

## HISTORY OF RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY

From 1970 the government of the Church of England underwent a radical change. Through the Synodical Government Measure of 1969 'synods' were established at national, diocesan and ruri-decanal levels, to be known respectively as the General, Diocesan and Deanery Synods. In each there was to be a House of Clergy and a House of Laity and in the first two a House of Bishops as well. Instead of churches electing representatives to the diocesan gatherings deanery synods would do so. More important, the General Synod, in addition to replacing the National Assembly at Church House, took control over matters that previously had been the preserve of the clergy-only Convocations of Canterbury and York. Consequently, the laity gained more responsibility for church government.

The reorganisation involved changes to some rural deaneries. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 1970 a new Rickmansworth Deanery was created, comprising eight parishes (ten churches) detached from Watford Deanery (which had been formed out of the St Albans archdeaconry on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1846):

Name of Church	Formed as a district church	Formed as a parish
St Mary the Virgin Rickmansworth		12 <sup>th</sup> century
Holy Cross Sarratt	1190 approx	1349
St Paul Chipperfield		1838, out of Langley parish
Christ Church Chorleywood	1845, out of Rickmansworth parish	1869
St Thomas of Canterbury West Hyde		1846, out of Rickmansworth parish 1940, held in plurality with St Peter
St John the Evangelist Heronsgate	1865, out of Christ Church parish 1875, merged with St Peter parish	
All Saints Croxley Green		1872, out of Rickmansworth parish
St Peter Mill End		1875, out of Rickmansworth parish
St Oswald Croxley Green		1938, out of All Saints parish
St Andrew Chorleywood	1963, out of Christ Church, Chalfont St Giles, and Chalfont St Peter parishes	1966

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1994 the deanery increased in size when the following parishes were transferred from Berkhamsted Deanery:

Name of Church	Formed as a district church	Formed as a parish
All Saints Kings Langley		12 <sup>th</sup> century
St Lawrence Bovingdon	13 <sup>th</sup> century	1833

In October 2009 Kings Langley transferred to Hemel Deanery.

The first meeting of the Rickmansworth Deanery Synod took place in June 1970. Since then, between two and four meetings of synod have taken place each year.