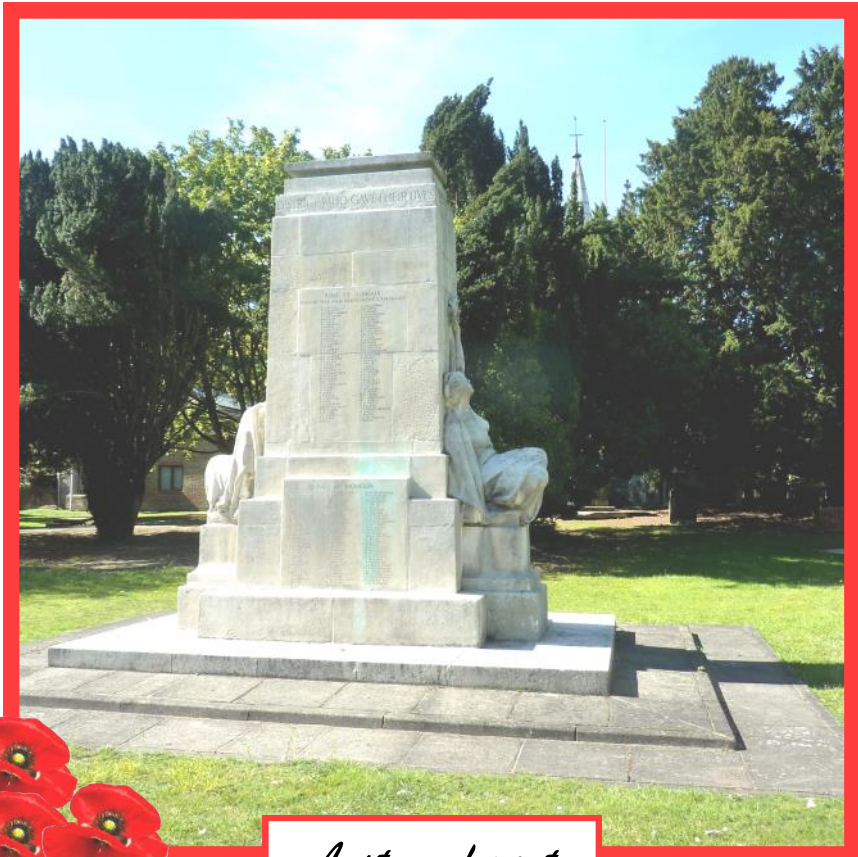


# LINK

Monthly Magazine

November  
2019



*Lest we forget*



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



## Regular Services

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

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Language</i>
<b>SUNDAYS</b>			
Weekly	8.00AM	Said Holy Communion	Traditional
1st	10.00AM	All Age Sung Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre	Modern
2nd–5th	10.00AM	Sung Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Church Centre Children's Church in the Church Centre (during term time)	Modern
3rd	12.15PM	Holy Communion	Modern
<b>WEEKDAYS</b>			
Tue	10.00AM	Holy Communion	Modern

## Contacts

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

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

## Ministers at St Mary's

**Vicar and Minister** authorised to serve within the Methodist Church      The Revd Deborah Snowball      772627  
 vicar@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk

**Methodist Minister** at St Mary's, and three other Methodist churches      The Revd Richard Lowson      223906

**Associate Priest;** Self-supporting Minister      The Revd Scott Talbott      07802 244877  
 scott.talbott@talk21.com

**Reader Emeritus**      Michael Baker      **Officers**

**Churchwardens (A)**      David Carruthers      07831 387541  
 Jane Earl      711695  
 David Hibbert      773735

## Church Office

**Church Administrator**      Katrina Bond      721002

**Email:** [churchoffice@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk)

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9.00am-12.30pm, Thu and Fri 9.30am-1.00pm



## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ

November is here - already. Where did the year go?

As I drove towards Oxford a few days ago, I went along my favourite stretch of the M40 (if that isn't something of an oxymoron!). It is my favourite stretch because of the beauty of the colours on the trees at this time of year. I am almost moved to tears each year by the glory of Autumn's finery: russet red, burnt gold, earthy brown. For those with eyes to see, we are so fortunate in what 'the Creator's sketchbook' shows us.

This term, 'the Creator's sketchbook' is one that I have seen on Facebook - accompanying breathtakingly beautiful scenery, an unexpected geological formation, the simplicity of a ladybird on a nettle leaf, a baby being cradled in its parent's arms. God's sketchbook is indeed a wonderful thing, beautiful, strong, dynamic but quite unbelievably fragile too.

In recent months we have seen the Extinction Rebellion movement gain momentum as people of all ages have come together to raise awareness of the need to act on the dangers of Climate Change. Whether or not one agrees with their methods, there is no denying the truth that the beautiful, strong, dynamic earth on which we live is in danger. That this danger is caused, at least in part, by the actions of humankind cannot be denied either. We each need to play our part in caring for the world God gave to us at the beginning of time.

**Genesis 1.27-29; 2.15a:** So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.' The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

We cannot pretend we have not been given clear instruction: so much is given to us, for which we are to care.

If you'd like information on what you could do - quite easily - there are some good resources to be found at [arocha.org.uk](http://arocha.org.uk). If you're interested in how we as a church could seek to do more, check out: [churchofengland.org/environment](http://churchofengland.org/environment). We could have an Environmental

Awareness Group if there is sufficient interest. This would be a great initiative.

As we move from Autumn to Winter, enjoy the change of the Seasons - the colours, the smells, the changing light (another thing I love!) and give thanks that we are in a place where we can enjoy these things, praying for those who are in places where they can't.

