



The Seeker

August ~ Sept

2008

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

Who's who?

Vicar

Rev Mel Durrant
The Vicarge,
Sixpenny Handley
01725 552608
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Curate

Rev Dr Michael Foster
The Rectory, Tarrant Hinton
01258 830764

Churchwardens

St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew

Mr David Salmons 552721
Mr Graham Smith 552149

St Rumbolds, Pentridge

Mrs Jane King 552231
Mrs Mary Ferguson 552222

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Margaret Durrant 552608
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
Janette Salmons 552721
Paul Skinner 552785
Carol Wyatt 552572

A good start made...



The Vicar Writes



Dear Friends

A little boy wanted £100 badly and prayed for a whole week, but nothing happened. Then he decided to write to God personally asking him for the money. When the Post Office received the letter just addressed to GOD, they decided (quite logically) to send it to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was so impressed, touched and amused that he asked his secretary to send the little boy £5 as a gift. The Prime Minister thought this would appear

to be a lot of money to a little boy. The boy was delighted with the £5 and sat down to write a thank you note. He wrote;

Dear God,

Thank you very much for sending the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it through 10 Downing Street and, as usual, they took most of it. Love, Joey

Of course we would all like Downing Street to take less of our money. (That is why we always ask you to giftaid it if you are a tax payer). However, if all regular churchgoers in the UK could give an additional 5% of their incomes to Christian work, then an additional thousand million pounds (one billion pounds) would be invested in God's economy every year. Just imagine what that could accomplish. For example, if the money was divided five ways...

Just one fifth of the money would enable our churches to fund 10,000 more full-time community workers to work with our children and young people, the old and the disadvantaged.

Two fifths might contribute to the fight to eradicate poverty and ill health in the world. This would generate funding exceeding the current income of Christian Aid, CAFOD, Oxfam, World Vision, CMS and Tearfund combined.

A further one fifth might provide the start-up capital for projects such as debt counselling schemes, community cafes, centres for refugees and asylum seekers and other projects. If the average investment required to start each project was £100,000, then 2,000 such projects could be funded each year.

The final fifth could be given to our churches. Without the need for penny pinching they could improve their resources and facilities and invest in local ministry and mission. We would change the world, and along the way we would probably reduce our consumption of things we don't really need, harm the environment less, reduce our levels of debt by living within our means and become more personally involved in the causes we support and discover the joy of generous giving.

I would like to thank you if you have given to the 50K Challenge already. At the time of writing we have raised nearly £10,000 to improve the facilities at St Mary's which I outlined in the last Downsman. This is in addition to all our usual giving. Together we can change the world.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel

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Any Pentridge and Woodyates news for The Seeker to Maureen Swan on 01725 552561

Any other news to the Vicarage, please.

FROM THE REGISTERS



Leonard Davis' funeral took place on 1st May

Archie Butcher was baptised on 11th May

Clint and Mari-Anne Davies were married on 24th May

Stella Hussey's funeral took place on 12th June

Paul and Sarah Styles were married on 21st June



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

PENTRIDGE and WOODYATES NEWS



The Pentridge Barbeque

It is time for the famous Pentridge Barbeque again – come along on Saturday 2nd August from 7.30pm. Great food, music and entertainment. Tickets £9 and £4 from Jane King and Mary Ferguson.

Salisbury Flower Festival

Three ladies from Pentridge (Iris, Sue and Judith) and one from Woodyates (Margaret) were among the more than 550 flower arrangers helping with Salisbury cathedral's 750th anniversary celebrations. They arranged one of the ten or more stands in the north aisle and were pleased to see their stand was included in the Daily Telegraph photograph of the team of around 30 workers in that part of the cathedral. We hope you were able to visit the festival and see the spectacular displays.



i about our... Healing Service

Our Healing Service is a shared time of quiet and reflection. It follows the normal pattern of the evening service, although slightly more informal in style, with music on CD and its own service sheet. During the service there is an invitation (but no pressure) to come forward for private and confidential prayer on any matter. It is not our prayer that heals. Our prayer is the connection with God. And it is God who, out of his love, can and will and does act. God wants us to be whole; the people he intends us to be. Healing does not depend on the 'quality' of our faith. It depends on God. We come together for our Healing Services when there is a fifth Sunday of the month – the next one is at the end of August. Please come along.



King of Kings Kids' Club

NEXT 3KC
Saturday September 6th

In June forty children enjoyed sharing a picnic of five loaves and two fishes with Jesus. Each child made a picnic to keep, played games and sang songs, some old favourites, some new ones.



Our next action-packed 3KC will be on Saturday September 6th. (10.00am to 12.30pm). We shall be thinking about Jesus' story of the sower and the seeds. Come along and have a lot of fun as we learn more about Jesus. Places are limited, so please ring Maureen Lockyer on 01725 552492 to book.



Alpha

Coming this Autumn

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 plan 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.

Are you...

Strong enough to be weak
Successful enough to fail
Wise enough to say 'I don't know'
Serious enough to laugh
Rich enough to be poor
Right enough to say 'I'm wrong'
Mature enough to be childlike
Planned enough to be spontaneous
Controlled enough to be flexible
Free enough to endure captivity
Knowledgeable enough to ask questions
Loving enough to be angry
Great enough to be unknown
Assured enough to be rejected
Stable enough to cry
Victorious enough to lose?

