



# The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



#2 2021

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

### Curate

Rev Paul Skinner  
01725 552 785

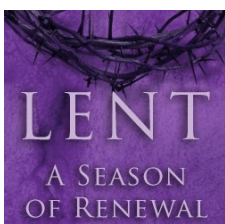
### Churchwardens

*St Mary's with*  
*Gussage St Andrew*

Sue Curtis 552 397

*St Rumbold's, Pentridge*

Mary Ferguson 552 222  
Jane King 552 231



Wednesday  
evenings  
7 — 8:30pm  
24<sup>th</sup> March  
to 31<sup>st</sup> April

## Lent online!

Join us over ZOOM

We will be exploring a range of topics looking at our pilgrim journey and how the Christian faith can help us on our way.



# EASTER...

## ...at Home

If last April you had told me that I would be planning for a second Easter Sunday under lockdown restrictions I think I would have laughed, but here we are. However, things are looking better. The roll out of the vaccine is progressing well case numbers are coming down and school have just gone back. Last April our churches were locked, and I celebrated Easter Eve in the church porch and Easter Sunday in the Vicarage Garden.

This year churches are open, but music is still not allowed and COVID restrictions means Easter services as we have known in the past will not be possible. As the saying goes when you get lemons make lemonade! This is what I have been doing with my other hat on as Rural Field Officer for Dorset working with colleagues from the Rural Hope Team to rethink or reboot Easter. Last week I led a webinar on how to do this so I want to share some ideas that we can use in our communities to celebrate Easter together in a fun way but being mindful of the restrictions we have.

Easter celebrations begin on **Palm Sunday** when we mark Jesus' entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. We won't be able to have our Palm Sunday procession, but it will be possible to collect palm cross for the church.

On **Good Friday** we are inviting people to join in a socially distanced prayer walk around Handley at 2 pm and over at Pentridge that will be an hours meditation in St Rumbold's from 2–3 pm. We are also encouraging young people or those young at heart to make **Easter Gardens** on a tray and bring them to church to be placed on the windowsills. There will be a **PRIZE** for the best one so remember to put your name and contact details on it.

As last year we are encouraging people to decorate Easter Eggs to hand on the cherry tree in Handley Churchyard during Holy Week running up to Easter Sunday.

On Easter Eve I hope our communities will join in with the **Service of Light** at 8 pm. The idea is that this can be done at home with the family or with a neighbour over the garden fence. You'll

find a copy of the short service

here in the seeker as well as some instructions on how to make your own Easter Candle. This will be coordinated with a small service up at Handley church where the church's Easter Candle will be lit.

This will also be live streamed on Facebook. We hope people will find a special place to put their

Easter light hopefully in a window so people in the street can see it. You don't have to use a real candle but can use one of the LED candles readily available from online retailers or garden centres. We hope you'll keep these candles lit in the evening for the next 50 days until Whitsun or Pentecost Sunday on the 23rd May. This will symbolise not only the Resurrection or Jesus but also moving from the darkness of the past year with the COVID pandemic looking forward to new hope. I hope you can join in all the fun and celebrations of Easter – **Blessings Canon Richard Hancock**



## Keep the EASTER FLAME alive in your HOME

By Michelle DiFranco

I love candles. They symbolize life, love and celebration. And I love burning them in my home, but I've had to resort to enjoying them only when the boys are out of the house. Between my husband being afraid of the house burning down, and my son playing with the wax like it is Silly Putty, the candles just don't stay lit. So, their illumination is very short-lived in my house.

Thankfully, I get plenty of candle in church. Christians know that, like Christmas, Easter is not just a day, but an entire season that lasts 50 days until Pentecost. To visually mark this, a very large paschal candle (or Easter candle) often sits near the altar for the season of Easter.

So what is a paschal candle? In short, the paschal candle is lighted for the first time on the evening of the Easter Vigil, when people coming into the Church are baptized. The vigil begins in darkness; a fire, which has been blessed outside the church, is used to light the paschal candle. The candle, symbolizing the resurrection and light of Christ, is carried in procession into the church, dispelling the darkness. The candle is then blessed. The five grains of incense on the candle represent the five wounds of Jesus, and the alpha and the omega indicate Christ is the beginning and end. The numbers within each corner of the cross are for the current year.

