



# *The* **Seeker**

handleychurch.org.uk



**#5 2019**

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

## **Who's who?**

### **Vicar**

Revd Canon Richard Hancock  
The Vicarage  
Sixpenny Handley  
01725 552 182

### **Curates**

Rev Paul Skinner  
01725 552 785  
Rev Dr Michael Foster  
01258 830 764

### **Churchwardens**

*St Mary's with  
Gussage St Andrew*

Chris Stokes      552 672  
Sue Curtis        552 397

*St Rumbold's, Pentridge*

Mary Ferguson    552 222  
Jane King          552 231

### **Public footpath photo**

Oakley Lane, Sixpenny Handley

### **In full colour**

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



*You have made a  
wide path for my  
feet to keep them  
from slipping*

*Psalm 18 v 36*







**News items  
and articles welcome!**

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

**Thanks!**



### **Remember!**

If you would like to give your child a good start in life, talk to the vicar about a christening.

If you are getting married, you can get married in your local church if you live in the parish or have some other link.

And if a loved one dies, please talk to us about how the church may be able to help.

Contact the vicar for more information. We are here for you.



## DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER



Where did the summer go? The past couple of months since our last publication have flown by. As I sit in my study writing this article the choir are practicing harvest hymns and looking to the carol services in December. Our first summer as a family in Dorset and we have enjoyed every moment of it. As I drive around the county in my second role as Rural Field Officer it has been awe inspiring seeing the beauty around me.

Part of my work with the Diocese is helping to train curates who will shortly go out to become Vicars in their own parishes. In July we were privileged to have Rev Matt Levisohn spend two weeks in the benefice learning about rural parishes, mission and ministry. Matt is currently curate at St Francis Church a large lively church in Salisbury centre. Matt had not experienced rural ministry before this, but he enjoyed his time with us, and his preaching was well received by all. I enjoyed exploring with Matt how large urban churches and smaller rural churches can learn from each other and possibly support one another in their mission and outreach.

As Part of the Salisbury Diocese Rural Hope project, all curates in the third year of training have to spend time in a rural placement parish. This is to give them all a better idea of the challenges and joys of rural ministry, we hope it will lead to some of them looking seriously as becoming Country Parsons in the Diocese or the wider Church of England.

80% of churches in the Salisbury Diocese are in a rural setting and the total number of regular worshipers in the diocese is speared roughly 50/50 between urban and rural churches. This is why this the Church Commissioners have invested £1.27 million in the

Salisbury Diocese to help develop Rural Mission and Ministry. I'm very proud to be part of the Rural Hope Team undertaking this development project.

At its heart we are encouraging rural churches to look at new projects that reach out into the community they are situated in. The two fold purpose of the Village Church is to share the good news of Jesus Christ. That we are all God's children and loved by him unconditionally, Jesus offers us a way of life that brings wholeness and a sense that we belong to something greater than just the here and now, the promise of eternity in God's love. Secondly is service of others, following Jesus' commandment to love one another as he has loved us.

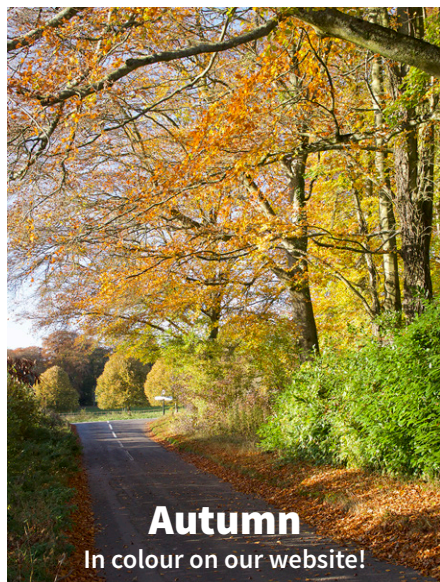


RENEWING  
**HOPE**  
THROUGH RURAL  
MINISTRY  
& MISSION

William Temple Archbishop of Canterbury in 1942-44 said "The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members." In other words we should not just be interested in those who come through the church door on Sunday but everyone in the community regardless of their own religious belief. Vicars in the Church of England are given the care of the whole community by the Bishop not just churchgoers and long may this last!

As part of this thinking St Mary's Handley has just launched the community café, "Magnifi-Café" which now runs on Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm incorporating Teddy Bears toddler group. We had our second opening today and both have been a great success with folk from the village. Good quality fresh coffee is served, tea and amazing hot chocolate, equally on a par with anything you would get at a high street café but it's only £1. Along with drinks we have a fabulous selection of snacks including muffins, toasted tea cakes and luxury bisects. Our ethos is to keep things reasonably priced so a weekly visit to the café with family and friends doesn't break the bank, but we make enough money to cover our costs buy stoke and upgrade equipment.

We hope later to be able to serve simple hot food such as bacon rolls, scramble eggs on toast and waffles but we first need to upgrade the electrics and provide proper hot water facilities. This is going to cost us around £2000 so we are looking at how we can fund this as church funds are limited. I'm exploring grants but if anyone know of possible funding or would like to help pleas get in touch. We have a great team running the café Sue one of our Church Wardens, Bobby and Jean and I'm grateful for their huge efforts in getting the project off the ground. We will be looking for extra volunteers so if you are interested let me know.