When we were at college in Bristol, only five years ago, there were lots of Korean students. They were there as 'students' but most of them were actually pastors of churches back in Korea. Most of them were from Seoul, which is in the south, but we heard how raiders from North Korea would cross the border at night and kidnap women and children from villages to be taken back and sold into slavery. This happened while we were at college and five pastors from a church (known to our Korean friends) followed them over the border to try to get the women and children back home again. They were not heard of again.



Why did those five Koreans risk and lose everything? I'm sure their families didn't want them to die. But they were following Jesus as their master, and in so doing becoming more like Him. But this doesn't affect us here, in Dorset, does it? Well, no, but the dangers we face, perhaps, are different. Much softer...

Perhaps our job is to make sure that our faith does not die the death of a thousand comforts. There are still little things we can do – it might be as simple as buying fairly-traded goods on a regular basis, supporting the various campaigns to change the world for the better, or simply checking where the clothes we buy are made. Or perhaps we are being called to move on in some way in our own journey with God – something that may be very difficult for us to do, but the thought of it just won't go away...

Doing the right thing is not always easy, but any other kind of life turns out to be disappointing and never as satisfying as we had hoped. Away from God there is nothing. One of the richest men in the world was once asked how much money he needed to make him happy. His answer was 'just a little bit more'.

So when those moments of doubt come to you, when you wonder if you have made the right choice in following Jesus after all, remind yourself that the old life had moments like this too, but then they were meaningless. Now they are part of God's living purpose and your freedom. Find yourself in church this Sunday.

All these above are contradictions, paradoxes, of course. And in Christian terms they happen to be true.

'Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it'. (Matthew's Gospel 10:39)

Jesus wants us to understand the full nature of this teaching, and of the commitment he is seeking from us. And Jesus' words have been experienced and found to be true by countless billions of people around the world. The result of Jesus' complete self-giving on the cross was the new, resurrection life, and so the result of us giving up our natural self-centredness in response to Him is a new sense of life as well; a new freedom, in which we find we are more free to be ourselves than ever before; The result of giving up our lives to Christ is a paradox – it leads to true freedom.

Perhaps the problem is that we often define ourselves by what we have, or what we have done, rather than through our relationship with God. We can hold on, when we should be letting go...

Queen Elizabeth I, died 1603. Her final words were *'All my possessions for one moment of time!'* Dominique Bouhours, died 1702, was more concerned with French grammar, in which he was an expert: His final words were *'I am about to, or I am going to, die. Either expression is used.'* Prince Albert, died 1861. We might tend to think of the Victorians as rather pompous and self-important, but his final words were *'I have had wealth, rank and power, but if these were all, how wretched I should be. Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.'* And finally, Lord Palmerston, Prime Minister, died 1865 with the immortal words *'Die, my dear doctor? That's the last thing I shall do!'*



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



Soup Lunches

Our popular Soup Lunches continue on the third Wednesday of the month – August 20th, although unfortunately there will not be one in September. Come along from 12.30pm and meet friends (and bring friends), and have good 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

Our midweek Holy Communion at Sixpenny Handley continues on the first Wednesday of the month – August 6th, September 3rd and October 1st - 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

Join us during August and September

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley		St Rumbold's Pentridge		Gussage St Andrew	
	Informal service includes children's time					
	9.30am		11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
Aug 3rd	HC	Coffee (10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	HC	
Aug 10th	Prayer		Informal	HC		HC
Aug 17th	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
Aug 24th	Prayer		Inf & HC	HC		HC
Aug 31st	HC		Informal	Healing	Prayer	
Sept 7th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	
Sept 14th	Prayer		Informal	HC		HC
Sept 21st	HC		Informal	Evensong	Prayer	
Sept 28th	Prayer		Inf & HC	HC		HC

HC = Holy Communion

always a warm welcome...

August 2008

See website for updates

Sat 2nd	7.30pm	Pentridge Barbeque
Mon 4th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Tues 5th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 6th	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
Mon 11th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage,
Tues 12th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Mon 18th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Tues 19th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 20th	12,30pm	Soup Lunch, the Vicarage
	7.30pm	Bible Study
Mon 25th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Thurs 28th	7.30pm	Men's Group



September 2008

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Mon 1st	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage,
Tues 2nd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 3rd	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
	7.30pm	Sixpenny Handley PCC
Thurs 4th	9.30am	LPA Meeting, the Vicarage
Sat 6th	10.00am	King of Kings Kids' Club, Sixpenny Handley
		Churches Bicycle Ride
		Pamper Day, at Bobbie Cater's, 5 The Orchard
Mon 8th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Tues 9th	7.30pm	Pentridge PCC
	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; 'Exodus, Hope out of Town'
Wed 10th	7.30pm	Joint Service Leaders' Meeting, the Vicarage
Thur 11th		Mothers' Union, Communion
Mon 15th	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage
Tues 16th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group; 'Beyond the Words of Worship'
Wed 17th	7.30pm	Bible Study
Mon 22nd	7.30pm	Prayertime, 11 The Parsonage, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 23rd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 25th	7.30pm	Men's Group
Mon 29th	7.30pm	Prayertime, the Vicarage
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group

October 2008

Wed 1st	11.30am	Holy Communion, Sixpenny Handley
Fri 3rd		Harvest Barn Dance, Sixpenny Handley