With my continued prayer,



*The Revd Deborah Snowball*

## Readings at Holy Communion

3 Nov	Isa 1.10-18	2 Thess 1.1-12	Luke 19.1-10
10 Nov	Job 19.23-27a	2 Thess 2.1-5,13-17	Luke 20.27-38
17 Nov	Mal 4.1-2a	2 Thess 3.6-13	Luke 21.5-19
24 Nov	Jer 23.1-6	Col 1.11-20	Luke 23.33-43

## Prayers

### Prayer Suggestions

*Week beginning:*

3 Nov	Peace at home
10 Nov	Victims of conflict
17 Nov	Public servants
24 Nov	Those bearing responsibility for others

### For Local Churches

#### The Deanery

#### The Methodist Circuit

3 Nov	St Oswald's, Croxley Green	Croxley Green
10 Nov	Sarratt and Chipperfield	Flamstead
17 Nov	St Andrew's, Chorleywood	Gaddesden Row
24 Nov	St Lawrence, Bovingdon	Hemel Hempstead

### People Living Locally

3 Nov	Members of St Mary's who live outside the parish
10 Nov	Batchworth Hill
17 Nov	Home Farm Road, Park Close
24 Nov	London Road

## A Prayer for November

Heavenly Father, the shortened days seem to make us aware of the limits of our lives, and our thoughts turn to those we have loved and lost. We give thanks for your Son who promised eternal life and overcame death. Let us remember the people whom we no longer see whose love and support has meant so much to us; those who were killed defending their country and those who died from accidental or natural causes. May we live better lives because of them, in the time that remains to us on this earth. Amen

## LAST CALL: Editor for LINK for 2020?

*Brenda Bell*

No one has so far responded following last month's appeal to you the readers to try to find us another editor for LINK and the Editorial Team have not been able to.

### ***TIME HAS ALMOST RUN OUT!***

Magazines need to be planned ahead and are produced to a schedule, and a new editor would need a little time to learn what is involved and be confident that they can put together a magazine within the time-frame needed. Also subscription forms for 2020 should go out in December. We need someone to step forward *as early as possible within the next month* in order for LINK to continue next year - at least in its present form.



***COULD IT BE YOU?***

If a potential editor were to volunteer so that LINK can continue in 2020, the January copy deadline would be Thursday 28 November. However, as a precaution, if you know the details **we advise preparing anything you want people to know more about for next year than you can put on a Pew Sheet into the December issue, .**

People have suggested I will or should carry on editing LINK—or appear to be thinking that. The answer is “I’m really sad, but no, I wish I felt I could”. There comes a time when one begins to slow down, and deadlines become harder to meet. The work is now taking over time I need for other essential things. I’ve soldiered on for an extra year hoping to find that elusive replacement—but it looks as if I could wait for ever. This, then, is my last complete magazine (I shall be involved in December’s preparation). I shall be so sad if St Mary’s (and I) are left without a parish magazine. I believe that it still has a significant role to play in our church.

# A Season of Remembrance

*A summary of the essential detail's; more information was given in October LINK*

## **Sat 2 Nov All Souls' Day, 10.00am**

To remember by name those we have loved but see no longer.  
Names should be written on the sheet at the back of church.

## **Sat 2 Nov, 2.30pm Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance of the Departed (Bereavement Service)**

This service is especially for those for whom we have taken funeral services during the past two years, but anyone and everyone is welcome.

*Refreshments are served after the service*



**Sat 9 Nov, 2.30pm in Church**

## ***Memories***

**a Remembrance Concert,**

that will include local people's memories to commemorate the  
80th Anniversary of the Second World War



## **Sunday 10 Nov, 2.30pm Rickmansworth Town Remembrance Sunday Service and Act of Remembrance**

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. The Service is preceded by the Remembrance Sunday Parade which sets off from Our Lady, Help of Christians, Roman Catholic Church at 2.00pm. The service in St Mary's starts in church and continues by the War Memorial.

## **Mon 11 Nov, 10.45am Armistice Day Service of Prayer and Remembrance of the Fallen**

A Service of Prayer and Remembrance at the War Memorial during which the names recorded on the Memorial and in the Book of Remembrance in church are read aloud and prayers are offered.



## **St Mary's School FIREWORKS NIGHT**



**STOCKERS FARM ROAD, WD3 1NY**

**SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER, 4.00PM-6.30PM**



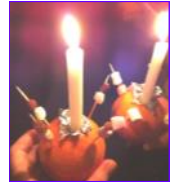
**TICKETS: Adult £6, Child £4, Family of four £17, under 4s Free  
from [www.pta-events.co.uk/st-marys](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/st-marys)**

# Christmas at St Mary's 2019 – Part 1

## Christingle Service

**2.30pm, Sunday 8 December**

Come and join us as we make and light our Christingles in this delightful Service. One aspect of it is to raise money for The Children's Society - a really worthwhile cause. If you would like a special Christingle 'candle' to collect money in, please drop into or call the Church Office and Katrina will let you have one. Following the Service, we enjoy cakes and drinks together. If you can call to let us know you're coming that would be helpful - but if you don't get a chance, feel free to come along anyway.



## Christmas Experience



Now in its fifth year, the *Christmas Experience* has welcomed almost a thousand people over the years that we have offered it. From St Mary's School pupils to visitors who hear about it and travel from further afield places such as Eastcote and Ruislip, the Experience really is a unique way for each person, of whatever age, to engage with the events of Christmas.

This year we shall be using the theme, *Good News!* In addition to all that we usually put in place, we shall be creating five larger angels which will tell the *Good News!*

Setting up the Christmas Experience will begin at **9.30am** on the morning of **Saturday 7 December**. If you can help in any way, from hanging up road name signs to folding passports, from putting up a marquee to placing Jesus in swaddling clothes, your assistance will be very welcome. There'll be a sign-up sheet for all the various tasks - so look out to see how you can help with this important piece of missional work.

### Community Angel Display

We shall be inviting people across our community to join in creating a heavenly throng which will form part of the decoration of the church come Christmas-time. Materials will be in church from Monday 9 December, so do come and make one yourself.







### ***Buzz Coster and Helen Swain***

The programme of events for next year is coming along really well and we've been really delighted at the positive response and enthusiasm that you are showing for the project.

Confirmed dates include:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 13 June       | Hilary Pearce and friends are presenting an evening of music with an extended interval for supper |
| 10-12 July    | Flower Festival with exhibition by the Rickmansworth and District Art Society                     |
| 13 September  | Patronal Festival at which the Bishop of St Albans will preside and preach                        |
| 3 October     | Harvest Hog Roast   |
| 6-20 December | Christmas Tree Festival   |

Yes, you've guessed it, we'd love it if you are able to help with any of these events. Experience has shown that events are always more fun when lots of people are involved. Please speak with the event organiser or one of us to volunteer.

