



# 1270-2020

Timeline of events in the 750 years since the appointment of the first vicar of St Mary's Parish Church, Rickmansworth

**c250**

Alban martyred outside Verulamium (St Albans)

**793**

Vikings attack the monastery of Lindisfarne, Northumbria

**1086**

William the Conqueror orders a survey of all the lands in his kingdom (Domesday Book)

**1154**

Nicholas Breakspear (born at Abbots Langley) elected Pope and takes title of 'Adrian IV'. He died 1159 and is the only English Pope so far.

**1170**

29 December Henry II causes the murder of Thomas a Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, in an attempt to control the power of the Church

1190-1216: Adam (chaplain)

**pre-250**

Anglo-Saxon settlers in the area

**793**

The manor of Rickmansworth is said to have been granted to the abbey of St Alban's by Offa, along with other manors in what is now South West Herts

Monastery (over Alban's shrine) re-ordered to Benedictine rule and re-endowed, by King Offa of Mercia, with manors in south west Herts, including Rickmansworth. Alban canonised.

**1086**

Some aspects of the Manor of Rickmansworth (Prichemareworde), then owned by the Abbot of St Alban's, are still visible today: the rivers in the area already played a part in the local economy – there was a mill, a large area of meadow and income for the abbot from fish.

The Manor was heavily wooded, sufficient to support 1,200 pigs: perhaps the largest area of woodland in what is now Hertfordshire. By allowing 4.5-5 people per family, it is possible to estimate the manor's population from the number tenants. Since there were 22 villeins, 9 smallholders, 5 cottagers and 5 serfs, some 200 people would have then been living in the manor.

There were also 4 'Frenchmen' – probably men who had accompanied the Conqueror from France – but whether they had families here we do not know.

**1219**

The Church of Rickmansworth belongs to the Abbey of St Alban's, and is confirmed to them by Pope Honorius III in 1219. The income from the Church is granted to the sacrist of the Abbey by the Abbot.

1270: 1st Vicar Richard de Chelveston

**1270**

**1291**

Ecclesiastical Taxation by order of Pope Nicholas IV

**1291**

Income of Rickmansworth Church valued at £16

**1292**

Edward, Prince of Wales, [future Edward II] is entertained in Rickmansworth in November

1302 - John de la Stonehouse

**1320**

**1348-1349**

Edward III. The Black Death [the plague] kills about half of the population of England. One graphic testimony can be found at St Mary's, Ashwell, Hertfordshire, where an anonymous hand has carved a harrowing inscription for the year 1349: 'Wretched, terrible, destructive year, the remnants of the people alone remain.'

**1348-1349**

There is a shortage of clergymen. 3 different chaplains (rather than vicars) are appointed for Rickmansworth in 1349: William de Laxham (May, chaplain) Roger Wood (June, chaplain) Robert Menaunt (August, chaplain). Against all three names after their appointment the word 'void' (not deceased) is recorded. Either they all died of plague at Rickmansworth, or they never reached the parish.

**1370**

**1380**

Geoffrey Chaucer begins work on his 'Canterbury Tales'

**1381**

Richard II is KingThe Peasants' Revolt: an uprising, with several leaders including Wat Tyler, against the government of the child-king Richard II and his ministers, especially his uncle, John of Gaunt. Buildings in London destroyed.

**1381**

Like many other of the tenants of the abbey of St Alban's, at the time of Wat Tyler's rebellion the men of Rickmansworth extorted from the Abbot a Charter of liberties, two forms of which, both dated 1381, are given in the Gesta Abbatum (the Abbey's Chronicle). All the tenants were to have free fishing in the water called 'Pichelesborne,' as was the custom, and also free common in Burymore in Batchworth, for all their animals except pigs and geese, paying to the Abbot 3d. annually for each animal.

1395 - John Cave

**1396**

A 28 year truce with France in 1396 was sealed with Richard II's betrothal to a French princess

**1396 -1401**

Croxley Great Barn begun to be built; finished 1401

1485 - Thomas Cotton

**1486**

Henry VII marries Elizabeth of York, sister of Edward IV and Richard III

**1486**

The Manor of the More is granted in 1486 to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford,

1408 - John Atte Crouche

1411 - Thomas Martin

**1415**

Henry V defeated the French at Agincourt and married the French king's daughter

**1511**

Amersham martyrs. Several inhabitants of Rickmansworth are among the persecuted Lollards who had their headquarters at Amersham.

