



The Seeker

December



**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 Vicarage,
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Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
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Churchwardens

*St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew*
Carole Wyatt 552372

St Rumbold's, Pentridge
Jane King 552231
Mary Ferguson 552222

Licenced Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Margaret Durrant 552608
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
David Salmons 552721
Carole Wyatt 552572



**Need a
lift to
Church?**

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

This month we have filled *The Seeker* with a miscellany of local, national and international items. I hope you are moved, inspired and spurred on to think about some of the ways we can help as we celebrate... and also that you have a wonderful Christmas.

Lead stolen from St Mary's roof

You will have heard that some of the lead from the church roof was stolen at the end of October. We thank John Cullingford and Carole Wyatt for their work sorting the problem out, but at the time of writing it seems that the insurance will not cover the full cost of repairs. If you would like to help with this project, please talk us.

Award for St Mary's churchyard

Congratulations to the team of George Jackson, Ted Cox, Mary Bishop, Paul Skinner and many others at Sixpenny Handley for achieving Very Highly Commended in the Living Churchyard Competition organised by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. The judges commented 'Always a pleasure and privilege to visit, this churchyard has been extremely well managed over a period of many years giving a range of habitats with a resulting impressive array of wildlife. Be sure to make a date to come up and see the snowdrops, primroses, bluebells and cowslips next spring!

152 shoe boxes filled

Wow! We filled 152 shoe boxes for the The Trussell Trust appeal. Well done and THANK YOU to all those who took part in this fantastic achievement. Do read Trish Chorley's article elsewhere in The Downsman.

Christmas choir – come and have a sing with us

If you would like the chance to sing carols at any of the Christmas services then John Cullingford would love to here from you. Phone him for more details on (01725) 516453.

The 50k Challenge – New light fittings

In between the bigger projects, we're continuing with some of the minor items including rewiring the porch and lynchgate with new light fittings.

PENTRIDGE & WOODYATES NEWS

Lily Rose Ferguson, first granddaughter for Richard & Mary Ferguson, was christened on Sunday 17th October. Her parents Rory & Louise were joined by many friends and family to celebrate the happy occasion. The day was also Harvest Festival in St Rumbold's. Everyone enjoyed the harvest loaf, cheese and cider in the sunshine after the service. Many thanks to Colin & Sue Taylor for making the delicious bread. Looking ahead – as well as our Christmas services, look out for carol singing around the village this year – details to follow.the armed forces, and their dependants.



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

Any other news to the Vicarage, please.



One bar is never enough

As a church we have supported the Stop the Traffik campaign for some time. Congratulations to Nestlé for producing a traffic-free 4-fingered Kit-Kat. However, Nestlé still buy cocoa from West Africa, including the Ivory Coast, where the use of trafficked labour is widespread. Over Christmas, please look out for the Fairtrade and Stop the Traffik logos when you buy chocolate. If you don't, you may have blood on your teeth.

STOP THE TRAFFIK
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

Here are some of Nestlé's products that may still be using child-trafficked labour: 2-finger Kit Kat, Kit Kat senses, Kit Kat Chunky, Milky Bar Buttons, Rolo, Smarties, After Eight, Yorkie, Black Magic, Dairy Box, Quality Street, Matchmakers, Munchies, Toffee Crisp, Walnut Whip, Breakaway, Drifter, Aero, Mint Aero, Aero Chunky, Lion, Cocoa Shreddies, Milky Bar, Smarties Funny Faces Cup Cakes, Caramac, Smarties Iced Ring Doughnut, Rolo Chocolate Brownie, Nero, and every type of chocolate in Haagen Dazs and Movenpick icecream. To find our more search Stop the Traffik.

Greetings from Baghdad

The Rev Canon Andrew White, the 'vicar of Baghdad' writes; I am pleased to be back with my church, but being here is very sad. People are so very frightened. Frightened for their lives. Many simply just want to flee. They can't see how any sort of future is possible in Baghdad. In the last few weeks many have left St. George's Church - perhaps up to 500 people. A large proportion of these have gone to Syria, where there is an Anglican church.

Some very serious prayer requests;

1. Security. There are threats from Al Qaida to attack and kill more Christians - myself in particular. So please pray for our protection.

2. For the immense fear of the Christians. All are so afraid; they need a sense of Divine protection, their fear removed and for the Angels of our Lord to protect them.

Yesterday I spoke on Romans 8:18: 'I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.' The question from the young people on Friday was simply, "Why has all this happened to us, why has God not stopped it?" There are not simple answers to these questions but this passage on suffering and glory is the nearest thing we have to an answer. We really do suffer with Christ and we really do see his glory. He will sustain us and help us through any difficulties because we know that "that the Lord as here and His Spirit is with us".

