



The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



Aug 2017

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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Also available in colour

A full colour PDF of The Seeker
is available from our website.

Church Anger at Trump Climate Decision — Bishop Nicholas responds to American withdrawal from global agreement to fight climate change

Bishop Nicholas, as the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, the Bishop of Salisbury, has condemned President Trump's decision to revoke the United States' ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change, which has been signed by 194 other countries.

Bishop Nicholas said, "I am, frankly, very disturbed by President Trump's decision to revoke the United States' commitment to the Paris Agreement, which was a global commitment made in good faith.

"Climate change is one of the great challenges of our times. There is a moral and spiritual dimension with a strong consensus built among the faith communities about the care of our common home. The scientific, economic and political arguments point in the same direction.

"How can President Trump look in the eye the people most affected, including the world's poorest in the places most affected by climate change now, and those affected by increasingly frequent extreme weather in parts of the USA? The leader of what used to be called 'the new world' is trapped in old world thought and action.

"President Trump has not recognised the economic potential of renewable energy which represents a paradigm shift capable of generating sustainable prosperity. What will our children and grandchildren say to us about the way we respond to this extreme carelessness?

"Ours is the first generation which cannot say we did not know about the human impact on climate change. For the US government to withdraw from taking responsible action in keeping with the Paris agreement is an abject failure of leadership. The USA emits nearly a fifth of global CO2 emissions. This step is particularly disappointing at a time when China, the world's other mega-emitter of CO2, has committed to deep and sustained cuts in emissions to protect its own citizens as well as the rest of the world.

"In challenging President Trump's decision, 'We the people', including churches and other faith leaders, must speak clearly: this decision is wrong for the USA and for the world. I commend those American churches and faith leaders who are speaking out and organising against this decision.

"How out of touch President Trump is with many of his own people was shown yesterday, when the Church of England helped lead a consortium of shareholders with \$5 trillion of assets under management at the ExxonMobil AGM. A motion was passed overwhelmingly forcing the company to undertake and disclose analysis of what limiting climate change to 2C would mean for its business.

"Shareholders can make a difference. So can citizens and electors. I warmly welcomed our UK government's rapid ratification of the Paris Agreement and I trust that the UK cross-party consensus that climate change is a real and urgent problem will remain committed and strong throughout the Brexit process."



News items and articles welcome!

Please drop them in to the Vicarage, or email; ask@handleychurch.org.uk

Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



The funerals took place of William Sutton, John Davis

The wedding of Darren and Lucy Darby

The blessing of Ravi and Sarah Canhye

The baptisms of Finley Hall, Isabella Ryan, Livy Brewin, Jude Brewin, Isla Low, Lily Turner, Kieran Day, Harvey Day, Oliver Kellaway

No Chancel Tax here!

If you are buying or selling a house in Sixpenny Handley, remember that you do not have to pay for a search for Chancel Tax. This was an historic tax that might have been due from property built on land that was once owned by the church. This tax is out of date and cancelled. If you need written proof to go with your documents, please contact the church office.

Dear friends...

A Sunday School teacher asked her young class learn one of the most famous parts in the Bible, Psalm 23; 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. She gave them a month. Little Ricky was excited by the challenge, but he just couldn't get it into his head. Even after much practice, and talking about it with his parents, he could barely get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite in front of the congregation, and Ricky was very nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone, paused, and said, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

We have a few famous shepherds in our area. Arthur Jones, the son of our postie Sarah, has been on television and in the press winning cups, medals and rosettes for his young shepherding skills. He is a modern shepherd on a quod bike. We often read in the Bible that God is like a shepherd, but in those days things were very different. There were no bikes and no sheep dogs. And *everyone* knew a shepherd.

In Mediterranean lands in Bible times, the shepherd had to take the sheep on long journeys to find pasture. And shepherding was not done, as in this country, by pushing them along from behind. Rather, each shepherd called his own sheep out of the communal pen and walked ahead of them, leading them on.

The sheep followed their shepherd's voice, nibbling the grass as they went. They didn't even need to look up to see the path ahead, but only the occasional word from the shepherd to keep on the right track. And then, each night, as the sun went down, the sheep were put into a large pen to keep thieves and wolves out. There was just a small gateway where the shepherd lay down – and quite literally became the gate himself. In the morning, each shepherd called his sheep again – who were ready to follow him on another day's search for green grass and clear water.

The image of a leader being a shepherd is ancient. King David was a

real shepherd when he was a boy. Later, the Bible used the image of the shepherd to talk about the hopes for fulfilment in the coming Christ; 'He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms' (Isaiah 40:1). And Psalm 23 is the most famous example of this idea of Christ as a Shepherd. (The Bible is also not afraid to criticise leaders who are *bad* shepherds.)

