albans Annual Festival

Jean Boshoff

On Saturday 22 June five of us set off for St Albans from the Vicarage by car driven by Deborah to see the parade and the puppets at the annual Festival celebrating England's first martyr. On arrival at St Albans, we first headed for morning coffee and croissants to keep up our strength! We then walked the short distance uphill to the Abbey grounds, ahead of the parade of puppets. The weather was lovely, sunny and warm. We went to the front of the Abbey where people were starting to gather.

In due course the puppets arrived. Firstly a troupe of little boys dressed as Roman soldiers appeared, closely followed by the prisoner, the executioner and others, including two very large eyeballs that were reputed to have fallen out from the executioner's eye sockets when Alban was beheaded. The choir and other church officials were part of the assembly watching all the action. A brass band played *When the Saints go Marching in*, following which the assembled crowd were invited into the Abbey to attend the Festival Eucharist.



We of course entered and there followed a beautiful sung Eucharist. The sermon was preached by The Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. One of the points he made was that in spite of the fact that violence does not settle anything, many today in different parts of the world are willing to suffer and die for their faith; and it is a challenge to all of us to live out what we say we believe in, whatever the cost.

Following the service we went and wandered round the various exhibitions in the grounds adjacent to the Abbey. They showed examples of how the Romans of that time ate and how they occupied themselves. There was an accompaniment of lively music from a live band adding to the festive atmosphere.

After we had seen and absorbed enough, we made our way back to the restaurant at which we had coffee earlier, and there we all enjoyed a relaxed and very pleasant lunch before heading downhill to the car park, and thence safely home after a most enlightening and enjoyable day.

Good Advice during the Resolution of Brexit?

An American was asked, "Do you pray for the Senators?"
He replied, "No, I look at the Senators and pray for our country."

Community Tea at the Vicarage

Brenda Bell

This year we were blessed with a pleasant afternoon, slightly overcast and warm, but not too hot, when we gathered on the Vicarage lawn for tea— possibly for the last time, as there are proposals for building on part of the site [see p19!]

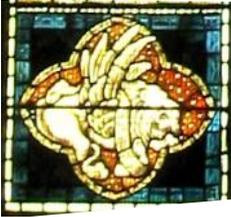


The usual suspects were present with some family members, and the ‘community’ was represented by one or two brave souls. It was a gentle, happy, non-demanding occasion, except for the liberal offerings of cake in which I for one was trying hard not to over-indulge! Was it a success? Time will tell. Remember that one person can change the world - and mustard seeds grow!



Mark: The Winged Lion

Dorothy Entwistle



“...the voice of one crying in the wilderness”, begins Mark’s gospel, a challenging voice which has been likened to that of a lion, for there were lions in the Judean wilderness in those days. That is how Mark acquired his symbol.

It is difficult, though, to claim that Mark, the gospel writer, was like a fierce creature of the wild. Traditionally his name, in fact, was believed to be John Mark, whose mother had a sizeable house in Jerusalem where the early Christians used to meet. It is only in Mark’s gospel that we read of a nameless young man who fled from Gethsemane who is widely believed to be himself. Did he hear of the arrest when in bed at night and run there, having hastily pulled on a bedsheet? And when the Temple guard snatched the sheet, was it John Mark who rushed away in terror and nakedness? There’s a rushing too about his style of writing, and his Greek, experts say, is the least cultured and the least grammatical of all the gospels.

Later he shared some of Paul’s missionary journeys and fell out with him in one of those Asia Minor exotic-sounding places that punctuate Paul’s travels, Perga in Pamphylia. Who lost his temper first? Who took umbrage? We will never know. They parted and Mark went to Cyprus with Barnabas. They made up though, for Paul eventually wrote to Timothy to bring Mark with him. “for he is useful in my ministry”.

