



The Seeker

June ~ July



2013

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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It's Curtains for St Andrew's



On a very cold day in March, Pearl and Alec James and Kevin Easter put up the new curtains across the back of St Andrew's. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this possible.

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

UPDATE

A recent report, the Cocoa Barometer, has shed light on the reality of too many people harvesting cocoa beans that become the chocolate we enjoy. Despite growing global demand, many workers and smallholders still live in absolute poverty, working excessive hours in dangerous conditions. This is directly increasing the risk of the worst forms of child labour and forced adult labour.

In the last year the Stop the Traffick campaign has influenced four major chocolate companies to announce moves to tackle trafficking. Nestles, Mars, Hershey and Mondelez have all made public commitments to certify their cocoa beans or release a certified chocolate bar. Cadbury's already has a few bars with the fair-trade logo. Please look out for this, as well as the Rain Forrest Alliance logo, when you buy chocolate. It may be no different in taste, but you will know you are helping someone get a better life, rather than supporting the oppression of plantation workers. It will not leave a nasty taste in your mouth.

There is a lot more information on the Stop the Traffick website;

www.stopthetraffik.org

New Windows for St Mary's!

All the children in school helped make these two beautiful stained glass (well, coloured tissue paper) windows just before Easter. They remind us that Easter and Christmas are two parts of the same story.



In our school assemblies we are reading the story of the whole Bible. We have worked though the Old Testament and have only got onto the New Testament this term, which means we are now thinking about these two life-changing events. Mel also enjoyed a morning with the Year Two class looking at the question they asked; is God a famous person? The children came up with some brilliant answers. What would you say?

www.handleychurch.org.uk



News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



Winifred Pocock (ne Day)'s funeral took place on 25th March

Phyllis Peach's Funeral took place on 11th April

Ron Howard's Memorial Service took place on 30th April

Lily Rae Parsons was baptised on 14th April

Frances and David Burse were married on 20th April

Christopher and Sarah Snell were married on 4th May

Remember the Church gets no funding from the government. We are completely self-supporting. To keep the churches in our villages open we need your regular support. There are many pressures on our time and pockets, but please consider giving to your local church regularly – and if you are a tax payer please sign a gift aid form (in all the churches) so we get an extra 20% at no cost to you. The church belongs to everyone – if there is any way we might be able to help you, please contact us (details on page 1).



Even if you haven't got a computer, I'm sure you've heard about 'social networking.' Half the population of the UK is now on Facebook and/or Twitter. Since the first tweet on March 21st 2006, social media websites has changed the way the world communicates - frequently and in short bursts. Sites like Twitter are the modern way for many to spread information and share experiences.

God's social network is not confined to Twitter or Facebook. For instance, Paul is prompted not by a Tweet but by a dream (Acts 16:9-15). Dreams have been around a long time, but don't underestimate their power – modern research shows that the brain is doing very important things while we dream. They are rebooting, and in doing so may just be returning to factory settings - Getting in touch with their Maker, in fact! (You might remember a very significant dream you had at some point in your life. You have to use a lot of common sense, of course, but maybe, just maybe, a dream can be God's way of telling you something very special.)

And Paul uses networks that already exist. For instance, in Philippi there isn't a synagogue, so Paul goes to where he knows people will listen, down by the river. The group Paul networks with is mainly a group of women, and among them is a lady called Lydia. We aren't told much, but we know that Lydia is a top business-woman. She is wealthy and she is mobile. She has already come over from Turkey to Greece, and established business connections there. Lydia has networked her way around. She is on an important trade route.

In fact, she and Paul have moved from Asia to Europe. This is a significant step for us, because Lydia is the first Christian convert in Europe. Perhaps it is partly through Lydia's prayers that Paul

10 Ways to Know if you're addicted to social media:

- 1 The last thing you do before going to sleep, and the first thing when you wake up is check your computer.
- 2 You are married on Facebook but not in real life.
- 3 You cannot reach your mother because she isn't on Facebook.
- 4 You have friends on Facebook that you don't actually know.
- 5 You go on Twitter from other people's computers.
- 6 You think clicking 'like' will actually do something.
- 7 You turn your computer off, go to bed, and grab your phone to log on one last time.
- 8 You visit websites that list reasons about being addicted to social media.
- 9 Your Facebook account can be used as a beeper.
- 10 And you have already checked your Facebook account while you've been reading this.

receives his vision, his dream from God.

And Lydia networks her whole household. They are all baptized. And then, to cap it all, Lydia invites Paul and his friends to her home. The way it is written - she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us - makes her sound rather a forceful lady! (I can't help but think she was a little bit like

I was trying to explain the concept of Twitter to a friend.

He said, "I don't follow you."

Margaret Thatcher. Imagine how strong the church must have been in Philippi after this!

This story reminds us that the mission of the church often relies on the established networks of where it finds itself, as well as the strength and commitment of its members. For it is through networks that we know people and define ourselves. Cold calls rarely work, but we all live on trade routes, and talking to friends is quite natural. Perhaps we can think of the people we network, and think about how we can invite them along to something that just might change their lives for the better, for ever.

Your friend and vicar, Mel

THE HUNGER GAMES

Adapted from an article in *New Wine Magazine*
by Tearfund's director Andrew McCracken

Food. It's part of our daily lives. It's on our TV screens and our kitchen tables. An endless stream of meal deals and fast-food chains. Yet one in eight people go to bed hungry every night. That is nearly a billion people around the world – more than the population of Europe, North America and Australia combined. Even in the UK, we are seeing a rise in the need for food banks.

And the shocking truth is that *there is enough food* in the world to feed everyone. The rising costs of food, changes in climate, tax avoidance, companies taking land from farmers and many other factors mean that we keep seeing hunger crises in some of the poorest communities in the world, while other parts of the world tackle obesity, overconsumption and incredible amounts of waste. Where is the justice in this inequality?