1418 - Thomas Clark

**1420**

**1426**

William Flete takes over the Manor of the More; receives a charter allowing him to build a brick house and to enclose 600 acres of parkland..

**1513**

Persecution of heretics by Bishop of London

**1516**

Scots defeated at Flodden

**1517**

Martin Luther publishes his '95 Theses', challenging abuses in the Roman Catholic Church; the beginning of the Protestant Reformation

**1430**

Henry VI of England crowned King Henry II of France

**1520**

**1521**

Sir Thomas More's Utopia published

**1521**

Andrew Randal, his wife and father, of Rickmansworth are persecuted as Lollards 'because they had received into their House, Thomas Manne, flying from persecution, and for reading 'Wyklifs Wicket' (a heretical book). Also John Grosar and Thomas Spencer questioned. None of these burned at the stake.

1430 - Henry Burwasse

**1455-1485**

Wars of the Roses

**mid 15c**

The Vicarage (now The Old Vicarage) in Church Street built. The Priory built as a church house.

Persecutions of heretics by Bishop of Lincoln (Rickmansworth was in that diocese until 1540)

**1456**

The Manor of the More belongs to Sir Ralph Boteler, Lord of Sudeley. He builds a new moated fortified brick house.

**1522**

Thomas Wolsey became Abbot of St Albans. From then on until 1529 he resides periodically at the More.

**1522**

Arson attack on St Mary's church. Probably in retaliation for the persecution of the Lollards at Amersham. The chancel, vestry, organ, and rood-loft are destroyed by fire. The unknown arsonists also broke open the font, which was kept locked to prevent the holy water being used for improper purposes, and scattered the water on the floor. The Cardinal issues an indulgence of a hundred days, to which the Bishop of the Diocese adds forty more for all who would contribute to the rebuilding of the Church. Evidence from local wills shows that it was rebuilt fairly quickly.

**1470**

1475 - John Wynton

**1476**

William Caxton sets up a printing press at Westminster

**1525**

Tyndale's translation of the New Testament published

**1525**

August; Archbishop of Canterbury, William Warham, stays with the Vicar in the Vicarage whilst visiting the parish. [Thomas Cotton dies in 1525 or 1526; the name of his immediate successor is unknown]

1480 - Thomas Hemmingforth

**1485**

King Richard III killed and Henry Tudor crowned as King Henry VII

**1485**

Thomas Hemmingforth is ejected in for apostasy, which probably meant Lollardism (heresy).

**1529**

Cardinal Wolsey is stripped of his offices after he fails to negotiate the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage with Katherine of Aragon

**1530**

Wolsey was recalled to London to answer treason charges but died in the November.

**1533**

Halley's comet reappears

**1534**

Act of Supremacy: Henry VIII declared himself 'Head' of the Church in England 'so far as the Law of God allows'

**1535**

May 1533, Henry VIII's first marriage annulled; he then married Anne Boleyn

1535 - William Mann instituted

**1539**

Henry VIII issued the 'Great Bible' in English and ordered a copy to be placed in every church.

**1542**

Hans Holbein the Younger painted his portrait of Henry VIII

**1547**

Henry VIII died. Edward VI, his son by Jane Seymour, succeeded him

**1525**

An important Treaty with France is concluded at the Moor

**1529**

Sir John Russell, later 1st Earl of Bedford, is granted custody of the Manor of the More, but he appears to have acted as caretaker for the King, as Henry was in residence there periodically from 1530.

**1531**

In the summer of 1531, Henry VIII refuses to take Catherine on his royal progress and orders her to retire to the More. She appears to have remained there all that winter. Her household at the More is described by Mario Savorgnano, a visitor from Venice in a letter dated 25 Aug 1531: 'In the morning we saw her majesty dine: she had some 30 maids of honour standing round the table, and about 50 who performed its service. Her Court consists of about 200 persons, but she is not so much visited as heretofore, on account of the King'.

**1533**

Sir John Russell, keeper of the park, addresses numerous complaints to Thomas Cromwell as to the dilapidated state of the park palings, for the repair of which he was allowed no supplies. He states that those who go to the park with carriages brake down the hedges and make highways through it. The garden also is in a ruined state, and of 400 or 500 deer only 100 remain, as they broke out from the park, and were killed daily.

**1539**

St Alban's Abbey surrendered to the Crown (dissolution of the monasteries)

**1540**

c1540-1610: First phase of development of The Bury

**1542**

Rickmansworth becomes a market town by a Charter of Henry VIII

**1549**

First English Prayer Book issued

**1553**

Edward VI died. His half-sister Mary, daughter of Katharine of Aragon, succeeds him, and restores the authority of the Pope. Protestants are persecuted during her reign.