If only Paul could have anticipated that one day the symbol of ‘useful’ young Mark would stand on top of a mighty column and lord it over the Piazza San Marco among the magnificence of Venice. For after disappearing from the biblical record, Mark lives again in legend. It is said he became a martyred bishop in Alexandria and that after many years his body was discovered and transported to Venice in a basket of pork and cabbages. After all, Venice should be his home, for had not St Peter sent him centuries before to Christianise that city of Aquileia from which the original founders of Venice had fled? The body was treasured in the basilica named after him and when later it was



*St Mark's pillar
and lion on the
Piazza San Marco,
Venice*

consumed in a fire the relics were miraculously restored and revealed in a pillar. “Useful” John Mark has been celebrated consequently by generations of Venetian artists. The Bellini brothers show him preaching in a splendid square in Alexandria



St Mark Preaching in Alexandria, The Bellini Brothers



Anianus and Mark, Coregliono



The Battle of Lepanto, Veronese



Ducal Palace Venice, Tiepolo

(1507, Milan); Cima da Coregliono shows him miraculously healing the cobbler’s wounded hand while the cobbler mends his boots (1499, Berlin); he is with a group of powerful holy ones who pray to the Virgin for victory at the battle (1571) of Lepanto (by Veronese, Venice Accademia). In all these he is a tall, imposing figure with very dark hair and a black beard. Tiepolo (1745, Ducal Palace, Venice) has Neptune pouring out riches before an empress personifying Venice while beside her Mark’s lion, huge and fierce, ungratefully snarls.

The most touching portrait is not by an Venetian however, but by a painter called Gabriel Mälesskirchner (c1430-1495) from Munich. He shows Mark wearing a scarlet robe and a tall red hat, young and beardless and sweet-faced, at his desk, but turning to look fondly at the small lion at his feet (1478, Thyssen Museo, Madrid). This could be more like the young Mark who wrote his gospel in

breathless ungrammatical Greek, who broke off the story abruptly, who ran away when there was danger, the Mark who became Paul's biddable assistant. And the docile lion at his feet could be a likeness of that new Biblical lion, the one Isaiah tells us will live in the peaceable world to come: "Then the lion will eat straw like the ox. The lion and the calf will lie down together. A little child shall lead them They shall not hurt or destroy", says God "on all my holy mountain".

St Mark, Mällesskirchner



Methodist and Anglican Roots

Annette Leveridge

With our earlier renewal of membership rolls in our Church, my mind was cast back to Colin's and my own church membership origins. Many people in our Church family have revealed that their roots were within other denominations of the Church due to family upbringing, schools and university influences. Presbyterian, Congregational, Quaker, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army as well as Methodism and The Church of England.

So often it is circumstance that causes our church affiliation. This certainly happened with my own parents. My mother was born in Cornwall in a family with deep Wesleyan Methodist roots. With her parents, two brothers, aunts and uncles and two cousins, every week the family went to the main Methodist Chapel in Perranporth, which was situated on the fringes of the village, about 3 miles away. A smaller chapel had been built only 50 yards from the family home in the village centre, but when my mother was growing up, this was built primarily for the elderly who could not easily get to the main chapel. The adults would generally travel by pony and trap and the children would *walk* to Chapel each week at least once if not twice a Sunday! This was a very large building, Victorian in style, with a large gallery. The Robins family pew was right at the front of the gallery in the centre. My mother told of the tale that one Sunday morning when all of the children, five of them, were dutifully worshipping in the family pew, her younger brother, Nicholas, was suddenly violently sick over the gallery rail. Cousin Maude bade all the mortified children to quickly stand up and leave the service, they willingly complied and tramped home, not waiting to discover what had happened below!

The social and religious life of the family revolved round the Chapel. My grandmother Clara had, I understand, a wonderful contralto singing voice, likened by some to Dame Clara Butt, the well-known singer of the day. I own some of the vocal scores of oratorios such as *Messiah*, *The Creation* and *Elijah* which belonged to her. My mother was sad that she had no singing voice, but her older brother Tom was a fine baritone and sang to semi-professional standard, becoming a Cornish Bard of Music - quite an honour. With uncles who played and conducted in the brass band, the family contributed a great deal to the local church music.

My father had a very different Church upbringing. Living in South Ealing as a child, he grew up attending the local Anglican Church singing in the church choir until he was 18 years of age. Having an uncle and aunt and cousins who lived in Falmouth, he spent many hours with that family in Cornwall. In the 1920s he and his brother would cycle over to Perranporth to enjoy the new sport of surfing and to attend the dances and socials at the local village hall—a chance to meet a few pretty Cornish lasses! This is where he met my mother and after a few years of courtship they married in 1930.

