

The Seeker

April ~ May

2010

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

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
01258 830764

Churchwardens

St Mary's with Gussage St Andrew
Carole Wyatt 552372
St Rumbold's, Pentridge
Jane King 552231
Mary Ferguson 552222

Licensed Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Margaret Durrant 552608
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
David Salmons 552721
Carol Wyatt 552572

Need a lift to Church?



Please ring Rev Paul Skinner to arrange transport.



Dear Friends

I need to start by saying a very big thank you – *Thank You!* The church still looks the same from the outside, but inside a lot of people have been very busy. The base of the tower has been lowered, a beautiful stone floor put in and the toilet cubicle installed behind very smart pair of opaque glass doors. In the middle of May we shall rearrange the back of the church, paving the whole area moving the restored font to the centre of this new space.

We will have much more room for coffee after services and social events, and we believe the church will be even more welcoming and a greater resource for the village. See the website for photos, or better yet, why not drop in and take a look?

The photograph of St Mary's Choir we showed in the last edition, taken (we think) in 1924, produced comment. These are the names we have so far.

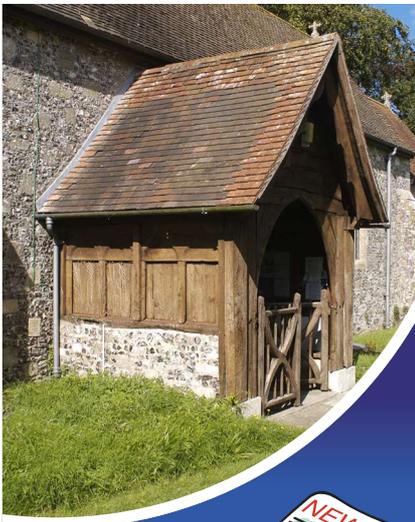


5 and 7 are sisters, Winifred and Helen Woodward. The Woodward's owned West Chase Farm, Winifred married Douglas Judd and Helen (Nellie) married Harry Adlem. 10, Douglas White. 11 Josephine Foyle, who married Douglas White. 13 May Adlem (Harry Adlem's sister) who married Harold Dix. 18 Rev Hasluck, the Rector. 19 Rev Archibald Turing-Bruce, the curate who went almost blind but was still in the village in the 1940s. 21 Cyril Adams. 22 Gwen or Olive Foyle. The Foyles owned Oakley Farm. See our website for a full size image.

Many thanks to Lorna Starr in particular for her help identifying people. If you can name any more we would be very interested to know their stories. We still have a wonderful choir (although the ladies do not wear those amazing headdresses) and we now also have a music group that leads our singing in the Informal Service and the children's choir from the school join us on occasion.

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.



Sheila's Quilt

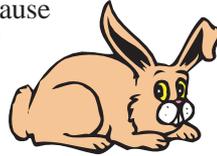
There are just a few days left to buy tickets for Sheila's Quilt. Sheila Smith and two friends set about raising money for a new heating system at St Mary's by making a quilt as a prize to be raffled. It is now finished and is stunningly beautiful and the winner will be drawn immediately after the Easter Sunday service at Sixpenny Handley. Please support Graham Smith's mission to raise £2,000 to help Sheila's dearest wish for a new heating system to become reality. Tickets are still on sale for one pound each, available from Graham Smith (01725) 552149 or the Vicarage.



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

Before you eat that chocolate egg...

Easter Bunnies, Hot Cross Buns and Chocolate Eggs, I don't know when the Easter Bunny stepped off the boat from North America, but I do know he has nothing to do with the Easter story – but at least he gives us a chance for a few Easter jokes, such as: *Why can't the Easter Bunny's nose be 12 inches long?* Because then it would be his foot! And then we can move onto: *Why did the Easter egg hide?* Because it was a little chicken!



There are lots of old superstitions relating to this time of year: A child born on Good Friday and baptised on Easter Sunday was believed to have the gift of healing. Many fishermen would not set out on Good Friday. It was sometimes thought that bread or cakes baked on Good Friday would not go mouldy, or eggs laid would never go bad. The planting of crops was not advised either, as no iron should enter the ground on that day. Hardened old hot cross buns are supposed to protect the house from fire and having a hair cut on Good Friday would prevent toothache the rest of the year. I am afraid that none of these superstitions actually work!



