



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

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#5 2021

6dH Film Society

2nd Friday of every Month at 8pm

Screen 1: **Greatest Showman** [PG]

Are you a film buff or would just like a good night out? Then come and join the new 6dH film Soc. St Mary's church has all the equipment and licenses to show films on our large drop-down screen. Doors open at 7:30pm.

We hope this will become a regular fun feature of village life. The Soc will work on a donation's basis of £5 per adult and £2:50 for children.

Refreshments will be available, but people can bring their own alcoholic beverages and a small corkage and glass fee will be charged. All funds will go towards St Mary's though we will also have special charity nights for other local organisations. You might also want to bring a cushion!

*[Please note showings will be dependent on COVID regulations at the time which can change. We ask people with any symptoms not to attend]

MAGNIFICAFÉ – Every Thursday 9-12am in St Mary's

It's lovely to have a break from the four walls of home post lockdown and the ideal place to go is to St Mary's Church on a Thursday morning where there's a warm welcome and like-minded people who will be there for the same reasons – decent chat over a late breakfast and a cuppa. There's lots of goodwill and laughter. It is also a good place for people come in groups to have breakfast or early lunch meetings. Children are welcome there is a play area and reasonably priced snacks. Once a week, every Thursday from now on, the Café in the Church will be open again from 9am to 12 noon. Why not give it a try next time you are out and about.

Invitation to an Open Evening, 7pm Friday 15th October

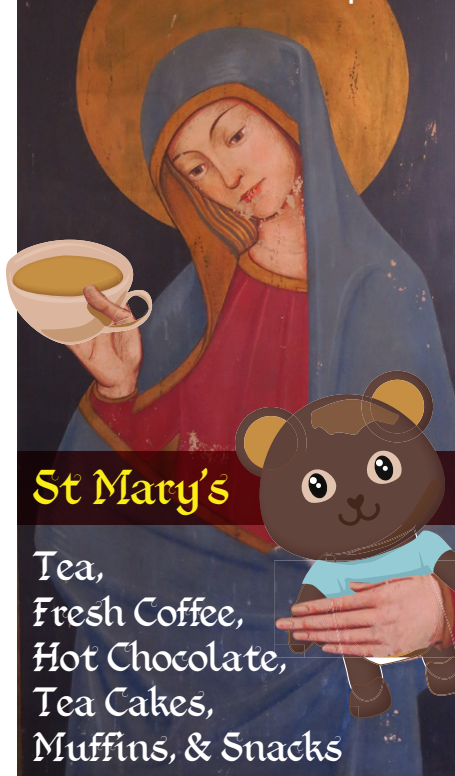
— from the *Friends Group for St Mary's Handley and St Andrew's Gussage*. If you would like to know more about the scheme, then please come and join us for a glass of wine and presentation at St Mary's Handley on Friday 15th October 7pm. We will be happy to answer any questions and explain how the scheme will operate.

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 centenaries. 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, both now and in the future. Help us keep them for you.

Magnifi-café

THURSDAYS 9am–12pm

including *Teddy Bears*
Toddler Group



St Mary's

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

“Speak to us of Children”

DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON

As the new school term and academic year begin, we are all hoping that our children’s education will not be further affected. Over the past eighteen months parents have had to become home educators while often juggling the home office at the same time. Despite all this thanks to huge efforts by everyone our children got their results and have been able to move onto the next stage in their education.

A couple of weeks ago social media was full of photographs of children in their new school uniforms, ready for that important first day at school. Kate and I remember these days well and the tears that were shed at the time. I’m sorry to say to younger parents that it doesn’t get any easier. We are on the final stage of the journey for both our son’s Alex and Ben. Alex has finished his university education and training for the theatre and yesterday I drove him to his new home in London to begin his career. Ben will begin university in Bristol next week and I know as we drive home Kate, and I will shed a tear as we did when we saw them walk into their primary school all those years ago. The vicarage will seem strangely quite with both boys gone. However, I am assured by parents who have already

walk this road not to worry as they’ll be back before you know it!

All of this reminds me of the writings of Kahlil Gibran in his book *The Prophet*. Kahlil was a Maronite Christian brought up in Lebanon. Kate and I were given a copy of this on our wedding day. I have always remembered what he said about children.

Letting go is probably the most difficult part of parenthood and it arrives all too quickly and you wonder if you have managed to keep the bow straight and true despite all that life throws at us.

Kate and I feel like we are starting the first day of school, as a new chapter opens in the lives of our children, so a new one begins for us, trying to remember what we did together before the kids turned up.

However just because the children are gone doesn’t mean you can’t play a part in the lives of the next generation. We are blessed at Handley to have a fantastic First School, Little Pennies, and 1st Woodcutts Scouts. All of these need help from people to ensure the best futures for our young people. Becoming a School Governor, Reading Assistant or Scout Leader are ways to help invest in the future of our young people in this village.

In September we had a big celebration of all that 1st Woodcutts have achieved. First and foremost was the recognition of Skip “John Curtis” being presented with 60 year’s service certificate. Skip Skip Rob Easton got his 20 years certificate. The largest number of leaders for any troop all received their Wood Badge and it was a real honour to receive them at the same time as my youngest son Ben. Most importantly many of our young people received various awards including several Gold Badges. More can be read about this elsewhere in the *Downsman*. I have been involved with working with young people since I was 18. I met Kate who was a fellow assist leader at a youth camp, and it has been very much a part of our lives. Working with young people is a huge privilege, not only does it help keep you young at heart because you see life through their perspective, but you know you are helping to invest for the future. It’s also great to see the cooperation in a village between organisations such as the Scouts, School and Church working to support and encourage our young people. If you would like to volunteer, then speak to one of these groups and help fly the arrows of the future.

Kahlil Gibran in his book The Prophet:
 And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,
 Speak to us of Children. And he said:
 Your children are not your children.
 They are the sons and daughters of Life’s longing for itself.
 They come through you but not from you,
 And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
 You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
 For they have their own thoughts.
 You may house their bodies but not their souls,

*For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
 which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
 You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
 For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.
 You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
 The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you
 with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.
 Let your bending in the archer’s hand be for gladness;
 For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is
 stable.*

Blessings, Canon Richard Hancock – AKA Rick the Vic!

SUNDAY SERVICES									
	Oct 3 rd	Oct 10 th	Oct 17 th	Oct 24 th	Oct 31 st	Nov 7 th	Nov 14 th	Nov 21 th	Nov 28 th
Gussage	#	10:00am Harvest	#	9:00am Matins	#	#	<i>Join with Handley</i>	#	9:00am Matins
Pentridge	11:15am Matins	#	11:15am HC	#	#	11:15am Matins	10:50am Rem	11:15am Baptism	#
Sixpenny Handley	10:00am FS 6:00pm HC	<i>Join with Gussage</i>	9:20 ☉ 10:00 Inf	10:00am HC	Group Service HC	10:00am FS 6pm All Souls	10:50am Rem	9:20 ☉ 10:00 Inf	10:00am HC

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