



The Seeker

June ~ July

2009

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

Who's who?

Vicar

Rev Mel Durrant
The Vicarge,
Sixpenny Handley
01725 552608
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Curate

Rev Dr Michael Foster
The Rectory, Tarrant Hinton
01258 830764

Churchwardens

St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew

Mrs Sheila Bradley 553133
Mrs Carole Wyatt 552752

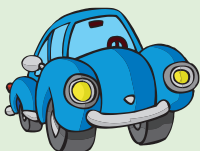
St Rumbolds, Pentridge

Mrs Jane King 552231
Mrs Mary Ferguson 552222

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Margaret Durrant 552608
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
Janette Salmons 552721
Paul Skinner 552785
Carol Wyatt 552572

Need a lift to Church?



Please ring Paul Skinner on 01725 552785 and we should be able to arrange transport.



Dear Friends

Last year I laid out a vision for the way ahead – a vision largely based around making the Sixpenny Handley church building more useful and functional. As you know, it is about bringing the font forward into a much better position, moving four pews within the church to create a comfortable social space at the back and putting in an opaque glass screen across the bottom of the tower arch, which will then hold a sound-proof cabin for a toilet. People have

been waiting for the toilet here for many years! We shall also rethink the heating and the sound and vision system. I believe the building will look fantastic, and it will make logical sense of what has been done already. We are also looking at the heating and how we can care for the wonderful paintings at St Andrew's. You can find out more about the work on our website.

Last year I was excited by the possibility of this development. This year I am excited because a great deal of progress has been made. We have permission to begin the hidden, but vital work on the clock and the bells, and our Project Managers are working on the application for the work at the back of the church. They have also worked very hard on getting grants. There is still a lot of work to do, but we are on the way! I would like to thank our Project Managers, our 50K co-ordinators, the Social/Fund-raising Committee and everybody who has worked so hard on this project.

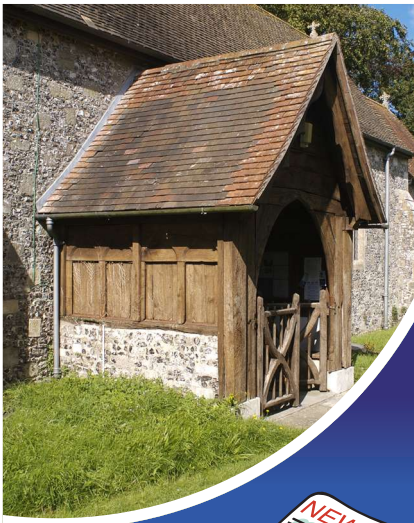
Of course, we are not in the business of adapting and restoring old buildings. We are a church. We are a community that meets at different times and places but with one aim – to worship and serve God. And we need to ensure we are growing in depth, walking ever closer to God. Our services are the main vehicle for this, as well as the Bible Study and Fellowship groups, the Mothers' Union and Men's Group. These involve many people. I would like to thank all our service leaders and group organisers for all they do, in addition to our music leaders, choir and music group. We couldn't do it without you!

In the last Downsman I wrote about mystery visitors judging the quality of worship in churches. We have asked for views about our worship here, and the main issue that came up is the timing of the morning services at St Mary's. Would we serve our community better if the Traditional and Informal services were the other way round? More families may come if it was earlier as small children are up early, and then there is time for all the other events that happen on Sundays; older people might find a later service easier. Please think and talk and pray about this, and for other ways we might build God's Kingdom in this place.

Our questionnaire asked what we liked. Now the question is about what will help us to grow, and this is not necessarily the same thing. As we continue to build our community we look upwards to God and outwards to the world around us. Come along and be part of the community.

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



The funeral of Frederick Chown took place at St Mary's on 24th March

The funeral of James Fielden took place at Bowerchalke on 3rd April

The funeral of Barry Knowles took place at St Mary's on 8th April

The wedding of Rob and Anna Tye took place at St Mary's on 11th April

The wedding of Rory and Louise Ferguson took place at St Rumbold's on 2nd May

The wedding of Lee and Joanne Read took place at St Mary's on 9th May

Ryan Arnold was baptised at St Mary's on 17th May

50K CHALLENGE

Update... Update... Update...
We are getting tenders for the work at the back of St Mary's and a survey of the paintings in St Andrew's. We hope to begin the work very soon and plans are now available in the church. Please come up and have a look. Many people are giving generously of their time, but I would particularly like to thank Sheila Bradley, Margaret Durrant and Gillian Wadge. These improvements will benefit the church and the community and are in keeping with our heritage while bringing our beautiful building up to date. However, we still do not have all the funds we need to fully realise the work intended, so if you would like to give to the 50K Challenge and help us serve our community better, please pick up a leaflet from the church or contact the Vicarage.



