



The Seeker

April ~ May

2011

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 Vicarage,
Sixpenny Handley
01725 552608
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
01258 830764

Churchwardens

St Mary's with Gussage St Andrew
Carole Wyatt 552572

St Rumbold's, Pentridge
Jane King 552231
Mary Ferguson 552222

Licenced Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Ted Cox 552801
Lydia Carter 552720
Margaret Durrant 552608
Margaret Jones 552358
Maureen Lockyer 552492
Jean Mayne 552692
David Salmons 552721
Rita Taylor 552885
Carole Wyatt 552572



Full colour back issues of *The Seeker* – see website



An Ordinary Man

I loved the Christmas Doctor Who story, which was quite deliberately and openly based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

The Scrooge character, who was to mend his ways through the course of the story – this time not just for his own sake but to save Amy and Rory who were stuck on a crashing spaceship... (you had to be there)... Anyway, the Scrooge character had frozen in his basement 'the surplus population.' If you remember the original story you will know what I mean.

And he told the Doctor that they 'weren't important.' And the Doctor replied, very quietly, that in over 900 years he had never met anyone who wasn't important.

This was a great message to hear at Christmas – and it turned out, of course, that one of this 'surplus population' saved the day. Everything was saved by an 'ordinary' person – who turned out to be very extraordinary indeed!

'Ordinary' sounds a bit, well, ordinary. But 'ordinary' is really a good thing to be.

And we remember that God created each and every 'ordinary' person. No two are the same. And the miracle we celebrate at Easter (and Christmas and always) is that God became an 'ordinary' person to save all the other ordinary people, like you and me, and lived and died and lives still.

The Bible tells us that Jesus stands in front of us, so that God looks on him as He judges us. Jesus became ordinary so that we might become special. And God has never met anyone who wasn't special.

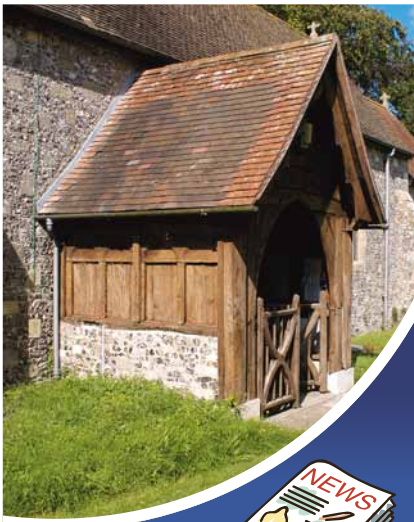
I remember hearing the singer Bono of the band U2 talking about a concert in America. A gunman had contacted the police had been contacted to say that if Bono sang a particular song he would be shot. The police and the band talked about it. It was their favourite song, their most political, religious song. The fans were expecting it. They wanted to sing it.

On stage the performance went well. They got to the time to sing that song – and looked at each other, and agreed to go ahead. Bono said afterwards that if this was going to be the last song he ever sang, he was going to sing it really well. So he closed his eyes and sang for all his life.

When he finished, he was still alive. And as he opened his eyes he saw his friend Adam Clayton, on base guitar, standing directly in front of him. His friend was willing to take the bullet for him.

And Jesus did. He stands in front of us. This is the miracle of our faith. Jesus stands in front of us. For ever. This is all we need to know. And give thanks. **Mel Durrant.**

www.handleychurch.org.uk



News items
and articles welcome!
Please drop them in to
the Vicarage, or email;
rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk
Thanks!



Congratulations
to
Margaret Owen
of Pentridge
on her OBE!

FROM THE REGISTERS

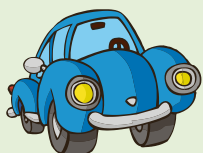


The funeral of Ann Wells took place on 16th February 2011.

Albert Moralee was baptised on 27th February 2011.

Maisie Oxford was baptised on 13th March 2011.

Reuben Smith was baptised on 27th March 2011.



Need a
lift to
Church?

Please ring Paul Skinner on 01725 552785 and we should be able to arrange transport.

Songs of Praise

Our next Songs of Praise at St Mary's is on the weekend of the Street Fayre, at 6pm.

