



The Seeker

October ~ Nov

2008

The church magazine for St Mary the Virgin, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Who's who?

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Update news inside...

50K

THE
CHALLENGE

The Vicar Writes



Dear Friends

If Jesus was here today, he wouldn't be allowed to get away with half the miracles he performed in the past. It's not just that we live in such sceptical, cynical times; it's all the red tape that would be involved. Here are a few examples:

Walking on water – This could only be done if it was preceded by a disclaimer that nobody should try this at home, particularly not by children.

Turning water into wine – This would provoke immediate protests from the drinks industry, who would argue that it was unfair competition. It would also be denounced by various bodies as irresponsible and likely to lead to drunkenness.

Feeding the Five Thousand – Serving bread and fish to thousands of people at an outdoor event would require the approval of government health inspectors to ensure that the food had been prepared by qualified food handlers in a hygienic environment. Baskets of leftovers would also need to be disposed of properly.

Raising the Dead – Environmental health officers would be very unhappy about this, as there are stringent rules governing the proper disposal of bodies. There would also be major difficulties when the recently deceased tried to use their credit cards!

We have thought about all these miracles in recent weeks in our services, and we noticed that they all have one thing in common; they show us reality. They give us a glimpse of what the world really is like – how it really is when it responds to the love of our creator God.

Do these miracles make you ask questions? Do you ask how could they possibly happen? Do they still happen? What relevance do these events have to me? If they set you thinking, think about coming along to the Alpha Course, at 14 High Street, Sixpenny Handley. It begins on October 1st, and you can get more details from Paul Skinner (see side bar on left). You will need to get your skates on if you haven't booked in by the time you are reading this, although we hope to run the course again after Christmas.

And Jesus, walking on the water, seems to be doing the impossible... but sometimes, some people have had the idea that it would be a good idea to copy him and do the impossible too. Some people set off with the aim of bringing his complete love and great power, his absolute peace and hope, to a needy and suffering world. To do that they need to get out of the boat.

And what we are all called to do, so basic and obvious, yet often so hard to do in practice, is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and our ears open for his encouragement. God is closer to us than our own breath and deeper inside us than our own heartbeat. All we have to do is recognize God for what he is. We can all do it – but if you want to walk on water you've got to get out of the boat...

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

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Any Pentridge and Woodyates news for The Seeker to Maureen Swan on 01725 552561

Any other news to the Vicarage, please.

FROM THE REGISTERS

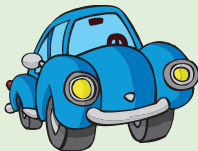


Bill Adlem's funeral took place at St Mary's on 8th July


Julia Trendell's funeral took place at St Mary's on 3rd September

Thanks go to the estate of Margorie Fraizer for the bequest to St Mary's.

Need a lift to Church?



If you have difficulty getting to Church, please ring Paul Skinner on 01725 552785 and we should be able to arrange transport.

 A full colour version of The Seeker can be downloaded from our website!

£12,000 raised so far. We have also been given some grants. Thanks go to everyone working hard to raise money for the church improvements.



We hope to have some more news about the plans for St Mary's next time and expect to begin the first phase of the work fairly early next year. Look out for developments on the special notice board in the church or on our website. Look out too for all the social events in this edition of the Seeker and the Downsman!

PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS



The **Pentridge Barbeque** was a great success, raising over £2,000! From the proceeds a donation of £400 was made to the Salisbury Hospice. Many thanks to all who helped in various ways and who supported the event, helping to make it such a good evening – and it didn't rain!

The **Pentridge Harvest Festival** will be held in St Rumbold's on Sunday 19th October at 11.15am. Come and join us for some Harvest Loaf and cider afterwards.



Harvest Barn Dance – Friday 3rd Oct

Our Harvest Barn Dance will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30pm. Don't miss out on the fun – tickets are selling fast.



The **Sixpenny Handley Harvest Festival** will be held in St Mary's on Sunday 5th October. Come and join us as both services combine at 9.30am to celebrate and see how the seeds from the King of Kings Kids' Club are growing!

Traidcraft Open Day – Saturday 1st November

Come along to the Vicarage between 10am and 4pm to see the range of fairly-traded goods. The range includes all your Christmas foods, stylish clothes, household items, toys and gifts. There are lots of beautiful things, all helping people by ensuring they get a fair wage for their work. Change the world this Christmas.

