



The Seeker

August ~ Sept

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 Rumbolds, Pentridge

Jane King 552231

Mary Ferguson 552222

Licenced Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801

Margaret Durrant 552608

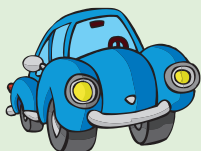
Maureen Lockyer 552492

Jean Mayne 552692

David Salmons 552721

Carole Wyatt 552572

Need a
lift to
Church?

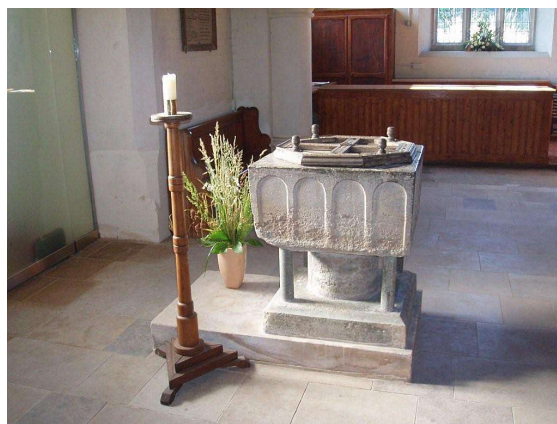


Please ring Paul Skinner on
01725 552785 and we should
be able to arrange transport.

Restored font placed in new welcome area

50th THE K CHALLENGE

Our thanks go to all those
who have worked so hard
making the back of St
Mary's Church, Sixpenny
Handley so beautiful – the
new floor, the glass doors
(in front of the toilet cubicle)



and the repositioned (and restored) font look absolutely fabulous. We didn't realise the font, which is some 800 years old, is so beautiful!

We still need to renew the heating and sound systems and resurface the path at Mary's, and then rethink the kitchen area. At St Andrew's we hope the work on preserving the mediaeval paintings and replacing the heating system and will begin later this year. If you would like to help with these exciting projects, please talk to the vicar or churchwardens.

Saturday August 14th Pentridge Village Green

Come to The Pentridge Barbeque
Tickets £9.50, £5 (5-12s), under 5s free
Call (01725) 552222 or 552231



Thank You

A huge thank you must go to all the people who have organised – or are organising – events over the summer. There has been a lot going on and a lot of fun has been had as we have raised funds for our churches.

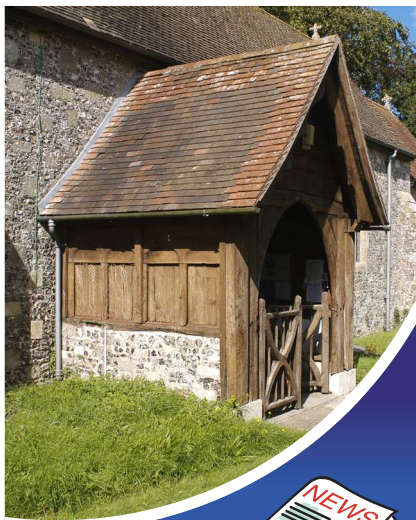
Sunday 26th September 2010

BackToChurchSunday



Ask someone to come. It's try-out-church Sunday!

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.

Woodcutts Welcome

Come along and have some good food among good company in a quiet and beautiful place at Ted and Meg Cox's, Priory Cottage. Saturday 7th Aug from 5pm.



10.00 am - 6.00 pm
Sat 11th Sept, 2010

Your opportunity to 'Ride & Stride' in the Dorset's Historic Churches 20th 'Great Cycle Ride' 2010.

See John Cullingford's item in the Downsman for more details, or visit their website: dorsethistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

Dear Friends



Back To Church Sunday

"I don't think I have ever been to a church service where I have laughed so much. Churches to me were always cold, severe places, where you went and got preached at and told off on a Sunday – it wasn't much fun. Now it's different. There's a variety of speakers and approaches. There are many different forms of church now. It's very welcoming. I don't remember church being like that."

This is a comment from someone who was invited to go along with a neighbour to her local church on last year's Back to Church Sunday. In 2009 some 53,000 people were welcomed back to the Church of England alone, a 71 per cent increase on 2008. More than 80,000 people come back to churches altogether across the UK.

