



The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



#4 2021

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

Revd Canon Richard Hancock
The Vicarage
Sixpenny Handley
01725 552 182

Magnifi-café

Re-opens 2nd September
Thursdays 9am-12pm
including Teddy Bears

Toddler
Group



St Mary's

Tea,
Fresh Coffee,
Hot Chocolate,
Tea Cakes,
Muffins, & Snacks

Friends Scheme for St Mary's Handley and St Andrew's Gussage to launch this September

Our communities of Handley and Gussage St Andrew are blessed with many assets that make it such a wonderful place in which to live. Our two churches have been at the heart of village life for centuries. They have been the places where we have marked key moments in our lives such as birth, marriage and death as well as community gatherings like Remembrance, Harvest and Christmas. They are also places of sanctuary and stillness in our often busy lives. Life would be much poorer without these beautiful buildings at the heart of our communities.

Our two churches costs over £40,000 per annum to run, of this around £14,000 is purely to maintain and repair our two buildings in order to preserve them for future generations. As generations before us have maintained these buildings for our benefit it is now beholden to us to ensure that they remain in good repair for our descendants. Alas there is no public money granted and as the Church of England has never funded the upkeep of Parish Churches all costs of maintenance and operation fall to the congregation and a few who give generously to keep such fine buildings in good condition. This group of people has dwindled over the years and it can now no longer manage the financial responsibility on its own.

I am appealing to all of you who live in our villages for your support in meeting the costs of the fabric of our churches, whether you wish to preserve it as a place of worship, use it for the occasional offices of Baptism, Marriage or Funerals or just enjoy it as a wonderful memorial to our history and a centrepiece in our community. I realize that these are difficult financial times for all of us and the parish church is no exception as we have a projected short fall of over £12,000 for the coming financial year.

The Friends Scheme is specifically designed for those who wish to support the fabric, buildings and heritage of our two churches. Monies raised from this scheme will only be used to maintain the buildings, no part of it will go towards the mission or religious aspects of the church, which is the responsibility of the worshipping congregation. However I hope we all see that we have a responsibility to maintain the heritage of our communities.

In September everyone will receive a letter and pamphlet about the Friends Scheme inviting them to make a small regular contribution to the maintenance and heritage of these buildings. These donations will also be able to be Gift Aided if you are a UK TAX payer which means the Government through HMRC will add an additional 20% to your donation.

I hope everyone will seriously consider becoming a Friend in order to secure the future of our two churches for generations to come.

Blessings, Canon Richard Hancock

DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON



Normally this time of year I am opening my diary and looking ahead to the final quarter of the year to see, what services need to be planned for, Harvest, Advent and Christmas. I think about what events need to be organised and what plans will I have for family and friends.

Like many of you, my diary is looking very bare. The things that I have been used to booking in time after time, year after year are either not there or all have question marks next to them. Back in 2019 the idea that Christmas and Easter would in effect be cancelled, church services limited and family gatherings banned, seemed to be a thing of science fiction movies. Yet for most of us this has become our day to day reality. How many of us were hoping to get away on a cheap holiday to the sun? Only to find that the UK or our destination are on a no travel list or that the logistics of testing and quarantine have become so complicated and expensive that it's just not possible.

I always like to think of myself as a free spirit and often hate being constrained by my diary but now when I open it and see much loved events cancelled or a raft of ZOOM meetings my heart sinks. We all like things to look forward too. Even though at the time this goes to print all legal COVID restrictions will have gone life will be far from normal. We face a summer of soaring case rates, hopefully kept in check by the vaccine and many of us will find ourselves, our friends or loved ones having to self-isolate.

This means we need a different way of living and thinking. Jesus knew that the life of his disciples could not be easily planned out in a diary. The political and religious turmoil of his day made planning ahead nigh on impossible. Instead he taught them not to worry and see each day as a gift and to seize the opportunity and make each moment count.

Mathew 6.34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Though this way of living can prove havoc for your Ocado food orders it can actually be a really freeing and enlightening way to live. Many people (those who weren't seriously ill or with ill relatives) actually said they enjoyed the first lockdown. The diary

and appointments had no meaning and time almost irrelevant, instead we are gauging the day by when we wanted to eat or sun rise and sun set. Many people also reported appreciating the simple things in life and were surprised at what they didn't miss, (human company being the exception).

COVID is going to be with us for a long time in some shape or form and it seems as if we will have to get used to plans to be cancelled and restrictions being imposed on us. However, if we can learn to live for today to see the blessings that are often right in front of our noses, we may actually find a new way of living, better than the rat race we had before.

Whatever you are able to do in August, try and make each day count and find something to celebrate rather than worry about, for tomorrow will have enough worries of its own.

Blessings,
Canon Richard Hancock.



**VICAR'S WEEKLY
VLOG
ON WEDNESDAYS**



SUNDAY SERVICES – Handley with Tollard Royal Group

	Aug 1 st	Aug 8 th	Aug 15 th	Aug 22 nd	Aug 29 th	Sept 5 th	Sept 12 th	Sept 19 th	Sept 26 th
Chettle	#	10:30am MW	#	9:00am HC	#	#	10:30am MW	#	9:00am HC
Farnham	10:30am FS	#	6:00pm HC	#	#	10:30am FS	#	6:00pm HC	#
Gussage	#	9:00am HC	#	9:00am Matins	#	#	9:00am HC	#	9:00am Matins
Pentridge	11:15am Matins	#	11:15am HC	#	#	11:15am Matins	#	11:15am HC	#
Tollard Royal	#	11:15am HC	#	6:00pm Eve Song	10:30am Benefice	#	11:15am HC	#	6:00pm Eve Song
Sixpenny Handley	10:00am FS 6:00pm HC	10:00am HC	9:20 ☺ 10:00 Inf	10:00am HC	#	10:00am FS 6:00pm HC	10:00am HC	9:20 ☺ 10:00 Inf	10:00am Harvest

No service **FS** Family Service **HC** Holy Communion **MW** Morning Worship **Inf** Informal Worship ☺ Breakfast Church