



The Seeker

www.handleychurch.org.uk

June ~ July



2015

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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Churchwardens

*St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew*

Sheila Bradley 553 133
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St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552 222
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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)

Country Life – a Celebration of Craft and Flowers



There is no Waistcoat Festival this year, but make a date for the Sixpenny Handley Church Flower Festival and Fayre over the weekend of 6-7th June.

The church will be full of flowers, cream teas and cakes will be available on both days, and there will be all the fun of the fayre around the church and in the vicarage garden on Saturday.

We will finish Sunday evening with a very special *Songs of Praise* at 6.00 pm.

Thank you if you supported the Easter campaign for more fairly traded Easter eggs! Around the world over 22,000 people petitioned supermarkets to increase their certified Easter egg range next year. Many others took campaign postcards and spoke directly to their local supermarkets. Fantastic! You'll be pleased to hear there was a good response. Read more about what happened and their response on: www.stophetraffik.org/traffikfreeeaster

STOP THE TRAFFIK.
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

UPDATE



Stop the traffik have also been campaigning to Make Fashion Traffik Free since 2013. If you want a reminder as to why this campaign is so poignant I recommend watching the short film on the Stophetraffik website called *Suman-gali: the untold stories* which tells of the young women and girls who are trafficked into the cotton factories in the Tamil Nadu region of India. Those caught in this are often paid as little as 98p a day and have no choice in their lives. This is not just a poverty issue; it is an issue of justice as well.

It is a year since the disaster in the Rana Plaza fabric factory in Bangladesh, when 1,129 people died as the building collapsed. In the coming months Stophetraffik will be asking leading fashion brands to increase their efforts to eliminate trafficking in the cotton supply chain. If you want the t-shirt you're wearing to be #traffikfree make sure you follow the campaign on social media and get ready to take part.



News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!



FROM THE REGISTERS



The funerals took place of
Alan Bone
Eve Ferguson
Win Judd

Get a tax break!

If you are buying or selling a house in Sixpenny Handley, remember that you do not have to pay for a search for *Chancel Tax*. This was an historic tax that might be payable by property built on land that was once owned by the church. This tax is out of date and cancelled. If you need written proof to go with your documents, please contact the church office.

www.easyfundraising.org
Shop online and raise funds for

Sixpenny Handley Church

Just visit easyfundraising.org and search for our church and follow the simple steps to sign up. Each time you shop online you'll earn us a donation, just by making an extra click!

£350 raised so far!



Let's talk about... MONEY

I remember my father passing sixpence down the line to my brother and me for the collection in our village church. Even as a small boy I found this embarrassing. I knew that sixpence (2½p) was very little to give. And I knew that God knew it wasn't even *my* sixpence. I knew I wasn't giving enough.

We are often embarrassed to talk about money, but there are over 2,300 verses in the Bible on the subject of money, wealth and possessions. This is a challenge. What we do with our money says everything about what we believe and who we are. We need to talk about money.

People often think that the Church of England is funded by the government or by a rich central organisation. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is no funding from elsewhere. We have to pay our own way. If we want there to be a church in our village, then we have to pay for it.

In fact, having a church is a bargain! For instance, it costs only about £5 an hour to keep St Mary's open. Please think about paying for an hour. After all, this is only the price of a coffee and cake in town. You won't put on weight and it will last much longer!

Our running costs in Sixpenny Handley are about £40,000 each year. (This does not include Pentridge, which is a separate parish, or maintenance and conservation work at St Andrew's, or the improvements at St Mary's).

The church is a presence and a place, offering time and space for celebration and mourning, song and quietness. The church is your church, and it needs everybody's help to continue. Please think about if you would like to help. The most efficient way of giving financially is by Standing Order. These can be set up through your bank or building society and can be monthly, quarterly or yearly. You know how much you are giving and we know how much we are getting. Importantly, we can claim the tax back if you are a UK taxpayer through gift aid. This means we can claim an extra 25% from the Inland Revenue on donations at no cost to you: If you give £100 we actually get £125.

So where does the MONEY go?

74% Nearly three quarters of our income goes on the Share. This is our contribution to the ministry of the parish and the diocese. It comes back to us by paying for the vicar, housing, pensions, training and all the support costs of ministry as well as the running of the diocesan staff and offices in Salisbury. In fact, we get slightly more back in services than we pay out in money. No money goes to Salisbury Cathedral itself, which is completely self-supporting.

16% – About £7k goes on running costs, utilities and expenses for our buildings and office.

10% – goes on Outward Giving. We see part of our work supporting others, and as a church body we support a range of charities both at home and abroad. It is what we do. The list is on the notice board. Of course many individuals and groups within the church are also very generous, and one-off events raise money and awareness for different causes. Each year we review our giving to see if we can give more. This is part of being a Christian.

