



The Seeker

June ~ July

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 Vicarage,
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

Licenced Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801

Margaret Durrant 552608

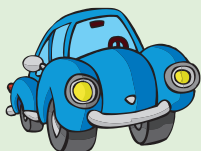
Maureen Lockyer 552492

Jean Mayne 552692

David Salmons 552721

Carole Wyatt 552572

Need a lift to Church?



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

The Vicar Writes



Dear Friends

Surprisingly, when we know that we live in a global village and everybody depends on everybody else, we still hear the old proverb 'Charity begins at home.' Now, I am quite happy for charity to begin at home, but people often mean that it ends at home as well.

We face challenging times ahead, politically and financially, but I really believe that God means us to look out for each other, not just for ourselves. And he means us to give. On the one hand, giving is good for us. It stops us being selfish or greedy and helps us to be aware of how much we already have. And on the other hand, we are meant to see anyone in need as our neighbour. Everyone is our neighbour. Remember why Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan!

We are all brothers and sisters. There are no boundaries. This means two things. We need to support Christians wherever they may be. We can give our prayers, our time and our resources to those who have less than ourselves. And they give us their prayers and wisdom in return. It does not matter where 'they' are. And we need to support each other, whatever our faith or place in life. This is our mission.

And as part of our mission we hope to be able to use the church building in Sixpenny Handley as a resource more often. One way we are trying to do this is starting a 'drop-in' with teas and coffees on Saturday afternoons. We are aware that many people come as tourists or to tend graves. They come and they go. Now we can provide a drink (and a toilet!) and, if people want, a listening ear. In the church. This time will be open to anyone who wants to come, visitor or resident, of course.

I first mentioned this at the Parish Meeting in April and I know some people have been concerned that this would be in competition with refreshments at the Post Office. This was never our intention, and we have decided that we shall begin by being available in the afternoon, when the Post Office is closed. Of course all our churches are open all the time and the vicarage is available all the time. But if there is anything you would like to talk about, in confidence and over a cup of tea, please come along to St Mary's on Saturday afternoon from about 2.30pm from the beginning of June. Paul or I hope to be there most weeks, and there will always be someone there trained to listen. We will see how it goes.

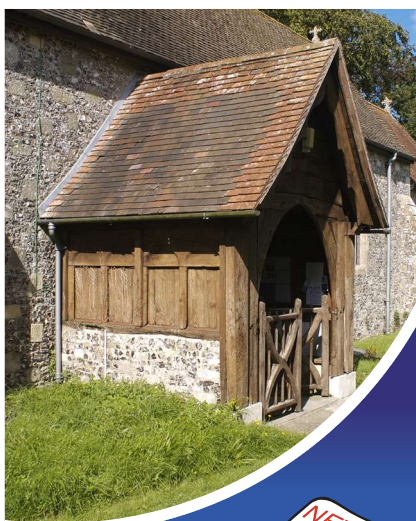
I am also looking at having a monthly 'drop-in' in the Post Office Coffee Shop once a month. This will be on the first Wednesday unless otherwise advertised. If you would like to talk about a christening, wedding or funeral, or there is anything I may be able to help you with, please come along for a coffee and a chat then. Or simply give me a ring at the vicarage!

Our mission is to bring life and love to our needy world, wherever it is wanting. We welcome people and love them simply because we know that God loves them too. We give of ourselves in mission, but we know that it is always God's work first, and our work second. But together we can make a difference! We have an amazing message of good news in the love of Jesus. We live in a wonderful community and worship in beautiful buildings. Let's tell people about this! And let us pray this little prayer I was given by a neighbouring vicar;

*I'm only one, but I am one.
I can't do everything,
but I can do something.
What I ought to do, I can do.
And what I can do,
by the grace of God I will do.*

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

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

Any other news to the Vicarage, please.

Paul's Priesting

Paul Skinner will be ordained a priest at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 3rd July at 11am. Come along and support him on this very special day.

Open Gardens

Five gardens in Deanland will be open in aid of St Mary's

and the Royal National Institute for the Blind on Saturday 13th June from 2-6pm. Cream teas and plants will be available.

Grand Bridge Drive

On Thursday 3rd June come along to a Grand Bridge Drive at Tarrant Gunville Village Hall in aid of conserving the historic 12th and 13th century wall painting at Gussage St Andrew. Tickets are only £3, including refreshments. Details from John Davis, 01725 516316.



PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS

Walk and Talk at West Woodyates Manor Farm – 15th July

A chance to see first hand how wildlife conservation and game management work together to enhance our countryside. A 'Walk and Talk' on Thursday evening 15th July by kind permission of The High Sheriff of Dorset and Mrs T Palmer. Details and tickets from Richard Ferguson, 01725 552222.

Bishop visits St Rumbold's

On 2nd May a large congregation were delighted to welcome the Rt Rev Dr Graham Kings, the Bishop of Sherborne, to take our communion service with Rev Mel Durrant.

Pentridge Annual Meeting

Our annual church meeting was held on April 27th in the church. Mary Ferguson and Jane King were re-elected as churchwardens and the PCC remains unchanged.

50K CHALLENGE

A big thank you!

A huge thank you to all the builders and workmen who put in such a fantastic effort at St Mary's during May. The back of the church now looks splendid with the Purbeck stone floor. We hope the font will be restored and moved to its new position in front of the glass doors very soon. Do come in and have a look or visit our website for photos of phase 1 and 2 of the project. We still need to work on the heating and sound systems, so if you can help please let us know.

A huge thank you must also go to everyone who worked so hard at the Street Fayre. The cream teas, stalls and exhibitions, music and games were enjoyed by many, many people. Photos of the day available on our website.

Looking Outward: A lot of people give very generously to help those less fortunate than themselves. We also give as a church. During June we shall be giving £200 to Dorset Nightstop, (www.depaulnightstopuk.org) which helps young people who are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged. This was set up by the charity that used to be known as the National Children's Homes. Then in July we shall give £200 to Wheels for the World (www.throughtheroof.org) which is the overseas programme of Through the Roof, restoring and distributing old NHS wheelchairs, mostly to people in Africa. The chairs are restored in a workshop in HMP Parkhurst and then sent out with volunteer physiotherapists, occupational therapists and wheelchair technicians working in partnership with Christian organisations abroad.

Barn Dance

Dance the night away, and eat good food with us on Saturday 10th July. Details are still be finalised at the time of writing, so look out for details.

Concert

Mary Chelu and Ashley Mills are organising a lively concert on the evening of Friday 16th July. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Coffee Morning Sat 17th July

Come along to some good company, coffee and cake at Woodcuts.

Ted and Meg Cox are having their Coffee Morning from 11am. There will also be a Bring and Buy, Cake Stall and White Elephant.



3KC

King of Kings Kids' Club Saturday 10th July

Come along to our summer Kids' Club as we play games, have fun, sing songs, make stuff and learn about Jesus. Please phone Maureen on 01725 552492 to book.

The Way Ahead

Adapted from the Mel's Address at the Annual Meeting

I don't know where the time has gone! Margaret and I have lived here for three years now. It all still feels very new, but at the same time we cannot really remember living anywhere else. Thank you for making us so welcome.

We have been thinking about our role in our villages, and in 2008 we laid out the vision focussed on what is one of our biggest resources; our beautiful buildings. At the Annual Meeting last year I thanked everyone who had worked very hard on the plans and the fundraising. And this year I want to thank a lot of people: our Project Managers and builders, the PCCs, the service leaders, the church wardens, musicians and choir, the churchyard teams, cleaners and flower arrangers, the LPAs and those who help with the groups. And I need to thank some individuals by name (I know this is a very dangerous thing to do!); Graham Smith for his fundraising with Sheila's Quilt, which raised its £2,000 target; Mike Dyer for the Signals Band Concert, Bobby Carter and Jean Mayne for all their work, including the Christmas Fayre; and many more, too many to name, who have helped with so much. There is so much going on! We are moving forward. We can give thanks.

As far as the buildings are concerned we have to balance the fact that they serve the living Church, with the fact that we worship in very beautiful parts of our heritage that hold very special places in a lot of people's hearts. This is why we have worked so hard on the 50K Challenge and we have consulted with the experts at every stage of our journey. At Gussage St Andrew we are conserving the medieval wall paintings for future generations to enjoy and rethinking the antiquated electricity supply. At St Mary's the work at the back of the tower and nave is complete, giving us much needed meeting space as well as a toilet for our many visitors. At both St Mary's and St Rumbold's the living churchyard scheme means that the churchyards are full of rare plants, insects and birds. These, too, attract visitors.