Festival of All Souls

This year the festival of All Souls falls on Monday 3rd November. You are invited to come along to St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley at 7.30pm to pray together and remember before God those we love but see no longer. There will be coffee and biscuits afterwards.



Revd Thomas loved the limelight

Our famous Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 29th November in the Sixpenny Handley Village Hall. Previously known as the Michaelmas Fayre, it continues to offer exciting ideas, gifts, food, books, refreshments and much more in the run up to Christmas. Come along!



Christmas Fayre

Healing Service

We have another Healing Service at St Mary's in the evening of the last Sunday in November.

Come along and share prayer for healing and wholeness in an atmosphere of quiet and stillness at St Mary's. How big our faith is does not matter – rather, it is how big our God is.

KINGDOM PEOPLE

David Lockyer

Surfing the net like you do, I came across a sermon by Rev Charles Royden of St Mark's Church near Hertford that I used as the basis of an address I gave one Sunday morning in July. This is a shortened version of that talk.

God is at work in our world. He is active and present. However, we are free to ignore God and mess up our lives - when people ask why God has done something bad, the answer normally is that he hasn't. The truth is that we are able to do bad things all by ourselves. God treats us like adults and gives us the power to choose, and we are free to accept or reject what He offers. He allows us to make mistakes and does not take away our freedom. God wants to work in our lives, but to have his way, he needs our co-operation.

Have you noticed how people will give up almost anything to get what they want? Some give up major things for a career and then say "I really wish I had spent more time with my children." People will give up everything if they find something they really want. And Jesus asks us:

- What will you give up?
- What do you consider to be most important?
- Have you got your priorities right?

If people make a choice not to go to church, they also made a choice for their families with a knock-on effect bouncing down the generations. When you stop going, you have prevented your children and your grandchildren and great-grandchildren hearing the Good News.

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches. Matthew 13:31-32

Some of you will know about what the King of Kings Kid's Club has been doing with children and young families. We must be thankful to the team of active volunteers who have

taken it forward and developed this mission. It is a tiny seed but it is growing and has the potential to achieve much, much more. Jesus took an example of smallness, the mustard seed, and made the point that it would grow hugely. But God's Kingdom is not imposing:

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all that he had and bought that field. Matthew 13:44

In the old days before locks and safes, you buried treasure keeping its location to yourself so that it would be secure, rather like your pin number today. Sometime this resulted in treasure being forgotten - the owner might die and their treasure remain undiscovered. Then something of life-changing value might be right under your feet, unseen.

Then someone finds the treasure and recognises it for what it is, and for them any price is worth paying to gain such infinite value. God's Kingdom is the greatest of treasures, worth more than any one of us can ever fully know. Jesus is reassuring us that the Kingdom is beyond price.

The Christian life is often thought of as a sacrifice, a cross to be carried, yet this has to be balanced by these parables which remind us that the Kingdom of Heaven may start small but is a treasure so wonderful that we can joyfully give up everything to possess it - and we will not be disappointed. So are we performing as God's seed in the world? Do our lives speak of Christ because our faith is making us better people? How big is the harvest of our lives? Is it tiny because our imaginations are too small, or are we fruitful Christians? What message do our lives tell to our community as a church as well as individuals?



**So sow! And grow!
And know!**



In September, nearly forty children enjoyed learning about the story Jesus told about the sower and the seeds. Each child made a scene to take home, to see how their mustard and cress grew on the different types of earth the seed fell on, and each group made a large scene which should be growing - or not! - by Harvest Festival. Come into St Mary's and see! They also played games and sang songs and made up some new actions.

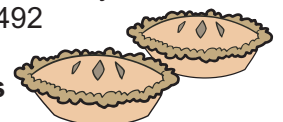
NEXT 3KC

**Saturday
December 13th
10.00 - 12.30**



Our next action-packed 3KC will be on Saturday December 13th, starting at 10am, when we shall be thinking about Christmas. Parents are invited in at 12.30 for coffee and mince pies and to see what we have done. Places are limited, so please ring Maureen Lockyer on 01725 552492 to book.

