

The Seeker

October

2011

The church magazine for St Mary the Virgin, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Who's who?

Vicar

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Curates

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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
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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

St Mary's Clock gets a face lift!



Thanks to Chris Wadge and Carole Wyatt and others for organising the replacement of the hands on one of the clock faces at St Mary's in the summer – the photo shows them being replaced.

The full story of how we made an expensive repair job more affordable can be found on our website.

Woodcuts Garden Party

As the evenings draw in again, it is good to remember the summer just gone. It may not have been the best ever, as far as the weather was concerned, but the sun shone on a Garden Party at Woodcuts Farm in August. Nearly two hundred people turned up on a glorious summer afternoon to enjoy cool jazz from the Alec James Quartet, as well as a barbecue, drinks, cakes and other stalls laid on by local people to raise funds for the chapel at Gussage St Andrew. Everything was perfect. The quartet's CDs sold well and the afternoon raised £1,700 profit, shown in the photo being given to the vicar, in the form of a huge cheque, by the organisers Pearl James, Debbie Lovell and Marion Tozer. We have agreed that the money can be spent on the conservation work at St Andrew's. Mel said, 'It is a wonderful way to bring people together, as we raise funds for the centre of the community, our beautiful little chapel.' More photos on the website.

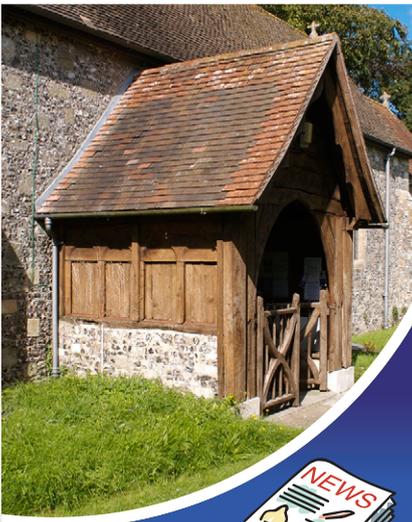


Harvest – Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our three Harvest Festivals so successful. Each had its own character. The churches looked wonderful, the food following each service was great, and we have given good collections to both the Trussell Trust in Salisbury, helping families in desperate need locally, and to the famine relief in East Africa.

Pet Service – Thank you to all the people who brought along a pet (of many different shapes, sizes, colours and numbers of legs) to our Pet Service at the start of September – look out for another such service next year!

Grow in Faith in Blandford

"Growing in Faith" is a course which aims to explore the issues and questions that surround Baptism and Confirmation. The course takes place on a Tuesday evening at the Blandford Parish Centre and lasts from 7.30pm to 9.00pm and involves video, discussion, games and a fair bit of laughter. If you are interested, please email confirmation@bfpc.org.uk



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

FROM THE REGISTERS



The baptism of Kacey Pike took place at St Mary's on 31st July.

The wedding of Simon Harwood and Lucy Adams took place on 30th July.

The wedding of Andrew Parsons and Emma Thrussell took place on 17th September.



Need a lift to Church?

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

Organ

Are you a budding organist? Contact the vicar and have a go on our lovely pipe organ at St Mary's.

Download from our website archive!



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

As autumn gets into its stride, now is the time to think about our SHAPE. I am not talking about over-indulging in apple and blackberry crumble and custard, but something much more important. I am talking about our God-given SHAPE. The SHAPE God wants you to be. SHAPE stands for;



We each have a different SHAPE. There is no one-size-fits-all with God. We are all different and our job is to become truly ourselves and no one else. As St Paul says, *for just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.* (Romans 12)

Yet so many of us just aren't aware of what our shape is, and as a result are frustrated, because we feel we aren't doing anything worthwhile with our lives, or we are struggling with a job or a role that doesn't really fit. And also, just as *physical* shape changes (a bit) as we grow older, so our *spiritual* shape changes over time — it may be different now to how it was only a few years ago.

And I need to add that our SHAPE is *not* about filling jobs in the Church — it is not about filling the blanks on the 'to do' list, although I believe that God will ensure that that happens, that we have everything we need. It is about finding the rounded and whole person we are meant to be, focusing on what and where God has made you to be and how he has shaped you to serve.

This is all part of being part of the Kingdom of God. As we ponder our SHAPES, we will find we know a lot about ourselves — probably more than we realized until we start thinking about it.

And as we all think through and discern our Spiritual Gifts, our Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experience, God will work through us to grow his church — and we will be further on in becoming the people He means us to be.

So, let's think more about our SHAPE.

S stands for **Spiritual gifts**.

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul says, *there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

We all have at least one spiritual gift — what is yours? Now, we are a modest bunch and it can be difficult to say what our Spiritual gift is. It is sometimes easier to say what someone else's gift is. So, perhaps you can tell someone... if they are particularly perceptive, spiritually insightful, or someone is an amazing encourager, or pray-er, or teacher, or giver... Tell them.

H is easier — it stands for **Heart**.

Where is your heart? What really fires you up? Perhaps your heart leaps when you think of helping people, of helping young parents with toddlers, or caring for those who cannot get out of their homes anymore through age or infirmity, or maybe it is gardening, or cooking... What fires you up? What is on your heart?

A stands for **abilities**.

We need to be honest and realistic about our abilities. Perhaps you are a whizz with mathematics. Perhaps you are a natural born cook. Perhaps you have a talent in music. This is not a time to be falsely modest — or to boast. Abilities are sometimes called 'natural gifts': They are a combination of what you have learnt and what you are naturally good at. And we are all naturally good at, at least one thing.

P stands for **personality**.