We still have work to do, of course. At St Mary's the heating and sound systems need renewing (please talk to us if you would like to help). But there is a lot to be thankful for. We are going places.

But too often the world treats 'church' as a leisure industry. We are a community and a community with a mission.

I know 'mission' can be a bit of a scary word at times. But mission is telling people about something good. It is about sharing friendship and community and the love of God. It is about people seeing us having something special and wanting that something for themselves. Mission is not what just church leaders do. It is something we all do. We cannot separate our worship, beliefs, pastoral and social concerns, practical and financial issues. They are all mission and come as a package.

And it is a package called life in all its fullness. Life everlasting. And our vision is not complete until we turn our prayers and talking and worship into action. This is our challenge.

Mission is being with other people and bringing them to a better place. To Jesus. Just think – if we all just brought one person to church (to 'Back to Church Sunday' in September for instance, but any Sunday) and they stayed, in a few years we would need to extend the building. And the world would be a better place. And God would smile.

So I ask you to think and pray about how we can serve our community and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have done a lot in a comparatively short time and we are on a mission. Thank you. There is more. And I really believe God has more exciting plans for His Church in this place. **Mel Durrant**

Annual Meeting

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** for the parish of St Mary's with Gussage St Andrew was held after the morning service on Sunday April 25th. A good attendance listened to reports on the building work and finances, as well as an address by the Vicar. Four new members were elected to the PCC.

The **Annual Report** is now available from our website; or you can pick up copies from the back of the church (until the end of June), or request a copy from the vicarage.



On our website you can also find out details about the PCC and download minutes of the APCM. Minutes and reports can be found in the 'Archive' section and PCC details in the 'About' section.

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to this year's Christian Aid Week. In these interesting times it is vital that we stay concerned about those less fortunate than ourselves.





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

To make way for the Post Office Drop in, the midweek Holy Communion has moved to the second Wednesday of the month, 11.30pm, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends

Drop in! – to St Mary's church on any Saturday afternoon from 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat with someone trained to listen.

Or drop into the Post Office Coffee Shop on the first Wednesday of the month from about 11 o'clock for a coffee and chat with the vicar.


Soup Lunches £2 – Good soup and company on the third Wednesday of the month in the Vicarage. 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 supper! Phone Paul Skinner (552785).

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

Mothers' Union – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month. Over the summer we have some trips out. Phone Jean (552692)/Mary (552041).

Join us during June and July 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
June 6 th	HC	Coffee (10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	HC	
June 13 th	MP		Informal	HC		HC
June 20 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	
June 27 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC		HC
July 4 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
July 11 th	MP		Informal	HC		HC
July 18 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	
July 25 th	MP			Inf & HC	HC	
Aug 1 st	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	

HC = Holy Communion
MP = Morning Prayer

always a warm welcome...

June 2010

See website for updates

Tues 1st	7.30pm	Pilgrimage from Colehill Church camping at Pentridge
Wed 2nd	11.00am	Fellowship Supper at the Roebuck, Sixpenny Handley
Thurs 3rd	7.00pm	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
Sat 5th	2.30pm	Grand Bridge Drive, Tarrant Gunville Village Hall
Tues 8th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Tues 8th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 9th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Sat 12th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Sun 13th	2.00pm	Open Gardens, Deanland
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
	7.30pm	Pentridge PCC meeting
Wed 16th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Thurs 17th		Mothers' Union Quiet Day
Sat 19th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Tues 22nd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 24th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat 26th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Tues 29th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 30th	7.30pm	Sixpenny Handley PCC meeting

July 2010

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Sat 3rd	11.00am	Paul Skinner's priesting, Salisbury Cathedral
	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Tues 6th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 7th	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
Thurs 8th		Mothers' Union Outing
Sat 10th	9.45am	King of Kings Kids' Club, St Mary's church
	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
	7.30pm	Barn Dance at The Shed
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 14th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Thurs 15th		Evening Walk'n'Talk at Manor Farm, West Woodyates
Fri 16th	7.30pm	Concert at St Mary's
Sat 17th	11.00am	Coffee Morning at Ted and Meg Cox's, Woodcutts
	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Tues 20th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 21st	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Thurs 22nd	10.30am	School Assembly in St Mary's
Sat 24th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Sat 31st	1.30pm	Wedding of Gemma Chambers and Stephen O'Brian