On Sunday afternoon we have our major service of the week. We did not even know if people would turn up after the threats to attack Christians again in Church. We were about 200 down but at least 300 were present. I preached and then listened to what the people had to say. The resounding message was that people would not be threatened or scared by what had been said to them because Jesus was still with them. They were not happy with those who said that Iraqi Christians should leave Iraq. So despite the terrible things that have happened there will be some who'll not leave - and we do not want them to. As I said to them again today, even though I do not have to be here and despite knowing the danger, I will not leave. Your prayer would be much appreciated.

Dear Friends



You may have come across these famous misunderstandings;

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Moses went up Mount Cyanide to find the Ten Commandments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

Jesus was born because Mary had an Immaculate Contraption.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

A Christian should have only one spouse - This is called monotony.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do one to another before they do one to you...

It is easy to misunderstand what is going on, so make sure you come along to some of the Christmas celebrations and hear the truth. The Scouts have their celebration on Sunday 5th December at 2pm. This will be a lively afternoon. Then the Mothers' Union have a more meditative Advent Service the following Tuesday at 2pm. The traditional Carol Services are over the weekend before Christmas, at St Andrew's on Friday, Sixpenny Handley on Sunday and Pentridge on Monday, all at 6pm. We welcome back the school choir to the Handley service. Then on Christmas Eve we have our famous Christingle at 5pm followed by Midnight Communion at 11.30pm.

On Christmas Day itself there are two services; a Family Communion at Sixpenny Handley at 9.30 and then another Communion at Pentridge at 11.15. Come along and remind yourself of the reason for the season.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel



Margaret Owen in Turkey...

Margaret, who lives in Pentridge, has sent us the press statement from the UK Delegation observing the trial of 151 Kurdish political activists and human rights defenders in Turkey. She was there as a Barrister and Human Rights Activist as part of the UK Delegation of Mr. Jeremy Corbin MP, Mr. Hywel Williams MP, Mr. Ali Has Lawyer/Spokes person of Peace Council Britain, Mr. Hugo Charlton Barrister, and Serife Semsedini – Human Rights Activist, along with delegations from other European countries.

‘Turkey, in its desire and aspiration to become a member of the European Union has not shown that it has progressed very much in terms of its treatment and approach to the Kurdish people. We find that these trials are politically motivated and are an attempt to suppress the political struggle of the Kurdish people through the judicial system.

The manner in which the evidence in the trials is exaggerated is clear from the sheer volume of the 7,500 page indictment and supporting evidence, consisting of over 13,000,000 pages. In these pages there is no evidence of weapons or aggression in any kind directed at any of the defendants who stand trial. The only evidence obtained consists of intercept evidence of daily conversations and routine political propaganda or views and secret evidence by way of anonymous witnesses. The fact that there is no evidence or suggestion of weaponry or aggression is in our view indicative of the will of the Kurdish people and politicians for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue, which we support and respect.

The real problem with this is that the charge is essentially a political one, whereby normal political activities are deemed to be criminal because it is said to be in support of a banned organisation, the PKK. Clearly, by any standards, activities such as those mentioned are completely lawful and innocent. We have particular concern that 8 of the defendants are lawyers – 7 of which are in custody – and are indicted in this case simply for doing their job of defending their clients. In a modern society this is unacceptable.

At the very least, the fact that most of those in prison are leading members of a political party which had been successful at the last elections suggests that there is a straightforward electoral motive for the Turkish governing party to support these prosecutions particularly as there is another election next year. If the Turkish government wishes to demonstrate that Turkey is a modern and democratic state it should urge the prosecution to release those in prison immediately.’

Since this Press Release arrived, Jeremy Corbyn MP has tables an Early Day Motion in Parliament including a call on Turkey ‘to end its criminalisation of Kurdish political activism and to begin a comprehensive conflict resolution process involving all relevant Kurdish political actors.’



You may remember the BibleLands carol sheets. They are still going, and still supporting a range of projects in and around the Holy Lands. They work in partnership with local Christians, focusing on education, health-care and community development.

Please use your prayers ‘to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do’ (Gal 2v10). Find out more at www.biblelands.org.uk. Here is a some of their work;

Episcopcare works on community development in deprived areas of Egypt. BibleLands’ support focuses on the child health and education programmes at Madinat al Salam near Cairo. We would like your prayers for the ongoing success of this work, so that more children will benefit both from attending nursery and from receiving preventive healthcare.

The Deaf Unit in 6th October City, Egypt will expand on the Unit’s existing vocational training programme to allow young hearing impaired people the opportunity to train in car mechanics, bakery, IT, and other marketable skills. Please pray that the building work will continue to run smoothly.