The Bishop of Lichfield commented: "*Back to Church isn't rocket science. It is, however, a way of putting a booster behind the welcome we offer people, and turning mission into a simple invitation that any churchgoer can ask their friend or neighbour – 'Will you come to church with me on Sunday?' What's really encouraging is the way that Back to Church is becoming a core part of the Church's DNA.*"

Back To Church Sunday began in Manchester in 2004, and since then parishes in each of the Church of England's 44 dioceses have joined with congregations from Churches Together in Scotland, the Church in Wales, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed, Salvation Army and Elim Pentecostal churches nationwide, and Anglican churches in Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Canada.

The number of people who returned to the Church of England in 2009 alone could have filled the O2 arena in London twice over – and still left a queue of 7,000 outside without a seat. (Incidentally, 7,000 is also the highest quoted membership of the National Secular Society).

Back to Church Sunday is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism - that we should invite someone we already know to something we love; invite our friend to our church. The initial focus was to invite 'back' those who used to attend, but we also want to ensure that anyone who doesn't attend can be guaranteed a warm welcome.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The Church's responsibility to welcome all comers isn't, of course, restricted to one Sunday in the year! But Back to Church Sunday in particular prompts us to do a better job of saying to people that we are truly glad to see newcomers and they always have a right to be part of the family. I pray that Back to Church Sunday will assure the whole population of this country that they are loved and valued by God - and by those who worship God."

Our villages are celebrating Back to Church Sunday with services to suit every taste – On Sunday 26th September there is Holy Communion in the beautiful St Andrew's chapel at 9.30 lead by our curate, Paul Skinner. Morning Prayer at Handley at 9.30 is lead by our Reader, John Cullingford and is followed by me leading the Informal Service at 11 o'clock. In the evening I also lead the Holy Communion Service. The following Sunday, Paul leads the Holy Communion at Pentridge while I lead the Harvest Festival at Sixpenny Handley. There is a lot to come to, and a lot to invite others to...

So, if you are a churchgoer, invite someone. After all, what is the worst that can happen? Someone might say no. I don't think there is any reason to be fearful of asking friends to come along. And if you are not a churchgoer – come along and see what you are missing, and make some friends.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

Looking Outward

A lot of people give very generously to help those less fortunate than themselves. We see it as part of our life as church to help those in need. In August the church will be giving £200 to L'Arche (www.larche.org.uk) a Christian charity working with amazing results with the mentally and physically handicapped living in community together. Then in September we shall give £200 to Sue Ryder (www.suerydercare.org) which provides compassionate care and support for people living with serious illnesses and conditions, as well as their families and loved one. They are dedicated to helping people get the best from their lives.

Britain's Got Talent, The X Factor... even Big Brother. We all want to be famous these days, even if only for 15 minutes. We all want to be known, to live forever, to be a Celebrity (Get Me Out of Here).

We all want to live for ever... but how? Someone asks Jesus this very question. And Jesus tells his famous story in reply (Luke 10:25-37). It is often called 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan' but could just as easily be called 'Neighbours.' It is a story about how to get a life, what you have to do to be famous – famous in the eyes of God, that is.

Sing? Dance? Be really good looking? No, none of these – just listen to me, Jesus says, and love your neighbour. The man on the journey from Jerusalem to Jericho was going down a famously dangerous road. There were lots of bandits about. It didn't do to stop and talk to anyone else. But when the man is attacked and left half dead, he needs help like he had never needed it before. So he might expect a bit of neighbourly love from the religious leader passing by, a bit of help. But no, the man just keeps on walking.

In fact, the religious leader has a kind of excuse – for all he knew the man might be dead and if he touched a dead person, the Old Testament Law said that he would not be fit to lead worship. On the other hand, he was going down the road, having carried out his duties – not going up to Jerusalem. So actually there was no excuse after all.

And then comes the priest. Was he a loving neighbour? You can make excuses that he was worried the robbers would still be about. Or that he was so wrapped up in his worship that he didn't notice the need – but if that is the case, he was so wrapped up in the words that he didn't actually do the actions. That is not love in action. He is no neighbour.

And finally the foreigner, the Samaritan. The Good Samaritan. Jesus is making people sit up and listen here – because people didn't think of Samaritans as 'good'. They didn't even talk to Samaritans and didn't expect Samaritans to talk to them. And yet he is helping, when all the people who should have known better haven't.

And he is the caring neighbour. He shows love in action. He came, he saw, and he conquered with a heart of compassion. The original says something like his heart was churned up with compassion.

He was a member of a hated minority, yet he was doing the right thing – in contrast to all the respected people who weren't. He treated the wounds and took the man to a place a safety and paid for extra care. The money he paid would have kept the man safe for a couple of days. And he would pay for more if it was needed. He knew that loving your neighbour can be costly in time, money and emotion.

