



The Seeker

February

2009

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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of *The Seeker*
can be downloaded
from our website!

The Vicar Writes



Dear Friends

You would think that the sayings of someone who lived 2,000 years ago would be stuck inside a dusty old textbook somewhere, rather than being used every day out on the street – but think again. A good number of the sayings of Jesus are used in modern English speech and continue to add colour and depth to what we say. There are many reasons why the words of Jesus continue to be popular, but the key reason is the way Jesus himself spoke.

He was a great storyteller, but he also saw to the heart of things. Here are a few sayings you might not realise come from Jesus.

Counting the cost

'Counting the cost' is all about good planning. You work out what you need and how much you will need to pay before you begin. Jesus was focussing on the cost of becoming his follower, because it was going to be personally costly.

'Do to others as you would have them do to you' is a definition of empathy. Put yourself in someone else's shoes, it says. How would you like it if you were treated like that? Jesus said this as part of his teaching on how we should treat our enemies.

Do to others as
you would have
them do to you

Go the extra mile

You 'Go the extra mile' when you have done something good and then go out of your way to do something even better. Jesus lived in a land under occupation – Roman soldiers could force anyone to carry their pack for a mile. Jesus says carry it further and show that you respond to evil with love – as radical a message today as it was then.

Keeping 'on the straight and narrow' is about resisting the temptation to do something wrong, or making sure you don't fall back into bad habits. It is actually a slight mistranslation from the words of Jesus in the King James Bible (first published in 1611). Here Jesus says 'strait is the gate and narrow the way which leads to life.' 'Strait' is an old word for narrow.

on the
straight
and narrow

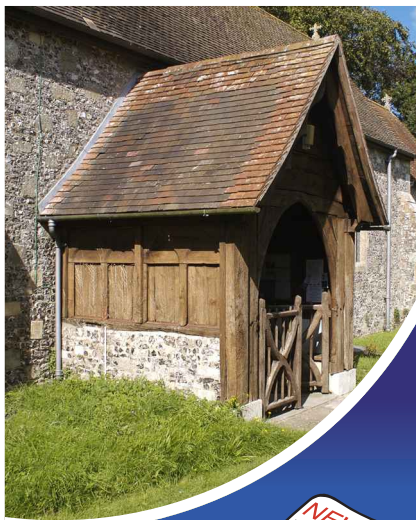
until Kingdom come

And finally, 'until kingdom come' means 'until the end of time' or simply 'forever.' 'Kingdom come' is a phrase at the beginning of the Lord's Prayer, the prayer which Jesus taught us to pray. He talked a lot about the Kingdom of God, which he said had already arrived and which will also come in a powerful way in the future. 'May your Kingdom come' is a plea for God to be with us now, but also a longing for God to put right all that is unfair and oppressive in our world.

I have used a marvellous website called rejesus.co.uk (there's a link on our website under Useful Links – do have a look). As we look towards the future, remember that the words of Jesus still have the power to shock and challenge us. The shock and the challenge is that God should love us so much.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

www.handleychurch.org.uk



Any Pentridge and Woodyates news for The Seeker to Maureen Swan on 01725 552561

Any other news to the Vicarage, please.

FROM THE REGISTERS



May Trickett's funeral took place on 13th November

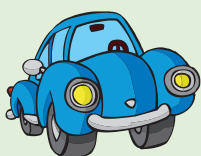
Hilda Randall's funeral took place on 24th November

The Thanksgiving for the life of Ivan Vincent took place on 2nd December

Vera Jermyn's funeral took place on 5th January

Wes Lockyer's funeral took place at Salisbury Crematorium on 26th January

Need a lift to Church?



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

50K THE CHALLENGE



We have raised over £30,000 and the planned improvements at St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley are going on apace. Plans are appearing in the church and we hope to get a lot of the work done in the summer. Please come up and have a look. Many people have already been very helpful and put in a lot of work. I would particularly like to thank Sheila Bradley, Margaret Durrant and Gillian Wadge, and there are many others who are giving generously of their time.

The bells and the clock need maintenance, and we intend to move the font forward into the body of the church where it can be seen and be easier to use. Around this we will create a space for coffee and other social events, and install toilet in the base of the tower. Other improvements planned, as funds permit, include the kitchen facilities, heating and audio visual system. The path outside needs attention, and the final job would be a general redecoration. We believe that the church and the community will benefit greatly from the improvements and the building will look like less has been done to it than before as the work is in keeping with our heritage, while bringing our beautiful building up to date. If you would like to give to the 50K Challenge to help us serve our community better, please pick up a leaflet from the church or contact the Vicarage.

Pamper Day

After the success last year, there will be another Pamper Day on Saturday 14th February, between 11am and 4pm. Book early and make yourself wonderful for St Valentine's Day!

Open Gardens

We are planning another Open Gardens weekend in early summer – please watch out for more details. Happy gardening!



