



The Seeker

June ~ July

2008

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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Find out more inside...



The Vicar Writes



Dear Friends

A young man once asked God how long a million years was to him. God replied, 'A million years to me is just like a second to you.' The young man then asked God what a million pounds was to him. God replied, 'A million pounds to me is just like a single penny to you.' Then the young man got his courage up and asked, 'God, can I have just one of your pennies?' God smiled and replied, 'Certainly my son, just wait a second.'

Sometimes we have to wait for the good things in life. Sometimes they come much quicker than we expect. I would like to thank everyone who has responded to our 50K Challenge at Sixpenny Handley and Gussage St Andrew. If you haven't responded yet we hope you will give careful thought to what you can do. In this edition of The Seeker I explain something of the reason for the Challenge: There is a fuller explanation in St Mary's Church and on the website, and there will be constant updates as we move on.

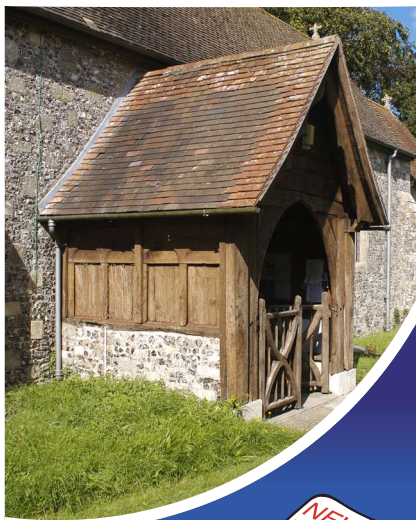
And talking of The Seeker, I would like to thank Mark Wolstenholme for his work on the redesign. A colour version (and a lot more besides) is available on the website – have a look! If you think of anything else that could be included in these pages, please talk to us. The new-look 'Seeker' is just one sign that things are moving forward. There are also an increasing number of events over the summer in and around the village and the church. The role of the church in this place is twofold, to serve the village and to bring the village to God. The church building is a solid, constant reminder of God's presence and is open all day, every day. Please come in to enjoy the quiet and reflect. However, the building is also used a lot and could be used more. Like any building it always needs maintenance and development. But we are not aiming to do this instead of anything else. We still need to show our practical concern for those in need locally and further afield, and we still need to pay our way.

We are also hoping to run an Alpha Course in the autumn. Look out for more information soon. But if we really want to have the church that we want to have, we need to raise money. We can afford it if we want. We raised the equivalent amount of money in 1830. We can do it again. The 50K Challenge does not (yet) have a closing date, but we hope to have all the work of the vision completed in the next three years or so.

At Pentridge I must thank people for all their hard work on the churchyard. The path and railings from the lane now makes access to the church much easier, so I am pleased to invite you to the Quiet Day on Saturday 19th July from 11.00am to 3.00pm as well as the Barbeque on Saturday 2nd August.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

www.handleychurch.org.uk

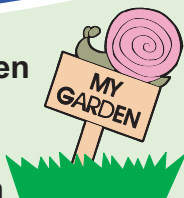


**News for the
next Seeker to
Maureen Swan
(552561)**



**A full colour version of
The Seeker can be
downloaded from our
website!**

**Gardens Open
Sunday
8th June
2.00–6.00pm**



CHALK COTTAGE & WAYSIDE

These two gardens are situated in Deanland, north of Sixpenny Handley on a small lane off the road to Bowerchalke.

Chalk Cottage is a colourful 1/3 acre southwest-sloping old-fashioned cottage garden overlooking fields and woods. There is an abundance of annuals, perennials, roses and shrubs, amongst trees covered with scented ramblers. There is a wild flower area, places to sit, two 'rescue' tawny owls to see, many plants for sale, as well as homemade teas.

Wayside has a small country garden planted with herbaceous perennials, old roses and clematis. There is a small pond, water feature and many planted containers.

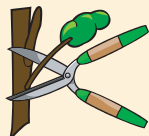
£3.00 (children, half price) covers entry to both gardens, with proceeds to be split between the Handley 50K Challenge and Salisbury Hospice.

PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS

Susan Symes entertained everyone with a very interesting talk and exhibition on buttons on 20th April. Cream tea concluded the enjoyable afternoon which raised over £165 for church funds. Many thanks to all who contributed.

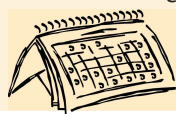


A former Pentridge resident Kathleen Newman, who lived with her family at Remap (now Redwings), died in March. Her funeral was held in St Rumbold's on 31st March. Our condolences go to her son Mark and family.



