



**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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Margaret Durrant 552608

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David Salmons 552721

Carole Wyatt 552572

The Seeker

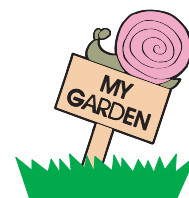
August



2012

Pentridge Gardens

A huge thank you to all the people of Pentridge who opened their gardens over the only good weekend in June. It was inspiring, and then rounded off with some wonderful tea and cakes in the village hall. About £400 was raised for St Rumbold's Church.



Sixpenny Handley in Concert

Thanks go to everyone who showed off their singing, playing or theatrical skills at our third annual concert. The proceeds were divided between the Kochakindo Project in Africa (ask at Styles Newsagent) and St Mary's church.



Garden Party

Come along to Woodcutts Farm for our second Garden Party on Sunday 19th August, 4-7pm, in aid of St Andrew's Chapel and by the kind invitation of the Tozer family. There will be swing music by the Alec James Quartet, as well as homemade cakes, barbeque, bar, raffle and lots more. £3 includes a Pimms or soft drink and under 12s come in free. Look out for the car park signs at Woodcutts,



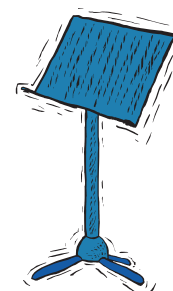
Barbeque

It is nearly that time again. Watch out for the Famous Pentridge Barbeque on Saturday 15th September at 5pm. There will be good food, drink, music and fun.



Parnham Voices

This group of singers will be performing in St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley on Saturday 1st September at 12.15pm. They sing for about half an hour, unaccompanied, and will perform a range of music – come along and enjoy. (There is no charge!)



Grace's Concert

And Grace Jackson is organising her concert again, this year on Saturday 29th September, in Sixpenny Handley church. Come along for an enjoyable evening of a wide range of entertainment.

Harvest

And before we know it we are thinking about Harvest. We shall celebrate at St Andrew's at 6pm on the evening of 23rd September, at Sixpenny Handley on 30th September, with a combined service at 11am, followed by lunch in the church, and at Pentridge on 7th October. Come along and celebrate All Good Gifts Around Us!





**News items
and articles welcome!**

**Please drop them in to
the Vicarage, or email;**

rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Thanks!



FROM THE REGISTERS

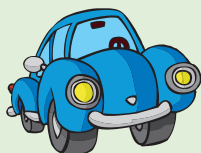


David and Kara Moralee were married at St Mary's on 30th June

Minna and Oskar Davison-Aitkins were baptised at St Mary's on 10th June

Summer services

All our church services continue as usual over the summer, except the children stay with the adults for the Informal Service and there is no Informal Service on 26th August. The home groups take a break over the summer, ready to start afresh in September.



**Need a
lift to
Church?**

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

**Download the
Seeker
from our
website
archive!**



Tax evaders, dishonest bankers, cheating sportsmen... there are always so many issues to talk about. And it is easy to assume everyone is on the make, but I would like to thank far too many people to name who give of their time and talents to our churches. You are all fabulous and we wouldn't be who we are without you!

We are continuing the Saturday afternoon drop-in, and the Thursday morning drop-in for pre-school children and their carers during term time at St Mary's. Thank you to everyone involved. As in my time in the Post Office on the first Wednesday of the month, we rarely sit quietly for long.

And there is a lot of interest in what we have to offer. We have something to contribute to all the problems faced by our society. People may sometimes misunderstand what we stand for, and how we are run – but we have a lot of things to say on the really big issues of our day. For instance, in the evening service lately we have been talking about not paying taxes, and in the morning we have been wondering why bad things happen to good people.

We might think the Church is facing bad times today. In fact, things don't change very much. In 1709 Dean Jonathan Swift wrote, *'Hardly one in a hundred among our people of quality or gentry appears to act by any principle of religion; great numbers of them do entirely*

disregard it, and are ready to own their disbelief of all revelation in ordinary discourse. Nor is the case much better among the vulgar.' In 1747 Bishop Butler refused the Archbishopric of Canterbury, saying *'It is too late to save a failing church.'* Thomas Arnold wrote in 1832, *'The church as it now stands no human power can save.'* And in 1880 Bishop Ryle observed *'The Church of England today is in a more critical and perilous position than at any period in the last two centuries. We are in rough waters, and whether or not we will weather the storm remains to be seen.'*

It seems we have always been writing ourselves off. But we are still here, and there is still a God-shaped hole in every person alive. And we still have the Good News that can fill it. Come along.

A regular comment from visitors is how lively, friendly and interesting our services are. And we all have a role. Worship is not a spectator sport. Mission is not something *other people* do. We are all worshippers and we are all missionaries. Don't be frightened of the word. Mission is just about showing the world that we are different, and why we are different – seeking honesty, integrity and truth. And, as St Francis said, using words if we have to.

This is our challenge – we have put in a great deal of work into the fabric of our churches to make them comfortable and attractive as well as functional. This is a continuing process, but each one of us is a missionary. If we all invited just one person to church each year, and that person stayed, within a few years our buildings wouldn't be big enough! Let's do it!

