



# The Seeker

## October ~ Nov

# 2009

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 Vicarge,  
Sixpenny Handley  
01725 552608  
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

#### Curate

Rev Dr Michael Foster  
The Rectory, Tarrant Hinton  
01258 830764

#### Churchwardens

St Mary's with  
Gussage St Andrew

Sheila Bradley 553133  
Carole Wyatt 552752

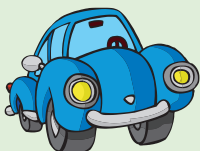
St Rumbolds, Pentridge

Jane King 552231  
Mary Ferguson 552222

#### Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801  
Margaret Durrant 552608  
Maureen Lockyer 552492  
Jean Mayne 552692  
Janette Salmons 552721  
Paul Skinner 552785  
Carol Wyatt 552572

### Need a lift to Church?



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



### Dear Friends

*Medicinal discovery, it moves in mighty leaps, It leapt straight past the common cold and gave it us for keeps.* Pam Ayres, 'Oh no, I got a cold,' 1976

With the concerns over the spread of swine flu we have all been re-thinking how we live our lives. The outbreak at the time I write this letter remains mild, but we are told it is likely to become quite widespread over the winter. You may have had it and know how unpleasant it can be or you may

be of the opinion that it is all a load of hype; it is only flu after all. You may be thinking along the lines of — Hypochondria is the one disease I haven't got. *The Burkiss Way, BBC, 1978*

But swine flu is with us, and we need to react to the situation as we find it. Naturally, we are all encouraged to take care of our own health and personal hygiene, and we have received recommendations from Salisbury for church services. These say that, for the duration of the current situation, only consecrated bread need be offered to those receiving Holy Communion. It has long been the tradition in the Church of England to have both bread and wine; however, when it is received only 'in one kind' the fullness of the Sacrament is received none the less. Both bread and wine are still consecrated, but if there are any concerns about health risks the wine need not be taken.

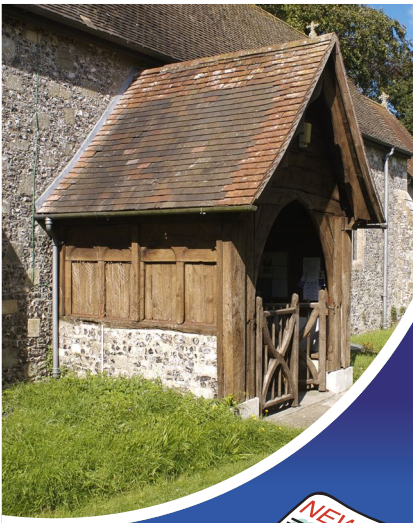
In practise this means that at our smaller services we shall continue to take communion at the altar rail as we always have – you need not stay for the wine if you wish. At the larger services we are adopting the 'cathedral' style. This means that people come down the centre of the church and receive the bread at the choir steps before moving to one side and receiving (or not receiving) the wine as they see fit. This seems to be working well. You might like to decide if you are going to take the wine before you come up, so as not to be influenced by the person in front of you.

All those who handle the bread and wine use an alcohol rub, and we are advised that neither dipping your bread (the posh word is 'intinction') nor giving the consecrated bread straight onto the tongue should be used in the current situation. Both customs increase the possibility of spreading the virus. There is more about Holy Communion in this month's 'Seeker.'

Of course, if you think you may have swine flu or are showing flu-like symptoms, follow Government advice. As a church we try to look out for each other. We try to care practically, and in prayer: Sovereign God, the defence of those who trust in you and the strength of those who suffer: look with mercy on us at this time: bring healing to those infected with the virus, give wisdom and insight to doctors, nurses and health professionals, and bring calm and peace to all within our nation, through our mighty Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Your Friend and Vicar, Mel*

[www.handleychurch.org.uk](http://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



The baptism of Lexi Pike took place on 9th August at St Mary's.

The baptism of Cassandra Ruth Harris-Dibben took place on 16th August at St Rumbold's.

The burial of Eileen Chambers took place on 2nd September at St Mary's.

The burial of Rosemary Peach took place on 10th September at St Rumbold's.