In early Christian art, it was some centuries before showing Jesus on a cross became common. Images of Jesus as the 'Good Shepherd' are the most common. You might like to think about how your understanding of Jesus is challenged if our main image of Jesus is as the 'Good Shepherd'. The Good Shepherd gives everything to care for his flock - and we are called to do the same. In fact, Jesus *expects* us to look after each other.

Giving to help others, particularly giving to people we will never meet, gets a mixed press at the moment. It is like someone we don't know, or who is far away, is not important. And there are those who want to encourage us to be totally selfish. After all, who knows where the money goes anyway, vicar? Well, I know that if you give nothing, *nothing* goes to help anybody at all.

While I was writing this, I came across an article that was obviously very angry with Christianity. It said '*the Lord is NOT my shepherd, because I am NOT a sheep!*' Perhaps the writer was thinking that Christianity is all about rules and things you are NOT allowed to do. Well, it isn't. And no, we are not sheep.

As I've said before, Christianity is not for wimps. We have brains, common sense, education, and a choice. I believe following Jesus is about freedom not rules, about love not selfishness. I use what brains God has given me, and I have decided that I would much rather follow the Good Shepherd than go with the herd. Have a wonderful summer.

Your friend and vicar, Mel

Prayer Time

You, Lord, are the Good Shepherd
 who lays down his life for his sheep.
 Thank you, that you know me and call me by name.
 Thank you that you would search and search
 just for one missing sheep out of a hundred,
 even it were me
 and not rest until it was back in the fold.
 And thank you, too, for the great words of the psalms,
 which comfort, challenge and inspire us.
 We shall not want, Lord, for we are yours,
 and you have given us what we need.
 You have given us all we need. **Amen.**

Brian Draper, on the Christian Aid website

Loving Father,
 in the face of Jesus Christ
 your light and glory have blazed forth.
 Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends
 the life of your Son and your love for all.
 Strengthen me as a witness to that love
 as I pledge to pray for them,
 for your name's sake. **Amen.** *Thy Kingdom Come*

Dear God, help us to appreciate your creation and hard
 work. Some of us need to be taught how to love and
 respect our birds, sea creatures and land animals.
 Please help us to care for animals around us as if they
 were our relatives. Lord hear us. **Amen.** *Caroline (age 10)*

Goodness is stronger than evil;
 Love is stronger than hate;
 Light is stronger than darkness;
 Life is stronger than death;
 Victory is our through Him who loves us. *Desmond Tutu*

You can... **Dorset Ride+Stride**

Ride+Stride is a sponsored event in which people
 walk or cycle or horse-ride between churches,
 exploring our wonderful Dorset countryside and
 enjoying the hospitality of our church communities.

Ride+Stride started in 1991 and raises funds for the
 Dorset Historic Churches Trust, which helps
 churches and chapels of all Christian denominations
 meet the increasing costs of maintenance,
 restoration and improvement of facilities. They have
 given Sixpenny Handley significant help over the
 years. **www.rideandstrideuk.org**

Half of the money raised is returned directly to your
 nominated church and the other half is used to fund
 Dorset Historic Churches' grant programme. Visiting
 Dorset's beautiful churches on foot, by bicycle or on
 horseback provides a fun day out, suitable for
 children, families and friends.

Saturday September 9th

Your Guide to... **SURVIVING CHURCH**

After many years, I've finally discovered the key to a healthy
 church-going experience: avoiding people. Not all people of
 course, many of them are quite nice. But there are certain
 types of people you won't see me hanging around on Sunday
 morning. I know it may seem un-Christian, but we need
 survival skills. Avoiding awkward conversations and
 distractions before, during, and after services has revitalized
 my whole church life. This secret is something I've held very
 close to my heart. Now, out of sheer kindness, I'm going to
 share with you my no-fail strategy on *being safe in church*.
 Here are the five Christians you don't want to sit next to on a
 Sunday morning.

1. The Sneezer: These aren't the people who sneeze into their
 handkerchiefs. I'm talking the sneeze-directly-into-their-hand-
 and-then-wipe-all-over-their-palms people. The Sneezer takes
 many forms: A mum with allergies, an old man with a common
 cold, or a child with nose so runny it's nicknamed "Old
 Faithful." While you're safe from most airborne germs, you
 aren't safe when it comes to sharing the Peace. Make sure you
 put enough people in between you and The Sneezer to fill the
 two minutes. It's a good idea to have a bottle of hand sanitizer,
 just in case.

