



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
ask@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

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)

The War to End All Wars, 4th August 1914

It is one hundred years since the beginning of the Great War – the war that didn't end all wars, but did change the course of history. We shall be remembering this at our Remembrance Service in November, of course.

We shall remember the start of the war on the evening of Monday 4th August in St Mary's. This was the time when war was declared – at 11 pm our time, which was midnight over the channel. The church will be open and candlelit in the evening and we will mark the time with a quiet service beginning at 10.30 pm.

A young soldier wrote home from the trenches, 'Only recently I was in a very big engagement, when bullets and shells were bursting around us every minute, and none of us knew when one would burst and blow us to pieces. Dear friend, that was the time when I turned to God and prayed for protection, and he has answered my prayers.'

We are also remembering other anniversaries this year, including the D Day landings and other conflicts. There will be a book in St Mary's where we invite you to write any memories, prayers or thoughts connected with any war or conflicts. They can be connected with our villages or something personal, and the book will remain in the church for some time.



it's time for the famous
PENTRIDGE FETE
Saturday 6th September
from 2pm

Between Salisbury and Sixpenny Handley - SP5 5QX

All the traditional stalls, games, refreshments, displays and lots, lots more!

more details from (01725) 552222 or 552231



Trussel Trust – Over fifty shoeboxes ready to go!

And few more partially filled (yes, we know it's still summer – it's called forward planning!). If you intended to give either goods or money – IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

The best way to help now if you have not already promised to fill a box is by a donation of money – large or small – to Trish Chorley. Your donation will either buy goods to fill the gaps in the incomplete boxes, or be given to the trust towards the cost of transport to the country of need. (Cheques made to P Chorley please).

Trussel Trust – Foodbank

School holidays brings extra pressure on families already struggling, & food is needed. Please put in box at back of church as usual. THANK YOU!

Bear Grylls urges church to Ride+Stride

He says, 'Many historic churches are battling to survive. Roofs leak, ancient timbers rot and medieval stonework crumbles. Now you can help by joining the Ride+Stride adventure on Saturday 13th September 2014, a sponsored bike ride and walk discovering beautiful churches, which raises money for their repair and preservation.' More details on www.rideandstrideuk.org



News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!



FROM THE REGISTERS



The Funerals of Norman Dunford, Mike Larkin.

The Wedding took place of Matt and Tara Hull

The Baptism tok place of India O'Brien, Lottie Styles

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

Pardon? I can't see!

Our new sound and vision system is now up and running. Contributions towards this (or any of the other areas we need to improve) are still needed. Please contact the vicar or churchwarden to find out how you can be a part of it.



My diary shows dates, and times when each new season begins, as well as the start and end of British Summer Time. That is all very useful, but it is also where certainty stops, for the seasons always seem to be out of kilter.

Last year, it seemed as if the summer sun would never come, and then as if the mild autumn would last forever. Golden-red leaves were still glowing on trees well into November. This year, primroses and spring bulbs bloomed early, well ahead of schedule. It's as if the natural world, God's handiwork, is demonstrating what Bob Dylan sang all those years ago, *'The times they are a-changing.'*

So how may we come to terms with all the other changes that life and society bring us? We might resent everything that is new or different – resent disrupted weather patterns, as well as physical limitations as we get older, altered family circumstances as the children grow up and leave, and political changes locally and nationally. But a much better approach is to stop, and bring to the Lord in prayer each matter that disturbs our sense of peace.

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;

*Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;*

*Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;*

*That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him*

Forever in the next. Amen.

– Reinhold Niebuhr

'Search me, O God,' the Psalm says, *'test me and know my anxious thoughts... show me... lead me'* (Psalm 139:23). It may be that God will answer my prayer by challenging me to let go of the past, with all its apparent security, and also let go of the fear of the unknown, which is so often evoked by the prospect of change. Instead, he challenges us to place our trust in Him alone. Our Heavenly Father is the one thing that is unchanging, and able to do far more than we ask or think. After all, *'Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever'* (Hebrews 13.8). But He is also the Lord who announces, *'I am making everything new'* (Rev 21:5). Remember, Jesus the same and Jesus always with us, is a promise, not a threat!

Adapted from the Mothers' Union newsletter



A Song in our Heart

Saturday 4th Oct
7.30pm

St Mary's Church Sixpenny Handley
for the church and
Salisbury Women's Refuge

£5.00 – incl refreshments

Tickets (01725) 552608 and on the door!

The young couple are having a drink. The young man raises his glass – ‘...and may you go to heaven ten minutes before the Devil knows you’re dead. That’s a genuine Irish toast,’ he says.

The young woman raises her glass – ‘...and may you have bread, eggs and cinnamon. That a genuine French toast.’

