



The Seeker

August

2011

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,
Sixpenny Handley
01725 552608
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
01258 830764

Churchwardens

St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew

Chris Stokes 552672
Carole Wyatt 552572

St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552222
Jane King 552231

Licensed Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Lydia Carter 552720
Margaret Durrant 552608
Margaret Jones 552358
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
David Salmons 552721
Rita Taylor 552885
Carole Wyatt 552572

The Alex James Quartet at the Gussage St Andrew Garden Party

Come along on Sunday 14th August to Woodcutts Farm, just north of Sixpenny Handley (turn left at Woodcutts) any time between 4 and 7pm for a Garden Party. There will be live music from the Alex James Quartet (you might have seen their CDs for sale in the village shops), a barbeque, tea and home-made cakes, bar, raffle and lots more in a beautiful garden. Tickets are £3 and include a glass of Pimms or a soft drink. Children come free! Tickets are available from Clarkes the Butchers or Chris Stokes on 01725 552672.

Soiree, A Taste of India, Village Concert, Light Lunch and Barn Dance...

A huge *thank you* to everyone who worked so hard to make all our summer events so successful. A lot of money was raised for a range of good causes around our country and the world, including Naomi's House (the children's hospice in Dorset), a children's project in India, a project in Tanzania, and the Trussell Trust in Salisbury. We have a lot of wonderful traditions emerging, so be sure to watch out for them next time round!

There are some great photographs of the concert by Andrew Chorley on his website. You'll find the link on the news page of our website – thanks Andrew!

St Andrew's Medieval Wall Paintings

The Chapel at Gussage St Andrew now has new lighting and under-pew heating, ready for the winter. Work on the conservation of the medieval wall paintings begins on Monday 12th September, the day after St Andrew's Harvest. This means that there will be no service here on Sunday 25th September as there will be limited access to the building. When the work is done, the paintings will look exactly the same as now, but will be preserved for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. The conservator, Peter Martindale, tells us that they are of national importance. A huge thank you goes to all the people who have worked so hard to make this work possible.

Harvest Thanksgiving

For the first time in many years, all three of our churches are celebrating Harvest this year – come along to as many as you can as each has its own, unique character!



Gussage St Andrew has its Harvest on Sunday 11th September at 6.00pm, followed by bread and cheese.

St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley has its Harvest on Sunday 25th September at 11 o'clock, followed by a ploughman's lunch.

St Rumbold's, Pentridge has its Harvest on Sunday 2nd October at 11.15am, followed by bread and cheese.



News items and articles welcome!

Please drop them in to the Vicarage, or email; rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



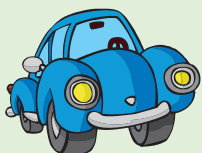
The baptism of Emily Brown took place on 12th June.

The wedding of Ian Chapman and Catherine Daniels took place on 23rd July.

The funeral of Lorna Starr took place on 21st May.

The funeral of Zoe Harris took place on 16th June.

The funeral of Martin Wells took place on 30th June.



Need a lift to Church?

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

Download from our website archive!



- The Seeker — in full colour!
- Minutes of PCC meetings
- Church forms and reports

Come all who are weary...

Modern life is great. There are greater opportunities now than in any time in the past. But it can sometimes feel as though everything is fine and then – wallop – something awful happens and we're floundering.

We're not alone if we find that life is hard, and no matter how hard we try we sometimes get things wrong. Saint Paul tells us that *I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.* (Romans 7:15-20)

Paul was one of the great early Christian leaders, yet he struggled at times. So what hope is there for us? Well, the 'hope' is the same one as for Paul – to let Jesus act as guide and support.

All Christians are called to discipleship, but many of us are perhaps merely *wannabe* disciples. What do I mean by this? Well, true discipleship involves a total giving of ourselves – a total giving that asks us to be conformed to Christ and not to the world we live in, (those are Paul's words too).

If we look carefully into our consciences we will find that there are many attachments that control us and keep us from giving ourselves totally to God. Things like our occupation, our family, our politics and our hobbies can take over our lives to the degree that they control us.

Of course, this is not to say that we are meant to leave our brains at the church door. God wants us to use our intelligence, and all our senses and gifts and talents. He wants us to learn and think for ourselves, but also to follow him - to know Jesus as our friend.

Jesus gives us the most encouraging invitation ever; *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11:28)

The Pharisees spoke of the need to carry the 'yoke' of the Law, the heavy burden of all the commandments. Jesus offers a different 'yoke', which is easy to bear because it comes from his mercy and love.

So can following Jesus really be that easy? Well, I think we all have to find that out for ourselves. And we maybe have to do it over and over again because we have the tendency to do things in our own strength, and we need to be reminded that Jesus can do a much better job. Whoever turns to him, weary and weighed down will receive the rest and the life that is within him to offer. And that is everything that matters.

When Jesus say that he is gentle and humble of heart he is not boasting that he has attained some higher level of spiritual achievement than us. He is saying he is not going to stand over us and be cross with us because we've messed things up – *again!* He really is going to ease our burden and give us rest.

Many of you will I'm sure identify with this. But it may be that you've moved away from that rest and comfort, or you've never experienced it. All I can say is – try it. Within your own heart and mind say a simple prayer that asks Jesus to take away all your hurts, all your anxieties, all your problems, doubts and those things in your personality that you don't like and you know are contrary to how God wants you to live. And keep doing it - It just might make a difference!

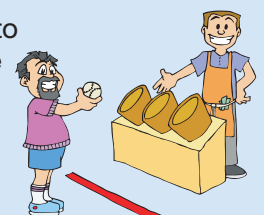
Margaret Durrant

Pentridge Fete

It is nearly time for the Famous Pentridge Fete!