Because by then my father was working as an accountant in the City of London, they moved to a newly built house in Sudbury, Middlesex. As a newly-married couple, they looked around to find a church to attend, having agreed that they would worship together as either Anglicans or Methodists, and so took the opportunity to visit both. Sadly their local Anglican church had a very elderly and solemn vicar with a small elderly congregation. In contrast, the Methodist Church was welcoming to them and appeared more alive with activities and meetings for young and old. My parents immediately felt welcome and ready to become members of that Church family. This is how I grew up as a Methodist, attending Sunday School and Youth Fellowship, where I sang in the Choir and later became a Sunday School teacher.

From the age of 9 years until I was 18, I had a school grounding very much in the Anglican tradition. Each morning we had an assembly in the school hall with hymns and Morning Prayer and at the end of the day we gathered for a dismissal prayer and hymn. Special services were held in the local Anglican Church in Acton. We would walk in a crocodile from School to the Church whatever the weather. This traditional Anglican upbringing I am sure has helped me to feel comfortable to worship in a church with Anglican and Methodist tradition.

Colin came to Sudbury Methodist Church when he was 12 years old after his family moved from South Harrow to Wembley. His family were all staunch Methodists and had grown up attending Harlesden Methodist Church, which nurtured several of its members to become missionaries, including one of Colin's uncles who served out in India for many years. Colin and his older brother quickly settled into the youth activities at Sudbury so our paths joined from then on through our teenage years. After a break when Colin had National Service and printing college and I trained as an Occupational Therapist, we married in 1960.

We settled into a house in Berry Lane and were fortunate that my best friend Julie already lived in Ricky and I had been with her to the Methodist Church which the Nicholls family attended. We consequently were very happy to have our membership there. Julie was able to introduce me to other young wives in the Church - Gillian Baker, I remember was the first person I met. As our own family started to grow we became involved in Sunday School, Toddlers Club, Drama and Choir, the full life of the Church. These were very happy chapters spiritually and socially at the start of our life together, enhanced by our move later to join with the St Mary's Anglican congregation, which continues today. A couple with our names on both Electoral Rolls, we feel very much part of St Mary's Church family.

From the Registers

Baptism

May God's blessing be on the life of

24 June **ISABELLA ROSE PETTIT**, daughter of **Aaron and Tatiana**

St Mary's People

Death

We are sorry to hear that **BARBARA MATTHEWS** has died.

Golden Weddings

Many congratulations to Geoff and Angela Hall, Robert and Anne Kay and Jim and Jane Pummell, who all celebrate 50 years of marriage this month. May they enjoy many more happy years together.

The Halls and the Kays both came to know one another in St Mary's infamous Over-18s and the Pummells in their church youth club too.

It is good to share in happy events in our Church family, as well as sad ones. We are always glad to hear of them.

St Mary's in the Past

1913

Then as now it was holiday time. The Revd Parkinson had kept the second half of his article on bells - the description of how they were cast - for his August letter. In July we promised you the first part, (giving more information than one we put together ourselves some months ago). It was the Revd Parkinson's response to the silence of 'our silver-tongued friends of the belfry', when the bells went for restoration.

The word 'bell' is from the Anglo-Saxon word *bellan*, to resound. [I prefer that to an earlier definition I found, 'warrior', Ed!] It is impossible to trace their exact antiquity. The small bells of gold mentioned in Exodus were probably only ornaments of some kind worn by the High Priest, but the late Sir Henry Layard believed he found small bronze bells in the Palace of Nimroud. Certainly it seems that *large bells were used in China and India long before they were used in Europe.*

The Romans used bells for various purposes. They summoned them to Public Baths, they were used in Processions and so were naturally adopted for the service of the Western Church. Before Christianity was recognised as a 'lawful religion' Christians were called together for worship by a messenger who went from house to house some time before the congregation met. After this they made use of a sounding plank hanging by a chain, and struck with a hammer.

The first recorded use of bells for Churches is ascribed to Paulinus, Bishop of Nola, a City of Campania about 420AD. They seem to have been introduced into France about 550AD, and in Britain bells were used in Churches before the conclusion of the Seventh Century, Benedict, Abbot of Wearmouth having imported them from Italy in 680AD and Bede mentioning them as in use in other parts of England.

