

The Seeker

June ~ July

2011

**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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Churchwardens

*St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew*

Chris Stokes 552672
Carole Wyatt 552572

St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552222
Jane King 552231

Licensed Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Lydia Carter 552720
Margaret Durrant 552608
Margaret Jones 552358
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
David Salmons 552721
Rita Taylor 552885
Carole Wyatt 552572

Guinness Book of Records

Congratulations to Olivia King, whose parents live at Pentridge, who is now in the Guinness Book of Records. She was one of fifty people tied together to run the Paris Marathon, the largest such group ever – dressed as a caterpillar!

New organ for Gussage St Andrew

Thanks to a very generous benefactor, we have a new electric organ at Gussage St Andrew. Thank you!

Handley Street Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the Handley Street Fayre! Photographs of the fun and frolics can be seen on our website in the archive section.

A Taste of India – Choice of dates!

After Margaret Durrant's trip to India to see a children's home and slum project, she will be giving a presentation on her visit in St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley on Friday 10th June and in The Barn, Woodyates, on Friday 17th June. Look out for details and come along to hear about these exciting projects changing people's lives for the better.

Village Concert – Sat 2nd July

Don't forget our second annual Village Concert, this year on Saturday 2nd July in St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley. Look out for details, and contact John Cullingford (01725 516453) if you would like to perform!

Trussell Trust – Lunch on the Lawn, Sat 9th July

The Trussell Trust is a Salisbury based charity that helps those in need both at home and abroad. They support children's homes in Bulgaria and those who are desperate throughout the UK. We have been supporting them through the Soup Lunches and the Shoebox Appeal for some time, and shall be having Lunch on the Lawn of the vicarage (in the church if wet!) on Saturday 9th July. Come along for a good time – look out for details.

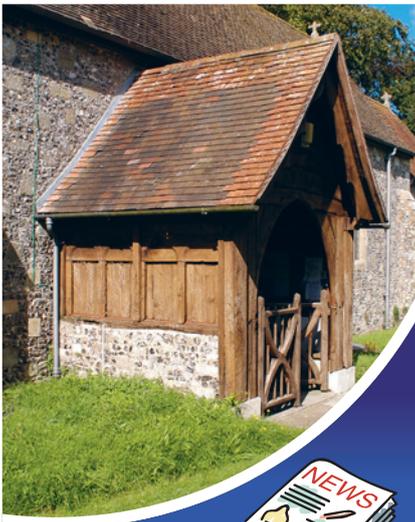
Happy Birthday!

Happy (belated) birthday to Kathleen Hardiman, who celebrated a big day (ending in an '0') recently. Kathleen had a collecting pot at her party and divided the proceeds between the Scouts and the church. Thank you.

Songs of Praise

Look out for BBC's Songs of Praise from Salisbury Cathedral sometime in July. And on 31st July come along to St Mary's for a cream tea and our own Songs of Praise. Food from 5, singing from 6 – please suggest some songs you would like to sing!





News items
and articles welcome!
Please drop them in to
the Vicarage, or email;
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk
Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



Joshua Davis and Callum Day
were baptized on May 8th 2011

Emily Read was baptized on
29th May 2011

The Memorial service for Noel
Leverton took place on 7th April

The Funeral of David Corbin took
place on 28th April 2011



Need a
lift to
Church?

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

Download
from our
website
archive!



- The Seeker — in full colour!
- Minutes of PCC meetings
- Church forms and reports

Stormy Weather (Matthew 8:23–27)

Queen Victoria was once going over to Ireland in the Royal Yacht, when the ship ran into some rough weather. A huge wave made the ship lurch to one side, almost knocking the Queen off her feet. She immediately sent an attendant to the bridge with the command, 'Give the captain my compliments, and tell him that he is not to let that happen again!'



It is all so easy to think that we are in control, whether we are crossing water or just sailing on through our daily lives, and that we are in charge of our lives. And then we are surprised and disappointed when we are reminded, often quite painfully, that we *aren't* in charge after all. When the boat of life lurches – as it always does – we get caught out. *And it's not fair.*

There was a book written many years ago – I think it was called 'The Path Less Travelled' – which started with the sentence, '*Life is difficult.*' And, whenever life is difficult, we want to place the blame. Queen Victoria could blame the captain. We often blame The Captain as well. We blame God. Things are not as they should be, and it's God's fault. The situation is nothing to do with us and our choices, or our expectations of the world around us. It is all God's fault.