The latest churchyard working party was held on 26th April. Lots of people turned out to help and sterling work was done – many thanks to all.

Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival – this spectacular event celebrating the cathedral's 750 years will take place between 17-21 June. Sue Taylor, Margaret Quinn, Judith Gillespie Smith & Iris David are all contributing by putting their flower arranging skills to the fore.



Date for your diary – the Pentridge BBQ will be held on 2nd August –more details to follow.

You're Welcome!

Join us during June and July for a warm welcome at our church services.

Sixpenny Handley

Every Sunday
– 9.30am (Traditional)
– 11.00am (Informal)
– 6.00pm (Traditional)

There is coffee between the morning services.

Holy Communion is also held on Wednesday 4th June and 2nd July at 11.30am.

If you have difficulty getting to Church, please ring Paul Skinner on 01725 552785 and we should be able to arrange transport.

Pentridge

There is a service at 11.15am on the following Sundays; June 1st, 15th and 29th, July 6th and 20th.

Gussage St Andrew

There is a service at 9.30am on the following Sundays; June 8th, 22nd, July 13th and 27th.

Encore!

Last year many people enjoyed the Encore Singers from Dorchester, under the direction of our own Margaret Durrant and accompanied by Mary Macleod. They are coming again, to sing a completely new programme, on Saturday 28th June at 7.30pm. This perfect summer's evening will include strawberries and cream and a glass of Pimms on the vicarage lawn.



King of Kings Kids' Club

Saturday June 28th

At our next 3KC we shall be thinking about fish and fishermen, from five loaves and two fishes to becoming fishers of men, as well as having a lot of fun - so splash out and come along! Don't miss out – ring Maureen on 01725 552492 to book.

Over 2 million people in the UK and 11 million worldwide have now attended an Alpha course, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. This autumn we hope to run the Alpha Course at Sixpenny Handley – a chance to revisit the basics and ask all those difficult questions. Watch out for more details later.



It is now some 20 months since Margaret and I came here. In that time I have been grateful for all the dedicated hard work by many, many people – far too many people to name. We are seeing exciting things happen. One of the privileges of my position is having time to pray and reflect and talk and listen, and one of my roles is to try to pull ideas together. I am talking about vision – God’s vision – for this place.

The Church Council has already talked and considered much, and out of this has come the change in the service pattern and the development of weekday activities. We have also spent many hours discussing the way ahead for practical issues such as bringing water and mains drainage into the church, installing a toilet, and improving the heating and sound systems. All these are part of the whole vision. We cannot separate worship, theology, pastoral and social concern and practical issues. They come as a package. And our vision is incomplete until we turn our talking into action. I want to see our longstanding hopes and dreams become reality. And I want us to start straight away.

We have used the old font for several baptisms lately. The congregation was able to gather round closely and it was a very special and intimate welcoming into the church family. However, our beautiful old font is tucked away in the

cold tower. Traditionally and symbolically the font in Anglican churches is near the door – it is all about entry into the church. At some stage our font has been moved to its current position. This set me thinking about the

St Mary’s, Sixpenny Handley

1. FONT – bring it out of the tower and site it nearer to the main door and improve the welcome area.
2. TOILET and STORAGE – use the tower area for improving our facilities.
3. An updated SOUND and VISION SYSTEM, one which is flexible and portable.
4. Improve the KITCHEN area for easier use between the services for coffee and as a facility during other times.
5. An effective HEATING system! One that costs less and reduces our carbon footprint.
6. Finally, a big CLEAN and REDECORATION of the inside of the church.

font and that area. We have also talked at great length about where we might site a toilet. Maybe our ‘Welcome’ area could be more welcoming. This led me to look around St Mary’s again – how beautiful it is, how flexible it is for

different forms of worship, how much space and light there is. It is part of our heritage, and it is also alive and vibrant. Put all these together and you can see that the 50K Challenge will fund a coordinated set of improvements to our beautiful church (see centre panel).

I know this is a lot, but remember we have been talking around nearly all these ideas for many years. The advice we have been given has been very positive. However, every stage will need consultation with the Diocese and maybe permission from conservation agencies. If any or all of these plans are adopted we are looking at a timed scheme – perhaps phased over three years. We already have two project managers working together to oversee, co-ordinate and push forward the whole plan. This is a very exciting opportunity.