Several old bells are extant in Scotland, Ireland and Wales; the oldest are often quadrangular made of thin iron plates hammered and riveted together. The 4-sided bell of the Irish missionary, St Gall, 646AD, is preserved at the monastery of St Gal in Switzerland. Bells were sometimes composed of iron in France, and of brass frequently in England, but as early as the ninth century there were many cast of a large size and a deep note. We are told that Turketulus, Abbot of Croyland in Lincolnshire, who died about 870AD, gave a great bell to the Church of that Abbey, which he named Guthlac, and afterwards six others, viz—two which he called Bartholomew and Betelin, two called Turkettul and Tatwin, and two named Pega and Bega, all of which rang together, and the historian writes—"there was not then so great a harmony of bells in all England." Not long after Kinsius, Archbishop of York (1051-1061AD) gave two great bells to the Church of St John at Beverley, and at the same time

provided that other Churches in his Diocese should be furnished with bells.

Before bells were hung, they were formally washed, crossed and blessed by the Bishop. This ceremony was commonly called *baptising* them, they were then supposed to have the power of driving away evil spirits and dispersing storms.

The first regular *peal* of bells in this country was given in 1456 to King's College, Cambridge and was for 300 years the largest peal in England. In 1668 a famous work on bells, *Tintinologia*, by T White, appeared, introducing a sort of bell notation by printing the bells 1,2,3,4 &c on slips of paper in different order according to the changes rung. Of these changes there is a great variety spoken of technically as hunting, dodging, snapping, place-making, plain-bob, bob-triple, bob-major, bob-major reversed, double bob-major, grandsire-bob-cator, &c.

From accompanying magazine, *Red Letter Church News* August 1913:

C F D writes: "I was recently in the Isle of Man where the sons of the Vicar of Lonan had installed a wireless apparatus. One night they picked up a message from Cornwall, 300 miles distant."

1994

The Revd Bruce Driver's August Letter concerned his forthcoming pilgrimage from Winchester to Canterbury. He described how on the first morning of a recent retreat he was struck by the enormity of the enterprise during Morning Prayer and he remembered voicing his questions and fears one by one to God in prayer. By the second morning he found himself without fear, and felt led to the Library to discover what he could find out about former pilgrims and how and why they faced the task. He ended by quoting once more one of his favourite poems, *The Bright Field*, by a favourite poet, R S Thomas, which begins by describing how he saw the sun light up a small field and ends, "that seems as transitory as your youth once, but is the eternity that awaits you".

The topics that house groups in the Church had been studying included ethical shopping, the Sermon on the Mount and aspects of the Healing Ministry. One representative feared that the word 'group' suggested exclusivity, but all the group reports invited others to join them.

The Vicar commended *Celebrating Common Prayer*, a book of daily offices that he had started using for Morning and Evening Prayer. It was already in use in Franciscan friaries.

A 12-session daytime study course, *The Heart of St Paul* was to be given by a lecturer in Religious Studies from the extra-mural part of London University and would start on Monday mornings in the Autumn.

Bill Sylvester appears to have achieved his target for the Sunday School and was able to say to the children, "See you in the front four pews - every Sunday".

'Queen Victoria' [Julie Smethurst, I believe] was to open the School Fair which would include pony rides, young farm animals, a mini-rollercoaster, a barbecue, a bouncy maze, Punch and Judy, a fire engine and a police car and over 50 stalls, some devised and run by the children. Over £4,000 was raised for the School's PTA. Helen Halliday ran the Steady Hand Game, on behalf of St Mary's Renewal Appeal.

The St Albans Board of Finance had applied for planning permission to erect four flats in two blocks in the Vicarage garden, but the application had not yet been heard.

The main preoccupations in the Renewal Section of LINK were the practical arrangements for the Vicar's Pilgrimage from Winchester to Canterbury, the Shop and a Fashion Show.

People were needed to take the Revd Bruce Driver's 'teddy bear' [ie his suitcase] from one overnight stop to the next, and parishioners were invited to see him off from Guildford, walk a section of the Pilgrims Way with him, attend a pilgrims' supper on the last Saturday or come and finish the last few miles with him and attend a special Evensong in the Lady Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. (There would be a coach to Kent for that.) Pledges were needed too of course.

There was a request to bring back items from holiday for sale in the shop, and make lavender bags or jam for the Shop.

The fashion show at the Barbirolli Hall of Clement Danes School would be a launch of the new Sheila Ferris collection [Remember that lovely dress shop?]. Tickets were £4 and included a glass of wine.