Jesus and his disciples once had a similar experience when they were crossing the Sea of Galilee. A storm came up suddenly and the boat was in danger of sinking. This was clearly not how things are meant to be and so the disciples complain to the captain; 'Master, Master, we are going to drown!' they shout. You can hear the unspoken '*what are YOU going to do about it?*'

Jesus is asleep on a pillow. To him there is no problem; the problem is with the disciples – or rather with the disciples and the world around them. They are out of kilter and they are calling out to Jesus in their panic to sort it all out. It is *their* problem, yet they expect *Jesus* to sort it out.

And Jesus... does.

He stands up and *rebukes* the storm, the Bible tells us. He speaks sternly to the raging waters and the storm subsides. All is calm. Peace is restored. It is clear who is in control. You might have 'rebuked' your children at some stage, and restored peace to a situation. But have you ever 'rebuked' a *real* storm?

No, nor have I.

Jesus acts like the Creator he is. Like in the very first lines of the Bible, he brings order out of chaos. Jesus holds his arms out, and nature listens. He holds his arms out, and we are saved. This is the image of our saving God.

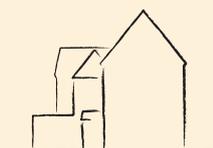
The story ends with the disciples posing a question '*who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.*'

How do we answer it? We will only give the right answer when we realise that to give it commits us to total trust and obedience to God for the rest of our lives, whatever the weather.



We *will* meet storms. It is just how the world is. The boat of our lives *will* get buffeted and beaten, and in danger of being swamped. Life *is* dangerous. And life is *still* dangerous with Jesus in it. But there is no other right way to live. The choice of faith is absolute. Either we trust Jesus that everything will be right in the end, or we are left at the mercy of the storm.

Mel Durrant



ST PAUL'S
SALISBURY

Once again the team from St Paul's, Salisbury will be joining us. They will be leading the 11 o'clock Informal Service at St Mary's on Sunday 19th June.



Dear Friends

I'm sure we were all glued to our television as Prince William married Kate Middleton. The whole day was great and the Bishop of London's address was, for me, a highlight. I include it here in full;

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." So said St Catherine of Siena whose festival day it is today. Marriage is intended to be a way in which man and woman help each other to become what God meant each one to be, their deepest and truest selves.

Many are full of fear for the future of the prospects of our world but the message of the celebrations in this country and far beyond its shores is the right one – this is a joyful day! It is good that people in every continent are able to share in these celebrations because this is, as every wedding day should be, a day of hope. In a sense every wedding is a royal wedding with the bride and the groom as king and queen of creation, making a new life together so that life can flow through them into the future.

William and Catherine, you have chosen to be married in the sight of a generous God who so loved the world that he gave himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ. And in the Spirit of this generous God, husband and wife are to give themselves to each another.

A spiritual life grows as love finds its centre beyond ourselves. Faithful and committed relationships offer a door into the mystery of spiritual life in which we discover this; the more we give of self, the richer we become in soul; the more we go beyond ourselves in love, the more we become our true selves and our spiritual beauty is more fully revealed. In marriage we are seeking to bring one another into fuller life.

It is of course very hard to wean ourselves away from self-centredness. And people can dream of doing such a thing but the hope should be fulfilled it is necessary a solemn decision that, whatever the difficulties, we are committed to the way of generous love.

You have both made your decision today – "I will" – and by making this new relationship, you have aligned yourselves with what we believe is the way in which life is spiritually evolving, and which will lead to a creative future for the human race.

We stand looking forward to a century which is full of promise and full of peril. Human beings are confronting the question of how to use wisely a power that has been given to us through the discoveries of the last century. We shall not be converted to the promise of the future by more knowledge, but rather by an increase of loving wisdom and reverence, for life, for the earth and for one another.