**A full colour version of The Seeker can be downloaded from our website!**

## PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS

Gerald Chadbourne, formerly of Woodyates died on 2nd September. Gerald and his family lived in Handley many years ago where they ran a small grocer & sweet shop.

### The Pentridge Fete

The Pentridge village fete held on 12th September was a great success, raising funds for St.Rumbold's Church. Many people gathered on the village green to enjoy the activities on a lovely sunny afternoon.

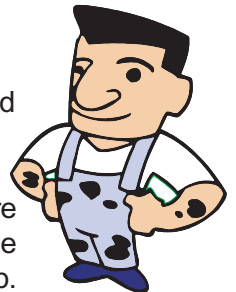


**More photos on our website archive**

The main attraction was a fun dog show with categories such as 'the waggiest tail', 'the prettiest bitch' & 'the handsomest dog'. There were various stalls selling cakes, produce, plants, books and a mixture of other things. We also had some traditional children's games together with a coconut shy and tombolas. Delicious cream teas and Pimms were served to keep everyone refreshed and a lovely afternoon was had by all. Very many thanks to all those who worked hard and helped to make the event such a success and of course to all those who supported it on the day – here's to a bigger and better Fete in 2011...

### Working Party at St Mary's

St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley had its regular inspection this summer - every five years our architect gives it an MOT and give us a list of all the jobs that need doing. This time there are some little jobs that we can do ourselves, so we are planning a working party day on Saturday 10th October. There are jobs like clearing gutters and painting metalwork. Please talk to Sheila Bradley or Carole Wyatt if you would like to help.



### Clock auto-winder completed

The work on our clock, including the installation of the auto-winder is now completed. A huge thank you goes to Chris Wadge and Steve in the Post Office for all their work. The work on the bells is also well underway and the clock should soon be striking again. This work is necessary but hidden:

The more obvious work in the church itself should be underway very soon. This includes restoring and moving our mediaeval font to a more prominent position where it can be used easily for baptisms. As we work on the floor at the back of the church, the font will temporarily be stored at the front. This should only last a few weeks. We shall be creating a good social space at the back of the church, and adding a toilet cubicle and cupboards in the base of the tower.

We now have the report on the necessary conservation work to the medieval wall paintings at Gussage St Andrew. We shall soon be getting on with preserving this wonderful building and replacing the very old heating system there.

Thank you for your patience – these things take time, but like dominoes, things fall into place suddenly! Please continue to support our fundraising events - we have over £30,000 available for this work, but will need all this and more if we are to do all that needs to be done as well as all that we want to do to at St Mary's. The electrics need work and we want to improve the heating and sound, and update the kitchen area and then redecorate. We are increasingly aware that the sound system also needs improving. If you would like to help or contribute in any way, to any of these projects, please talk to the vicar.

# Special Services



## Harvest Festivals



The Handley Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 4th October, when both morning services will combine for a traditional style service at 11am. Come and join us then – and stay on for a Harvest Lunch afterwards in the church. Please sign up for the meal. Harvest goods can be brought to the service and will be laid around the altar during the first hymn. Afterwards, fresh produce will be auctioned and the proceeds (and any preserved goods) taken to Salisbury Women's Refuge.

The Pentridge Harvest Festival will be at St Rumbold's on Sunday 18th October, Come and join us, and stay on for a Harvest Lunch of good cheese, great bread and excellent cider! Harvest goods can be brought to this service as well, and the proceeds will go to the Trussell Trust, helping desperate people both here and abroad.

## Sandroyd School Choir

Once again we welcome the choir from Sandroyd School to our 9.30am service on Sunday 18th October, when they will be leading the singing for us. Come along and join in!

## All Souls service

You are invited to come along to St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley at 7.30pm for this gentle service as we pray together and remember before God those we love but see no longer. This year the festival of All Souls falls on Monday 2nd November. There will be coffee and biscuits afterwards.

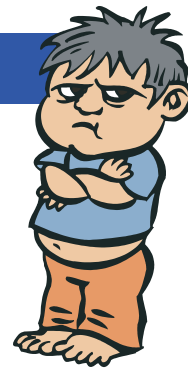
## Songs of Praise

On the last Sunday in November come along to another popular Songs of Praise at St Mary's. Please suggest any favourite hymns, old or new, you might like to sing – and if you can tell us why they are favourites, all the better. There will be warming refreshments at 5 o'clock and a good sing at 6 o'clock. We have decided to hold them on the last Sunday when there are five Sundays in the month, so look in your diaries and make a note of future good sings!