3KC King of Kings Kids' Club

Next 3KC – Saturday 20th June

Come along to our Summer 3KC at Sixpenny Handley on 20th June. We shall be thinking about some of the stories Jesus told and we shall play games, sing songs and make a whole lot of fun stuff. Children are invited to come from 9.45am and we shall finish at 12.30. By the time you read this places will be limited – phone Maureen on 01725 552492.

Treasure Hunt 28th June



Please support our second Treasure Hunt. There are 2 routes – one by car and one on foot. Later in the afternoon there will be cream teas on the vicarage lawn.

At 6.00pm we will round off a great afternoon (if you haven't got lost) with our open air *Songs of Praise*, on the vicarage lawn. More details on the poster elsewhere in this magazine. Please come to some, but preferably all!



St Mary's
Sixpenny Handley
Welcome



The Church of England in St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley, Gussage St Andrew and St Rumbold's, Pentridge.

www.handleychurch.org.uk

- Weekly diary
- Photo archives
- Building news
- Seeker downloads
- Verse of the Day
- Historical info

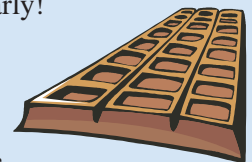
Concert by The Encore Singers — Sat 11th July 7.30pm



The 4th visit by the Dorchester based choir led by Margaret Durrant. The same 'formula' as before – mostly a new programme, but with music of all kinds, including songs from the shows. Followed by Pimms and strawberries & cream – on the vicarage lawn if fine. Tickets £6.50 to include refreshments. Book early!

Fair Trade Chocolate

You may have seen that Cadbury's Dairy Milk, one of the biggest selling bars of chocolate in the country, is going fair trade this year. Two years ago they said it was impossible. Now it is happening – thank you to everyone who signed the Stop the Traffik campaign about the exploitation of children on cocoa plantations. People in some of the poorest parts of the world will benefit because people like us got angry on their behalf. Together we are changing the world!



'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back.' Isaiah 54:2

As one of the replies to our church questionnaire said, 'Community is the most important thing for the village and the church is at the heart of it.' We are continuously looking at how we can serve our community, and how we can communicate what we are about to the community. The Alpha course ran well last autumn, and we shall run it again. Many members of the church play important roles serving in our society, outside the church itself. There is a lot going on. But of course, we can always do more.

We are joining a movement called 'Back to Church Sunday'. This is a national initiative in the autumn aimed at inviting people who used to come to church (the clue is in the title!). It involves all of us, not just those in 'authority,' so watch this space! And on a very different tack, the team working on the maintenance of the churchyard keeps it a place of beauty and calm for both people and wildlife.

And one major change that is coming up is that we shall soon have a new priest among us – well, not new! Paul Skinner has felt God's hand on his shoulder for a very long time and now he is to be ordained deacon in the autumn, and then priested next year. Our congratulations go to Paul – please pray for him and support him in this development of his walk with God.

We have so much to be thankful for. It is a remarkable achievement that we have been able to pay our Share in full for the second year running, and still have some £30,000 in the Fabric Account for repairs and improvements. It is also

a huge relief that difficulties regarding the amount of our Share (the money we pay to Salisbury) are being resolved. I believe we are on the right track at St Mary's, St Andrew's and St Rumbold's. However, we don't have enough money for all that we want to do.

As I have said each year, this is an exciting time for the church in this place. And now we need to talk about something that is both exciting and sad – our churchwardens. I first met Graham Smith when we came to have a look around some three years ago, and we met and talked. I then met David Salmons at the Fathers' Day Weekend. They were very welcoming and have always gone out of their way to help in the life of the church. When I asked recently how long they have been wardens they had some difficulty in working it out, eventually deciding that it was 14 and 16 years respectively. This is an amazing achievement. But things change, and for very different reasons they have both decided it is time to step down and move on. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that we wish them well in their new adventures and give them an enormous thank you for all that they have contributed.

At the same time we welcome Carole Wyatt and Sheila Bradley as they take up their roles as the new church wardens at Sixpenny Handley. Mary Ferguson and Jane King continue their work at Pentridge and I must thank again everyone who contributes to our life here.

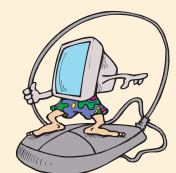
This article and the vicar's letter are adapted from his report at the Annual Meeting.

