



The Seeker

www.handleychurch.org.uk



2014

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 552 608
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552 785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
01258 830 764

Churchwardens

*St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew*

Sheila Bradley 553 133

St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552 222

Jane King 552 231

Licenced Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516 453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552 801

Lydia Carter 552 720

Margaret Durrant 552 608

Margaret Jones 552 358

Maureen Lockyer 552 492

Jean Mayne 552 692

David Salmons 552 721

Carole Wyatt 552 572

(Area code 01725)

Lent Lunch

After a break last year we are reviving our popular Wednesday Soup Lunches during Lent – but with some exciting changes!

As well as good food and company there will be chance to find out a bit more about some of the charities supported by people in our villages – the African village supported by the Styles family, the help sent to the Philippines by the Garton family, the work student nurse Jessie Meaden is going to do in Malawi this summer, the Salisbury-based charity The Trussell Trust, and the rebuilding of a slum house in India through Love and Care. Pictures and information will be on display about each week's charity.

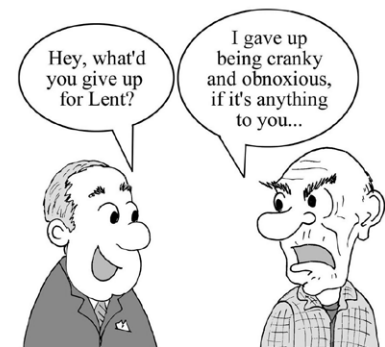
The main aim is to give updates and raise awareness of the fantastic work done by so many people in our community. We would also like to give them some financial support, so each week there will be a small Bring and Buy table, with a few homemade cakes and jams, and goods linked with that week's charity. For £2.50 you can have two varieties of delicious homemade soup and bread, followed by tea or coffee and homemade biscuits. The meal will be served at 1.00pm but you are welcome to come from 12.30 for a cuppa and a chat. See back page for dates.

Lent Course – Living Well

Wisdom is not a quality that is valued or talked about much in today's world. But if we think about it, don't we all want to get the hang of how to live well?

So how do we make our decisions about life today? Does God fit in anywhere? This Lent, join us as we explore the journey to wisdom we can all make – learning to live wisely in terms of our attitude to success and goals in life, in our choices and decisions, our speech and relationships.

This year we shall meet on Mondays through Lent in the Parish Office on Dean Lane in Sixpenny Handley, beginning on 10th March at 7.30pm for five weeks. There will be a lot of fun as well as time for some deep thought. Come along, if you are new to thinking about life or a mature Christian who wants to go deeper,



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com



With just a click you can support your church for free!

Do you shop online? Did you know that every time you buy you could also be raising money for Sixpenny Handley Church? Over 2,700 well known retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco will donate a percentage of what you spend to say thank you for shopping with them. It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

- Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk (just email and a password needed)
- When you're asked to choose your cause, select Sixpenny Handley Church.
- Go shopping - it couldn't be easier!

Easyfundraising has already raised over £5 million for over 50,000 good causes across the UK. So head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk now. Already registered? Spread the word to family and friends and let them know just how easy it is!

P.S. When you register, you'll be asked if you want to install the Find & Remind toolbar – make sure you do this so that you receive a handy reminder each time a donation is available when you shop online! It really is easy!



News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



The funerals took place of

- Mary Budden
- Patricia Spanswick
- Mary Meaden
- Jan Compton
- Richard (Dick) Jesty

Pardon? I can't see!

In 2014, St Mary's will be getting a much better sound and vision system. If you would like to contribute towards this exciting project (or any of our other areas where we hope to make improvements) please contact the vicar or church warden.

Did you know?

It costs over £40,000 each year just to keep our churches open and functioning. So if you would like to keep the church open near you, we need your help! Please think about giving regularly, and think about GiftAid if you are a UK taxpayer so we get 25% extra at no cost to you. Remember, we get no funding from the government at all.



Christmas seems a long time ago now, but the message of Christmas should stay with us all the year. At the start of December Mary and Joseph set off around Sixpenny Handley on a journey that brought them to St Mary's Church in time for the Christingle Service.

Our basket of knitted figures travelled to a different home each night. This is a Mexican tradition, called *Posada* after the Spanish word for Inn. As they journeyed, their hosts wrote some lovely comments in the little book – *Mary and Joseph had a quiet night and baby Jesus slept peacefully... spent the night by a nice warm fire... rocked Jesus gently... shared the story with the family... baby Jesus could stay in the lounge under the Christmas tree near our dog's bed. Don't worry, he is a wonderful dog and will keep them safe... celebrating the magic of Christmas... but the only wise man that came was my dad...*

We hope to repeat Mary and Joseph's journey again next year – look out for them coming to your house in December. In the mean time, as we look to Lent, Mothering Sunday and Easter, we remember the rest of the greatest story ever.

Our villages are part of the Diocese of Salisbury. In our Diocese last year: 64,000 people attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and tens of thousands more at Christmas services throughout December. In our 452 parishes, there is a Christian presence in every community.