A Renewal event that had already taken place was 'St Mary's Glyndebourne' It was an evening of classical music provided by the Dacorum Sinfonietta and food prepared by St Mary's Catering Team. (The menu was Handel and Dvorak, salmon and

strawberries, then Bach and Stravinsky). Yet to happen were a Poetry and Music Evening, a Bridge Evening, a Bonfire and Firework Party, a Treasure Hunt and a talk by Frank Topping entitled *Laughing in my Sleep*.



The Children's Society

Deborah received the following letter from the Society, one of the charities our Church supports

The challenges facing children and young people with their mental and emotional health are well rehearsed - lack of services, long waiting times, and high thresholds can all conspire to make life very difficult for children and young people in need of support.

Published today, our latest briefing [see end of letter] explores the processes children and young people, their parents and carers go through when they decide that they need support with their mental and emotional health. The briefing pulls together findings from a survey of parents, which included questions related to their child's mental health, and the findings from a Freedom of Information (FOI) request sent to providers of Tier 3/specialist Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (NHS CYPMHS) on referrals and waiting times.

Where do parents turn for support?

In our survey of 1,004 parents, we found that around a third (32%) of these reported that their children had experienced a mental health problem in the last year. When asked who they would turn to if they felt they needed help and support with their child's mental health, we found that GPs were by far the most popular source of support among parents surveyed.

Mental health support in schools

Some children are able to access mental health support in their school through a school-based counsellor, however the availability of this provision across the country is varied.

The second most popular source of support for parents, after the local GP, was school. Yet, we found that just under a third of parents surveyed did not know whether counselling services were available in their child's school. Clearly schools need to do a lot more to communicate what kind of mental health and well-being support is available to their pupils and parents.

Waiting for support

If a child's GP or school feels that a young person's mental health needs specialist support then a referral to NHS

CYPMHS is usually the next step, but support is not usually offered quickly. Our FOI to providers of Tier 3/specialist NHS CYPMHS found that, on average, children were waiting 83 days from referral to their first treatment appointment between January and December 2017.

A wider offer of mental health support

It is vital that children and young people get the right support with their mental health at the right time. There are many reforms proposed for the children's mental health system, with an increased offer of support being made available in schools, and plans to increase access within the NHS. Whilst these reforms are welcome, there is still the risk that some children will fall through the gaps.

We see that a wider social offer needs to be made available that incorporates extended support in school through counselling services, and support within the community through services like open access hubs and digital offers, to ensure young people are able to access support at an early stage.

Sam Royston
Director, Policy and Research

The Childrens' Society website is <https://www.childrenssociety.org>.
For the Childrens Society Supporter Care Team: phone 0300 303 7000

What's On in Rickmansworth

Watersmeet

David Walliams' <i>Mr Stink</i>	Sun 25-Tue 27	7pm
	Mon 26	2.30pm
NT Live <i>The Lehman Trilogy</i>	Thur 29	7pm
Film: <i>Toy Story 4</i>	Fri 30	11am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

Wildacre Art Group Exhibition

**A wide selection of paintings,
framed and unframed in a variety of media**

Greeting cards for sale

Sunday 25 August, 2.00pm-5.00pm

Monday 26 August, 10.30am-5.00pm

Chenies Baptist Church

A Trip to St Emilion

Michael Baker



This year, by way of a Spring break, we sampled a week's cruise on the rivers of the Bordeaux district - the Garonne and the Dordogne, which unite to form the Gironde Estuary. The trip went by train from London to Paris by Eurostar, then by TGV to Bordeaux, where we joined the *Cyrano de*

Bergerac, which to us seemed a well-appointed mini-liner. We started with a gentle voyage up the Garonne to the old town of Cadillac (the American car is named after an eighteenth century aristocratic explorer and Governor of Louisiana, who founded the town of Detroit), then back to Bordeaux after a visit to a mediaeval castle and a vineyard where we tasted the local Sauterne wine. The next day we went down the Gironde to Pauillac, for a tour of the Medoc district with, of course, some more wine tasting.