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O	W	B	N	W	S	D	L	R	E	K	T	T	N	M	E	K	I
O	S	E	S	H	E	A	E	S	O	T	G	I	B	A	D	L	V
M	W	E	R	C	A	T	G	T	T	N	T	O	L	N	E	A	N
H	T	S	E	D	C	M	A	E	I	R	R	L	A	M	R	H	U
S	I	X	P	E	N	N	Y	H	A	N	D	L	E	Y	S	C	G
A	T	I	I	E	N	A	C	M	E	L	N	J	A	O	I	R	T
C	N	T	R	S	A	N	T	S	E	A	L	S	N	A	A	E	N
L	E	A	H	C	I	M	T	S	E	G	A	S	S	U	G	W	A
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Seeker Search #1

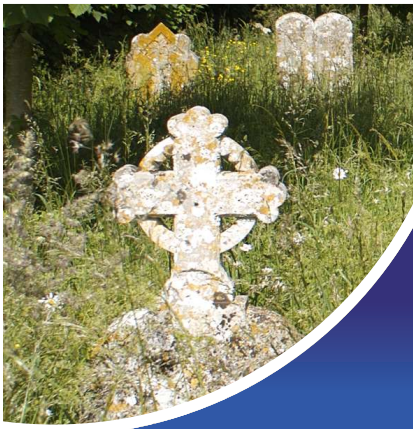
Local communities

Berwick St John
 Bowerchalke
 Cashmoor
 Chettle
 Cranborne
 Deanland
 Farnham
 Gussage All Saints
 Gussage St Andrew
 Gussage St Michael
 Martin
 Minchington
 Pentridge
 Sixpenny Handley
 Stubhampton
 Tarrant Gunville
 Tollard Royal
 Wimborne St Giles
 Woodcutts
 Woodyates



Solution on the website

See the Seeker download page (under archives)



Bible Study

Come along to explore the most important book ever. We meet on June 18th and July 16th (to include supper). Phone Heather on 01725 552308 for details.

Prayertime

The bedrock of all our lives, meeting (nearly) every Monday at the Vicarage at 7.30pm for an hour of prayer for our community and our church within it. Phone Paul on 772785.

Midweek Holy Communion

Please join us at our midweek Holy Communion, using the 1662 Prayer Book, at Sixpenny Handley, on Wednesday July 8th at 11.30, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends

Soup Lunches – Come up the hill for good soup and company at the vicarage on the third Wednesday of June and July. Come along from 12.30pm and have some home-made soup and bread and tea or coffee, all for only £2. Profits going to the Trussell Trust, working with the disadvantaged in Salisbury and abroad. Fairly traded goods are also available, with the profits going to World Vision.


Fellowship Group –

Continuing on Tuesdays 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 usually on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David Lockyer 552492.

Mothers' Union – Meeting monthly on a Thursday for a talk and tea. See right for summer trips. Phone Jean on 552692 or Mary on 552041.

Join us during June and July 2009

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
June 7 th	HC	Coffee (10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	HC	
June 14 th	Prayer		Informal	HC		HC
June 21 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
June 28 th	Prayer		Inf & HC	Songs of...		HC
July 5 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
July 12 th	Prayer		Informal	HC		HC
July 19 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
July 26 th	Prayer			Inf & HC	HC	
Aug 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	

HC = Holy Communion

always a warm welcome...



On the website...

Look around St Mary's church without leaving the comfort of your home! Never been inside? – now you can with our virtual panorama. Look at the roof without straining your neck!

June 2009

See website for updates

Tues 2nd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, steak supper at The Roebuck
Thurs 4th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union - Quiet Day at Grove Farm
Tues 9th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Tues 16th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 17th	12.30pm	Soup Lunch at the Vicarage. Traidcraft goods available
Thurs 18th	7.30pm	Bible Study, 1 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Sat 20th	9.45am	King of Kids' Club, St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
Mon 22nd	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 23rd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 24th	7.30pm	Sixpenny Handley PCC at the Vicarage
Thurs 25th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sun 28th	2.00pm	Treasure Hunt & Songs of Praise at 6.00pm — see poster for details
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group



July 2009

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Sat 4th	1.30pm	Marriage of Louise Cutler and Anthony Humphries, St Mary's
Mon 6th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 7th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, steak supper at The Roebuck
Wed 8th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Fri 10th		Mothers' Union - Half Day Outing
Sat 11th	2.30pm	Marriage of Mary Chelu and Ashley Mills
	7.30pm	Concert by the Encore Singers, St Mary's
Mon 13th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 15th	10.30am	School Praise Assembly, St Mary's
	12.30pm	Soup Lunch at the Vicarage
Thurs 16th	7.30pm	Bible Study meal, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Sat 18th	2.30pm	Marriage of Kelly Lucas and Dale Tomkins, St Mary's
Mon 20th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 21st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Mon 27th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 30th	7.30pm	Men's Group