**1556**

First written records of the game of cricket

**1558**

Loss of Calais, last English possession in France. Queen Mary dies, and is succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn

1559 - Henry Fynch

1562 - David Kempe (Archdeacon of St Albans, 1560-81)

**1570**

**1577**

Foxe's Book of Martyrs published

**1579**

Francis Drake begins to circumnavigate the world

1579 - Mr Downes

1580 - Giles Lawrence

**1581**

Earthquake in London

1581 - William Hutchinson (Archdeacon of St Alban's, 1581-?)

1584 - John Sterne

**1587**

Sir Walter Raleigh discovers and annexes Virginia

1588 - Tobias Chalfont

**1550**

Manor of Rickmansworth granted to the Bishop of London

**1552**

Inventory of the Goods, Plate, Jewels and Ornaments of St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth, made by Edward VI's Commissioners.

**1556**

In 1556-7 Croxley Manor is granted to John Kaye or Caius, one of the physicians of the royal household. In 1557 he refounds Gonville Hall where he had been educated, and to this College, which from this time becomes known as Gonville & Caius College, he grants the Manor of Croxley. Since then the Manor has remained in the possession of the master and fellows of Gonville & Caius College.

**1558**

John Palmer, of The Bury, is buried in St Katherine's aisle of the Church; his will called for burial at night with ten poor mourners, in black, carrying torches, and with five priests to say five masses

**1559**

Elizabeth declared 'Supreme Governor' of the Church in England

**1581**

Giles Lawrence, Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford, is Vicar of Rickmansworth for about six months. He was a friend of John Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury, and assisted in his escape to the Continent in 1555.

1588

Mary Queen of Scots executed  
Spanish Armada

1605

Gunpowder Plot to blow up the  
Houses of Parliament foiled

1620

1620

Mayflower sails for America  
English language King James'  
Authorized Version of the Bible  
published

1621 - William Edmonds jr.

1588

June: a petition complaining about the disorderly  
alehouse of Richard Heyward in Mill End is addressed to  
the local JPs Sir Charles Morison and Francis Heydon.

1605

Thomas Percy, a main conspirator in the Gunpowder  
Plot, is Chief Lieutenant to the Earl of Northumberland  
whose accountant, Thomas Fotherley of Rickmansworth,  
was at that time bringing the Earl's rents down from his  
northern estates; the Earl was imprisoned.

1610-1660

Second phase of development of The Bury by Sir  
Gilbert Wakering (d.1616), by his widow, and the  
Hewett family.

1620

The mansion of More Lodge (Moor Park) erected in  
the park, c1617-20, by Edward and Lucy, 3rd Earl and  
Countess of Bedford.

1627

Earl and Countess of Bedford die within weeks of each  
other. Estate inherited by William 4th Earl of Bedford  
and 3rd Earl of Pembroke

1630

The present west tower of St Mary's Church is built  
on the base of the medieval tower; the five existing  
bells are rehung. William, 3rd Earl of Pembroke, dies  
suddenly of an apoplexy, and is succeeded by his  
brother and heir, Philip, Lord Chamberlain, as the 4th  
Earl

1631

Thomas Fotherley purchases Rickmansworth Manor  
with The Bury (the Manor House which was leased from  
1610 for 60 years by Wakering). 4th Earl of Pembroke  
sells More Lodge to Robert Carey, Earl of Monmouth,  
and the Manor of the More to Sir Charles Harbord.

1640

First coffee shop opens in London

1642

Final breakdown between  
Charles I and Parliament. Battles of  
Powick Bridge and Edgehill (first of the  
English Civil War)

1644

Cotton goods first made in  
Manchester

1644 - Thomas Walley  
(intruded Puritan minister)

1645

Battle of Naseby  
1646 - George Swinnoc

1646

Charles I surrendered to the Scots;  
taken to Newcastle

1647

Charles I handed over to Parliament  
but later seized by the Army. Abolition  
of Christmas resulted in rioting.

1648

Widespread rebellions crushed by  
Oliver Cromwell and the New Model  
Army. Charles I rejected treaty terms.