After breakfast the next day, we sailed further down the wide estuary (unexpectedly choppy) then back up river, passing troglodyte houses burrowed hobbit-fashion into the limestone cliffs, and the fishermen's huts raised on stilts which are characteristic of the area, and fiercely preserved. This day's visit was to the mediaeval walled town of Bourg, high above the Dordogne;



its castle was demolished by Louis XIV, who had the stone taken down -river to Blaye, where our ship was moored, to build an absolutely impregnable citadel commanding the approaches to Bordeaux.



The next day the cruise was up the Dordogne to Libourne, the head of navigation for large vessels. After lunch, we were taken by coach to a local vineyard, then to the old walled town of St Emilion. This was built in a defensible position on a limestone hill, which was hollowed out to provide stone for building. A local guide took us firstly to the impressive Collegiate Church, founded in the 11th Century in the upper part of the town by the

Augustinian Canons. We were particularly impressed by the modern mural paintings of the Apocalypse in the cloisters. Our guide then showed us the lower part of town and led us to a doorway cut into the cliff face. This was the entrance to a troglodyte church, excavated in the caverns left after the quarrying of the stone from which the town was built. She showed us the chapel of St Emilion and his tomb, also the catacombs where bodies used to be left to decompose until the bones could be removed for more permanent entombment. Rather alarmingly, she explained that water penetration had aroused fears that its action on the soluble limestone coupled with the weight of the bell-tower above might cause the collapse of the whole complex, but a combination of reinforcement and drainage had prevented this.



We made our own way, via a cup of tea in a café, back to our coach at the top of the town and were returned to our ship in time for dinner. The next day the ship cruised gently back to Bordeaux for a tour of the town, and then it was time to pack for the journey to London the following day. All in all, a pleasant leisurely break - and it wasn't *all* wine tasting!

Photos by Michael Baker

By The Way

John Shaw's Review of July 2019

We are under a 'cloud of unknowing' here. We don't know (until 23 July) who our next prime Minister will be. Whoever he is, we don't know how, despite many bold words, he will resolve the impasse with the EU by 31 October. Neither do we know whether he will form a Government which will attend vigorously to the great many pressing issues in the national in-tray (from climate change to inequality; from sorting adult care to meeting the financial needs of the NHS, Education and many other public institutions). We don't know at the time of writing who is going to win Wimbledon, nearing its conclusion. Will it be Djokovic and Serena Williams yet again or some other outcome? We don't know whether England will win the World Cricket Cup (we do know that the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI, which included two women for the first time, lost to the Vatican team recently). Some of these

issues will be clearer by the time you read this, but, for the rest, a cloud of ‘known unknowns’ continues to hover over us.

Did you know that England and Wales have the highest prison rates in Western Europe, double those in France, Germany, Italy and Spain? Did you know that we taxpayers owe £2 billion more in unpaid tax to the Treasury than a year ago? By contrast Councils in England are on the way to making a profit of £1 billion from their parking activities this year. And did you know that Japan has begun hunting whales again (boo, hiss)? But Scotts Fish and Chips of York have opened a shop in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, following President Xi’s visit to their York shop with David Cameron in 2015.

A robot, inevitably called *Vegebot*, has been developed which can pick Iceberg lettuces that are tricky to harvest. It is currently five times slower than human workers but is expected quickly to catch up (and advance on other crops such as cauliflower, broccoli, and celery). On the subject of food, the Queen recently hosted a faith reception at Buckingham Palace for 160 guests, drawn from Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and Ba’hai groups, to thank them for their contribution to our national life. ‘A bit of tea and toast can go a long way’, the Queen is quoted as saying.

On the religious front, on 13 October Pope Francis is going to declare Cardinal John Henry Newman, Victorian theologian and poet, a saint. As issues of gender are very much in the news at present, and on the lighter side of the issue, it has been reported that Kaln, an ‘hormonal man Eagle Owl’ at the Barn Owl Centre in Gloucester, took his keepers of 23 years by surprise by laying an egg! Kaln has been hastily, and rather unimaginatively, renamed Kalnee.

As mid-summer approaches, we are awash with sport on TV. The Women’s Football World Cup has only recently finished (USA winning again, back to back this time) but has pushed the sport firmly up the popularity stakes. ‘Our girls done good’ and came a very creditable fourth and Steph Houghton, Lucy Bronze and Ellen White are now household names. As is now Cori (‘Coco’) Gauff who, aged 15, took Wimbledon by storm and became ‘the darling of them all’. As for extraordinary feats, Frankie Dettori rode four winners in one day at Royal Ascot, including Stradivarius, which won the Gold Cup for the second year running.