There are also gold and coloured envelopes that can make planning your giving easier. If you are a taxpayer, giving in a gold envelope and filling in the front means we can claim gift aid. These are ideal for any one-off donations and are available in the church. For more regular giving, please ask for details of the coloured envelope scheme. You sign a covenant (an agreement) that you will give an amount of your choice regularly, which helps us plan our budget. In return you are given 52 envelopes (the colour varies from year to year) to help you plan your giving. Like the other methods of giving these can be gift aided.

Our God is a giving God and has already given generously to us. He gives us life and his giving is renewed daily. In giving to others we have the opportunity to reflect something of God's nature. Of course, there are many other ways of giving and I would like to thank all the people who give so generously of their time and talents to make our churches what they are today. Thank you.

Your friend and vicar, Mel

THE HOUSE OF OPPORTUNITY

Brighter futures for Bulgaria's orphanage leavers



150 children are abandoned to orphanages every month in Bulgaria, and over 8,000 children live in institutions. At age 18, young people living in orphanages have to leave. Most have nothing – no home, no money, no family and no idea of life outside an institution. Many turn to crime and prostitution to survive. Vulnerable and alone, they become prime targets of human traffickers. Extreme poverty means these young people are highly likely to be forced to abandon their own children in the future.

The Trussell Trust works tirelessly with its partners, the Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion (FSCI), to give these young people a better future and break the cycle of poverty and abandonment. The House of Opportunity Programme provides two years' residential training to equip vulnerable young people with the skills they need to live successful, independent lives – budgeting, cooking, IT, and help to apply for and retain a job. House parents provide each resident with individual care and support in a small, family style home.



Ivayla is an example of what can be achieved. She arrived at the House of Opportunity in Skravena when she was 19 years old. She graduated after 20 months with a job and ambitions to be a teacher. She is now married with a little girl, but still has plans to be a teacher and perhaps a coach of a football team! After a few months at the House of Opportunity Ivayla said: “ In the orphanage you learn by yourself. No one tells you whether the things you do are right or wrong and whether there is a better way to do something, the simple daily stuff. This way you learn wrong. It is as if I am starting a new life now. I learn everything over again, but now the way they are.”

The Trussell Trust and FSCI share a vision to transform the lives of Bulgaria's orphanage leavers by opening Houses of Opportunity right across the country – enough to offer any suitable orphanage leaver a place on their programme. They also believe that this project is needed in some other Balkan countries and new partners have been found to bring the House of Opportunity to Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia this year. By equipping young people with skills they need to provide for their own children, they are working to break the cycle of poverty that sees so many young people abandoned to state care. www.fscibulgaria.org gives more details about the impact their work is making on the lives of vulnerable young people.



The Trussell Trust has also been running an annual Christmas box appeal which has enjoyed strong support from the Sixpenny Handley community over the years. Last year the Trust received 8,545 Christmas presents from its supporters and hundreds of people gave their time to sort and pack the boxes before they were shipped to Bulgaria. Rich Parsons, The Trussell Trust's Bulgaria Operations Manager, said “We are very grateful for the generosity of the people at St Mary's Church and the community of Sixpenny Handley. The boxes you have donated have made a lot of very poor children and families happy at a time of year when they feel particularly left out. It is a privilege to deliver the presents on your behalf and we hope that you will continue to be involved with the work of The Trussell Trust in this way.”

Rich Parsons
Bulgaria Operations Manager (UK)



+ 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 alternate Thursdays at 7.15pm. Details from Mike on 01725 552 720.

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 Monday of the month 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 on alternate Thursdays for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes with a Roebuck steak on the first Tuesday of the month! 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
June 7 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	S of P	HC	#
June 14 th	MP		#	Evensong	#	HC
June 21 st	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
June 28 th	MP		Inf + HC	Evensong	#	HC
July 5 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
July 12 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
July 19 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
July 29 th	MP		#	Evensong	#	HC

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

Farthering Sunday — 21st June

Fathers — We are celebrating parents! After our Mothering Sunday before Easter, we are celebrating Fathering Sunday, on June 21st (Fathers' Day) beginning at 11am. Please come along — after all, we can all show fathering love as well as mothering love! Come along and celebrate with us — come early for a cup of coffee and a biscuit!

Summer Holiday programme

Things settle down a bit in church at the end of July. Over the school holidays the Teddy Bears have a break (perhaps they have a picnic), and the 11 o'clock Service at Sixpenny Handley combines with the 9.30 service, returning in September. Evensong and services at St Andrew's and Pentridge continue as normal.

June See side panel for key to symbols

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *	2 ◆	3	4 T +	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 – Sun 7th Church Flower Festival and Fayre. St Mary's

July Updated weekly on our website

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

Groups and Drop-ins

We have had a slight rethink of our church groups — the Fellowship and the Bible Study groups now alternate on Thursdays. The Fellowship Group still meet for a meal at The Roebuck on the first Tuesday of the month. Do join us.

And you are invited to have a coffee with the vicar in the Post Office on the first Monday of the month, from about 11 o'clock. (And the last Wednesday of the month at the Walnut Tree, which remains the same).



Don't forget the famous **PENTRIDGE BBQ** Sat 1st August