



The Seeker

October



2013

**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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Lay Pastorial Assistants

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(Area code 01725)

Jamie Walton at The barn, Woodyates – Saturday 5th October



A few years ago the celebrated 'cellist Jamie Walton played for us at The Barn, Woodyates. We are very lucky that he is returning to play again to raise funds for Pentridge church. Jamie is in demand around the world and his recordings always get top reviews. Tickets include a delicious supper and wine, and are £35 from Mary Ferguson on (01725) 552222. (And congratulations to Simon Ferguson and Lucy Atkinson on their recent marriage in Wales! Thanks, too, to everyone who made the Famous Pentridge Barbeque so successful, raising £1,674 for St Rumbold's and £350 for Salisbury Hospice.)

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Helping families get away from it all

"I had fled from my husband with my two of my daughters because of domestic violence and mental abuse. We had nothing. However we spent a wonderful week as a family; not just as a holiday but it was a time with my daughters to talk and understand how they were feeling." AFIA holiday recipient.

In 2012 Mothers' Union helped 2,721 people to get Away From It All. The scheme, run by Mothers' Union members across the UK, has increased this number in 2013 to help even more families who wouldn't otherwise be able to get a break. In our area we support a holiday mobile home at Rockley Park on Poole Harbour and the weeklong organised holiday at Sidmouth in Devon.

AFIA breaks give people an opportunity to step away from their stressful lives and reconnect as a family. One family who had experienced domestic abuse found their trip away was an

opportunity not only to have fun and play but finally to be themselves again and feel safe. Families who are facing challenging times can apply for a break by contacting their vicar or the central Mothers' Union. It is also possible to nominate families who might not think to put themselves forwards.

"Without your members we would not have been able to have this holiday, thank you so much for making this possible." AFIA recipient

The application process is simple and not only do the families benefit but so do those who help the holidays take place. You can support the project through nominating a family, donating to the project, and by praying for those families experiencing stress and the Mothers' Union members who enable them to have this welcome rest.

For more information please email
outreach@themothersunion.org

www.handleychurch.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 funerals took place of

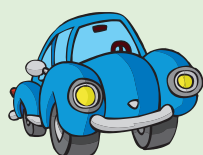
Colin Mardlin, Winifred Pocock,
Phyllis Peach, Ivy Perrett,
Victor Fryer, William Joyner,
Chris Snape, George Maidment

The baptisms took place of

Seth Easton, Jacqueline and
Jenny Cooper

The wedding took place of

Craig and Jordina Tostevin



**Need a
lift to
Church?**

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

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- Minutes of PCC meetings
- Church forms and reports



Your friend and vicar, Mel

Go into any bookshop and there are a million Self-Help books – books written by ‘experts’ telling us that we can overcome any weakness, any problem, any sadness, if only we pay attention to what they have to say – and pay our money. If there are so many books, it must be true, mustn’t it?

Well, look around you – if sorting out our lives was that easy, we would all be perfectly happy, balanced and successful! I am afraid that trying to ‘cure’ ourselves, by ourselves, just wastes a lot of time and energy. For example, when an addict stays clean, does that mean they are no longer vulnerable to their addiction? No, of course not.

And what about all those socially acceptable weaknesses that we pretend are strengths, like perfectionism, materialism, being judgmental or seeking personal status? Many who would never admit to being alcoholic are proud to say they are ‘workaholic.’ Driven by fear and obsessed with time, they are totally focused on doing instead of being. And they tell themselves that is a good thing until their obsession with not having enough lands them in the cardiac rehabilitation unit, where they bargain with God for yet another chance to do better.

Constantly dwelling on our weaknesses just reinforces them. But the good news is that there is help. And it is not ‘self-help’, God says ‘my grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ It is often when we are at our lowest, our weakest, that we turn to God, and perhaps find that he has been there all the time.

Prayer at bad times is a bit like the 999 emergency system. All we need to do is dial 999 and we are instantly connected to an operator trained to keep calm and send help straight away. We might not be able to say exactly what the problem is, because we are so beside ourselves with worry or grief or guilt. But that is not a problem, the operator already has all the details and knows where we are, and help is on its way.

We all pray 999 prayers when things go wrong, when someone dies, when we are troubled. And often, in those times, we’re so overwhelmed by all that is going on that we don’t have the words to speak. But God still hears us. He already knows us. He knows our name and our situation and help is already on its way. God’s prayer line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

And if you worry about what to say in your prayers, John Bunyan, who wrote ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’, said ‘it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.’ So don’t worry about the word. God just wants us to spend time with Him. And when the situation eases, as it surely will, we can call back for a longer talk, or we can just spend time with God in the quietness.

We can be with God anywhere, of course, but the church is open all day – so please feel free to come in. Any time. And we can hold on to the thought, which is part of the Lord’s Prayer, that when God’s Kingdom comes in all its glory, when we are fully with Jesus, and he is fully with us, everything will be as it should be.

Everything will be good in the end. If it is not good, it is not the end. So Lord, let your kingdom come. Amen.

There is no set formula to becoming a Christian

However, many people have found saying this prayer a helpful step in their relationship with God:

Lord Jesus Christ, I am truly sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life.

Please forgive me. I now turn from everything that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I can be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me for ever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Holland, September 1944. Airborne forces are attempting to capture a key bridge at Arnhem during Operation Market Garden. Major Robert Cain commands a company of the South Staffordshire Regiment. He lands eight miles from the famous "Bridge Too Far" when disaster strikes. 300 British troops lose their lives, including two of his closest friends. He keeps his nerve and leads his men to an astonishing counter attack and escape. Major Robert Cain receives the Victoria Cross, the highest award bestowed for gallantry.