As the summer moves on we see the harvest forming around us. And we celebrate it, not so much with a toast, but with bread – our Harvest Loaf.

Bread is a basic – a staple of food the world over. It is amazing that from one little seed, ground into flour, we have developed all the different sorts of bread from A to Z, from Aish Merahah (which is an Egyptian flatbread) to Zwieback (a German leavened bread) and all the breads in-between – bagels and baguettes, cottages and crumpets, parotta and pitta, pretzels and pumpernickel, scones and sourdough, teacakes and tortilla...

Bread is the most basic thing. We eat bread everyday. We use our loaf. We earn a crust. The people who built the pyramids were paid in bread. The Israelites as they escaped from Egypt and travelled through the wilderness were fed with bread from heaven to keep them going. And Jesus says ‘I Am the Bread of Life’.

Towards the end of World War II, soldiers found many hungry and homeless children wandering around the bombed ruins. They took them to tent cities. Many of the children were malnourished and needed medical care. The soldiers saw to their needs and shared their food with them, but they noticed the children seemed anxious and were afraid to go to sleep at night. One of the soldiers tried an experiment. After dinner he gave each child a piece of bread to hold. The result was astounding. When they had the security of bread for tomorrow they slept easily. That small piece of bread took away their fear.

Bread is made from flour, and flour is made from grain, from seeds. The farmer ploughs the fields and scatters the good seed on the land... but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand.

Living where we do, we are very aware of the beauty of the world, of God’s Creation, and know the importance of playing our part in keeping the world so amazing. The Bible makes it clear that God is trusting us to look after the world he has given us.

We also know that there are many places not as beautiful or as safe as here, and we can do something about it. We can plant seeds of hope all over the world. For instance, one third of the world’s children live in extreme poverty and a child dies from poverty every five seconds. Millions of men, women and children die from drinking dirty water or not having enough food to eat, from not having medicine for easily preventable diseases or because they are abused or neglected. One in every six children aged between five and fourteen is involved in child labour.

The Bible shows us God’s heart for the poor. Jesus says For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a

stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me... (Matthew 25:35).

Many other verses in the Bible call us to speak out and care for the poor. And the Bible shows us how God delights in taking small things and multiplying their impact many times over. Think of the feeding of the five thousand, when Jesus takes one little child’s packed lunch (of bread and fish) and then feeds the huge crowd so that each has enough. And there are twelve baskets left over!

We may have much or little to offer God, but he can work miracles with whatever we give him. So when we take some of our skills (however mundane they might appear), our strengths, our abilities, money and resources and offer them to God, we scatter lasting seeds. We can all make a difference and help turn lives around for the good. Together we can move the mountain of poverty, one step at a time. And all that starts with a simple seed and a loaf of bread.



GARDEN PARTY
Chapel Farm
Gussage St Andrew
Sixpenny Handley DT11 8DL

Sunday 17th August
4 - 7pm
Swing Music by the
Alec James Quartet
to support our beautiful chapel
£4, under 12s free
Tickets: Pearl James 552834

The Garden Party returns!

This year at Chapel Farm right by St Andrew’s, by kind invitation of to Ian and Angela Downie. Come along on Sunday 17th August from 4pm for music from the Alec James Quartet, tea and cakes, barbeque, games and stalls. Tickets are available in advance from the Post Office, Clarke’s or Pearl James on 01725 552834.



+ Bible Study Group

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 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 from about 11 o'clock, or The Walnut Tree on the last Wednesday, for a coffee and chat with the vicar or curate.

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.

◆ 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 this Summer

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
Aug 3 rd	HC	#	Evensong	HC	#
Aug 10 th	MP	#	Evensong	#	HC
Aug 17 th	HC	#	Evensong	MP	#
Aug 24 th	MP	(10.30am)	Evensong	#	HC
Aug 31 st	HC		Evensong	MP	#
Sept 7 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC
Sept 14 th	MP	Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Sept 21 st	#	Harvest	Evensong	MP	#
Sept 28 th	MP	Informal	#	#	Harvest

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

HARVEST



Looking ahead, make a date for our Harvest Festivals – at St Mary's on Sunday 21st September, at 11 o'clock, at St Andrew's on Sunday 28th September at 6pm, and at Pentridge on Sunday 5th October. All of them are followed by refreshments – do come and celebrate the wonderful world around us, and stay for something to eat afterwards!

August

See side panel for key to symbols

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

Mon 4th 10.30am Prayer Vigil on the anniversary of WW1, St Mary's

Tue 5th 7.30pm Pentridge PCC Meeting

September

Updated weekly on our website

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

Sat 6th 2.00pm The Pentridge Fete

Sat 13th 2.30pm Pentridge Walk 'n' Talk, with Mike Swan