Sign up your favourite hymn and we will try to include it. And come along from 5pm for a great Cream Tea. We have a Songs of Praise each time there is a fifth Sunday in the month.



SPRING FAYRE – SATURDAY MAY 28TH



Be sure to visit St Mary's Church and the Vicarage garden at the Street Fayre for a great top-of-village venue!

Cream teas and cake will be served throughout the afternoon.

Making our resources go further...

Each week we produce a notice sheet with Bible readings, prayers and information about events around our churches and villages. If you would like to receive this electronically please email the office and we will set the process up: rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

The United Benefice of Sixpenny Handley
with Gussage St Andrew and Pentridge

Annual Church Meetings

Notice of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Vestry Meetings to elect Churchwardens in each Parish

The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew is to meet in St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley at 6.00pm on Sunday 10th April 2011

— and —

The Parish of Pentridge is to meet in St Rumbold's Church, Pentridge at 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th April 2011

Nominations for the Office of Churchwarden together with a seconder and the signed agreement of the Proposed Person should be made in writing to be received at The Vicarage, 60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury SP5 5ND and endorsed "Churchwarden Nomination (parish...)". To be received at least two days before the appropriate meeting.

Qualifications for the Office and nomination forms are available from the Vicarage or from our website archive.

Come along and support your church



- Weekly diary
- Photo archives
- Building news
- Seeker downloads
- Verse of the Day
- Historical info

www.handleychurch.org.uk

As Christians we celebrate life,
and at Easter we celebrate
the best life of all.



Your friend and Vicar, Mel

Yet life is difficult. Over the last few weeks we have seen the worst earthquake in Japan's history followed by the devastating tsunami followed by problems at their nuclear power plants. Such tragedy reminds us just how fragile life can be – and our thoughts and prayers, and what practical help we can offer go to the people in Japan.

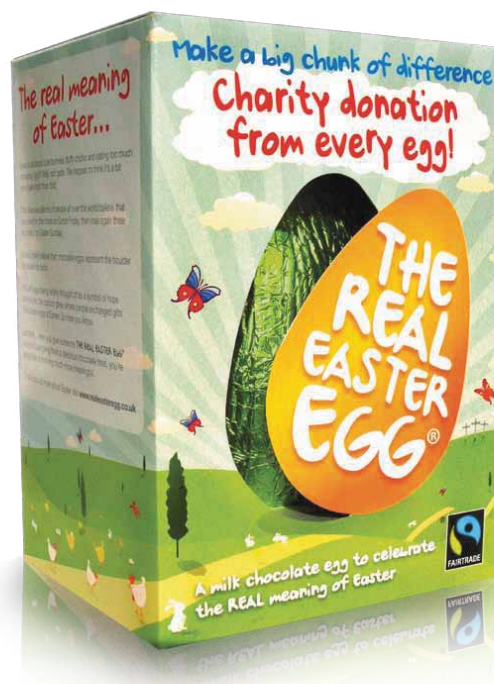
And such events make us ask questions. They make us ask how life can be so unfair. There is such suffering around us, and yet the Bible makes it clear that God does not stay distant. Instead he chooses to become one of us, to live with us, to become human. He shares our suffering and our pain – indeed, to take it upon himself.

This is not fair either, but it is the good news of Christmas and Easter. This is why we can still worship and give thanks and sing together in the face of disaster – because we are sure and certain that our God loves us and is with us.

Think back to Christmas Eve. That morning a team of us had great fun putting together the 99 Christingles. (Normally we make 100, but the hundredth orange had gone bad at the bottom of the box). Each orange carried four sticks of raisins and sweets, for the fruits of the earth from the four corners of the earth. Each was wrapped in red ribbon to show the love and sacrifice of God circling the world. And each had a candle to remind us of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Every Christingle was taken home by someone as a reminder of the reason for the season, and that Jesus calls us to be lights to the world, to tell people his good news. And now on Good Friday we eat Hot Cross Buns, with the white cross and spices to remind us of the sadness and pain in the story. And then at Easter Sunday we eat chocolate eggs to celebrate victory over death in the Resurrection.

Morrisons, Waitrose and Co-op are all stocking the Real Easter Egg by the Meaningful Chocolate Company. This fairly-traded egg is the only one that explains the Christian understanding of the Easter festival on the box.