The candle is lit at each service throughout the paschal season until Ascension Thursday (before Pentecost Sunday). After the Easter season ends, it is moved from the sanctuary to the baptismal font, and is only lit at baptisms and funerals.

The meaning and symbolism are quite beautiful and have inspired me to make a smaller version for my home. The question is, will it stay lit? Well, I don't think my "Smokey the Bear" husband would be as eager to extinguish a paschal candle since that would feel, well, sacrilegious to him. So I went ahead and bought the supplies and created a candle representative of what we would see in a church. I encourage you to make one, too. Whether you light it before prayer or at dinnertime, it's a simple and beautiful way to enhance the celebration of the Easter season in your own home.

### DIY Paschal Candle:

- 1 large, white pillar candle
- Permanent markers
- Letter and number stencils
- Ruler and scissors
- Tissue and wax paper
- 5 metal brads (or real cloves)
- Hair dryer and oven mitt

Place a piece of paper underneath your design to prevent marker ink from bleeding onto the surface of your table. Using a ruler, draw a cross in the middle of the tissue paper.

Using the letter and number stencils, create the Alpha and Omega above and below the cross, leaving some space for the brads. For 'Omega', you can use part of the letter "O" stencil and add two dashes to the bottom (as shown). Add the numbers (for 2021) within the four corners of the cross (as shown).

You can also print your own letters and numbers and simply trace them. Trim the excess paper.

Place the tissue paper design in the middle of the pillar candle. Wrap the



wax paper directly over the tissue paper design and hold it tightly in back. Make sure the wax paper is large enough to cover the candle. The heat from the hair dryer can get hot, so you may want to use an oven mitt while holding the candle. Using a hair dryer, heat the design until it appears to have transferred (it will look a bit darker). This takes about 30-60 seconds. Carefully remove the wax paper. Using the tip of a nail, make a small slit/hole on each end of the cross and in the middle to mark where the brads will go. Carefully push brads into the candle.

### Church Services for April and May

We are regularly reviewing what is possible and safe with regard to public worship. It is hoped that with the effect of the lock down and the role out of the COVID vaccine that it will be possible to resume public worship in the coming months. However things can change unexpectedly and if it is not safe to hold public worship services we will continue online at 10am on Sundays. However both St Mary's Handley and St Rumbold's Pentridge remain open for private prayer and reflection.

#### April and Holy Week

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> — Good Friday** 2–3 pm Prayer Walk

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> — Service of Light**  
7 pm online and outside St Mary's

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> — Easter Sunday**  
9 am Said HC St Andrew's, Gussage [TBC]  
10 am Said HC St Mary's and online  
11 am Said HC St Rumbold's

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
10 am ZOOM Breakfast Church

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
10 am Said HC BCP, St Rumbold's

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> — St George's Day Service**  
10 am Online/ZOOM with Scout virtual camp

#### May

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
10 am Holy Communion, St Rumbold's

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
10 am ZOOM Breakfast Church

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
10 am Matins, St Rumbold's

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> — Pentecost Sunday**  
10 am Said Holy Communion, St Mary's

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
10 am Benefice Service TBC (possibly an outdoor service)



Please join us  
**LIVE DAILY 10 am  
BROADCASTS**

on Facebook or  
watch later on YouTube  
with this link:

[www.facebook.com/  
St-Marys-Church-  
Sixpenny-Handley-  
558498850977107](https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Sixpenny-Handley-558498850977107)



# Service of Light

7 pm Saturday 3rd April

At Church or Home on  
Easter Eve at dusk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever in God.

*If you have access to a garden a new fire may be kindled in the garden in a brazier.*

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All Amen.*

*The Easter Candle may be marked here. A child or young person can be asked to place the markings (X)*

Christ yesterday and today **X**  
the beginning and the end **X**  
Alpha and Omega **X**  
all time belongs to him, and all ages, **X**  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and forever. **X**  
*All Amen.*

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

*All Amen.*

*The leader or young person lights the Easter Candle, saying*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*If in the garden the candle is taken into the house saying. Or place the candle in the prayer corner in your home. Then individuals light their own candles or use the light on your mobile phone*

The light of Christ.

*All Thanks be to God.*

## The EXSULTET

*People say together*

Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute your king in glorious symphony!

Sing choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past; the day of life is here!

Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people shout the long Amen!

*An individual or leader may say the following or it can be divided up for different people to say*

### 1st Person

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise**

It is indeed right  
that with full hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise you, the unseen God,  
the Father Almighty,  
and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who has ransomed us by his death,  
and paid for us the price of Adam's sin.

### 2nd Person

For this is the Passover of that true Lamb of God,  
by whose blood the homes of all the faithful  
are hallowed and protected.

This is the night when of old you saved  
our fathers, delivering the people of Israel from  
their slavery, and leading them dry-shod through the sea.

### 3rd Person

This is the night when Jesus Christ  
vanquished hell  
and rose triumphant from the grave.  
This is the night when all who believe in him are  
freed from sin  
and restored to grace and holiness.  
Most blessed of all nights,  
when wickedness is put to flight  
and sin is washed away,  
lost innocence regained,  
and mourning turned to joy.  
Night truly blessed,  
when heaven is wedded to earth  
and all creation reconciled to God!

### 4th Person

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of  
this night, accept our sacrifice of praise,  
your Church's solemn offering;  
and grant that this Easter candle  
may make our darkness light;  
for Christ the Morning Star has risen,  
never again to set,  
and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



*Practical instructions specific to the Liturgy of light can be downloaded from our website by visiting; [www.handleychurch.org.uk/services.html](http://www.handleychurch.org.uk/services.html)*



## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:25-28 [See Reading Sheet]

<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

<sup>26</sup> A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. <sup>28</sup> Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Gloria in Excelsis

*People may ring a bell or cymbals or bells on a mobile phone while they say the gloria together.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

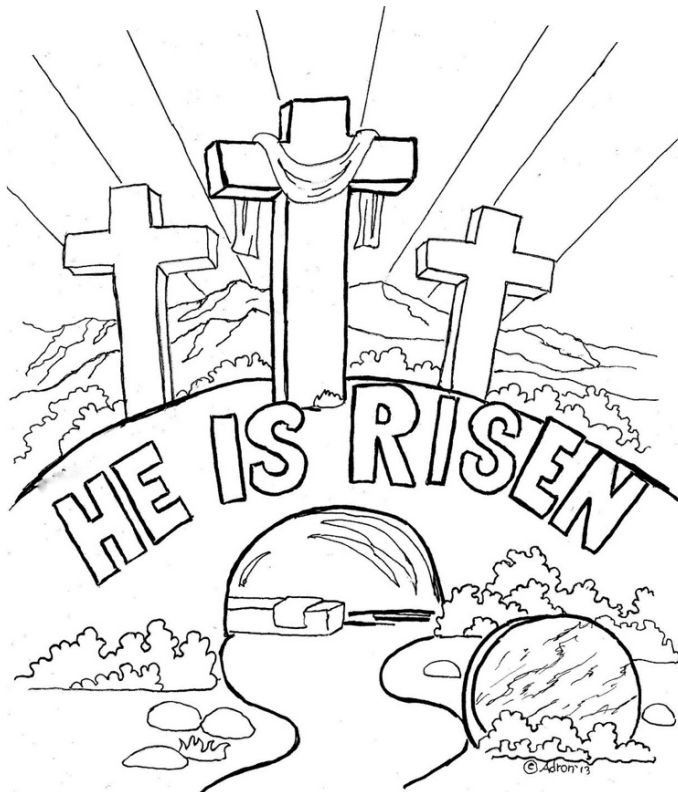
with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

**Prayer** [Invite a person to read this prayer]

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.



**The Gospel** [All Stand]

John 20:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Alleluia! Christ is risen  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia**

*People may now celebrate  
with a drink; some chocolate  
or special treat. Alleluia!*