Sat 10th September

Come along to the Pentridge Village Green for all the traditional stalls, food and fun, with the unique Pentridge twist!





Dear Friends

LULU AND THE ARCHBISHOP

This is an extract from The Times of April 22 2011: abbreviated from article by Alex Renton on pp 2,3 of Times2. Lulu, aged 6, sent a letter:

*"To God how did you get invented?
From Lulu XO♥"*

Her father, stumped, sent it to, among others, Lambeth Palace. After a couple of weeks he was asked to tell Lulu that someone special was going to write to her. Eventually there came an email from 'Archbishop Rowan'. (Lambeth Palace gave permission for the letter's reproduction in The Times).

"I was touched more than I would have imagined", said the father. "My scepticism about religion, and my cynicism about the Anglican Church, didn't dissolve - how could they? But these things were quite easily put to the side in the face of the Archbishop's kindness and wisdom." 'Well done Rowan!' declared my mother when I forwarded the email to her. I agreed. Respect to the Archbishop, a charming, gentle man and a poet.

"I found photos of him on the internet and showed them to Lulu. She rather liked the beard. I explained to her a little of who he was and what he did and stood for. She listened quietly as I read the Archbishop's letter and it went down well. What worked particularly was the idea of "God's story".

Dear Lulu, [in his own hand]

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers.

It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this -

'Dear Lulu - Nobody invented me - but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very, very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected.

Then they invented ideas about me - some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints - especially in the life of Jesus - to help them get closer to what I'm really like.

But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off.

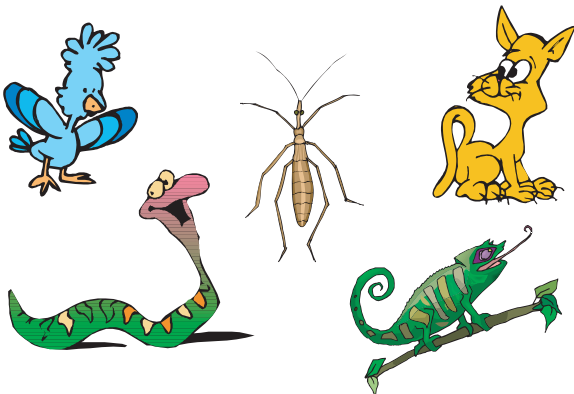
I know he doesn't usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf.

Lots of love from me too.

Archbishop Rowan
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
24 March 2011

"Thank You for Our Pets!"

A blessing and thanksgiving for our pets at St Mary's Church on 4th September 11am



Please come with pets large and small, two or more legged - or none at all!



Everyone welcome



TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Fifteen children and their families braved one of the wettest Sundays of the summer to come to the Teddy Bears' Picnic in St Mary's Church. Everyone had sandwiches, a lot of jelly and cake, and then gathered for a story before going home with a party bag of a bar of chocolate, some colouring and a little soft toy. We are thinking about how we can take this meeting further - so look out for how this might develop in the future!



+ 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, 7.15pm. Phone Trish (552776) for details.

Midweek Holy Communion

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

Come and meet friends

▼ Drop into St Mary's!

On most Saturday afternoons in the church from 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat with someone trained to listen.

*** Drop into the Post Office Coffee Shop** on the first Wednesday of the month from about 11 o'clock for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

● **Soup Lunches** – We have decided to give our soup lunches a rest for a few months over the summer. Watch out for any developments – and please offer your suggestions about how we can help you.

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

☕ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Phone David Lockyer (552492) for details.

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

Join us during August and September 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley Informal service includes children's time			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew	
	9.30am ☕	11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am	
Aug 7 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Aug 14 th	MP		Informal	HC	#	HC
Aug 21 st	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Aug 28 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC	#	HC
Sept 4 th	HC		Inf & Pets	Evensong	HC	#
Sept 11 th	MP		Informal	HC	#	Harvest*
Sept 18 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Sept 25 th	#		Harvest	HC	#	#
Oct 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	Harvest	#

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

* Gussage St Andrew's Harvest Thanksgiving service is at 6.00pm

August 2011

See side panel for key to symbols

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 ◆	3 *	4	5	6 ▼
7	8	9 ☘◆	10 HC	11	12	13 ▼
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 ▼
21	22	23	24	25 ☕	26	27 ▼
28	29	30 ◆	31			

Tues 9th 11.00am Mothers' Union Worldwide Day of Prayer, St Mary's
Sun 14th 4-7.00pm 'Dance on the Lawn' Garden Party at Woodcutts Farm, Woodcutts

BackToChurchSunday

25th September 2011



September 2011

Updated weekly on our website

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 ▼
4	5	6 ◆	7 *	8 ☘	9	10
11	12	13 ◆	14 HC	15	16	17
18	19	20 ◆	21	22	23	24 ▼
25	26	27 ◆	28	29 ☕	30	

Mon 5th 9.30am LPA Meeting at the Vicarage
Tues 6th 7.30pm Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 7th 11.00am Drop in to chat with the vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
7.30pm Sixpenny Handley PCC meeting at the Vicarage
Thurs 8th 2.45pm Mothers' Union House Communion
Sat 10th Pentridge Fete
Sun 11th 11.00am Gussage St Andrew Harvest
Wed 14th 7.30pm Leaders' Meeting at the Vicarage
Sat 17th 2.00pm Wedding of Emma Thrussell and Andy Parsons
Sun 25th 11.00am Sixpenny Handley Harvest Thanksgiving and lunch