The packaging tells customers: "Easter is all about cute bunnies, fluffy chicks and eating too much chocolate, right? Well, not quite. We happen to think it's a bit more meaningful than that. That's because billions of people all over the world believe that Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, then rose again three days later ... on Easter Sunday. Actually, many believe that chocolate eggs represent the boulder that sealed his tomb."

The egg is £3.99 and some independent shops and cathedrals are also selling it. You can find out more from their website: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Eggs are a great symbol of new life. But even Easter is not the end of the story. Jesus continues to be with us. He change lives and to stands with us at happy and sad times. This is the God we worship.



**Easter is when
we remember the
greatest story
of all...**

On Palm Sunday we shall be welcoming Jess the Donkey to our 11am service at St Mary's. Then on Maundy Thursday we have Holy Communion at 7.30pm at Gussage St Andrew as we remember the Last Supper. On Good Friday we walk around Sixpenny Handley in the morning, have a quiet hour at Pentridge starting at 2pm and our readings and meditation at 7.30pm at St Mary's. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection at 9.30 at Sixpenny Handley and 11.15 at Pentridge. Come along to as many or as few as you can and celebrate with us the true meaning of Easter.



+ Bible Study

As we hope you see from The Seeker, the Bible is THE Book! Read it and understand more in good company on a Thursday evening once a month, 7.15pm. Phone Trish (552776) for details.

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us for a gentle service in St Mary's on the second Wednesday of the month at 11.30pm, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends

▼ **Drop into St Mary's!** on any Saturday afternoon from 2.30pm during British Summer Time for a cup of tea and a chat with someone trained to listen.

* **Drop into the Post Office Coffee Shop** on the first Wednesday of the month from about 11 o'clock for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

● **Soup Lunches** – on the third Wednesday of the month and during Lent in the Vicarage. Come along from 12.30 for a great meal for only £2, with profits going to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury.

◆ **Fellowship Group** – Meeting every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a steak supper or takeaway! Phone Paul Skinner (552785).

☕ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Phone David Lockyer (552492) for details.

☼ **Mothers' Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Sheila (553133) or Mary (552041) for details.

Join us during April and May 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew	
	9.30am ☕	11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am	
April 3 rd	Mothering Sunday 10am			Evensong	HC	#
April 10 th	MP		Informal	"AGM"	#	HC
April 17 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
April 24 th	HC		#	#	HC	#
May 1 st	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
May 8 th	MP		Informal	HC	#	HC
May 15 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
May 22 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC	#	HC
May 29 th	HC		Informal	S of P	MP	#

HC = Holy Communion | MP = Morning Prayer | SofP = Songs of Praise | # = No service

Palm Sunday (April 17th)

11.00am With Jess the Donkey

Maunday Thurs – (April 21st)

7.30pm Taize and HC at Gussage



Easter 2011

Good Friday – (April 22nd)

11.00am Stations of the Cross around Handley
2–3.00pm Quiet Time at St Rumbold's, Pentridge
7.30pm Readings and Mediation at St Mary's

Easter Sunday – (April 24th)

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's
11.15am Holy Communion at St Rumbold's



April 2011

See side panel for key to symbols

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 ▼
3	4	5 ❖	6 ● *	7	8	9 ▼
10	11	12 ❖	13 ● HC	14 ☼ +	15	16 ▼
17	18	19 ❖	20 ●	21	22	23 ▼
24	25	26	27	28 ☕	29	30 ▼

❖ 7.30pm Lent Course at the Vicarage

Wed 6th 7.00pm St Rumbold's, Pentridge Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sun 10th 6.00pm St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley Annual Parochial Church Meeting

May 2011

Updated weekly on our website

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 ◆	4 *	5	6	7 ▼
8	9	10 ◆	11 HC	12 ☼	13	14 ▼
15	16	17 ◆	18 ●	19	20	21 ▼
22	23	24 ◆	25	26 ☕	27	28
29	30	31				

Tue 10th 7.30pm Pentridge PCC Meeting

Wed 18th 10.30am School Assembly in St Mary's

Sat 28th 1.30pm Street Fayre, Sixpenny Handley