## Priestly duties

Many people often ask me what it's like to be a vicar and what do vicars actually do. The best answer to this was read out by the Bishop of Buckingham Rt Rev Dr Alan Wilson on Maundy Thursday at Oxford Cathedral:

What should a priest be? All things to all — male, female and genderless. What should a priest be? Reverent and relaxed vibrant in youth assured through the middle years divine sage when ageing.

What should a priest be? Accessible and incorruptible abstemious, yet full of celebration, informed, but not threateningly so, and far above the passing soufflé of fashion. What should a priest be? An authority on singleness Solomon-like on the labyrinth of human sexuality excellent with young marrieds, old marrieds, were marrieds, never marrieds, shouldn't have marrieds, those who live together, those who live apart, and those who don't live anywhere respectfully mindful of senior citizens and war veterans, familiar with the ravages of arthritis osteoporosis, post-natal depression, anorexia, whooping-cough and nits.

What should a priest be? All-round family person counsellor, but not officially because of the recent changes in legislation, teacher, expositor, confessor, entertainer, juggler, good with children and possibly sea-lions, empathetic towards pressure groups.

What should a priest be? On nodding terms with Freud, Jung, St John of the Cross, The Scott Report, the Rave Culture, The Internet, the Lottery, BSE, and Anthea Turner, pro-modern, fairly modern, post-modern, and, ideally, secondary-modern — if called to the inner city.

What should a priest be? Charismatic, if needs must, but quietly so, evangelical, and thoroughly meditative, mystical, but not new Age. Liberal, and so open to other voices, traditionalist, reformer and revolutionary and hopefully, not on medication unless for an old sporting injury.

Note to congregations: If your priest actually fulfils all of the above, and then enters the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing nothing but a shower-cap, a fez, and declares: 'I'm the King and Queen of Venus, and we shall now sing the next hymn in Latvian, take your partners, please.' — Let it pass. Like you I, they too sew the thin thread of humanity. Remember Jesus in the Garden — beside himself?

So, what does a priest do? Mostly stays awake at Deanery Synods tries not to annoy the Bishop too much visits hospices, administers comfort, conducts weddings, christenings, — not necessarily in that order, takes funerals consecrates the elderly to the grave buries children, and babies. Feels completely helpless beside the swaying family of a suicide.

What does a priest do? Tries to colour in God uses words to explain miracles which is like teaching a millipede to sing, but even more difficult.

What does a priest do? Answers the 'phone when sometimes they'd rather not occasionally errs and strays into tabloid titillation, prays for Her Majesty's Government What does a priest do? Tends the flock through time, oil and incense, would secretly like each PCC to commence with a mud-pie making contest; sometimes falls asleep when praying; yearns, like us, for heart-rushing deliverance. What does a priest do? Has rows with their family wants to inhale Heaven stares at bluebells attempts to convey the mad love of God would like to ice-skate with crocodiles and hear the roses when they pray.

How should a priest live? How should we live? As priests, transformed by The Priest that death prised open so that he could be our priest martyred, diaphanous and matchless priest. What should a priest be? What should a priest do? How should a priest live?

By Stewart Henderson, Limited Edition, p 18





### + 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

#### Men's Breakfast Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at St Mary's at 8.00 followed by breakfast at Hanlega's. Signup form at back of church or email; canonrick@icloud.com




#### MagnifiCafé


A weekly morning café in St Mary's Church on Thursday mornings from 9am–12pm. Perfect for those who have just dropped off children at school and fancy a coffee, natter as well as cake, toast and even scrambled eggs. Open to all.

#### **T** Teddy Bears

Teddy Bears will be part of Magnificafé so there will be things for those with toddlers to engage with and we plan to run a Café version of Alpha so people can discover more about the Christian faith today.

## New service pattern!

| SUNDAY SERVICES      | Gussage St Andrew<br>9.00am | St Mary's Handley<br>10.00am  | St Rumbold's Pentridge<br>11.15am | St Mary's Handley<br>6.00pm |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Harvest 6pm                 | Family Service   | Harvest Festival                  | HC                          |
| Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> | #                           | HC   | #                                 | HC                          |
| Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> | #                           |  Informal                       | MP                                | HC                          |
| Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> | Matins (MP)                 | HC   | #                                 | Evensong                    |
| Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | #                           | Harvest Festival   | HC                                | All Souls                   |
| Nov 10 <sup>th</sup> | #                           | <b>Remembrance Sunday 10:50</b>  |                                   | HC                          |
| Nov 17 <sup>th</sup> | #                           |  Informal                       | MP                                | HC                          |
| Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> | Matins (MP)                 | HC   | #                                 | Evensong                    |

**HC** Holy Communion   **MP** Morning Prayer   **#** No service    Breakfast 9.30

### Services at St Mary's now start at 10am

1st Sunday – Family Service

2nd and 4th Sundays – Holy Communion

3rd Sunday – Informal Service







# Church... Now with added Breakfast!

Join us early for our Informal Services at **9.20am** and enjoy breakfast with company!








### 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   | 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

See website for updates

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu  | Fri | Sat   |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|---|
|     |     |     |     |  | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 10  T | 8   | 9  |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 17  T | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 24  T | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  T | 29  | 30  |