1649

30 January 1649, Charles I executed  
at Westminster. Accession of Charles II  
but monarchy abolished.

1650

Oliver Cromwell new commander-in-  
chief of the New Model Army

1651

Charles II defeated at Worcester

1653

Parliament dissolved; Republic  
declared, known as the Protectorate  
of the Four Nations, with Cromwell as  
Lord Protector

1640

Further damage is done in St Mary's, when Edmund  
Aylee and others 'did come into the Church of  
Rickmansworth, and after sermon and service ended  
in the forenoon did there wittingly and suddenly  
pull down and break in pieces the rayle about the  
Communion table, and also in the afternoon of the  
same day did also wittingly and suddenly break down  
and deface a part of the cover of the font.'

1642

Sir Thomas Fotherley, Philip 2nd Viscount Strangford  
(8 yr old Crown ward) and the household, of at least  
twenty, in residence in Rickmansworth

1644

William Edmonds jr., vicar, ejected from the living;  
moved to his other parish, Taplow, from where he was  
ejected in 1645

1646

George Swinnock, the Nonconformist divine, was  
intruded as vicar of Rickmansworth. He was the author  
of several religious works, which were collected and  
published in 1665

1649

Sir Thomas Fotherley dies in December and is buried in  
the Chancel (later epitaph in Lady Chapel); son and heir  
John Fotherley becomes Lord of the Manor.

1652

Richard Franklin purchases Moor Park from Henry Carey,  
2nd Earl of Monmouth (Carey family tomb chest in  
Chancel).

1655

Richard Franklin purchases the Manor of the More

**1658**

Oliver Cromwell die; succeeded by son, Richard

**1660**

29 May 1660, Restoration of Charles II

1662 - William Edmonds jr. (restored)

**1661**

Sir Richard Franklin builds for himself More House on the Manor estate

**1663**

John Beresford sets up almshouses [used to be in High Street]

**1664**

1st Duke of Ormond purchases Moor Park from Franklin

**1665**

Great Plague of London

**1666**

Great Fire of London

**1670**

1670 - Samuel Packer

**1670**

Sale of Moor Park to Duke of Monmouth. End of Waking lease of The Bury to full ownership by John Fotherley, Lord of the Manor.

**1672**

Wiliam Penn marries Gulielma Springett; they live in Basing House (leaving in 1678)

**1675**

Disputation in Rickmansworth between Wiliam Penn and Richard Baxter, a famous minister in the Church of England; they spoke to two full rooms of people from 10 o'clock until five.

**1676**

Greenwich Observatory established

**1676**

Population of Rickmansworth 276 families

**1677**

Church 'beautified'

**1678**

Moor Park mansion rebuilt on the site of More Lodge by Monmouth

**1682**

Ashmolean Museum founded at Oxford

**1682**

Almshouses built in the High Street by John Fotherley, Lord of the Manor

1684 - Robert Bruce

**1685**

Charles II died; accession of James II

**1685**

Monmouth's rebellion resulted in his execution. His widow continued to live at Moor Park

1690 - John James

**1693**

Queen Mary dines with the Duchess of Monmouth at Moor Park.

**1694**

Silver standing paten given to the church by Lady Anne Franklin (d.1708) of the Moore (More House).

**1703**

Birth of John Wesley

**1711**

Rickmansworth Charity School founded by Rev John James

**1707**

Union with Scotland creates United Kingdom

**1710**

English South Sea Company founded

**1714**

George I (Elector of Hanover) succeeded to the throne

**1720**

**1720**

Moor Park purchased by Benjamin Haskyns Styles; successful South Sea speculator. Mansion extended, remodelled and altered internally by Sir James Thornhill.

**1720**

South Sea bubble

1723 - Ralph Thoresby

**1728**

John Wesley ordained priest in Church of England

1728 - George Walker

**1734**

John Wesley felt his heart 'strangely warmed' during a meeting in London; beginning of Methodism.

1736 - Thomas Holme

**1739**

Dick Turpin executed

**1739**

John Wesley begins formation of the Methodist Society, and begins a national campaign of preaching

**1740**

Basing House rebuilt

**1746**

Solesbridge on the river Chess begins producing paper

**1754**

George, Admiral Lord Anson purchases Moor Park. Capability Brown landscapes the grounds

1754 - Robert Meetkerke

**1745**

Scotsbridge Mill and Batchworth Mill change to papermaking

1757 - John Alexander

**1757**  
Mill End mill producing paper

**1758**  
Loudwater Mill changes to papermaking

**1763**  
Sir Laurence Dundas purchases Moor Park. Robert Adam employed to make internal alterations, and additions including the Tea House (15 Moor Lane), and the lodge and entrance arch (Batchworth Lane)

**1765**  
Bells recast and increased to a ring of eight

**1770**

**1775**  
Wedgwood produced the 'Green Frog' dinner and dessert service (944 items) for Catherine II, Empress of Russia. Each piece was decorated with an individual British scene including papermaking mills at Rickmansworth (probably Batchworth), and views of Moor Park.