## Remembrance Sunday

There will be the annual Service of Remembrance at St Mary's on Sunday 8th November, beginning at 10.50am by the War Memorial. It is particularly poignant this year as we lose living contact with the First World War, the 'War To End All Wars', and yet war continues today. This year we welcome the congregation from St Rumbold's, Pentridge, as well as the First Woodcutts Scout Group.

# It's Not Fair!



*'The Bread of Life' John's Gospel, Ch 6*

It's not fair – we had so much to cram into this edition of *The Seeker*, that we couldn't fit Mel's article in! You'll have to download the colour version from our website to see it. If this is the web PDF you're reading then please turn to page five!

## Young People's Group

We are rethinking our work with young people at the moment – please talk to us if you have any ideas how we can help young people in our villages. We are still holding another King of Kings Kids' Club, so make sure Saturday 5th December is in your diaries as we begin our countdown to Christmas.

## Coffee Morning



The Mothers' Union are organising a Coffee Morning on Saturday 24th October at 46 High Street, Sixpenny Handley. Come along between ten and twelve.

## Ordination of our 'new' curate

Many of you will know Paul Skinner. Paul has felt God's hand on his shoulder all his life. Now he is to be made a priest. Everyone is invited to Paul's ordination in Salisbury Cathedral on Tuesday 1st December at 5.30pm. Come along and support Paul on this amazing day in his life. Paul will stay with us in Handley, Gussage and Pentridge, and we all look forward to calling him 'curate.'

*The two churchwardens were comparing the sermons of the vicar and the curate. 'I prefer the curate, myself,' said the first. 'Why's that?' asked the second. 'Well, he says "in conclusion" and concludes, while the vicar says "lastly" and lasts!'*

## Christmas Fayre

It seems impossible that I am typing this, but it is time to think about Christmas! This year our Fayre will be on Saturday 28th November. Come along for a good afternoon out, and stock up on all your favourite Christmas goodies.



## Band of the Royal Corps of Signals

### Military Concert at St Mary's

It is some years since we had the ever popular Royal Corps of Signals Band, but they are coming again on **Saturday 14th November**. Look out for details on our website. It is sure to be a good evening and tickets are sure to sell fast, so don't miss this major event.



### 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. Details from Heather (01725 552308).

### Prayer time

Prayer is the heartbeat of our lives. We all pray. Come and share prayer together in the Vicarage, meeting (nearly) every Monday for an hour at 7.30pm. Phone the Vicarage for details.

### Come and meet friends

**Soup Lunches** – Good soup and company on the third Wednesday of the month – 21st October and 18th November – in the Vicarage. Come along from 12.30 for a great meal for only £2, with profits going to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury, helping people in desperate need here and abroad.

**Fellowship Group** – Meeting every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a steak supper or a Chinese takeaway! Phone Paul Skinner (01725 552785).

**Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David Lockyer (01725 552492)

**Mothers' Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Jean (552692) or Mary (552041) for details.

## Join us during October and November 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
Oct 4th	#	Coffee (10.30am)	Harvest	Evensong	MP	
Oct 11th	MP		Informal	HC		HC
Oct 18th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Harvest	
Oct 25th	MP		Inf & HC	HC		HC
Nov 1st	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
Nov 8th	<b>Remembrance</b>		<b>10.50am</b>	HC	#	#
Nov 17th	HC	Coffee	Informal	Evensong	MP	
Nov 22nd	MP		Inf & HC	HC		HC
Nov 29th	HC		Informal	S of P	MP	

HC = Holy Communion      S of P = Songs of Praise      # = No Service  
MP = Morning Prayer      *always a warm welcome...*