You might have heard Major Cain's story told on the television programme "The Victoria Cross: For Valour". It was told by Jeremy Clarkson, who is usually seen praising motorcars in BBC 2's Top Gear. But on this occasion he talked with a passion of something far more fundamental - the often forgotten heroism of ordinary people.

When his regiment was ambushed, Major Cain later to write in his diary: "For the first time since childhood, tears sprang in my eyes. I turned away, swallowing hard and with rage in my heart." Major Cain turned that rage to good use. Single-handedly, he destroyed three Tiger tanks, standing in the open a few yards from the enemy with an unreliable Piat anti-tank weapon. Although wounded by machine-gun bullets and falling masonry, he continued to fire. He was temporarily blinded but after recovering, he led the defence with such ferocity that the enemy was forced to withdraw, allowing Cain's men to escape to relative safety across the Rhine.

Since its founding in 1856, only 1,356 Victoria Crosses have been awarded, with nine out of ten recipients died in the action that led to their award. Major Robert Cain was one of the few who survived.

Jeremy Clarkson was clearly moved by the story he told, and it prompted him to ask, who do we call heroes today? Who are the heroes pinned on bedroom walls today? Is it a footballer earning a fortune for kicking a ball? Is it a businessman paid a fortune for dealing in someone else's money? Or someone who can sing a bit on the telly?



Christmas Fayre

It is nearly time to start thinking about Christmas! Come to our Christmas Fayre in The Shed on Saturday 23rd November starting at noon and going on to 4 o'clock.

There will be refreshments available as well as all the traditional Christmas stalls and a few surprises. The fayre just gets better and better each year, so don't miss out!

Our choice of hero says a lot about the kind of people that we aspire to be. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be a footballer, or a businessman or a singer, but I suggest we that watch our language, our use of the word 'hero'.

The person I most want to be like, my hero, is Jesus. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). This is the radical lifestyle, the heroism of being a Christian.

"You have heard that it was said," Jesus says, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven ... " (Matthew 5:43)

Some hero! Jesus is saying something that had never been said so forcefully ever before. After all, we tend to love people who are similar to us, who will love us back. Jesus wants more. He has enemies, and he sees all their hate and wickedness, and yet loves and longs to free them, to rescue and to save them. How can we try to do anything less? That doesn't mean being weak. It doesn't mean giving in. It means loving. After all, Jesus didn't just die for his friends. He died for his enemies - to make them his friends. He died for all who have ignored God, all who have rebelled, all who have denied God.

And I reckon that must include just about all of us at some time in our lives.

In November we remember the heroes who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. And today we need heroes as much as ever.

If we love our enemies, if we pray for those who persecute us and if we seek to act like Jesus, then we will become heroes. And we will be following Jesus into the Kingdom of God.



Be a Christmas Host!

Could you make the world a friendlier place by offering an invitation to an international student at a UK university, for just a day, a weekend, or 3 days at Christmas? Young adults from many countries would love to have a homely break and discover the real life of this country.

HOST is a well-established charity which takes care in linking students with volunteer hosts. Visit www.hostuk.org or call Frances Good 01934 712606.





+ 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 Mike on 01725 552 620 for details.

Come and meet friends

▼ **Drop into St Mary's** on most Saturday afternoons from 2.30pm during British Summer Time for a cup of tea and a chat with someone trained to listen.

* **Drop into the ...** the Post Office Coffee Shop on the first Wednesday from about 11 o'clock, or The Walnut Tree on the last Wednesday, for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

T Teddy Bears

Pre-school children and their carers are invited to St Mary's on Thursday mornings during school term from 10.30am to noon, for fun, drinks and biscuits and maybe a Bible story or two. There is no charge.

L Sunday Lunch

Join us at Hanlega's, on the campsite, on the first Sunday of the month for Sunday lunch – Everyone is welcome.


◆ Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group (usually) meet every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a Roebuck steak! Phone Paul Skinner (552 785).

☕ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Details from David Lockyer (552 492).

☼ **Mothers' Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Sheila (553 133) or Mary (552 041) for details.

Join us this Autumn

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary's 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
Oct 6 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	Harvest	#
Oct 13 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Oct 20 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Oct 27 th	MP		Inf & HC	Evensong	#	HC
Nov 3 rd	HC		Informal	All Souls	HC	#
Nov 10 th	10.50am Remembrance			Evensong	Remembrance	#
Nov 17 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Nov 24 th	MP		Inf & HC	Evensong	#	HC

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

All Souls — You are invited to come along to St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley at 6pm for this gentle service as we pray together and remember before God those we love but see no longer. This year we hold this service on Sunday 3rd November. There will be coffee and biscuits afterwards.

October

See side panel for key to symbols

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

November

Updated weekly on our website

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

Dates for your Diary

Parnham Voices

Last year this group of cappella singers sang in St Mary's one lunchtime! They now returning for a full concert on Saturday 19th October at 7.30pm.

MU Coffee Morning

Come along to the Mothers' Union Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th October at 46 High Street, Sixpenny Handley from 10.30am.

October

Sat 5th 10.00am Churchyard Working Party, Sixpenny Handley
7.30pm Jamie Walton at The Barn, Woodyates
Thu 10th 2.45pm Mothers' Union – Nigeria with Jane Pelly
Sat 26th 2.30pm Final drop in at for tea and a chat, St Mary's
Wed 30th 7.30pm Sixpenny Handley PCC
Thur 31st 7.30pm Men's Group with Bishop Graham

November

Wed 13th 7.30pm Tisbury Healing Service
Thu 14th 2.45pm Mothers' Union Parkinson's UK with Gillian Wadge
Sat 23rd 12 noon Christmas Fayre in The Shed