Concert



'An enchanting evening' was how the Blackmore Vale described the concert by 'Beyond the Stave' which is coming to Sixpenny Handley on Saturday 28th March, beginning at 7.30pm. It is an evening of music for flute and piano cleverly linked by light anecdotes and sketches. There will be light refreshments – look out for more details.

Ash Wednesday and the Lent Course

After your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, we begin Lent in a traditional manner with a quiet service of Ashing and Holy Communion at Gussage St Andrew – come along and rediscover Lent. Also during Lent we shall be holding our Lent Course on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm at the Vicarage (dates on the back page of the Seeker and our website). Come along and discuss important issues of the day in good company over a cup of coffee.

Mothering Sunday – 10am 22nd March at St Mary's

On Mothers' Day everyone from all our villages is invited to come along to St Mary's for a very special service indeed. Children, bring along your mums and give them some flowers – mums, bring along your children and celebrate together. Dads, come along as well! This will be the benefice service for the morning. We are all one family, so let's spend time together.

PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS

We had a lovely evening carol singing around Pentridge on Wednesday 17th December – many thanks to all those who donated generously. Jessica & James Winby kindly offered to host the mulled wine and mince pie 'nosh' at the end which was much appreciated – thank you.

The Christmas party has held on Saturday 20th December and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Richard & Mary Ferguson for hosting this in the Barn. The two events raised approximately £300 for church funds. A lovely candlelit Christmas Carol service was held in St Rumbold's on Monday 22nd December at 6pm and was very well attended.

Jesus calling

Finding Philip, Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

John's Gospel, Chapter 1 from v43

The other day I heard Phillip described as 'perfectly ordinary'. He is one of the Twelve Disciples, but he usually appears in situations where he is out of his depth. Phillip is perfectly, completely ordinary – and yet Jesus calls him to follow. Jesus calls the completely ordinary and makes something wonderful. I don't know about you – but it gives me real hope that I might be of use after all!

And the very first thing Philip does is point his friend Nathaniel in the direction of Christ. But can any good come from Nazareth?

This is Nathanael's first reaction. And it sounds like a modern, very cynical joke. The town of Nazareth hadn't got much of a reputation – ugly accent, up

north, very poor, dubious families... and we tend to forget that the very name 'Jesus of Nazareth' would have sounded very strange, at least for the name of someone so important. 'Jesus of Bethlehem' would have had sounded better. Bethlehem wasn't much

of a town, of course, but it had royal overtones. But 'Jesus of Nazareth'? If the story was being made up, this was not a title you would choose. Indeed, some years later the early Christians were dismissed as the 'Nazarene Sect'. If they were from Nazareth, they couldn't be any good!

And Philip's reply to his friend's prejudice is the best reply to any prejudice – 'come and see for yourself.'

And to his credit, Nathanael does. He comes along and is greeted by Jesus, and is rather surprised. Jesus says that Nathaniel is without guile, without deceit. What you see is what you get. Perhaps he is 'perfectly ordinary' as well!

And Nathaniel goes further. After a brief conversation he calls Jesus 'Rabbi,' which means teacher, and then Nathanael goes far beyond what any disciple would do, by stating that Jesus is 'The Son of God, the King of Israel.'

There is a lot about names and titles in this short passage. Philip has already described Jesus as 'Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph' now Nathaniel calls him 'The Son of God' - not a son of God, but the Son of God. So the irony of Philip's words 'the son of Joseph' a few lines earlier would go unnoticed until you read (or hear) the passage again.

We are being assured of something very important. Just as John's Gospel is getting going we are being told again and again

who the main character is. Something new and wonderful is happening.

Philip and Nathanael have a long road ahead. Phillip will have to ask his questions. Nathanael will have to learn the hard way. When Nathanael first meets Jesus it is like he is looking for a thrill. He is prepared to find Jesus exciting, and even to see everything he does as rather magical. We are not told exactly how Nathanael or Phillip react to Jesus, and at this stage they still have little idea how God will choose to bring heaven and earth back into unity through Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. We have to read on to see. **Mel Durrant**

You never think it'll happen...

It is part of our nature - to take every day risks without thinking about the possibility of the injury or death that might go with it. We couldn't get up in the morning if we did! On November 25th I did get up only to be put straight back into a hospital bed after a serious car accident. Having your life knocked sideways (in my case quite literally into a field) does tend to change your routine! I thank God that I didn't remember anything about the crash and for my on-going recovery. The outcome could have been so very different, but He ensured that I'm here today. Being a Christian isn't a life insurance policy, although we do get a good return on His promises!

Of course a lot of my recovery and recuperation would not have gone so well without the wonderful support and help of family, friends, work, and the church. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, prayer and help, for both me and Louise during the last two months.

Mark Wolstenholme



King of Kings Kids' Club

NEXT 3KC Saturday April 4th

We may have had fewer numbers than usual, because of all the infectious bugs going around, but enthusiasm more than made up for numbers when our 3KC made banners, played games and decorated the tree just before Christmas. The theme was 'The Light of The World,' and the children made up actions to the song of the same name and wrote prayers on ribbons hanging from decorated candles on the tree. See photo on back page.