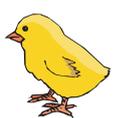
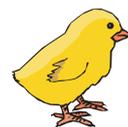
It is traditional to eat hot cross buns on Good Friday, with their spicy, sweet fruit and white pastry cross. They were originally eaten only on this day, and street sellers would shout 'Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns, one a penny, two a penny, Hot Cross Buns.' In the early 19th century, at what is now a London pub called 'The Widow's Son', a mother was expecting her sailor son back home for Easter. She placed a hot cross bun ready for him on Good Friday. The son never returned, but undaunted the widow left the bun waiting for him and added a new bun each year. Successive landlords have kept the tradition going ever since.

So what is it all about? On the Friday before Easter we remember Jesus on the cross. On Thursday night, after eating with his friends and going to a garden to pray, Jesus had been betrayed, arrested and given a mock trial. Then on Friday he was handed over to Roman soldiers who beat and flogged him. They thrust

a circle of sharp thorns on his head and then made him carry his own cross (or the crossbar) to a place called Skull Hill. He was so weak that a man called Simon was forced to carry the cross for the last part of the journey. And Jesus was nailed to the cross and died.

Before the introduction of bank holidays, Good Friday and Christmas Day were the only two holidays that most working people had. Work stopped to let people remember the story of the God. At one time it was called Long Friday because people didn't eat all day to remember the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf. Some Christians still fast today. The name 'Good Friday' comes from 'God's Friday' in the same way that 'goodbye' comes from 'God be with you' and 'holiday' comes from 'holy day.' Unlike Christmas, the church is not decorated on Good Friday as it is a time of mourning. Some churches, including Sixpenny Handley walk a cross around their village to remind us of the events of that fateful day. Other churches cover statues.

And while it is sad, it is good because of what happened in the end. It may be Good Friday, but Easter is coming. On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus coming back from the dead. He rose again early in the morning and was seen by several hundred people over a range of different occasions over a period of several weeks. There is no doubt that this happened. And what this means is that we can enjoy life – and have life everlasting with God. This is Good News and something to be celebrated. We decorate the church brightly and give each other eggs as a symbol of life and hope. An egg looks like a stone yet produces a bright yellow chick; life the colour of sunlight. And to make it even better, we make them from chocolate!



And finally... *How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty Easter Basket?* Only one – after that it's not empty! With Jesus, the world is never empty anymore. With Jesus there is life. Have a wonderful Easter.

Mel Durrant



Parish Update...

www.handleychurch.org.uk

Annual Meetings

It's that time again – if you would like to play a larger part in the life of the community, come along to our Annual Meetings, at Sixpenny Handley on 25th April in place of the 11 o'clock service and Pentridge on Tuesday 27th April at 7pm.

Looking Outward

The Parish of St Mary and St Andrew give £200 a month to a range of charities. In April and May we shall be giving to the Leprosy Mission and the Hants and Dorset Christian Youth Camps. In March, as well as giving £200 to the Salisbury Diocese Sudan Fund we gave £100 to the rebuilding of a Bible College in Sudan as asked by Bishop David as his leaving gift. I know that other groups and individuals also give very generously. Thank you.

PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS

Bishop Graham

Pentridge will be welcoming the new Bishop of Sherborne, Graham Kings, to their service on Sunday May 2nd at 11.15 am.

Celebration of Ministry

Our churches will be showing a stall of some of the things going on around our area at Blandford School (Milldown entrance) on Saturday 15th May, beginning at 10.30am. There will be talks and shared worship as well as time to look at other stalls from other churches and share ideas. Please come along – more details from the vicarage.

The Street Fayre – May 29th

At this year's Fayre St Rumbold's will have a stall in the High Street while St Mary's is filled with pictures, flowers and exhibitions, and the vicarage garden has the usual cream teas and a lot of new stalls and games and fun. We should have a really exciting top to the village – if you would like to help in any way, please see the Vicar or Churchwardens.