Other events are also in the pipeline and we'll be publishing more details as they become available. These include creating our very own gin, monthly quarter peals by the bellringers and planting 750 trees in the area to mark this special year. If by mischance these get mixed up, it could be very interesting!

As you can imagine, there will be a few costs incurred during the year so we welcome any offers to do some fundraising towards these. Any profits remaining at the end of the year will be given to charity.

Please call us if you'd like to know more! We look forward to hearing from you (Buzz 07711 567864, Helen 07800 576034).



### **Friends in Christ**

***Christine Payne***

'Friends in Christ' is a new initiative to 'keep an eye out' for members of our worshipping community. This is now up and running and we have a number of Host Members who will be looking out for people around them at our



church services. If you'd like to know who is your Host Member, speak to me. Please pray for this new initiative as we seek to ensure care, concern and friendship is offered to everyone. To find out more about it, please pick up a leaflet from the back of church.

## Discovering the Real Mary

*Brenda Bell*

*We tend to report the more social events in our church life in LINK, but House Groups are an important part of this; we all benefit from learning more about our faith and some people may be a little shy of joining them. They should have nothing to fear and a lot to gain.*

The members of the two relatively small groups of people who sought Mary were sadly of rather mature years. Sadly, because although we found them helpful, younger people would probably have benefitted more. The thought-provoking and enjoyable course was devised by SCM and augmented by Deborah.

During four sessions we were able to read, reflect on and discuss the surprisingly little that the Bible tells us about Mary. It includes the birth stories and her psalm of praise, the *Magnificat*, and also a glimpse of Jesus aged 12 getting lost in Jerusalem, already sure of his future, but somewhat uncaring of the worry he caused his parents (Luke Chapters 1 and 2). Mary went with Jesus to the wedding at Cana and later the family went to see him where he was preaching and was ignored by him. Finally we are told that Mary stood at the foot of the Cross during Jesus' Crucifixion (John 19.25-27).



We imagined how shocked Mary must have been at the Angel Gabriel's visit, and how she must have feared how Joseph would react and society would perceive her - and yet she was almost immediately accepting and obedient, and after spending time with Elizabeth, full of joy reflected in the *Magnificat*, a psalm of praise with similarities to *Hannah's Song* in 1 Samuel 2. There was no record of her complaining about the tedious journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the comfortless accommodation for the Jesus' birth, or that Jesus paid her little attention during his ministry.

All that may sound like hard work, but it wasn't. The readings led us on to discussions about the joy of motherhood and the sadness of many women who are denied children, to contemplation (aided at times by modelling clay or colouring a picture) and to try to write our own *Magnificat*. We also found time for chat, for food and drink, listening to music, singing hymns, and looking at reproductions of

relevant paintings and sculpture, even a Mary-themed game of consequences. The evenings were full of interest and variety.

We were given a leaflet on which to answer questions about how learning more about Mary might change our life's direction. I didn't write anything down on it, because I was in the midst of the October LINK, but found myself asking from time to time, "What would Mary's response be?"

Thanks are due to Deborah for indeed showing us the real Mary, an ordinary young girl who fulfilled an extraordinary role in the history of the world, obediently, with grace and with joy, an example to us all.

## The Gramble

Jean Boshoff

On Sunday 29 September, about 20 of us, men and women, set out for a trip to Little Missenden for tea and a visit to the local Parish Church of St John the Baptist.

This lovely old church has been on the current site since about 975AD and parts of it date back to the twelfth century. Inside there can be seen parts of thirteenth and fourteenth century wall paintings and some later seventeenth century paintings. These were discovered during repairs in 1931.



The small statue which can be seen on the wall is reputed to be a memorial to a daughter of Roald Dahl who died as a young child.

Unfortunately, the weather was not as kind as it could have been, which meant we could not sit outside in the lovely surroundings. Instead we sat at various small tables set around the interior of the church. We had a scrumptious tea, with various cakes and scones with jam and cream, all home-made by the ladies of the Parish. This gave us all a chance to chat with each other.

Many thanks indeed to Anne Kay for her efficient organisation of what was a truly wonderful afternoon, especially good for those of us unable to get out too often. Thanks too to all the lovely drivers, without whose generosity of time and vehicles we would not have been able to enjoy the trip.

# Harvest Weekend

## The Craft Display

Despite fewer than ten people contributing items (and we are sure many more make attractive things), the display was creditable and well-received.

Of especial note was the board that Beryl Baker made to show how much people in our church make for it and for various charities and hospitals; this board will stay in place for a while. Do have a look if you have not already, and perhaps take a pack with wool and a pattern and start



knitting yourself, either at home or at Threads for Change on a Monday afternoon.

## Harvest Supper and Beetle Drive

Thanks are due to the leaders and members of X Team for organising the games. Beetle is

always fun and a game that anyone can play and movement of winners and losers round the room means plenty of opportunities for meeting people. Enough people had loaned card tables to go all round the room. We managed six games at a brisk pace before supper and three after before adding up all our scores and declaring Jake the overall





Jake serving crumble

winner. He seemed to be able to call ‘Beetle’ before most of us had thrown a six! The evening made a profit of £240. Well done X Team!

## Soup with a Knife and Fork?

We moved our chairs to the already laid tables in the centre of the hall. The company was good. The food was all delicious, Deborah’s wholesome home-made soups, tasty cheese and fruit crumble with cream... but somewhat confusing given the promise of hotpot. Yes, a spoon was provided for the surprise soup. The figure-conscious declined second helpings of soup, and after that we sat looking at our shiny knives and forks, and when, strangely, cheese arrived, held back on that too, still wondering. In the end we sent a scout who reported that crumble was being dished up. It just needed someone to explain what to expect; we



were helping to save the planet after all, and the evening was great fun, with everyone entering into the spirit of the game.

*Photos by Alison Vincent Edwards and Brenda Bell*



## Harvest Thanksgiving

The main Harvest Festival service was a very joyful one with the church bathed in sunshine and beautifully decorated.

Surrounded as we were by generous displays and containers of Harvest gifts and magnificent floral displays, we watched a short film to learn the difference any money donated to the collection could make to the lives of people in Ethiopia through growing potatoes (What a contrast between our harvest and theirs!) We had joyful harvest hymns and the Gloria as a four-part round and Deborah sang the haunting sung version of the Communion prayer that she uses for special occasions.





*Thank the  
Lord, O thank  
the Lord for all  
his love*



*Memories of  
Harvest 2019*



*Created by St Mary's School children and our amazing Flower Arrangers, photos by Brenda Bell*

## ***Harvest Thanks***

***A letter from Mick Hayter on behalf of  
Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (pto)***

*We know other letters were received, but Mick writes so quickly and interestingly, and John Shaw is excellent at forwarding them to us. All our gifts are very much appreciated*

I am writing to convey our grateful thanks to your congregation for the very generous donation to the Partnership of food, toiletries and nappies from your recent Harvest Festival celebrations. All of these are very much appreciated and needed.

Unfortunately our caseload continues to grow and currently we are helping about 275 adults and children. Every month sees an increase in the number of people needing help and currently we are giving out over 1 tonne of food a month plus toiletries and nappies when we have them. About 65 families need support each month and are given a food parcel valued between £25-£50 depending on family size, as generally they have no access to any public funds and often are not allowed to work.

Some good news! A client who was given Leave to Remain late last year has now been in reasonably well-paid employment since February 2019.

We continue to offer support at our fortnightly Drop-In Centre, where clients can meet socially, and obtain legal help as well as discussing any problems they are experiencing.

We really appreciate your continued support and interest in our work and would thank you again for your generous donations. Do please visit our website: [www.wtrrp.org.uk](http://www.wtrrp.org.uk) for more up to date information.

## Angels and Ministers of Grace

*Michael Baker*



Dorothy Entwistle has kindly and generously made a gift to our Church Library of a new book, *Angels*, by Peter Stanford. Subtitled *A Visible and Invisible History*, the book tracks belief in angels from its earliest traces in ancient Persian and Egyptian religion, then in Jewish tradition. The author distinguishes between ‘seraphim’ and ‘cherubim’, originally terrifying supernatural creatures, and ordinary angels, messengers of God, generally portrayed as outwardly indistinguishable from ordinary human beings; it is not, in fact, clear from the Old Testament texts whether these angels have any separate existence from God, or whether they are a device to get round the warning that ‘no man may see [God’s] face and live’.

It was during the period after our Old Testament ends that there was a great flowering of ‘apocalyptic’ writing, which includes much material on angels, in particular the Book of Enoch, excluded from the canon of scripture, though drawn on by later writers (including the modern author Philip Pullman). By the time of our New Testament, the

existence of angels was accepted by most of the Jewish community, and so by the first Christians; Paul and other writers had to give warnings against the worship of angels. They began to be portrayed in Christian wall paintings that have survived, the earliest being depicted without wings, which found their way on to them from classical pagan art.

Mediaeval scholars had a passion for categorising and pigeonholing everything, including angels; the Heavenly Hierarchy of Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels and run-of-mill Angels, was devised by a writer calling himself Dionysus the Areopagite, whose ideas were developed into the theological science of angelology by Thomas Aquinas. The study of angels was applied as a means of understanding how the natural world works, in particular the changes of the weather, planets and constellations. Angels continued to be portrayed in art, except during the Reformation hiatus, and in poetry, notably by our own John Milton and William Blake. In painting and sculpture, angels were usually shown as vigorous, winged young men but became progressively feminised, particularly by Victorian artists.

In conclusion, the author notes how belief in ‘Guardian Angels’ has persisted, even, apparently, among some people who say they have no religion, and consider the present-day failure to distinguish between believing something as a fact (leading some people to fundamentalism) and belief *in* something as a guide to action.

The book is informative, entertaining, and thought-provoking; a good read.

*PS Reading this book led me to ponder how we can all be, in a way, angels - God's postmen. Activities such as writing and publishing our magazine LINK are one way of doing so. It is a very great shame that there seems to be no way in which this can be carried on after the end of the year. 'On-Line' bulletins, and 'social media' on their own, are not adequate substitutes, in my opinion.*

## **Saint Christopher**

Dorothy Entwistle

You may be encouraged to know - if you didn't know already - that there are Fourteen Holy Helpers at your beck and call. ‘The Vierzehnheiligen’ is how they are known, and this is the dedication of a famous baroque church located near the town of Bad Staffelstein, near Bamberg, in Bavaria, southern Germany. St Blaise, for instance, is on call if you have a sore throat and St Sebastian if you fear the plague, St Eustace if you're involved in a hunting accident, and

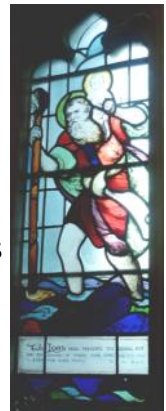




*The Church of the Vierzehnheiligen and the Altarpiece where they may be seen*

St Dionysius if you have a headache, and of course St Christopher is there to save you from dying with your sins unforgiven.

That is why the figure of St Christopher is the last thing you should see before leaving a church. And if you don't know where to find him in St Mary's, take a look now at the north porch. (You can't miss the north porch. It's the only porch there is.) Come in and look straight ahead. Above the table is a small, modest window, and in this window is a small, modest, stained glass portrait of a brawny fellow carrying a child across a river. Of course it's St Christopher. Everyone knows St Christopher. We carry his image about in cars and lorries and hanging from our key rings. We hope he'll preserve us from driving into a nasty obstruction on the road or from being trapped in a motorway pile-up.



We don't so much worry now, if at all, about dying unshriven. But people used to, and that is why so many Christophers were painted in churches on the wall opposite the door. At the Reformation and after, they were usually whitewashed over but some have gradually been uncovered. You may see him now in churches at Little Missenden, at Aldermaston, Impington, Little Baddow, The Lee, and at Little Hampden for instance, [as well as in St Albans Abbey]. The kind donors of St Mary's Christopher window were evidently aware of this significance when they had it placed here in gratitude for the ending of the Second World War. St Christopher might have approved of that dedication for, in spite of his great height - twelve cubits, it is said - and fearsome face, in all the stories about him he is never the fighter but always the searcher, the sufferer, the teacher or the helper.