To finish on a lighter note, I recently stumbled on a newsletter, dated 1951, from my old Prep School, which has long since gone to

the wall. It listed examples of schoolboy howlers, including such heroic efforts of barely remembered facts and spelling as: 'Sir Christofish Wern', 'Poncs Pilotl', sometimes also known as 'Cautious Piolat'. And then there was 'Hapeus Porpus' and references to the battles of 'Kidlycronky' and 'Killycrackery'. These were capped only, perhaps, by a malapropism, submitted by the reader of a national newspaper, whose late mother used to complain about her husband's 'erotic driving' and her father-in-law's 'double incompetence'. You've got to laugh!

Another Station!

David Hibbert visited the Isle of Man recently and although his main interest was to see and ride on its trains, he left the line to find more stations - in St German in Peel, known as the Cathedral of the Isle of Man. This is a stark version of the Twelfth Station of the Cross.



Not a Lot of People Know That

A Fly in the Ointment

Bill Sylvester

'A fly in the ointment' is an expression used to describe a tiny thing that is hindering the outcome of something altogether much larger and more important. Thousands of years ago, before doctors, apothecaries (an earlier version of chemists) dealt with all medical treatment, and their sought-after potions and ointments would be dispensed from large vats. These vats could treat a large number of people but a single fly or other insect found floating in them was thought to spoil the whole amount. The earliest reference to this phrase can be found in the Bible, in Ecclesiastes (10.1), which includes the phrase 'Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour.'

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

Were You There?

Joan Martin showed us this photo of (presumably) a float in the Ricky Week Procession celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our Sunday School. Were you there; do you recognise someone in it or remember when it was?



Smiles

Home Groan

Blame Michael Baker!

If you suddenly die and find yourself in Heaven, have you had a Harp Attack?

The Origin of the Computer

Sent to Editor by a Canadian cousin

The oldest computer can be traced to Adam and Eve. Yes, it was an Apple - but with an extremely limited memory: Just one byte ...then everything crashed... and [a friend of hers added] God created 'Restore'.

Hymn Book Error

From Minehead Matters

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 hymn was *Go happy soul, thy days are ended*.

On Why Clergy Should Avoid Computers

A letter from Bishop Eustace to his Nephew Darren

Dear Darren

Thank you for your kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it invaluable for keeping in touch with those doing missionary work in remote parts of Africa, but even if I knew legions of clergy on that continent, I would have few pearls of wisdom to email them and would not be overly interested in what they might be yearning to tell me.

I know that our diocesan offices long for us all to have computers, so we can receive, at hourly intervals, briefings, questionnaires, notifications of meetings and lists of irresistible training days, but I seem to have survived in ministry for the last 50 years without them and suspect I can do so for a little while longer.

When pressed why I have still not yet purchased a computer, I tell everyone that I am waiting for a few more weeks to get an even better one. As the wretched things continue to improve, there is every reason to defer a decision until they improve a little more. Surely, if I bought one today, I would regret it by tomorrow., as there would be a more advanced model out by then.

Besides, once you get a computer, you will need to buy a telephone connection, then a printer and spare ink cartridges and then equipment to protect you from viruses. The money can more usefully be spent on claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives trying to get their machine to do something it doggedly refuses to. Once they admit defeat, they then spend another significant chunk of time on what is called by naïve optimists a ‘helpline’ where someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English tries to tell you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn’t.

No-one over the age of 25 should be allowed to possess a computer. On those rare occasions you really do need to use one, you should adopt my practice: visit your local primary school and get a 6 year-old to do the job—which they do with effortless speed efficiency, and accuracy.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



LINK

Copied from LINK August 1994, edited by Scott.

Yes occasionally we have felt like that too, but honestly it is a great job. Won't you have a go?



This Month's Cover

The design is intended to celebrate holidays and remind us that God is with us wherever we are, that St Mary's continues to pray for us wherever we are and will welcome us when we return. It is constructed from the photo of the Church taken especially by an editor and a random selection of free Google images.

We hope you had/are having/will have a happy time away and will come back refreshed.