A world in which everyone has access to enough food is possible. In 2013 over 100 charities and churches have launched the biggest UK anti-poverty campaign since Make Poverty History. Enough Food for Everyone IF is a coalition of organisations that sees 2013 as a crucial year to ask world leaders to fix the world's broken food system and to remove the 'ifs' that make it so fragile and ineffective.

We can all speak out against the injustice of hunger and be the voice of the voiceless. No one need be hungry or malnourished. Getting enough of the right food gives people a future. Churches all over the country are joining together to shout loud enough for our world leaders to hear and make decisions that could bring justice to the millions all over the world going hungry. We need to be part of a social revolution that sees people make lifestyle changes in a world of increasing population and finite resources, ensuring that all who are made in the image of God are treated equally.

This is what God intends his Earth to look like. We all know the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus performed a miracle that saw five loaves and two fish stretch to feed more than it ought. It looked like there wasn't going to be enough, but there was more than enough. Jesus did not give any more to one person than he did another and yet *'all were satisfied.'* What a wonderful image of equality.

This is a chance to bring about the image we read in the Bible, the image of everyone having enough. The Church isn't just a holy huddle. We are one body making a stand for our brothers and sisters around the world who need us to fight for their survival. We can take action and work towards a world of enough loaves and fish for everyone – God's kingdom come.



The IF campaign focuses on some of the root causes of hunger and poverty. Our government needs to keep its promise to give 0.7% of GDP as aid and, with other rich countries, provide the additional money to help poor countries adapt to climate change. Companies and governments need to stop grabbing land from poor communities who can't prove they own it. We need to change the EU biofuel target that makes such land grabs profitable and pushes up food prices. Companies need to stop tax dodging, so they pay tax in poor countries where they operate, and the governments of those countries need to be more accountable to their people for how they use their budgets. Finally, multinational food companies need to be more accountable for their food stocks and food prices.

Together we can change the world. Find out more about the IF campaign at www.tearfund.org/if

Teddy Bears – 1st Birthday Service

It is a year since we started our Teddy Bears pre-school morning on Thursdays from 10.30am during term time. Many thanks to Jean Mayne and her team for their clear enjoyment in running this, and to celebrate we had a very special service in May with lots of cake, drinks and iced biscuits, as well as some stories and songs.



Church Fete

Many thanks to everyone who made this such a great day. We can't include any photos here, so look on the website!

Christian Aid

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Christian Aid appeal, and to David Salmons and his team of helpers for collecting it. Every penny makes a difference to someone's life.

Need a lift to Church?

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



On our website —

- The Seeker — in full colour! PDF
- Minutes of PCC meetings, church forms
- Photo galleries and history



SUMMER TONGUE TWISTERS

*Did Doug dig Dick's garden or
did Dick dig Doug's garden?*



*Moses supposes his toeses are roses,
But Moses supposes erroneously,
For nobody's toeses are posies of roses
As Moses supposes his toeses to be.*

*Theophilus Thistler, the thistle sifter,
in sifting a sieve of unsifted thistles,
thrust three thousand thistles
through the thick of his thumb.*

Come along for something to eat and drink, and sing some of your favourite hymns at St Mary's **Songs of Praise on Sunday 30th June**. We shall hear the famous story of Joseph and his Amazing Multicolour Coat. The singing starts at six o'clock so come early and enjoy a beautiful summer evening in a beautiful place with friends. If there is a particular hymn you would like to sing please let the vicar know and we will try to include it

Songs of Praise



+ 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, 7.30pm. Phone Mike for details on 01725 552620.

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 into St Mary's!** on most Saturday afternoons from 2.30pm during British Summer Time 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 or curate.

T **Free Teedy Bear Drop-in** Pre-schoolers and their carers are invited to St Mary's on Thursdays during school term from 10.30am to noon for fun, refreshments, and maybe a Bible story.

L **Sunday Lunch** Join us at Hanlega's, on the campsite, on the first Sunday of the month for Sunday lunch – Everyone is welcome.

◆ **Fellowship Group** The Fellowship Group (usually) meet every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a Roebuck steak! Phone Paul Skinner (552785).

☕ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Details from David Lockyer (552492).

🌸 **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 this Summer

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 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
June 9 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
June 16 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
June 23 rd	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
June 30 th	HC		Inf & HC	S of P	MP	#
July 7 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
July 14 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
July 21 st	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
July 28 th	MP		Inf & HC	Evensong	#	HC

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

Baptism of Edie and Mollie Watkinson

Sunday 30th June
2.00pm St Mary's

Bishop coming – you can too!

The Bishop of Sherborne, Dr Graham Kings will be visiting St Andrew's 9.30 and St Mary's 11 o'clock services on Sunday 28th July. Come along.

June

See side panel for key to symbols

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

July

Updated weekly on our website

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

Tues 9th 7.30pm Pentridge PCC meeting

Wed 24th 10.30am School Praise Assembly, St Mary's

Sat 27th 2.30pm Wedding of Craig Tostevin and Jordina Oriel, St Mary's

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13th July
7:30pm – St Mary's Concert, Sixpenny Handley. Our annual celebration of talent. Come along and perform, or come along and enjoy! Please contact John and Gaye Cullingford if you would like to take part.

Sat 29th June, 7:30pm – Three Men in a Boat (to say nothing of the dog) at The Barn Woodyates. A brilliant one-man telling of this famous story.

Sat 20th July, from 4:00pm – Puzzleburger Evening from 4pm at St Mary's Church. A summer evening that does what it says on the tin. Come along for a burger and a puzzle – jigsaws and other puzzles fit for all ages to have some family fun.

Saturday 10th August – The Pentridge Barbeque!