Over 2,000 people were baptised and 691 were confirmed (494 aged under 20). 150 examples or experiments in parishes with new forms of ministry for mission – including 70 Open the Book in schools; 44 with Messy Church; 20 Cafe Churches; 11 Breakfast Churches; 7 Pub Theology Groups; 5 benefices piloting Energising Local Ministry; and 2 Missional Communities. 42,000 children and young people attend 195 Church Schools and Academies. Ofsted identified 90% of church Schools and Academies as 'good' or 'outstanding'. We have 2,000 Church School Governors.

There are 370 licensed clergy, more than 20 years ago. They include 52 Curates in training posts. We have 22 students in colleges and courses training for ordained ministry. Our highly committed lay people include 871 Churchwardens, 882 PCC Secretaries and Treasurers, 202 Licensed Lay Ministers, 1,006 Lay Pastoral Assistants and 34,525 on parish church Electoral Rolls.

The press likes to say the church is on its last legs – but we are the place to be!

Your friend and vicar, Mel

Lee Abbey was an abbey back in the Middle Ages, which gave it the name. Now it is a beautiful house and community, with its own wood, cliff and beach on the rugged north Devon coastline. Visitors often comment that it is a 'thin place', in the sense that God is felt to be very near. It is a great place for families, as there are lots of things for different ages to do, and there is no pressure to attend any of the events. It is also a lot of fun – last year many of us went on the zip slide, as well as enjoying roasted marshmallows on the beach.

After last year's successful trip we are planning another, over the weekend of 27-29th June. Two nights full board in this beautiful place with activities, teaching and worship (and lots of food!) is from £136 per person. Please have a look at the brochure, the website or talk to Margaret Durrant if you are interested in coming – but hurry, places are limited!



Did you know?

Adapted from an article on www.stopthetraffik.org

That a girl of 14 may have been trafficked to make the cotton T-shirt you are wearing?

Over 200,000 young women and girls are trafficked to work in the cotton industry in the Tamil Nadu region of India. Female workers, mainly aged 14 to 23 years old, are recruited with false promises of a good job and a lump sum payment under the guise of an 'apprenticeship' scheme called Sumangali. Once recruited, they are essentially trapped within a factory for up to five years.

The workers have limited freedom. They have to sleep in accommodation in a hostel within the factory walls or guarded by the male factory employees with only limited contact with their families or the outside world. They are forced to work often up to 12 hours a day, 6 days a week or more without the compensation they have been promised. The cotton is spun, dyed and woven in these factories to be sold to consumer markets all over the world. It is likely to be found in most of our favourite shops and labels. It is likely to be in cotton garments in our wardrobes and drawers.

It is not currently possible to know which items or which shops sell items that are made with cotton that is free from human trafficking. Most retailers and fashion labels either don't know where they buy their cotton from or choose not to make that information public.

This isn't good enough.

We believe that as consumers we should know how, where and under what conditions the clothes we buy were made. We want to be able to choose Traffick-Free and help change the lives of the women and girls trapped in this scheme.

"Cotton made by these trafficked young women and girls may be in the t-shirt I am wearing today. It may be in the clothes in your wardrobe at home. At the moment we don't know. Fashion retailers and labels don't know. But we can change this. As consumers we have a powerful voice, we can use it to urge companies to change their behaviour so that they can tell us that the clothes we are buying are Traffick-Free. We hope this campaign will make people take notice and most critically, take action. We want to bolster consumer awareness and change the lives of those working in these factories in India"

Ruth Dearnley, CEO of STOP THE TRAFFIK

To Make Fashion Traffick-Free and end the human trafficking of young women and girls in the cotton industry in Tamil Nadu we are asking retailers and brands to take action by mapping and reporting on their supply chain, and committing to the make fashion Traffick-Free.

We can make a difference, and we can all help to achieve this. We are already making a difference with the chocolate and coffee manufacturers, and we know change will only happen when we join together with our collective voices and take action. As a valued customer at your favourite brand or retailer, your voice matters. Have a look at the website for ways we can help people we will never meet, but who deserve a better life.