There is a more detailed explanation of our ideas in the church and on the website. There will soon be a notice board in the church constantly updated as we move forward. Please have a look, pray about it and pass on your ideas and suggestions. We have to balance the fact that we are the living Body of Christ, the people of God, with the fact that we worship in a beautiful old building, which is also part of our heritage. This does not mean that we stand still! I believe God has exciting plans for His Church in this place.

God’s Sheepdog



In speaking about money, I have referred to it as being like God’s sheepdog, snapping at our heels until we turn in the right direction. Like it or not, we are faced with decisions about money – how much to give, save and spend, decisions about lifestyle, homes, credit and debt. All of these decisions demonstrate the values that are important to us.

Joyful, generous giving as a priority from our income can be a clear demonstration of faith and

commitment. Major decisions such as cars, holidays and homes, to the products we buy in the supermarket, all reveal something about our values and principles. Our motivation in saving, and how we approach issues of credit and debt are faith issues just as much as our giving.

The Gospels are full of teaching that relates to issues of money, wealth and possessions; teaching which we are challenged to apply to our day-to-day decisions about money. For all we have comes from God. Our money, God’s sheepdog, will continue to snap at our heels until we place our homes, our time, our gifts and our money under the direction of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ

Adapted from ‘The Money Revolution’ by the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Gussage St Andrew

The vision for Gussage St Andrew is to find out as much as we can about the wall paintings and how to preserve them and this beautiful gem of a church. The electric system needs attention, but there are now Bibles in the pews and new hangings, frontal and altar rail kneelers. We hope to get some lanterns outside for when we have evening services – and offer our thanks to the farm for their work on improving the path.



Mel Durrant



The Seeker Calendar

2008

Soup Lunches

Our popular Soup Lunches are held on the third Wednesday of the month – June 18th and July 16th – from 12.30pm. Come along and meet friends (and bring friends). Have homemade soup and bread and tea or coffee for only £2. Fairly traded goods are also available to buy. Money from the Soup Lunches goes to the Trussell Trust, a Salisbury-based charity helping those in desperate need.

Midweek Holy Communion

Held at Sixpenny Handley on the first Wednesday of the month – June 4th, July 2nd and August 6th at 11.30am, followed by coffee. Please join us.

Come and meet friends

Bible Study – meeting on the third Wednesday to explore the most important book in the world. Phone Heather on 552308.

Fellowship Group – meeting every Tuesday evening for chat, laughter and biscuits (or once a month, a steak supper).

Men's Group – a beer and a chat on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David on 01725 552492

Mothers' Union – meet monthly on Thursday afternoons. Phone Jean on 552692 or Mary on 552041

Prayertime – the bedrock of the Church, meeting (virtually) every Monday at 7.30pm. Phone Paul on 552785

June 2008

See website for updates

Mon 2nd	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 4th	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
Sun 8th	2.00pm	Open Gardens, Deanland
Mon 9th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; <i>Resurrection, Hope Ever After</i>
Wed 11th	7.30pm	Traditional Service Leaders Meeting
Thur 12th		Mothers' Union, Quiet Day at Grove Farm
Mon 16th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage,
Tues 17th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; <i>Worship Story, the Christian Year</i>
Wed 18th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
	7.30pm	Bible Study
	7.30pm	Pentridge PCC
Thurs 19th	9.30am	LPA Meeting at the Vicarage
Sat 21st		Marriage of Paul Styles and Sarah Perrott
Mon 23rd	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage,
Tues 24th		Trip to The Windershall Life of Christ
Wed 25th	7.30pm	Informal Service Leaders Meeting
Thur 26th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sat 28th	10.00am	King of Kings Kids' Club, until 12.30pm
	7.30pm	Concert by The Encore Singers, Sixpenny Handley
Mon 30th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage

July 2008

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Tues 1st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 2nd	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
	7.30pm	Sixpenny Handley PCC meeting
Mon 7th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 8th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; <i>Creation, Hope in the Garden</i>
Thur 10th		Mothers' Union, Half Day Outing
Mon 14th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; <i>The Word of Worship</i>
Wed 16th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches at the Vicarage
	7.30pm	Bible Study
Thurs 17th		Meeting about Christmas Tree Festival, Sixpenny Handley church
Sat 19th	11.00am	Pentridge Quiet Day, until 3.00pm
Mon 21st	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 22nd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; <i>What is Communion?</i>
Mon 28th	7.30pm	Prayertime at the Vicarage
Tues 29th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Social
Thur 31st	7.30pm	Men's Group

August 2008

Sat 2nd	Pentridge Barbeque
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