Think & Do is working to improve literacy in rural Egypt. They would appreciate your prayers for the women who attend the classes, that they will find confidence and knowledge that will help them improve their own lives and those of their families. Please also pray for the staff, without whose commitment and energy the work would not be possible.

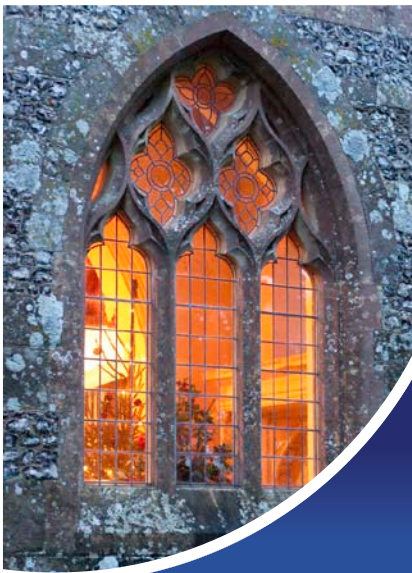


Mothers’ Union

Do you feel advertising targets children and puts them and you under pressure to buy age-inappropriate gifts? Do you feel sexualised and violent computer games and films are too easily available? Do you find TV, the internet and music have made your children more sexually aware? Do you feel out of control over your child’s social networking on the computer?

A survey by Mothers’ Union found 80% of parents were very concerned about these issues, including our Prime Minister! Bye Buy Childhood is a campaign launched by Mothers Union to raise awareness and support parents in their role and to lobby the advertising industry.

Chief Executive Reg Bailey said “We are most concerned about the inappropriate sexualisation of children and the insidious way it has happened under the noses of parents. We want to give parents more confidence, as well as encourage advertisers to be responsible. We are not calling for new legislation, but we want the current codes of practice enforced. We don’t sentimentalise childhood – we’ve all been subject to peer pressure – but it’s the sheer volume of it today that is worrying. There is more and more pressure on children to assess themselves and it is diminishing their sense of belonging and meaning in their lives. Our society is just not doing the best it can for its children.” To find out more visit www.themothersunion.org/byebuy-childhood



Bible Study

Read it and understand more in good company on a Thursday evening once a month. Details from Trish (5523776).

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us for a gentle service in St Mary's on the second Wednesday of the month at 11.30pm, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends

Drop in! – to the Post Office Coffee Shop on the first Wednesday of each month through the winter from about 11 o'clock for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

Soup Lunches £2 – Good soup and company on the third Wednesday of the month in the Vicarage. Profits go to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury, helping people in desperate need.

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

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

Mothers' Union – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Starting again in September, phone Sheila (553133) or Mary (552041) for details.

Join us for Christmas and the New Year

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew	
	9.30am	☕	11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
Dec 5 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
Dec 12 th	MP		Informal	HC		HC
Dec 19 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Carols	MP	
Dec 26 th	HC		#	#		#
Jan 2 nd	HC		#	#	HC	
Jan 9 th	MP		Informal	HC		HC
Jan 16 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	
Jan 23 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC		HC
Jan 30 th	HC		Informal	S of P	MP	

HC = Holy Communion | MP = Morning Prayer | SofP = Songs of Praise | # = No service



For unto us a child is born!

We wish you a joyful Christmas and we hope that you will join us at some of the events listed here.



Sun 5th December	2.00pm	Scouts Christmas Celebration, Sixpenny Handley
Wed 15th December	10.30am	School Christmas Assembly in St Mary's Church
Fri 17th December	6.00pm	Gussage St Andrew Carols by Candlelight
Sun 19th December	6.00pm	Sixpenny Handley Carols by Candlelight
Mon 20th December	6.00pm	Pentridge Carols by Candlelight
Fri 24th Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Christingle, St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion, Sixpenny Handley
Sat 25th Christmas Day	9.30am	Family Communion, Sixpenny Handley

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Updated weekly on our website

Wed 1st	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
Tues 7th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Advent Service, Sixpenny Handley
	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 8th	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
	7.30pm	St Mary's PCC meeting, the Vicarage
Thurs 9th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Christmas meeting
Thurs 16th	6.00pm	Bible Christmas Group
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage

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Tues 4th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 5th	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
Mon 10th	9.30am	LPA Meeting, the Vicarage
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 12th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's
	7.30pm	St Mary's PCC meeting, the Vicarage
Thurs 13th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union AGM
Tues 18th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 19th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Thurs 20th	7.30pm	Bible Group
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 27th	7.30pm	Men's Group

February 2011

Tues 1st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 2nd	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop