



**St Mary the Virgin  
Rickmansworth**

*Serving the whole community*

## FROM THE VICAR'S DESK: MAY 2025



Greetings Good People.  
It has been a very busy time since my last letter. Over the past weeks we have celebrated Mothering Sunday, Holy Week and Easter with a wide range of services and events. I must say I was very

pleased by the range and number of visitors we had on Good Friday, and I know the service we offered was well received by all who attended. Easter Sunday was also very well supported by friends old and new, as we had 26 people at our 8 am service and 169 people attending our 10 am! **I think we should all take encouragement from this.**

### **Mothering Sunday**

Mothering Sunday was a truly joyful service, with poems read by the pupils of St Marys school and the baptism of Lenny all making it a real celebration of family and church life. Thanks to everyone who contributed cakes and prosecco for the party afterwards!



### **Easter Craft Morning**

Our craft morning held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April



brought together a lovely group of young people to enjoy a wide range of activities and games, all with an Easter theme. The young people attending came from a number of our local schools. The Easter garden in the north porch was one of the activities we shared together. **It was lovely to see the young people make new friends and to meet and chat with their parents.**



The photos tell their own story of the fun that was shared by children and adults alike ... **Thank you to all our volunteers for making this such a wonderful morning for everyone! Thanks also to the children for**

**making such a lovely Easter Garden!!**





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### Taking Stock

The hectic pace of the past few months has reminded me of just how important it is to stop and be still, and to take time to reflect or "take stock"

We all need to try and do this in whatever way feels right for our circumstances

Over Lent I made it my discipline to pray the monastic offices of prayer, which really gave me space to be with God in amongst the busyness (If anyone would like to explore committing to pray some of these offices each day, I would be delighted to help with enabling this.)

For those of you who don't feel they have time to pray the formal prayer offices, I also offer the following model of prayer as a possible way of praying more in daily life and setting aside time for God while you are out and about

### **Stop**

*Make yourself be still for a few moments*

### **Look...**

*Spend a few moments looking at your surroundings or the landscape around you.  
Perhaps focus on one building or landmark  
Silently call to mind those who play a part in the life of this place, all who may live or work there  
Pray for them.*

### **Listen**

*Spend a minute or more listening to the characteristic sounds of this locality  
Be thankful for all the sounds you can hear and begin to hear the voice of God in them*

### **Pray**

*Try to hear the peaceful silence at the centre of your own heart for a few precious moments.  
Ask him to speak to you in this moment of stillness*

*Say the Lord's prayer  
And then move on...*



### VE Day Celebrations

St Marys will hold an event in commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> VE day anniversary on **Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May**. Our church Bells will ring out across the town at 6:30 pm and then we will hold a beacon lighting event in the churchyard at 9:30 pm.

The Parish centre will be open that night from

8:15 pm for light refreshments and to host historical and poppy displays in remembrance and thanksgiving.

The event will also be attended by local councillors, our MP and a representative of the Lord Lieutenant.

This is open to all our members as well as the wider community, and we would love to see you there!

### Parish Pantry Event

**On the 17<sup>th</sup> May** we will be holding a special Parish Pantry event with a Plant stall and church and community displays. Please keep an eye on our notice boards for fuller details of this important day

### Vocations Sunday

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May (Vocations Sunday) Ruth Dennigan the diocesan officer for growing vocations and lay Ministry will join us to preach

### APCM

Our annual parochial meeting takes place in the Parish centre, on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May after the 10:00 service**. Please do support this if you possibly can!

Wishing you every Blessing for the coming month

*Gary*

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