



The Seeker

August ~ Sept

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

Sheila Bradley 553133
Carole Wyatt 552752

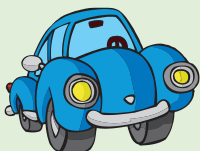
St Rumbolds, Pentridge

Jane King 552231
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

One question which has probably never bothered you about the Bible is... did Adam have a belly button? This is a question which troubled the minds of some serious-minded scholars for a long time. In 1857 Philip Gosse, a distinguished naturalist, wrote a book on the subject called Omphalos: An Attempt to Untie the Geological Knot. (Omphalos is Greek for a navel and they gave things long titles in those days.) Gosse wondered if, since Adam hadn't had a mother and hadn't been born but

created, did he have a navel? Gosse decided that since God created Adam in every respect human, he did. I think Gosse needed to get out more!

You might know that the Bible gives two Creation Stories, right next to each other at the very beginning. We tend to hear the first one most often, with its neat division into days. And it is a Creation Story focused on just that – Creation! People only make an appearance right at the end. The second story goes into much more detail about humanity and our relationship with each other and, most importantly, our relationship with God.

At a time when most people worshipped the sun and the moon and believed life was just chaos and we were mere playthings of the gods, the Bible makes it clear that there is order and purpose, and that order and purpose is in God. Look, it says, and you will see a pattern. You will see a reason. If you go down the 'did it really happen like that?' route you get stuck very quickly. These two accounts are poems written to explore our relationship with God. They are not a science lesson. And to start with, they tell us two things.

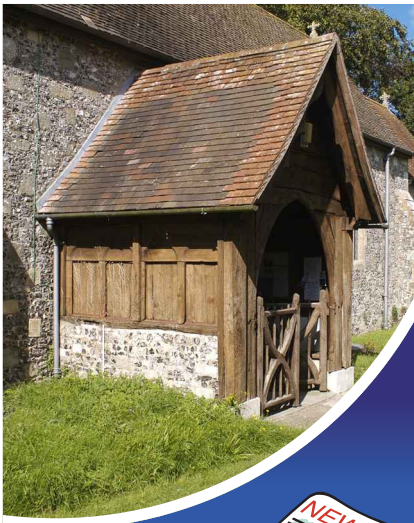
The first is about God – He is in control. And yet he shares his task with us. He lets Adam name the animals and plants and gives us skills and talents to look after his amazing world. And the second thing is about us. The man and the woman (Adam and Eve) both choose to rebel against God. They want to be like God, rather than being with God. They choose to try to sort out things for themselves. And we have been doing this ever since. The beginning of the Bible sets the scene and then says to us – now read on, and see how it all works out. It is a great story. It is The Story.

And ever since, people have been trying to walk in their own light rather than walk in God's light. This is THE struggle! Sometimes we mess up – we know this. When the storms of the world threaten to overwhelm us and make us sink, when our unhappiness drives us out of normal company – indeed, out of our normal minds - we can turn to the second Adam, Jesus Christ. Adam messes it up. Jesus sorts it out. (And it is absolutely clear and very important that Jesus really did exist!) At Christmas we remember his coming to live as one of us. At Easter we see how he saves us. And at this time of the year we can see the stunning Creation he has given us to enjoy and look after at its very best.

Have a wonderful summer.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

www.handleychurch.org.uk



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 baptism of Benjohmen and Santiago Marskell took place on 12th July.

The baptism of Oliver Styles took place on 26th July.

The wedding of Louise Cutler and Anthony Humphries took place on 4th July.

The wedding of Mary Chelu and Ashley Mills took place on 11th July.

The wedding of Kelly Lucas and Dale Tomkins took place on 18th July.



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

50K CHALLENGE

Things are happening!

The work on our clock, including the installation of auto winders should be completed by the time you read this, and we are waiting for a date for repairs to the bells. We have received approval in principle for our plans for the improvements at the rear of the church. These include moving our

mediaeval font to a more prominent position where it to be used more easily for baptisms and creates a good social space, and adding a toilet and additional storage in the base of the tower. The final stage in this lengthy process is applying for formal approval from Salisbury, then we will be putting the work out to tender, with the aim of starting as soon as possible.

We have received a comprehensive report on the necessary conservation work on the medieval wall paintings in the chapel at Gussage St Andrew, so decisions will be made in the near future about this work and the replacement of the very old heating system there.

Thank you for your patience – these things take time! Please continue to support our fundraising events - we now have over £30,000 available, but will need all this and more if we are to do all that needs to be done as well as all that we want to do to at St Mary's, including improving the heating and sound systems and updating the kitchen area and then redecorating.

PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS

We had a splendid and fascinating Archaeological Evening walk and talk led by well-known local farmer and archaeologist Martin Green on Friday 26th June. We all enjoyed seeing his wildlife pond, his most recent archaeological dig and his museum. We had a full house with over fifty people, including a few children, and raised over £500 for church funds. Very many thanks to Martin and his wife for a very enjoyable evening and to the Fergusons for hosting refreshments afterwards in the barn. I think everyone's appetite for local history has been well and truly whetted!

The Famous Pentridge Fete – Sat 12th September

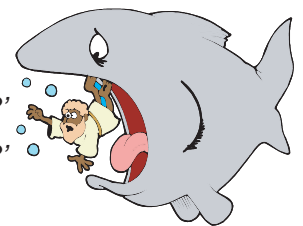
It is that time again! The Famous Pentridge Fete returns on Saturday 12th September between 2pm and 5pm on Pentridge Village Green. Come along for all your old favourite fete attractions, some good old traditional sideshows and also a few new surprising ones!

Growing in Faith

'I've been Christened, is that the same as being Baptised?'

'Does being Confirmed mean that I can take Communion?'

'What does being a Christian actually mean?'



We all want the best for our children, and often this means having the children Christened in church. Promises are made on their behalf, and we hope and pray that one day the child will take on these promises for themselves. Sometimes people have a Thanksgiving instead of a Christening, as they want the child to decide for themselves later. Or maybe neither of these things happened, and you are now wondering what life is all about.

Whatever your situation, you might like to think about a course running in Blandford in September. It is called 'Growing in Faith' and it explores the big questions that surround Baptism and Confirmation. The Vicar of Blandford, Tim Storey, leads the course and it aims to help people to decide if the time is right to take the next step in their faith. It runs over five Tuesdays evenings, beginning on September 15th. It can, if you wish, lead to a Confirmation by the new Bishop of Sherbourne on Wednesday 21st October. If you are interested in Confirmation or Baptism for yourself or your child, please talk to our vicar, Mel Durrant.

Jesus calms the Storm

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

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4: 37-41

Queen Victoria was once going across to Ireland when the royal yacht ran into some bad weather. A huge wave made the boat shudder quite suddenly, lurching to one side and almost knocking the Queen off her feet! She immediately sent one of her attendants to the bridge with the message 'Give the captain my compliments, and tell him that he is not to let that happen again!'

We so often think we can control the world, and expect things to work our way – and when they don't we can get upset, even angry, and sometimes we can panic.

Jesus' friends were frightened. A storm has suddenly come up and the boat is getting swamped. Sudden storms are quite common where they live, but they didn't seem to be ready for this one. It is evening and Jesus has been teaching and telling stories all day, and is tired and has fallen asleep in the back of the boat.

Suddenly the scene changes from Jackanory and they are in the middle of Titanic... And Jesus wakes up and calms the storm. The forces of nature respond to the voice of Jesus. Perhaps he can't calm the people, but he can calm the storm. The forces of nature respond to the voice of Jesus and his disciples are amazed. They were terrified at the start of the storm, and are now almost equally terrified at its end.

'Why are you afraid,' he asks, 'have you no faith?' Perhaps he is being deliberately unclear about what he means, about which fear he means; Fear of the storm or fear of the power they have just seen at work. And the people ask, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him?' There is only one answer, of course. Remember, everyone there would have known the psalms. They sang them all the time. They were part of their being. And Psalm 107 sings out

*Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.*

'Who is this?' There is only one answer. Too often we allow Jesus to sleep in the back of our lives. Too often we struggle on alone, and we are overwhelmed. We panic. And panic is the opposite of confidence. So often we allow our fears to mount up and our energies to be overpowered, and we fail to call upon the greatest power that there is.

And in the storms of fear and sorrow, when we are feeling overwhelmed, we need to know that it is God who brings order out of chaos. As we sail through our lives, if we have invited Jesus on board, we will find that the storms look different. They will still come and bash our little boat around. But we might not get quite so thrown about by them, as a rule, even if there are still times when we panic and cry out for help. And, when we can't hear Jesus over all the racket, we will often find that we are given a breather – a little bit of space – where things are calmed down for us, calmed down just long enough for us to realise that, with God in charge, we don't actually need to be frightened at all. With Jesus, there is nothing to be afraid of. With Jesus we can be confident. Who is this? This is our God.

Don't let Jesus sleep in your life – meet him, face to face. The world is big and it is spectacular, but our God is bigger because he made it and loves it.

Mother's Union news

The Mother's Union world-wide president, Rosemary Kempself, rounded off her visit to the diocese with a great service on Saturday, 18th July at St Mary and St Nicholas' Church at Wilton. It was attended by over 500 people. It gave us all a wonderful feeling of belonging to a world-wide organisation which is very actively doing amazing work in truly desperate places.