Don't miss





Soup Lunches

As we return to winter woollies, our soup lunches continue on the third Wednesday of the month (see diary right). Come along at 12.30pm and meet new and old friends, and have some good home-made soup and bread and tea or coffee. All for only £2, with profits going to the Trussell Trust, working with the disadvantaged in Salisbury and abroad. Fairly traded goods are also available, with the profits from this going to World Vision.

Midweek Holy Communion

Our midweek Holy Communion, using the 1662 Prayer Book, is at Sixpenny Handley on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.30am, followed by coffee. Please join us.

Come and meet friends

Bible Study – Meeting on Thursdays during the run of the Alpha Course. Explore the most important book ever. Details from Heather on 552308.



Fellowship Group – every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some serious talk and sometimes a steak supper or Chinese takeaway!

Men's Group – a beer and a good old chat on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David Lockyer on 552492

Mothers' Union – meet monthly on Thursday afternoons. Phone Jean on 552692 or Mary on 552041

Prayertime – the bedrock of all our lives. We meet (almost) every Monday at 7.30pm for an hour of prayer. Phone Paul Skinner on 772785.

Join us this Autumn always a warm welcome...

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew	
	Informal service includes children's time					
	9.30am		11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
Oct 5th	Harvest Festival / HC		Evensong	HC		
Oct 12th	Prayer		Informal	HC	HC	
Oct 19th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Harvest Festival	
Oct 26th	Prayer		Inf & HC	HC	HC	
Nov 2nd	HC #		Informal	Evensong	HC	
Nov 3rd	7.30pm Monday – All Souls Service					
Nov 9th		10.50am	HC	10.50am	HC	
		Remembrance		Remembrance		
Nov 16th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
Nov 23rd	Prayer		Inf & HC	HC	HC	
Nov 30th	HC		Informal	Healing	Prayer	

HC = Holy Communion # with Sandroyd School Choir

October 2008

See website for updates

Wed	1st	11.30am 6.45 for 7pm	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley Alpha Course begins, 14 High Street, Handley
Fri	3rd	6.30pm	Harvest Barn Dance, Handley Village Hall
Sat	4th	11.00am	John Cullingford licensed as a Reader in Salisbury Cathedral
Sun	5th	9.30am	Harvest Festival, Sixpenny Handley
Mon	6th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tue	7th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group Steak Supper at the Roebuck
Wed	8th	6.45 for 7pm	Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Thur	9th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union, with Jane Pelly, 15 Paddock Close
Sat	11th	10.00am	Wedding preparation, the Vicarage
Sun	12th	11.00am 3.00pm	Baptism of Dylan and Charlie Oxford, Sixpenny Handley Bishop Tim's Farewell, Salisbury Cathedral
Mon	13th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tue	14th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	15th	12.30pm 6.45 for 7pm	Soup Lunch, the Vicarage Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Thur	16th	7.30pm	Bible Study
Sat	18th		Bring and Buy, Pentridge Village Hall
Sun	19th	11.15am	Harvest Festival, Pentridge
Mon	20th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tue	21st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	22nd	6.45 for 7pm	Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Sat	25th	10am to 12pm	Bring and Buy, The Barn, Woodyates
Mon	27th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tue	28th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	29th	6.45 for 7pm	Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Thur	30th	7.30pm	Men's Group



Harvest Festival

November 2008

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Sat	1st	10am – 4pm	Traidcraft Open Day, the Vicarage
Sun	2nd	9.30am	Sandroyd School Choir at Sixpenny Handley
Mon	3rd	7.30pm	All Souls Service, Sixpenny Handley
Tue	4th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	5th	11.30am 6.45 for 7pm	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Sat	8th		Alpha Course Day Away
Sun	9th	10.50am	Remembrance Services, Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge
Mon	10th	7.30pm	Sixpenny Handley PCC, the Vicarage
Tue	11th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	12th	6.45 for 7pm	Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Thur	13th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union, with Gillian Mackenzie, 15 Paddock Close
Sat	15th	7.30pm	Encore Singers, Christmas Cantata, Sixpenny Handley
Mon	17th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tue	18th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	19th	12.30pm 6.45 for 7pm	Soup Lunch, the Vicarage Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Thur	20th	7.30pm	Bible Study
Mon	24th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tue	25th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	26th	6.45 for 7pm	Alpha Course, 14 High Street, Handley
Thur	27th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat	29th		Christmas Fayre, Handley Village Hall



Alpha