CALENDAR

August 2019

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 4 SUN | THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY |
| | 8.00am Said Holy Communion |
| | 10.00am All-age Sung Holy Communion |
| 5 Mon | 2.00pm <i>Threads for Change</i> Craft Group meets |
| | 7.45pm Community & Outreach Committee, Cloisters Hall |
| 6 Tue | THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD |
| | 10.00am Said Holy Communion |
| 8 Thu | September <i>LINK</i> copy deadline |
| 11 SUN | THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY |
| | 8.00am Said Holy Communion |
| | 10.00am Sung Holy Communion |

- 12 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Craft Group
 2.15pm *LINK* Editors' meeting
 7.45pm Fabric & Churchyard Committee, Cloisters Hall
- 13 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
- 18 SUN THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am Sung Holy Communion
 12.15pm Said Holy Communion
NB No Lunch Club
- 19 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Craft Group
 7.45pm Stewardship & Finance Committee, Cloisters Hall
- 20 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
- 24 Sat BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**
- 25 SUN THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am Sung Holy Communion
September LINK published
- 26 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Craft Group
- 27 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
 12 noon 10-bell ringing practice (all ringers welcome)
- 29 Thu The Beheading of John the Baptist**

September

- 1 SUN THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am All-age Sung Holy Communion
 Home Communion
 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer
- 2 Mon 2.00pm *Threads of Change*
- 3 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion
- 7 Sat 9.15am Patronal Festival Pilgrimage to Guildford Cathedral (see p 5)
- 8 SUN PATRONAL FESTIVAL**
 8.00am Said Holy Communion
 10.00am Patronal Festival Sung Eucharist
 12.15pm Bring and Share Lunch (see p 5)

Choir and Bellringers Regular Weekly Practices

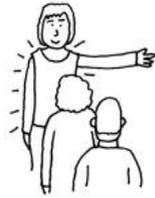
Wed 7.30pm Bellringing Thu 7.45pm Choir
New members welcome at both practices – just come along

HEALTH AND SAFETY

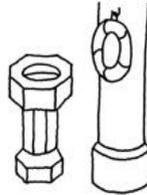
GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES: THINGS YOU NEED TO DO



RISK ASSESSMENTS
BEFORE EACH SERVICE



HI-VIS JACKETS
FOR SIDEPERSONS



A LIFEBELT
NEXT TO
THE FONT



PADDED BUFFERS ON
PEW-ENDS FOR CHILDREN
CAREERING AROUND THE
AISLES AT HIGH SPEED



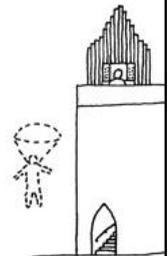
HARD HATS
FOR ANYONE
CARRYING
A STICK



GLOVES TO BE USED BY
ALL BISCUIT-ARRANGERS



A SERVER TO TRY THE
COMMUNION WINE
IN THE VESTRY
(IN CASE POISONED)



PARACHUTE FOR
EMERGENCY
DESCENT FROM
ORGAN LOFT

CartoonChurch.co

This cartoon originally appeared in Church Times and can be found in the book, How to Avoid the Peace, published by Canterbury Press. It is used by arrangement with Dave Walker.

September LINK

Copy deadline: Thursday 8 August

Publication date: Sunday 25 August

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	David Carruthers	07831 387541
Organist and Choirmaster	Andrew Sykes	07943 601717 07519 318049 organistsmr@gmail.com
Sacristan	David Gilbert and team	via Church Office
Sidespeople	David Hibbert	773735
Welcomers	David Carruthers	07831 387541

Christian Teaching and Prayer

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

Pastoral

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

Children and Young People

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

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

Contacts (continued)

Children and Young People (continued)

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

Administration

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

Buildings and Support

Church Centre Booking	Church Office	721002
Church Centre Committee	Martyn Gowing (Chair)	777715
Church Bookings	via Church Office	
Church Cleaning	June Poppleton	773388
Cloisters Hall Bookings	Janet Carruthers	07799 050532
Cloisters Hall Committee	The Revd Deborah Snowball (Chair)	772627
Fabric & Churchyard	David Hibbert (Chair)	773735
Flowers	Hilary Pearce	896025
Library	Michael Baker	776109
Steeple Keeping	David Hibbert	773735
Threads for Change	Beryl Baker	776109

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