And, in answer to the original question, Jesus says we must do the same. The original meaning of the word 'neighbour' is 'anyone near you.' Jesus is saying that your neighbour includes those you might not necessarily like very much. Your neighbour is anyone in need.

Today it is like an Iranian helping a Jew; a Taliban fighter helping an American; a Somali pirate helping a European merchant sailor; someone from Sixpenny Handley helping... you finish that sentence.

And we can all behave like the first two people in the story. We can all pass by on the other side, find a reason not to help. It is so easy to do. We all do it all the time. That is why we say sorry in every service in church. That is why we must get to know Jesus and try to be like him, and ask Jesus to help us show his heart of compassion, to become a part of us as we become a Good Neighbour to all people around us. And then the world will be a lot nearer to being how God intended it to be.



Bulgaria – Christmas Shoe Box appeal

It was through a UN feeding programme that the Trussell Trust became aware of need in Bulgaria. For instance, children were living on the street in school holidays; in term time they slept in unwashed beds in state schools where the toilets didn't work. Now the Trussell Trust supports the school and has built a house to take the children once they leave. Our church is supporting the Trussell Trust's Christmas Shoe Box appeal: A decorated shoe box full of little gifts makes someone's life a little better. These boxes are for adults of the Roma community, and so suggested contents include soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, comb, brush, razors, shaving foam, deodorant, wipes, flannel, nail brush, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, underwear, pens, pencils, notepads, rulers, erasers, sewing equipment. Many people took information about this appeal at the Street Fayre. It was while talking about the need in Bulgaria that the Trust discovered another need nearer to home. There are families in English towns and villages in desperate conditions. Out of this awareness came the food box scheme. Our monthly soup lunches in the vicarage support this scheme. We have not increased the price in two years, so please bring any preserved or packet food to help people at desperate moments of their lives.

Our Trussell Trust co-ordinator is Trish Chorley
Tel (01725) 552776.

Mark Ward, a speaker from the Trussell Trust will be speaking in church on the first Sunday in September and to the Fellowship Group in October.



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 Trish (01725 5523776) for details.

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us for a gentle service in St Mary's on the second Wednesday of the month at 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, from 2.45pm. Starting again in September, phone Sheila (553133) or Mary (552041) for details.

Join us during August and September 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
Aug 1 st	HC	Informal	Evensong	HC
Aug 8 th	MP	Informal	HC	HC
Aug 15 th	HC	Informal	Evensong	MP
Aug 22 nd	MP	Inf & HC	HC	HC
Aug 29 th	HC	Informal	SP	MP
Sept 5 th	HC	Informal	Evensong	HC (Mel)
Sept 12 th	MP	Informal	HC	HC
Sept 19 th	HC	Informal	Evensong	MP
Sept 26 th	MP	Inf & HC	HC	HC



Cream Tea followed by Songs of Praise August 29th

Come along for an excellent Cream Tea from 5 o'clock and stay on for a good sing!

HC = Holy Communion
MP = Morning Prayer
SP = Songs of Praise

always a warm welcome...

August 2010

Updated weekly on our website

Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 4th	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
Sat 7th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church, Handley
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 11th	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's, followed by coffee
Sat 14th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church, Handley
	3.00pm	Wedding of Will King and Susan Jackson, Pentridge
		'King of the Grill' Pentridge barbeque
Tues 17th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 18th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Sat 21st	3.00pm	Wedding of Matt Joyner and Julie Duffett
Mon 23rd	7.30pm	Sixpenny Handley Standing Committee meeting
Tues 24th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 26th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat 28th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church, Handley
Tues 31st	9.30am	Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) meeting
	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
	7.30pm	Pentridge PCC, The Barn

September 2010

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Wed 1st	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
	7.30pm	St Mary's PCC, the Vicarage
Sat 4th	10.30am	PCC Away Day
	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church, Handley
Tues 7th	7.30pm	Lay Pastoral Assistant Commissioning Service, Handley
Thurs 9th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union
Sat 11th	4.00pm	Wedding of Keith Barrow and Emma Bannister
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 15th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
Sat 18th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church, Handley
Tues 21st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Sat 25th	2.30pm	Drop in for tea and a chat at St Mary's church, Handley
Sun 26th	9.30am	Back to Church Sunday
Thurs 30th	7.30pm	Men's Group