Marriage should transform, as husband and wife make one another their work of art. It is possible to transform as long as we do not harbour ambitions to reform our partner. There must be no coercion if the Spirit is to flow; each must give the other space and freedom. Chaucer, the London poet, sums it up in a pithy phrase:

*"Whan mastery comth, the God of Love anon,
Beteth his wynges, and farewell, he is gon."*

As the reality of God has faded from so many lives in the West, there has been a corresponding inflation of expectations that personal relations alone will supply meaning and happiness in life. This is to load our partner with too great a burden. We are all incomplete: we all need the love which is secure, rather than oppressive, we need mutual forgiveness, to thrive.

As we move towards our partner in love, following the example of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is quickened within us and can increasingly fill our lives with light. This leads to a family life which offers the best conditions in which the next generation can practise and exchange those gifts which can overcome fear and division and incubate the coming world of the Spirit, whose fruits are love and joy and peace.

I pray that all of us present and the many millions watching this ceremony and sharing in your joy today, will do everything in our power to support and uphold you in your new life. And I pray that God will bless you in the way of life that you have chosen, that way which is expressed in the prayer that you have composed together in preparation for this day:

God our Father, we thank you for our families; for the love that we share and for the joy of our marriage. In the busyness of each day keep our eyes fixed on what is real and important in life and help us to be generous with our time and love and energy.

Strengthened by our union help us to serve and comfort those who suffer. We ask this in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.



TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Sunday 12th June from 3 to 4pm

All families who have had a baptism since we have been here should be receiving an invitation to a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Any other families with small children are also invited – let us know (on 552608) if you are coming. Bring your teddy along for a picnic tea, games, a story and a song or two.



+ 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, 7.15pm. Phone Trish (552776) for details.

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us for a gentle service in St Mary's on the second Wednesday of June at 11.30pm, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends

▼ Drop into St Mary's!

On most Saturday afternoons in the church from 2.30pm for a cup of tea and a chat with someone trained to listen.

* 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** – Good soup and company every third Wednesday of the month in the Vicarage. Come along from 12.30 for a great meal for only £2. Profits go to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury.

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

☕ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Phone David Lockyer (552492) for details.

✿ **Mothers' Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Sheila (553133) or Mary (552041) for details.

Join us during June and July 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley Informal service includes children's time			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew
	9.30am ☕	11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
June 5 th	HC	Informal	Evensong	HC	#
June 12 th	MP	Informal	HC	#	HC
June 19 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP
June 26 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC	#
July 3 rd	HC	Informal	Evensong	HC	#
July 10 th	MP	Informal	HC	#	HC
July 17 th	HC	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
July 24 th	MP	Inf & HC	HC	#	HC
July 31 st	HC	Informal	S of P	MP	#

HC = Holy Communion | MP = Morning Prayer | SofP = Songs of Praise | # = No service

Ascension Day

Thursday 2nd June – 7.30pm Holy Communion at Gussage St Andrew

June 2011

See side panel for key to symbols

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *	2	3	4
5	6	7 ◆	8 HC	9 ✿	10	11 ▼
12	13	14 ◆	15 ●	16 +	17	18 ▼
19	20	21 ◆	22	23	24	25 ▼
26	27	28 ◆	29	30 ☕		

Tues 7th 7.30pm Fellowship Group
 Wed 8th 7.30pm Churchwarden's visitation, West Moors
 Thurs 9th Mothers' Union Quiet Day, Grove Farm (all day event)
 Fri 10th 7.30pm India Talk by Margret Durrant at St Mary's Sixpenny Handley
 Wed 15th 7.30pm St Mary's PCC
 Fri 17th 7.00pm India Talk by Margret Durrant at 'The Barn', Woodyates

July 2011

Updated weekly on our website

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 ▼
3	4	5 ◆	6 *	7	8	9 ▼
10	11	12 ◆	13	14 ✿	15	16 ▼
17	18	19 ◆	20 ●	21 +	22	23
24	25	26 ◆	27	28 ☕	29	30
31						

Sat 2nd 7.30pm Village Concert, St Mary's Sixpenny Handley
 Thurs 14th Mothers' Union Outing (all day event)
 Sat 16th Trussell Trust lunch on the Vicarage lawn (in St Mary's if wet)
 Wed 20th 10.30am School Praise Assembly in St Mary's church
 Sat 30th 2.00pm Wedding of Simon Harwood and Lucy Adams, St Mary's

BackToChurchSunday
25th September 2011