**1776**  
Hamper Mill changes to papermaking

**1785**  
Thomas Bates Rous purchases Moor Park and makes alterations to the front including demolishing the collonades.

**1788**  
Earliest recorded peal of eight bells at St Mary's (by the Ancient Society of College Youths).

**1796**  
Grand Junction canal opens from Rickmansworth to Brentford

**1801**  
Population of Rickmansworth 2,975 people

**1802**  
Barn at the back of the Coach and Horses registered as a meeting place for Baptists

**1802**  
Church 'beautified'

**1760**  
George III succeeded to the throne

**1776**  
American Declaration of Independence (achieved 1781).

**1789-1792**  
French Revolution

**1791**  
John Wesley dies. Methodist Societies separate from the Church of England

**1801**  
First census

1805 - Edward Hodgson

**1805**  
Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson defeated Napoleon's fleet.

**1807**  
Slave Trade Act

**1814**  
Steam railway invented

**1815**  
Battle of Waterloo; final defeat of Napoleon

**1820**  
George IV succeeded to the throne  
Regent's Canal opened

**1832**  
Great Reform Act passes

**1805**  
c1805 - Rickmansworth Park house built

**1806**  
Market House in centre of High Street pulled down and re-erected in line with shops at west end of the High Street

Rickmansworth Silk Mill opens

**1811**  
Population 3,230

**1814**  
Methodist minister saved from death at the hands of a Rickmansworth mob

**1820**

**1821**  
Population 3,940

**1823**  
Ebenezer Chapel (Baptist) built in Uxbridge Road

**1824**  
Parish Vestry borrows £6000 to rebuild the Church, apart from the tower

**1826**  
St Mary's medieval Church (except the tower) rebuilt (William Atkinson, architect) Interest-free loan from the New Churches Commission for six years took eighteen to repay.

**1828**  
Robert Earl Grosvenor purchases Moor Park and was successively followed by his son Lord Ebury (1845), and the second Lord Ebury (1893).

**1830**  
Croxley Mill built by John Dickinson

**1832**  
The Vicar of Rickmansworth is forced to give the Church keys to the people of Rickmansworth so they could ring the bells to celebrate the passing of the Great Reform Act

**1833**

Slavery Abolition Act

**1837**

Queen Victoria succeeded to the throne

**1851**

Great Exhibition in Hyde Park

1853 - Alleyne Higgs Barker

**1853-1856**

Crimean War; Charge of the Light Brigade (Balaclava 1854).

**1869**

Suez Canal opened

**1870**

**1833**

King William IV and Queen Adelaide visit the Grosvenors at Moor Park

**1843**

Bells rung when Queen Victoria passes through Rickmansworth; ringers paid 3 guineas.

Baptist and Methodist Churches built in the High Street

**1845**

Parish of Chorleywood formed

**1846**

Church of St Thomas of Canterbury consecrated at West Hyde

Fergus O'Connor bought Herringsgate Farm on behalf of the Chartist Land Company in order to resettle industrial workers and possibly qualify them for a vote. The scheme failed after just a few years and the estate was auctioned off in 1857.

**1851**

National School built in front of the old workhouse in the High Street.

**1854**

Parsonage Road Infants School opens

**1856**

Churchyard closed for burials (now, only cremated ashes interred).

**1862**

Railway from Rickmansworth Church Street to Watford Junction opens. It is now the Ebury Way.

**1868**

Market Hall pulled down and replaced by a Town Hall.

**1870**

Rickmansworth voluntary fire brigade forms.

**1872**

All Saints Church built in Croxley Green

**1876**

Bell invented the telephone

1884 - Alfred Edward Northey

**1888**

Jack the Ripper' murders in London

**1897**

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

1898 - Charles Meredith Octavius Parkinson

**1901**

Accession of Edward VII

**1908**

Old Age Pension Act  
London hosts the Olympics

**1912**

Titanic sinks on maiden voyage

**1872**

Mill End Parish formed.

**1875**

George Eliot lives at The Elms (now St Joan of Arc School) for the summer

**1882**

The fair for the sale of animals and the statute fair (the 'statty') for the hiring of farm workers are abolished. It was thought to simply afford farm workers an excuse to spend their harvest money in the pubs and beerhouses in the town, of which there were 49!