Firstly it is said that he went about searching for someone really great to honour. He found no one for a long time but in the end he heard about Christ, the greatest of all, and that he might find Christ when at the most humble task, carrying wayfarers across a river. He did find Christ, as a little child, and a little child who was himself carrying the whole world. Afterwards, it is said, he went to Lycia in Asia Minor and there taught himself the language and preached and converted eight thousand people. But later, on the nearby island of Samos, he refused to worship the local gods (and perhaps Juno herself for she had a magnificent temple there), and was imprisoned by the local king and ordered to be shot with arrows. The arrows refused to strike him and indeed turned round and struck the king himself in the eye. So in the end Christopher was beheaded.



St Christopher, (l) in Little Missenden Church; (r) digitally enhanced in St Albans Abbey (see p 18)

In early centuries he was a most popular saint until when later scholarly doubts set in. The wonder is that Christopher remains to this day the valued and trusted only patron and protector of wayfarers.

## St Mary's People

TONY PAGE

Just as we prepare to go to press we have heard that Tony has died. He quietly contributed much to St Mary's. Many will remember him as a regular barman at most of our social events. We send Janet, and Nicola and Adrian and their families our condolences and our love.

## From the Registers Funeral

*May she rest in God's peace*

26 September

JUNE POPPLETON

*We hope to include a tribute to June in our December issue*

# Events that May Interest You

David Gilbert

## St Albans:

- 2 Nov            **A firework spectacular** for all the family at Verulamium Park
- Starts 5 Nov    ***Redeeming the Soul of America***-the history and theological ideas of the Civil Rights Movement in America.
- 21 Nov           ***Reaching for God - Beethoven and Faith*** - a blend of live piano and speaking reveals Beethoven's spirituality.
- 22 Nov-         ***An evening with Tim Mooney***- a professional crossword setter for *The Times* and other papers gives advice on how to improve your crossword solving!

[This autumn, by the magic of digital technology visitors to St Albans Cathedral also have the chance to be amongst the first to see the Nave of the Cathedral as never before, as breath-taking light projections lift the veil of time and reveal how the south facing thirteenth to sixteenth century wall paintings may have looked in all their medieval glory. St Albans Cathedral boasts one of the finest collections of medieval wall paintings in the British Isles (see St Albans website [and illustration on p 16]).

## St Paul's

- 23 Nov-         ***The Art of Advent***- Jane Williams explores the season's themes throughout world art, 2.00pm-4.30pm
- 27/Nov         ***God with us***: seeing the Christmas stories with fresh eyes, with New Testament scholar Paula Gooder, 6.30-8pm (free)

## St Martin-in-the-Fields:

The ongoing course on **Stories of Forgiveness** continues with daily lectures

- 5 Nov            Handel's **Israel in Egypt** by candlelight, 7.30pm
- 8 Nov            **Vivaldi and Bach by Candlelight** (The Brandenburg Sinfonia), 7.30pm
- 16 Nov:         **Mini Maestro Family Concert** - Pachelbel Canon, 4.30-5.30pm.

# What's On in Rickmansworth

## Watersmeet

<i>The Rolling Stones Story</i>	Fri 1	7.30pm
Misfits Kidology Dance Co	Sun 3	2pm, 6pm
Film: <i>Ad Astra</i>	Tue 5	2pm, 5pm, 8pm
Film: <i>Downton Abbey</i>	Wed 6	2pm, 5pm, 8pm
<i>Illegal Eagles</i>	Thu 7	7.30pm
<i>Every Voice Counts</i> Rock Chorus 10th Anniversary Concert	Fri 8	7.30pm
Shakespeare Schools Festival	Mon 11-Wed 13	7pm
Film: <i>West Side Story</i>	Thu 14	2pm
Film: <i>Red Joan</i>	Thu 14	7.45pm
<i>Sunset Boulevard</i> Rickmansworth Players	Wed 20-Fri 22	7.30pm
	Sat 23	2pm, 7pm
Film: <i>Maleficent: Mistress of Evil</i>	Sun 24	11am, 2pm, 5pm
NT Live <i>Hansard</i>	Tue 26	7pm
Film: <i>The Goldfinch</i>	Wed 27	2pm, 5pm, 8pm
NT Live <i>Present Laughter</i>	Thu 28	7pm

## The Arts Society, Rickmansworth

Sarratt Village Hall  
Tuesday 12 November

### Murder and Modernism:

Walter Richard Sickert and the Camden Town Group

*Nicola Moorby*

11.00am; tea and coffee from 10.30am

For further information contact Gill Gowing (777715)

## A True Story

My father had a medical condition that meant regular visits to hospital. The local funeral director, a family friend, was very helpful giving him lifts to and fro. Once, a few hours before he was due to come home, the ward sister approached my father with a grin. "Your wife is on the phone", she said "and she wants to know what time you will be ready for the undertaker to collect you".

## Rickmansworth (E) Townswomen's Guild



St Mary's Church Centre

Thursday 21 November, 7.30 for 7.45pm

***Katie's Jumping Fleas***  
*Jumping flea is Hawaiian for the ukulele*

Contact Suzanne Hill (772809) for further information

New members always welcome

## Rickmansworth Garden, Arts & Homecrafts Society



OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 20 November

**Jan Smuts v Nelson Mandela**

*Anne Samson*

8.00pm



Mill End Baptist Church Hall, Field Way Rickmansworth WD3 7EL

## St Mary's in the Past

### 1913

In November of that year there was still no indication that war was imminent. The Vicar reported on the Diocesan Conference. It was the last before the Diocese of Herts and Essex split into two: Chelmsford Diocese and the new Diocese of St Albans. This was largely due to the then Bishop's poor health; he would have lighter duties as Bishop of the 'smaller and less populous' Diocese of St Albans. The finance budget would however go ahead as if no split had occurred 'to give the new Diocese of Chelmsford a good shove off financially'. The Watford Deanery was to do its utmost to reach its financial target of £1188 towards the £15,000 required for specific needs. The Vicar suggested again that St Mary's should form a PCC - to ensure 'they did

their part'. He planned to hold a meeting and enlist a speaker to explain what it involved and everyone was urged to make an effort to attend.