It is already time to think about Harvest! At Sixpenny Handley we shall celebrate God's Creation and the Harvest on Sunday 4th October at 11am, followed by a Harvest Lunch. This is the week after back to Church Sunday (see above!). At Pentridge we shall celebrate on Sunday 18th October, followed by cheese and cider.

Back to Church Sunday

On **Sunday 27th September** we shall be celebrating Back to Church Sunday. This is an idea being picked up by churches all over the country. The idea is to invite family and friends – back to church! If you are a regular church-goer, think about who you might invite. If you used to come to church and would like to come to see how things have changed (or how things are the same!) come along then. There are four services on Sunday to choose from, each with their unique character and a warm welcome. At Sixpenny Handley there is Morning Prayer followed by coffee and then the family-friendly Informal Service, and the old Prayer Book Holy Communion in the evening. At Gussage St Andrew there is Holy Communion in the morning. See you there!

come as you are



Bible Study

As we hope you see from The Seeker, the Bible is THE Book! Read it and understand more in good company on a Thursday evening once a month. Details from Heather (01725 552308).

Prayer time

Prayer is the most important part of our lives. We all pray. Come and share prayer together in the Vicarage, meeting (nearly) every Monday from 7.30pm for an hour. Details from the Vicarage.

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us for a gentle service in St Mary's on Wednesday 5th August and 2nd September at 11.30pm, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends


Soup Lunches – Good soup and company on the third Wednesday of the month in the Vicarage. Come along from 12.30 for a great meal for only £2, with profits going to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury, helping people in desperate need here and abroad. This summer's Soup Lunch will be on August 19th.

Fellowship Group – Meeting every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a steak supper or a Chinese takeaway! Phone Paul Skinner (01725 552785).

Men's Group – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David Lockyer (01725 552492)

Mothers' Union – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the third Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Jean (552692) or Mary (552041) for details.

Join us during August and September 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 |
| Aug 2 nd | HC | Coffee (10.30am) | Informal | Evensong | HC | |
| Aug 9 th | MP | | Inf & Bap | HC | | HC |
| Aug 16 th | HC | | Informal | Evensong | MP | |
| Aug 23 rd | MP | | Inf & HC | HC | | HC |
| Aug 30 th | HC | | Informal | Healing Ser | MP | |
| Sept 6 th | HC | | Informal | Evensong | HC | |
| Sept 13 th | MP | | Informal | HC | | HC |
| Sept 20 th | HC | | Informal | Evensong | MP | |
| Sept 27 th | MP | | Inf & HC | HC | | HC |

HC = Holy Communion

Bap = Baptism

MP = Morning Prayer

always a warm welcome...

August 2009

See website for updates

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Sat 1st | 10.00am | Meeting of servers, readers, etc. St Mary's |
| Mon 3rd | 7.30pm | Prayer time at the Vicarage |
| Tues 4th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| Wed 5th | 11.30am | Holy Communion, St Mary's, followed by coffee |
| Sun 9th | 11.00am | Baptism of Lexi Pike, St Mary's |
| Mon 10th | 7.30pm | Prayer time at the Vicarage |
| Tues 11th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| Mon 17th | 7.30pm | Prayer time at the Vicarage |
| Tues 18th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| Wed 19th | 12.30pm | Soup Lunches at the Vicarage. Traidcraft goods available |
| Mon 24th | 7.30pm | Prayer time at the Vicarage |
| Tues 25th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |



September 2009

www.handleychurch.org.uk

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Tues 1st | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| Wed 2nd | 11.30am | Holy Communion, St Mary's, followed by coffee |
| | 7.30pm | St Mary's PCC meeting, the Vicarage |
| Thurs 3rd | 2.45pm | Mothers' Union |
| Mon 7th | 7.30pm | Prayer time, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley |
| Tues 8th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| Sat 12th | 2.00pm | The Famous Pentridge Fete |
| Mon 14th | 7.30pm | Prayer time, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley |
| Tues 15th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| | 7.30pm | Growing in Faith, Blandford |
| Mon 21st | 7.30pm | Prayer time at the Vicarage |
| Tues 22nd | 9.30am | Lay Pastoral Assistant's Meeting at the Vicarage |
| | 2.00pm | Mothers' Union, St Mary's Church |
| | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| Sun 27th | 9.30am | Back to Church Sun |
| Mon 28th | 7.30pm | Prayer time at the Vicarage |
| Tues 29th | 7.30pm | Fellowship Group |
| | 7.30pm | Growing in Faith, Blandford |



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