### October 2009

See website for updates

Sun 4th	11.00am	Sixpenny Handley Harvest Festival and Lunch
Mon 5th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 6th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Steak Supper at the Roebuck Pentridge PCC
Wed 7th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's, followed by coffee
Thurs 8th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union
Sat 10th		Working Party at St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
Mon 12th	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Sun 18th	9.30am	Sandroyd Choir at St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
	11.15am	Pentridge Harvest Festival with Cider and Cheese!
Mon 19th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 20th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 21st	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage. Traidcraft goods available
Sat 24th	10.00am	Mothers' Union Coffee Morning, 46 High Street, Handley
Sun 25th		<b>British Summer Time ends.</b> Clocks go back an hour.
Mon 26th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 29th	7.30pm	Men's Group



### November 2009

Mon 2nd	7.30pm	All Souls Service, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group Steak Supper
Wed 4th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's, followed by coffee
Sun 8th	10.50am	Remembrance Service, St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley
Mon 9th	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 12th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union
Sat 14th	2.00-5.00pm	The Royal Corps of Signals Concert, Sixpenny Handley
Mon 16th	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 17th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 18th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage. Traidcraft goods available
Mon 23rd	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 24th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 26th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat 28th	2.30pm	Christmas Fayre, Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Mon 30th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage



### December 2009

[www.handleychurch.org.uk](http://www.handleychurch.org.uk)

Tues 1st	5.30pm	Paul Skinner's Ordination at Salisbury Cathedral
Sat 5th	9.45am	King of Kids' Club, Sixpenny Handley

We sometimes feel that the Church is on its last legs – the press tell us that often enough - but remember that there are more Christians alive now than there have ever been. The Church is enormous, and it gathers around something that is all about sharing. You will know that what we call Holy Communion (or Mass, or Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper) began as part of a meal, the Last Supper. And this eating together meets basic human needs; we are feeding our bodies, our minds and our souls. This is why Jesus says 'I am the Bread of Life.'

We are all searching for meaning in life, searching for love. But so often we ignore God sitting at the table beside us; all we have to do is reach out, and believe. The word in the Bible translated as 'believe' is a very strong one. It is about having a living relationship that changes our very being. Our English 'believe' comes from the German 'belieben' which means something like 'belove'. Love does not, cannot leave us unchanged.

But the crowd around Jesus, as so many of us today, are just going for the next big thing. They want more excitement. They have failed to see what is being offered. They have seen the link between Jesus and stories in the Bible; Moses feeding the people in the Wilderness is echoed in what Jesus did with the loaves and fishes. They have seen the link, but all they want is more. 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat,' they say of Moses; so what are you going to do?

But Jesus puts them straight. It wasn't Moses who fed them in the dessert. It was God. It is 'My Father who gives you the True Bread from heaven.' And the people want this. 'Give us this bread,' they say. The way they say it means 'give us this bread again and again.' They want to be full always of food, never to be hungry again. Once again they are missing the point. And so Jesus finally spells it out; the relationship that they have been looking for all the time is right here. 'I am the bread of life' he says. He is the lasting relationship with God. He is the love of God who meets the needs of our inner hunger in whatever situation we find ourselves.

And we find ourselves in many different situations throughout our lives. And some of them are definitely not fair. I have a secret to tell you:

Life is not fair!

It isn't fair that we suffer as a result of other people's choices. It isn't fair that other people suffer from the result of ours. It is not 'fair' (for instance) that people work in terrible conditions on the rivers in Asia so that we can have cheap prawns in our sandwiches. It is not fair that our grandchildren will have to cope with a very different climate because we like using up energy. It is not fair that people die in one part of the world for want of medicines that we can buy in the village shop. It is not fair – but they are all the consequences of our actions. We are still ourselves, with all our faults and failings, even if we are on the way to heaven. It is all about choice.

Don't blame God when things are not fair. All these things are the result of choices made by individuals, groups, others and ourselves. Don't blame God for the choices we make, because God respects our choices. It is called freedom. And he gives us freedom out of his love for us. But he makes the ultimate choice by coming to us and dying for us on the cross. This is bigger than any choice we will ever make, and yet he invites us to make a choice as well.

Yes there will still be consequences from our old choices. And yes they may still be bad. But the world becomes a different place when we choose God. We see the Big Story, not just our immediate needs. We see others, rather than just ourselves. We see the image of God in people around us. And this makes the world a very different place. This is our real Holy Communion. This is our first step in heaven. And we can reach out and take this bread again and again and again.

**Mel Durrant**