The Vicar appealed for new choir members to support the new choirmaster, Mr Dugard. He regretted that schools and Sunday School had to be closed because of a number of cases of scarlet fever.

At the opening meeting of CETS (the Church of England Temperance Society) the AGM was followed by recitations from Miss Notley and Sargeant Edwards' banjo solos. At the GFS (Girls Friendly Society) Miss Milman's address was most inspiring and [would not] easily be forgotten. The Football Club fielded a Saturday Team, a Reserves Team and a Wednesday Eleven. Ten matches had been won out of nineteen, seven were lost and two drawn. Monthly smoking concerts were to be held in the Ebury Hall, "if Mr Algie Palmer would see his way to undertake the management".

## 1915

The Roll of Honour of Parishioners serving in the War by then was:

On Foreign Service	119
On Home Service	122
Prisoners in Germany	4
Missing	2
Wounded and sick	19
Killed	17

The Bishop, visiting St Mary's, obviously not recovered from his 'severe attack' in the summer had 'a helpful and encouraging message'.

Following advice that there should be as few people on the streets after dark as possible because of enemy aircraft, the Vicar was deciding about changing the time of Evensong. The clerestory windows and the hoods of the nave windows were to be painted black and curtains would be provided for the nave windows to prevent light drawing attention to the church at night, and allow some daylight to be let in during the daytime.

The Parish Magazine was in debt and was not to contain any 'extras', just the Roll of Honour, any notices and a shortened Vicar's letter, when he had something to say.

## 1994

LINK cost 40p then. [It is having a copier in the Parish Office capable of printing LINK in house that has enabled us to keep the price down. Ed]

Anne Peat wrote the November Leader, saying that remembering was 'an essential part of being human', and she also suggested that Advent

was a time ‘for opening our memories to the healing power of God’ not merely remembering.

Adult confirmation numbers were increasing nationwide and preparations had begun for a Confirmation Service in June, when the Bishop of Bedford, John Richardson, would be officiating.

The Junior Choir’s outing was to Harrow Superbowl. The eleven members went in three cars. As well as bowling they played computer games and had ‘a gorgeous pizza and chips’ for lunch. On their return they played Bingo until Evening Service, which was Taizé.

There was a House Group meeting monthly at the Vicarage for ‘fireside conversation’ on challenging topics. Shortly they would discuss *Doubts, Uncertainties and What to Say in Certain Circumstances*. The Moor Lane House Group had recently abandoned a discussion of *The Trinity* for one about *Exotic Cults*.

The St Mary’s Good Neighbour Scheme continued ‘in good heart’ with visitors ‘doing their sterling work’, and a transport service to help people who found it difficult to get to church was being started.

The Renewal programme was still in full swing. The next events were a bonfire and Frank Topping’s long-awaited one man show. LINK contained a two page account of Bruce Driver’s pilgrimage which had raised over £5,000 and people heard more about it at the Harvest Supper, when Alan Swan’s video was shown and the pictures Bruce had painted en route were auctioned.

## Churches in Cambridgeshire

*Brenda Bell*

*David and Patty Hibbert joined bellringing friends from Great Stanmore on a ringing outing to churches in the Ely Diocese in Cambridgeshire back in September. This is an illustrated account of the churches they visited, taken from an article David wrote for his bellringing magazine.*



The first church they visited was **St Peter’s Duxford**, a church in a group of parishes that include Hixton and Ickleton It had some interesting kneelers (see next page).





The next church was **St John the Baptist at Pampisford**, where they found a sundial and a bell-ringer's



grave with unusually an engraving on the back of the headstone - of a bell.



The church's rood screen was highly decorated. The church contained a curved box pew. The lectern fall bore the Star of David with a cross, symbols of Judaism and Christianity, and therefore Old and New Testament, just as in the wood of our lectern.



The group moved on to **St Mary the Virgin, Sawston**, where the south wall was decorated with numerous brasses, and they had a similar NADFAS trail for children to ours.





Here David took a photo of the ringing chamber and ringers while they were deciding what to ring next.

After lunch they went on to **St Mary the Virgin at Great Shefford**, that had an octagonal tower with eight bells. Here they rang on the ground floor around the font and the bells were hung anticlockwise instead of the usual clockwise - it was 'a bit like driving on the wrong side of the road' David found!

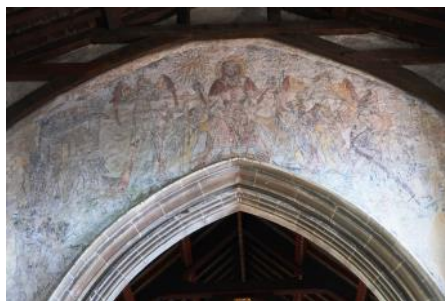


The church, had a fifteenth century 'doom painting' of national importance at the apex of the arch of the rood screen (left). The church guide leaflet describes it:

Christ sits in Judgement. He is seated on a rainbow, the earth at his feet, the sun and moon showing him as Lord of the Universe. His

body bears the wounds of his Passion, and he wears the crown of thorns. Archangels around him hold the instruments of his Passion, the Cross, the spear and the sponge on a javelin. His left hand is raised in judgement, his right in blessing. On his right stands the Virgin Mary, her hands raised in worship. To his left is John the Baptist wearing a camel skin (head still attached...). Archangels sound the last trump, while below the dead rise from their graves. On his right the redeemed enter heaven's gate. On his left demons pull the damned down to hell with a great chain.

Although the painting was lime-washed over in the time of the Reformation and only rediscovered in the nineteenth century restoration, some of the original colour remains.



Next they visited **All Saints', Little Shelford**, where Sir Philip Stuart Milner-Barry, head of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park, where German

encrypted messages were deciphered using the Enigma machine during WW2, is buried in the churchyard.