**1887**

Metropolitan railway arrives in Rickmansworth

**1888**

Papermaking ceases locally after causing chemical pollution of rivers.

**1890**

St Mary's Church rebuilt (except the west tower and aisle walls) in Gothic Perpendicular style; Sir Arthur Blomfield architect.

**1896**

Stained glass East Window installed in memory of Robert, 1st Baron Ebury and his wife Charlotte. Made by Morris and Co, partly based on Burne-Jones designs

**1899**

Batchworth mills sold to the Water Company and mostly demolished by 1910

**1909**

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church and Joan of Arc Convent open.

Ebury open air swimming baths open. There was no heating so it was always very cold. The land is now developed as Goral Mead

**1910**

The Electric Picture House, Rickmansworth's first cinema, opens in the converted Town Hall

**1911**

Ebury recreation ground opened by Lord Ebury

**1913**

Tenor bell recast and all bells rehung in new steel bell-frame



**1914 -1918**  
The Great War

1916 - Frederick Halsey

**1917**

Russian Revolution started

**1920**

1921 - Frederick Newton

**1923**

First FA Cup Final at Wembley

**1926**

General Strike

**1928**

Full suffrage for women

**1929**

Wall street Crash

**1932**

United Methodist Church formed in Great Britain and Ireland

1934 - Wilfred Belcher

**1936**

Accession and abdication of Edward VIII. Accession of George VI

**1939-1945**

World War II

1941 - F. Leolin Hilditch

**1944**

Butler Education Act

**1946**

National Health Service Act

**1948**

London hosts the Olympics

**1914 -1918**

Over 270 men from the Rickmansworth area die in the conflict

**1919**

Metropolitan Railway Country Estates Company forms to buy and develop land for housing. 'Live in Metroland' campaign brings many new residents to the new Cedars Estate

Lord Leverhulme purchases Moor Park

**1923**

Moor Park Golf Club founded

**1927**

The Picture House is built on the site of Salter's Brewery in the High Street

**1930**

Basing House and gardens bought by Rickmansworth UDC after Dr Henderson's death

Moor Park perimeter land starts being sold for housing

**1933**

Fotherley almshouses in the High Street demolished and replaced by Woolworths

**1935**

Bridges over the canal, Colne and Chess rebuilt

**1937**

Rickmansworth Urban District Council purchases Moor Park and grants lease to the Golf Club.

**1939-45**

Moor Park requisitioned by the Army and in 1944 used for planning the Battle of Arnhem. In 1941 the Aquadrome was also requisitioned by War Office for Army exercises

1951 - Kendrick H. Hart

**1951**

Festival of Britain

**1953**

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

**1959**

M1 motorway opened

1960 - Norman W. Hill

**1953**

Entertainments such as a fancy dress parade with marching bands, a pageant of national history and a firework display are put on to celebrate the Coronation. The Rickmansworth Society is formed this year

**1955**

First Rickmansworth Week

**1966**

Swan Hotel demolished. Swannell and Sly Offices (formerly The Bell) demolished to make way for Northway

**1968**

New Rickmansworth Public Library opens.

**1970**

**1971**

Decimalisation of the currency

**1973-1975**

Britain entered the EEC (European Economic Community)

**1974**

United Methodist Church votes to ordain women as 'Presbyters' (priests).

1975 - John Richardson

**1972**

Local government reorganisation: RUDC replaced by Three Rivers District Council with enlarged area.

**1975**

Watersmeet opens.

**1980**

Rickmansworth Methodist Church starts sharing St Mary's Church.

**1982**

Church Centre opened by the Bishop of St Albans and the Chairman of the London NW Methodist District.

**1985**

Church tower stonework restored.

**1987**

Three Rivers Museum opens.

**1992-2002**

Renewal: re-ordering, re-fitting and refurbishing of all the church interiors, including creation of the Nave Altar in 2001

1986 - Bruce L. Driver

**1994**

First women ordained as Anglican priests

**1994**

Moor Park Golf Club purchases the freehold and the Moor Park Heritage Foundation is established.

**1996**

Stained glass windows from High Street Methodist Church installed in St Mary's Chancel.

1998 - Stephen Mepham

**2001**

Anglican-Methodist Covenant, intended to lead to mutual recognition and eventual reunion, signed in presence of the Queen

2007 - Deborah Snowball

**2012**

Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee  
London hosts the Olympics

**2020**

**2020**

Global pandemic (COVID-19)

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