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

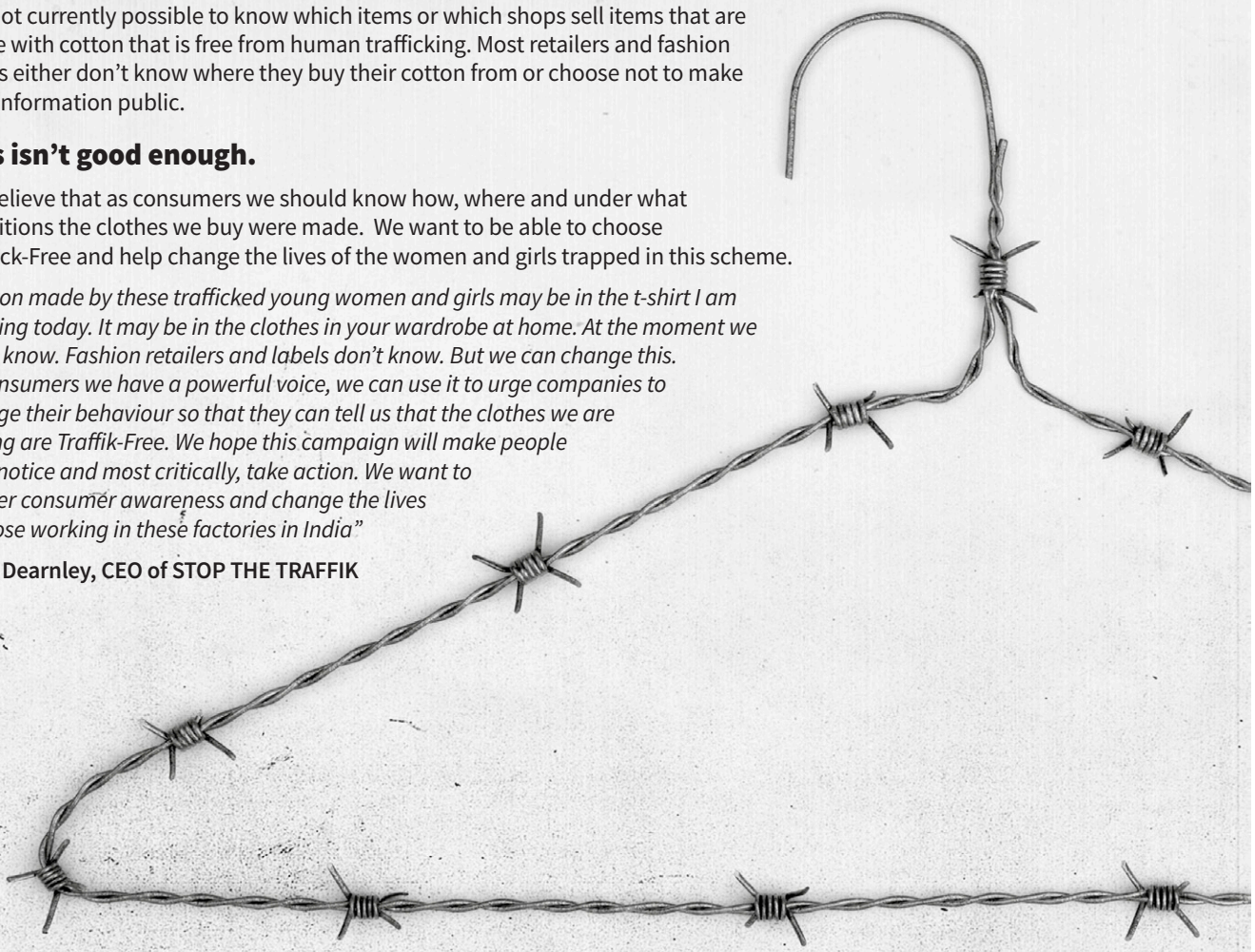
www.stopthetraffik.org

OVER 200,000 TRAFFICKED
YOUNG GIRLS
ARE TRAPPED IN
THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

STOPTHETRAFFIK.ORG





+ 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 Mike on 01725 552 720 for details.

Come and meet friends

* **Drop into...** the Post Office Coffee Shop on the first Wednesday from about 11 o'clock, or The Walnut Tree on the last Wednesday, for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

T Teddy Bears

Pre-school children and their carers are invited to St Mary's on Thursday mornings during school term from 10.30am to noon, for fun, drinks and biscuits and maybe a Bible story or two. There is no charge.

LC / LL Lent Course/Lunch

Join us at the Parish Office on Mondays at 7.30pm for our Lent Course. Also a Lent Lunch & Talk on Wednesdays at 12.30pm held in St Mary's church.

◆ 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 (552 785).

☪ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Details from David Lockyer (552 492).

☪ **Mothers' Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Sheila (553 133) or Mary (552 041) for details.

Join us for February and March 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary's 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
Feb 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC
Feb 9 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#
Feb 16 th	HC	(10:30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP
Feb 23 rd	MP		Inf & HC	Evensong	#
Mar 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC
Mar 9 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	#
Mar 16 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	MP
Mar 23 rd	HC		Informal	Evensong	#
Mar 30 th	Mothering Sunday 10am			Evensong	MP

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

Ash Wednesday



5th March

Holy Communion and Ashing, 6.00pm, St Mary's

Make a Mothers' Day - 30th March

Join us for our annual (and very special) service on Mothers' Day on 30th March at 10 o'clock. We can all show mothering love, and this is something to celebrate together as well as in our families.

Mums all over the world need our help and support. Through The Mothers' Union we can give ethical gifts and support their work helping some of the poorest communities around the world. Gifts range from just £4 to £100. If you would like to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union please visit their main website, www.mothersunion.org.

February

See side panel for key to symbols

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

The Church is for *everyone*, so please contact the vicar if there is any way we may be able to help you.



March 5th to April 17th

March

Updated weekly on our website

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

Wed 12th 7:30pm PCC Meeting (St Mary's). Vicarage,
Tue 25th 12:15pm Mothers' Union Communion, Salisbury Cathedral