Coming this Summer...

Here are a selection of events to look forward to this summer.

- June 3rd** Bridge Tournament
- June 13th** Open Gardens, Deanland
- July 10th** Barn Dance in 'The Shed'
- Aug 14th** Pentridge Barbeque
- Aug 29th** Cream Teas, St Mary's

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Seeker Search #2

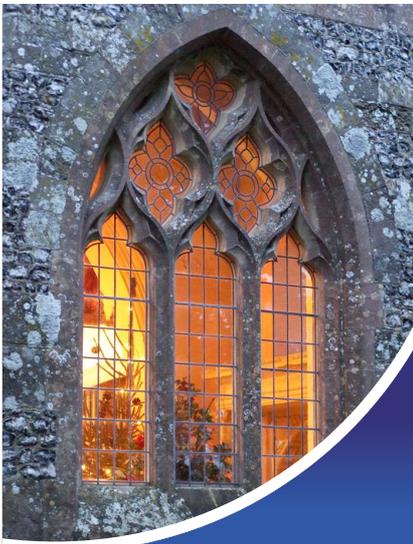
Can you find all these things in our Church?

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| Altar | Glass Screen |
| Arch | Grave |
| Autowinder | Mullion |
| Bells | Nave |
| Buttress | Organ |
| Chancel | Pew |
| Clock | Pulpit |
| Font | Spandrel |
| Gargoyle | Stained Glass |
| | Toilet |
| | Tomb |
| | Tower |
| | Vestry |



Solution on the website

See the Seeker download page (under archives)



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. Phone Heather on 01725 552308 for details.

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month for a gentle service in St Mary's, on 5th May at 11.30pm, followed by coffee. There will be no midweek communion in April.

Come and meet friends

Soup Lunches – Good soup and company on the third Wednesday of the month, 21st April and 19th May. Come along to the vicarage 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 some serious chat, laughter and biscuits, and sometimes a supper at the Roebuck! 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 (01725 552692) or Mary (01725 552041) for details.

Join us during April and May 2010

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
April 4th	HC		#	#	HC	
April 11th	MP		Informal	Evensong		HC
April 18th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	
April 25th	MP	10.30am	AGM	HC		HC
May 2nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
May 9th	MP	Informal	HC			HC
May 16th	No services because of building work				HC	
May 23rd	MP		Informal	HC		HC
May 30th	HC		Informal	S of P	HC	



Maunday Thurs – (April 1st)

7.30pm HC and Footwashing at Gussage

Good Friday – (April 2nd)

11.00am Stations of the Cross around Handley

2–3.00pm Quiet Hour at St Rumbold's, Pentridge

7.30pm Readings and Mediation at St Mary's

Easter Sunday – (April 4th)

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

11.15am Holy Communion at St Rumbold's

Ascension Day – (Thursday May 13th)

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's

HC = Holy Communion

MP = Morning Prayer

S of P = Songs of Praise

= No Service

— always a warm welcome... —

April 2010

See website for updates

Thurs 1st	7.30pm	Maudy Thursday service, St Andrew's
Fri 2nd	11.00am	Stations of the Cross around Sixpenny Handley
	7.30pm	Readings and Meditation, St Mary's
Tues 6th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group - Steak Supper at the Roebuck
Thurs 8th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 15th	7.30pm	Bible Study, 1 The Parsonage
Tues 20th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 21st	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Sun 25th	11.00am	St Mary's Annual Church Meeting
Mon 26th	9.30am	LPA meeting at the Vicarage
Tues 27th	7.00pm	St Rumbold's Annual Church Meeting
Wed 28th	7.30pm	Service Leaders' meeting at the Vicarage
Thurs 29th	7.30pm	Men's Group

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Tues 4th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group - dinner at the Roebuck
Wed 5th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 13th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union
Sat 15th	10.30am	Celebration of Ministry, Blandford School
Tues 18th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 19th	10.30am	School Assembly in St Mary's Church
	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Thurs 20th	7.30pm	Bible Study, 16 High Street
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 27th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat 29th	2.00pm	Handley Street Fayre