2. The Opera Singer: The Opera Singer has so much vibrato
 that there's a rumour she's the real reason the walls of Jericho
 came tumbling down. The great news is that God thinks this
 worship is beautiful. The bad news is you don't. It can be quite
 a distraction. You can sit as close as you'd like to the person,
 as long as it's not directly in front of them. I recommend a safe
 zone of three seats to their left or right.

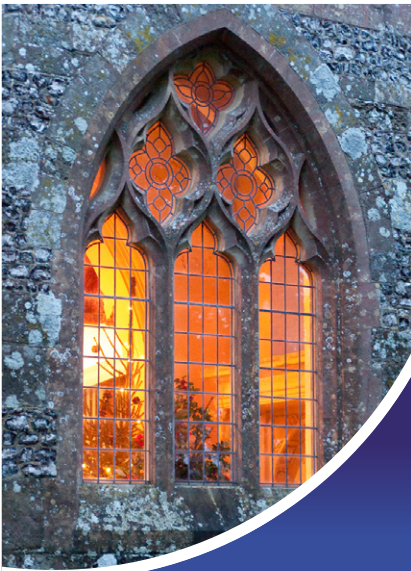
3. The Wannabe In-Laws: Steady job? *Tick!* Love the Lord?
Tick! No wedding ring? *Jackpot!* You're a prime target for
 parents with grown, unmarried children. There is nothing they
 want more than their children married off (especially if they
 haven't left home yet). Like a shark's ability to smell blood,
 Wannabe-In-Laws can smell single people a mile away. It is
 best to stay out of their line of sight and prepare an exit
 strategy. For instance, have plans to meet your
 totally-real-and-not-made-up boyfriend's family for lunch
 right after church.

4. The Walking Can of Body Spray: Maybe these people don't
 have sensitive noses, or they believe that there can't be too
 much of a good thing. While you can approach these people
 for a quick 'hello', sitting near such toxic fumes can lead to a
 headache all the way to Monday. Your buffer radius should be
 one chair for every squirt of body spray. Five squirts? Sit five
 chairs away. Taking a step outside for fresh air will help too.

5. The Salesman: Under the guise of fellowship, The
 Salesman is constantly looking to sell you their latest scheme.
 Diet supplements, knife sets, and endless amount of
 Tupperware await you if you get caught. Remember; the only
 acceptable Salesman is a Scout carrying a traybake. You
 should constantly be alert, especially during post-service
 coffee. The Salesman is swift and can have you paying up
 before you know it.

Now that is all cleared up, we can all safely enjoy coming to
 church through the summer and beyond.

From some other church website, with apologies



+ Bible Study Group

As we hope you see from *The Seeker*, the Bible is THE Book! Read it and understand more in good company on alternate Thursdays at 7.15pm. Details from Mike on 01725 552 720.

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 Post Office Coffee Shop on the first Monday of the month from about 11 o’clock for a coffee and chat with the vicar or curate.

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.

☪ Men’s Group – A beer and a chat to finish off the month at 7.30pm. Details from David Lockyer (552 492).

🌸 Mothers’ Union – Tea, company and a good talk, usually every second Thursday of the month, from 2.30pm. Details from Mary (552 041).

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary’s Sixpenny Handley		St Rumbold’s Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew
	9.30am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
Aug 6 th	HC	Evensong	HC	#
Aug 13 th	Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Aug 20 th	HC	Evensong	MP	#
Aug 27 th	Informal	HC	#	#
Sept 3 rd	HC	Evensong	HC	#
Sept 10 th	Morning Prayer	Evensong	#	HC
Sept 17 th	Harvest	Evensong	MP	#
Sept 24 th	Morning Prayer	#	#	6pm Harvest

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

Our Informal service is geared more towards families and includes activities for children.

Harvest Festivals

Looking ahead, make a date for our Harvest thanksgiving services – at Sixpenny Handley on Sunday 17th September at 9.30am, at St Andrew’s on Sunday 24th September at 6pm, and at Pentridge on Sunday 1st October at 11.15am. All of them are followed by refreshments – do come and celebrate the wonderful world around us, and stay for something to eat afterwards!



Did you know?

It costs over £40,000 each year just to keep our churches open and functioning. Remember, we get no funding from the government at all, so if you would like to keep the church near you, we need your help! Please think about giving regularly. There are different ways you can help. The easiest is a Standing Order, which gives regularly for you. Please talk to us if you are interested - and think about giftaid if you are a UK taxpayer so we get 25% extra at no cost to you. The Church is for everyone, so please contact the vicar if there is any way we may be able to help you.

August See side panel for key to symbols

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	31		

September See website for updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 ▼
3	4 *	5	6	7 T +	8	9 ▼
10	11	12	13 HC	14 T 🌸	15	16 ▼
17	18	19	20	21 T +	22	23 ▼
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