Our next action-packed 3KC will be on Saturday April 4th starting at 10am, when we shall be thinking about the Easter Story. Places, as always, are limited, so please ring Maureen Lockyer on 01725 552492 to book.

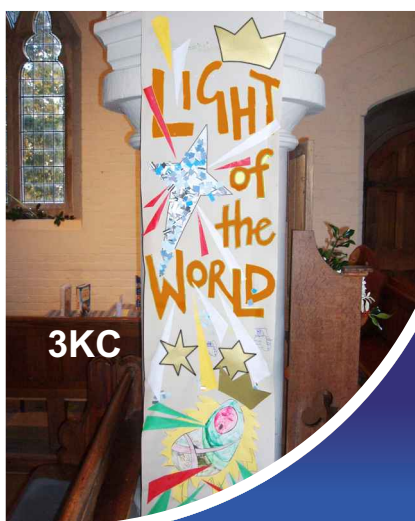
Would you like to have a faith? Do you think faith is all complete nonsense?

The Alpha Course is your chance to ask difficult questions and think through what you believe; Did Jesus actually exist? Why did he die? Does evil exist? What about the Holy Spirit?

We explore these subjects after a great meal in comfortable surroundings among friends. Look out for the Alpha Course starting after Easter and come along! More details on the website.



Alpha is back!



Soup Lunches

As winter drags on we all need comfort and comfort food. Our weekly soup lunches can help! – They start again on Wednesday 18th February. Come along from 12.30pm and meet new and old friends. Home-made soup and bread with tea or coffee, all for only £2. Profits go to the Trussell Trust, which works with the disadvantaged in Salisbury and abroad. Fairly traded goods are also available, profits going to World Vision.

Midweek Holy Communion

Our usual midweek Holy Communion, using the 1662 Prayer Book, starts again at Sixpenny Handley, on Wednesday March 4th. It begins at 11.30 and is followed by coffee. Please join us.

Come and meet friends

Bible Study – Come along to explore the most important book ever. Phone Heather on 01725 552308 for details.


Fellowship Group – Every Tuesdays for a mix of fun and serious talk, and sometimes a steak supper or Chinese takeaway! During March it becomes the Lent Course.

Men's Group – a beer and a chat on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David on 01725 552492.

Mothers' Union – meet monthly on Thursday afternoons. Phone Jean on 552692 or Mary on 552041.

Prayer time – The bedrock of all our lives, meeting (nearly) every Monday for an hour of prayer. Phone Paul on 772785.

Join us during February and March 2009

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
Feb 1st	HC	Coffee (10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	HC	
Feb 8th	Prayer		Informal	HC		HC
Feb 15th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
Feb 22nd	Prayer		Inf & HC	HC		HC
Mar 1st	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
Mar 8th	Prayer		Informal	HC		HC
Mar 15th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
Mar 22nd	Mothering Sunday–10am			HC		at St Mary's
Mar 29th	HC		Informal	Healing	Prayer	
HC = Holy Communion						
always a warm welcome...						

HC = Holy Communion

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February 2009

See website for updates

Mon	2nd	2.30pm	3KC leaders meeting, Vicarage
		7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	3rd	9.30am	LPA meeting, Vicarage
		7.30pm	Pentridge PCC
		7.30pm	Fellowship Group – steak supper at the Roebuck
Mon	9th	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	10th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Thurs	12th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union with Mel Durrant, 15 Paddock Cl
Sat	14th	11.00am	Pamper Day (until 4pm)
Mon	16th	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	17th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	18th	12.30pm	Soup Lunch, the Vicarage
Mon	23rd	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	24th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, 11 The Parsonage, Handley
Wed	25th	7.30am	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion and Ashing at Gussage St Andrew

March 2009

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Mon	2nd	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	3rd	7.30pm	Lent Course at the Vicarage
Wed	4th	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
		12.30pm	Soup Lunch at the Vicarage
Mon	9th	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	10th	7.30pm	Lent Course at the Vicarage
Wed	11th	12.30pm	Soup Lunch at the Vicarage
Thurs	12th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union Lenten Meditation, 15 Paddock Cl
Sat	14th	1.00pm	Wedding of Laura Pinnock and Robert Webb
Mon	16th	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	17th	7.30pm	Lent Course at the Vicarage
Wed	18th	12.30pm	Soup Lunch at the Vicarage
Sun	22nd	10.00am	Mothering Sunday (please note change of time)
Mon	23rd	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	24th	7.30pm	Lent Course at the Vicarage
Wed	25th	12.30pm	Soup Lunch at the Vicarage
Thurs	26th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat	28th		Wedding of Jennifer Delaney and James Walker
		7.30pm	Concert by 'Beyond the Stave' at Handley
Mon	30th	7.30pm	Prayer time at the Vicarage
Tues	31st	7.30pm	Lent Course at the Vicarage