What do you naturally tend towards? Are you patient, imaginative, good at seeing the details, caring, energetic...? You may be very patient, or naturally inclined to prayer, or there is nothing that pleases you more than a page of sums, or the challenge of cleaning... Know your own personality and you are half way there!

E stands for **Experience**.

Where do you come from? What experience do you have? We have all picked up all sorts of knowledge, tips, tricks of the trade over the years and along the way. And we can use that experience in God's service if we choose.



Dear Friends

There has been a lot of talk of the tenth anniversary of the terrible attacks on the Twin Towers in New York. 'A good day to bury bad news' was how a Labour spin-doctor famously and foolishly described 9/11. Looking at how the media deal with death can be a mystifying experience.

Over the summer, for instance, much airtime and many column inches of report, homage and comment have been given to the death of musician Amy Winehouse. Newspapers and TV reports have been full of the tragic killings in Norway. Less attention has been given to the fate of millions of people in East Africa, where there has been the worst famine in 60 years. Mothers in search of food are leaving their sick children in the desert to die.

So why does the death of a 27-year-old singer in England get a bigger media response than the deaths of thousands in Africa?

Perhaps it is the scale. We can picture one, but thousands are too mind-boggling for us to take in. Perhaps our lives are too different. In our society of overflowing plenty we can have little concept of going without to such an extent that it kills us. It is easier to identify with someone who has overindulged.

Perhaps we have become immune, inured to death on such a cataclysmic scale. No longer shocked by images of pot-bellied children covered in flies, we flick to a cookery programme without a second thought and shrug it off as 'yet another African famine.'

Death is inevitable. The circumstances are not. Those who eat or drink themselves into an early grave have a measure of choice in their actions. Those who can't remember the last time they had even a half-full stomach have no control over their circumstances or fate.

One death in Somalia is just as tragic as one death in England. If we ever lose sight of that fact, something inside us will have died. And that will not be a good day.

Your friend and Vicar Mel Durrant

The Famous Pentridge Fete

The weather was amazingly kind – the hurricane waited until after the Pentridge fete, so we had time to play hoopla, throw at the coconuts, do the obstacle course, drink Pimms and have a cream tea before the weather broke. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this year's Pentridge Fete so successful.

This month's deliberate mistake...

I hope you read the profile of our parish in September's Sarum Link – thanks go to Paul Skinner and Carole Wyatt for their contributions. We hope you found it as enjoyable to read as we did to be interviewed! The interviewer was particularly interested in our LPAs (Lay Pastoral Assistants) and their role in our villages. And you may have noticed that a photograph said to be of Carole Wyatt was actually our own post lady Sarah and little Arthur – here is the full photograph, uncropped and with our apologies. If you haven't seen the article, there are a few spare copies in the church and it is on the Salisbury diocese website.



Remembrance Sunday

There will be the annual Service of Remembrance at St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley on Sunday 13th November, beginning at 10.50am by the War Memorial and continuing in the church. Please join us and stay for coffee afterwards.

St Mary's Churchyard

You will know that the churchyard at St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley, is running short of space and that for some years there has been talk of using the extension area, between the bottom of the current churchyard and the recreation ground. Through a very generous donation by Richard Adlem we are now in a position to begin work on this area.

Our plan for this area falls into two phases; the first is to clear the scrub that has grown up, including pulling out all the roots. The second phase is to spread the chalk interment spoil, currently by the back gate, over this cleared ground and then cover it completely with topsoil.

Dave Swift will be doing this work for us over the coming months. There is still some good weather (we hope!) and time for the area to recover before the winter. Relevant planning permissions are in hand, but we cannot undertake the second phase until the area is consecrated, and for that we need the visit of a bishop!

We hope that by next year we will have the extension area ready and more usable space by the back gate. Of course it will be untidy for a time, but please bear with us as in the long term it will be much better than at present, much more attractive, and will mean that we have room for graves for many, many decades to come.



✦ 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, 7.30pm. Phone Trish (552776) 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.

All Souls Service

You are invited to come along to St Mary's for this gentle service as we pray together and remember before God those we love but see no longer. There will be coffee and biscuits afterwards.

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.

◆ 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 (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 October and November 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	
Oct 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	Harvest	#
Oct 9 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Oct 16 th	HC	10.30am	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Oct 23 rd	MP		Inf & HC	Evensong	#	HC
Oct 30 th	HC		Informal	S of P	MP	#
Nov 6 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Nov 13 th Remembrance			10.50am	HC	#	#
Nov 20 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Nov 27 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC

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

Sun 16th Oct – Sandroyd School Choir

Once again we welcome the choir from Sandroyd School, where they will be leading the singing for us at our 9.30am service. Come along and join in!

All Souls Service

Wednesday November 2nd
St Mary's at 7.30pm

October 2011

See side panel for key to symbols

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

Sun 2nd 11.15am Pentridge Harvest, followed by cheese and cider
 Thurs 13th 2.45pm Mothers' Union 'Music in Prisons' with Ann Hinchcliffe
 Sat 29th 11.00am Blessing of Joanna and Michael Stoate, Gussage St Andrew

November 2011

Updated weekly on our website

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

Mon 7th 9.30am LPA Meeting, the Vicarage
 Wed 9th 7.30pm St Mary's PCC
 Thurs 10th 2.45pm Mothers' Union, 'Street Pastors' with Gwen Watkins
 Sun 13th 10.50am Service of Remembrance, Sixpenny Handley

Saturday 12th November from 12 Noon

Come along to a new-look Winter Market in *The Shed*. Why not try a tasty Shed lunch and then stock up on all your jams, chutneys, cakes, plants, books and lots of gift ideas getting ready for Christmas. Yes, I am afraid by then Christmas will only be seven weeks away!