The final church was **St Mary and St Michael, Trumpington**, the second on the tour with eight bells rather than six, but even this one only had a tenor half the weight of ours in Rickmansworth. The church had a very high roof and David wondered how cold that would make it in winter.



There was a Green Man on its wooden panelling.



Their church magazine was called *The Trumpet!* Unfortunately ringing was not possible in one of the churches:

**WARNING**  
**PERSONS WORKING ABOVE THIS ROOM**  
**DO NOT TOUCH THE ROPES**

*Photos by David Hibbert*



# By The Way:

## A Review of October

*John Shaw*

Autumn is here, The nights are drawing in fast, leaves are falling all over the place and need to be swept up patiently from lawns and drives, and conkers are hitting the ground (so much so that the owner of a pub in Lincolnshire with a protected horse chestnut tree outside is issuing his external customers with hard hats by way of protection).

And after a very dry summer, we are now enjoying a lot of grey clouds and heavy (and welcome) rain.

And the political outlook remains decidedly grey if not downright ominous. The rolling drama of Brexit continues to fill the news and airwaves. At the time of writing, with only a few days to go before 'le crunch', things are not looking good. The language between the EU and UK has become increasingly undiplomatic and the political temperature has become torrid. Is this the dark before the dawn? Will a deal miraculously appear and be passed by Parliament as the midnight hour strikes? Will we be out on our ear from the EU by the end of the month? Or will a further extension to the negotiations be agreed (with Boris Johnson 'dying in a ditch', as he promised)? Only a fool would predict the outcome at this stage. Just keep your fingers firmly crossed, if you want a deal.

In the meantime, the rest of the world continues on its dangerous way. Fires burn in the Amazon, there is serious unrest in Iraq, Turkey has moved against the Kurds in Syria, and the Republicans and Democrats are at each other's throats in the USA over the move to impeach Donald Trump. Nearer to home, there is increasing anxiety about the growth of knife crime, gang culture among disaffected youth, 'County Lines', drug addiction and the horrible misuse of the internet. Extinction Rebellion are bringing parts of Central London to a halt and as soon as one illegal protester is hauled away by the police, their place is taken by several others. Greta Thunberg, fresh from shaming world leaders at the United Nations and now tipped by some for the Nobel Peace Prize, has certainly started something.

I wonder how many of the following news items you spotted in recent weeks: John Lewis and Waitrose are going to merge their top management in order to save £100 million a year; UK banks closed about a third (3,300) of their branches between January 2015 and August 2019; Bob Marley has finally acquired a blue plaque (in Oakley

Street, Chelsea); Reading prison, once the 'home' of Oscar Wilde and now an LGBT landmark, is up for sale; a Durham pub continued to get adverse reviews on TripAdvisor for five years after it closed in 2011. David Hockney is moving from Los Angeles to Normandy so that he can work and smoke in peace; John Humphrys has retired from the *Today Programme* after 32 years and Graham Norton has admitted that he is not worth his £600,000 a year salary but still takes it because this is his market value.

Recent deaths have included Ginger Baker (I nearly typed Rogers!), 'an obnoxious git' by his own admission but a maverick drummer and founder of *Cream*, aged 80; Jacques Chirac (aged 86), who served two terms as President of France, opposed the invasion of Iraq, and enjoyed a somewhat colourful private life; Jessye Norma (aged 74), a soprano possessed of a voice of extraordinary range and richness, who rose to become one of the biggest stars of classical music in the 1970s and 1980s; Brian Barnes (aged 74); Ryder Cup golfer who beat Jack Nicklaus twice in a day; Sir Michael Edwards (aged 88), combative chairman of British Leyland who won over the workforce and broke the stranglehold of militant union leaders; Peter Sissons (aged 77), journalist and broadcaster and 'one of the TV greats' (really?).

Four snippets to end with. Charles Darwin said, "If I had my life over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once every week". And William Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1940s) said, "When I pray, coincidences happen. When I don't, they don't". A sign by the lake at the Summer Palace in Beijing reads, 'No romping'. And, finally, a contributor to a woman's magazine, asked for the one thing she would like to know before she died, said, "What if the hokey cokey really is what it's all about?"

*Not a lot of People Know That*

## **A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**

*Bill Sylvester*

**A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing** is a person who appears pleasant and friendly but carries a hidden menace. This expression can be found in one of Aesop's fables dating back 1400 years. In one of his stories a wolf wraps himself up in a sheep's fleece and sneaks past the shepherd into the paddock. Once inside he immediately eats one of the lambs before his deception can be discovered. The actual origin is in the Bible: Matthew 7.15 says 'Beware of prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing. Inwardly they are ravening wolves'.



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

## CALENDAR

### November 2019

- 1 Fri **ALL SAINTS' DAY**  
10.00am Said Holy Communion
- 2 Sat **Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)**  
10.00am Said Holy Communion *with recitation of names*, (see p 6)  
2.30pm Bereavement Service - *All welcome*(see p 6)
- 3 SUN **THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**  
**BCP: *The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity***  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am All Age Holy Communion Service  
4.00pm Firework Display at St Mary's School (see p 6)
- 4 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Group meets
- 5 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion  
7.45pm **Start** Course, The Vicarage
- 6 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School
- 7 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, *Cloisters Hall*  
2.15pm *Meet for Tea*  
*December LINK copy deadline*
- 8 Fri **The Saints and Martyrs of England**
- 9 Sat 7.30pm *Memories*, Concert commemorating the outbreak of WW2 (see p 6)
- 10 SUN **THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**  
**BCP: *The Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity***  
**Remembrance Sunday**  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am Sung Holy Communion  
2.00pm Remembrance Sunday Parade leaves Our Lady's  
2.30pm Remembrance Sunday Service (see p 6)  
7.00pm *X Team*
- 11 Mon 10.45am Armistice Day Service, War Memorial  
2.00pm *Threads for Change* Group meets  
2.15pm LINK Editors Meeting  
7.45pm United Church Council meets, Cloisters Hall
- 12 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion  
7.45pm **Start** Course, The Vicarage
- 13 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School  
7.45pm Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee meeting  
7.45pm Housegroup (for contact, see cover)
- 14 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall  
12.30pm Deanery Clergy Chapter Meeting
- 17 SUN **THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**  
**BCP: *The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity***  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am Sung Holy Communion  
12.15pm Said Holy Communion