Your friend and vicar, Mel



Teddy Bear drop in – returns!

Our drop-in for preschool children returns in September. Come along for some play, a coffee and company, and maybe a story or two.

Every Thursday in St Mary's from 9.30am during school term time.

It makes you think...

New Wine heard a wonderful story from New Wine Sweden recently - 23 year old Ulrik was travelling to Stockholm on the train, when God healed a person he prayed for! Unknown to him a well known Swedish celebrity, Pernilla Wahlgren, was in the same train carriage and reported the miracle in her blog:

I'm sitting on the train on my way home to Stockholm, and something VERY unusual just happened in the seats next to me ... a young guy is sitting next to an elderly lady and I can't help but hear how he is telling her about his strong faith in God. With great feeling he explains how he can really sense that God lives in him and how much God loves everyone. The lady tells him a little about herself and how the pain in her shoulders is so strong she can't even blow-dry her own hair.

Suddenly the guy asks if he can say a prayer for the lady?! She says yes – even though I can hear from her voice that she's a little hesitant. So he puts his hands on her shoulders and starts praying. He prays that she will feel God's love and that the pain in her shoulder will disappear. When he's finished he asks whether she can feel any difference?! 'You mean NOW' says the lady, somewhat bewildered. 'Yes', the guy says. Try to lift your arms up now! So she does. And this is when the really strange thing happens. Because the lady, very surprised, lifts her arms high up above her head and doesn't really seem to understand how it happened.

'I haven't been able to lift my arms this high in many years', she says. I don't want to sit there and stare at them, but I must say I was very fascinated by the whole scenario! After a little while the guy stood up from his seat and offered to pray for EVERYONE in the carriage who felt sick or was in pain. He could feel a 'tingling' in his hands, and apparently this was a sign from God that there was someone there who needed help. However, it seemed that no one chronically ill was present. Or maybe they just didn't want or dare to let people know because we're a little afraid of anything 'Christian' in this country (Sweden), aren't we?! If he'd offered the same thing on a train in the USA I'm sure many people would have queued up, hoping for a miracle to happen! I think we Swedes are far too cowardly to even take the chance. If I had suffered from pain or any other illness I'd easily have let him pray for me! I mean what have you got to lose?! It was a nice prayer he said, and he didn't pray in tongues or act hysterically, like you've seen on TV sometimes when they lay hands on people and shout so that people fall to the ground. THAT I would not have wanted to try!! But this guy was so calm, happy, positive and had a strong faith that he could heal people (which apparently he could?!) and he just wanted to stretch out a hand to us on the train, in case someone wanted to take it. The little old lady dared to. But no one else. So now, here's the question: What would YOU have done...?! Do you believe that miracles can actually happen...?

extract from New Wine



Sports Search

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G	Y	N	O	T	N	I	M	D	A	B	L
D	I	V	I	N	G	C	I	R	U	G	C
H	O	C	K	E	Y	S	T	N	I	J	Y
R	O	L	O	P	R	E	T	A	W	A	C
F	E	N	C	I	N	G	A	O	H	E	I

Archery

Athletics

Badminton

Basketball

BMX

Boxing

Canoeing

Cycling

Diving

Fencing

Football

Gymnastics

Handball

Hockey

Judo

Mountain biking

Pentathlon

Rowing

Sailing

Shooting

Swimming

Table tennis

Taekwondo

Tennis

Trampoline

Triathlon

Volleyball

Water polo

Weightlifting

Wrestling



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, 7.30pm. Mike Carter (552720) 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 into St Mary's!

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.

T Teddy Bear Drop-in

Thursday's 10.30-12 noon, following term times. Carers and small children are welcome for a chat, coffee and play, and maybe a story or two, in St Mary's Church

◆ 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 for August and September

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
Aug 5 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Aug 12 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Aug 19 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Aug 26 th	MP		#	Evensong	#	HC
Sept 2 nd	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Sept 9 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Sept 16 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Sept 23 rd	MP		Informal	#	#	Harvest 6pm
Sept 30 th	#		Harvest	Evensong	MP	#

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

BackToChurchSunday

30th September 2012



August 2012

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 ✚	31	

Tues 7th 7.30pm Pentridge PCC

Sat 18th 4.00pm Blessing of the marriage of Catherine and Ben Roberts, Pentridge

Sun 19th 4.00pm Gussage St Andrew Garden Party

September 2012

Updated weekly on our website

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

Sat 1st 12.15pm Parnham Voices, St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley

Sat 8th 2.30pm Marriage of James Reed and Bianca Sherman, Sixpenny Handley

Mon 10th 7.30pm Worship Leaders meeting, the Vicarage

Sat 15th 2.30pm Marriage of Lee Stenner and Donna Strand, Sixpenny Handley

5.00pm Pentridge Barbeque

Mon 17th 9.30am LPA meeting, the Vicarage

Sun 23rd 6.00pm Gussage St Andrew Harvest

Sat 29th 7.30pm Grace's Concert

Sun 30th 11.00am Sixpenny Handley Harvest and Lunch