- 1.00pm **Lunch Club**
- 18 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Group meets  
7.45pm Church Centre Management Committee, Cloisters Hall
- 19 Tue **Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680**  
10.00am Said Holy Communion  
12.30pm Home Communion through afternoon  
7.45pm **Start** Course, The Vicarage
- 20 Wed **Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr. 870**  
11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School  
2.30pm *The Teapot Club*, in church
- 21 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
- 24 SUN **CHRIST THE KING**  
*BCP: The Last Sunday of Trinity*  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am Sung Holy Communion  
7.00pm X Team  
*December LINK is published*
- 25 Mon 2.00pm *Threads for Change* Group
- 26 Tue 10.00am Said Holy Communion  
12 noon 10-bell ringing practice - *All ringers welcome*  
7.30pm Chiltern Choir Practice, in church  
7.45pm **Start** Course, The Vicarage
- 27 Wed 11.30am Collective Worship at St Mary's School
- 28 Thu 9.30am *Little Angels* Toddlers Group, Cloisters Hall
- 29 Fri 5.00pm Rickmansworth Winter Fair Evening
- 30 Sat **ANDREW THE APOSTLE**  
7.30pm Chiltern Choir Concert, in church

**December**

- 1 Sun **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*Common Worship Sunday Lectionary Year A begins*  
*Common Worship Mid-week Lectionary Year 3 begins*  
8.00am Said Holy Communion  
10.00am All Age Holy Communion Service  
6.00pm Advent Carol Service

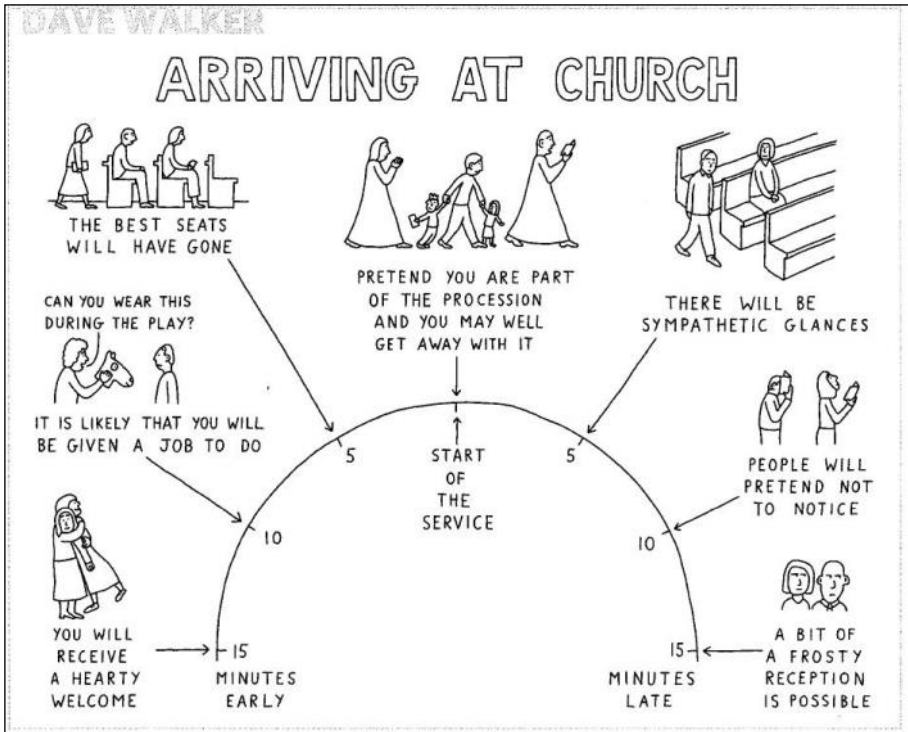
<b>Choir and Bellringers Regular Weekly Practices</b>			
Wed 7.30pm	Bellringing	Thu 7.45pm	Choir
<i>New members welcome at both practices – just come along</i>			

*A new life begins for us with every second. Let us go forward joyously to meet it. We must press on, whether we will or no, and we shall walk better with our eyes before us than with them cast behind.*

Jerome K Jerome



# Dave Walker



*This cartoon that appeared in Church Times is reproduced by arrangement with Dave Walker*

## December LINK

**Copy deadline** Thursday 7 November

**Publication date:** Sunday 24 November

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](mailto:link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk); we can accept handwritten copy. We may have to edit for space or other reasons and tight deadlines do not always allow for discussion of changes with authors. We like good quality photographs. *Please note that opinions expressed in LINK are not necessarily those of the Editors of LINK or St Mary's Church.*

## 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	Jean Dodds	via Church Office
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, 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
Friends in Christ	Christine Payne	via Church Office
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 gmgowing@btopenworld.com
	Maxine Platzman	896622

### Children and Young People

<i>Little Angels:</i> babies & toddlers, Thu am, Cloisters Hall	X Team (Youth Group, year 7+)	
Girlguiding UK	David Carruthers	07831 387541
Rainbows:	Yvonne Wells	via Church Office
Brownies:	Ali Hampton	via Church Office
Guides:	Tracy Jenkins	via Church Office

*The code for all phone numbers, unless otherwise stated, is 01923*  
**Contacts (continued)**

**Children and Young People (continued)**

Church School	St Mary's CofE Primary	776529
Headteacher:	Mrs Emma Edwards	
School website:	<a href="http://www.stmarys698.herts.sch.uk">www.stmarys698.herts.sch.uk</a>	

**Administration**

Charitable Giving Committee	Jane Earl (Chair)	711695
Community and Outreach	David Carruthers (Chair)	07831 87541
Harvest Giving	Jennett Day	237248
Safeguarding officers:	Margaret West	07593 532567
	Helen Swain	07593 532567
email:	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk">safeguarding@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk</a>	
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	
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:	<a href="mailto:link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk">link@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk</a>	
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		via Church Office
Christian Aid	Gill & Martyn Gowing	777715

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