

The Seeker

www.handleychurch.org.uk



April ~ May

2014

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
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rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552 785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
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Churchwardens

*St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew*

Sheila Bradley 553 133

St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552 222

Jane King 552 231

Licenced Lay Minister

John Cullingford 516 453

Lay Pastorial Assistants

Lydia Carter 552 720

Margaret Durrant 552 608

Margaret Jones 552 358

Maureen Lockyer 552 492

Jean Mayne 552 692

David Salmons 552 721

Carole Wyatt 552 572

(Area code 01725)

Soup Lunches

There is still time to come along to our Lent Soup Lunches, on Wednesday 2nd and 9th April.

There is a choice of homemade soup, bread, tea or coffee and biscuits, all for only £2.50. Come along for a cuppa & a chat from 12.30pm, with the soup served at 1.00pm.



Each week the work of a charity supported by local people will be highlighted. Pictures and information will be on display. The main aim is to give updates and raise awareness of the fantastic (and hard!) work done by so many people in our community. We would also like to give them some financial support, so each week there will be a small Bring and Buy table, which will also have a few homemade cakes and jams, and goods linked with that week's charity.

Saturday Drop-ins are Back!

As the clocks change over the Mothering Sunday weekend, so our Saturday afternoon drop-in at St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley starts up again. If you are passing – or would like to have a chat with someone trained to listen – pop in for a cup of tea from 2.30pm (weddings permitting!) This is in addition to the drop in in the Post Office café on the first Wednesday of the month and the Walnut Tree on the last Wednesday of the month, when Paul or I will be available to talk about anything at all.

Be Fair to Eggs!

Don't forget to make sure your Easter chocolate has either the Fairtrade or Rainforrest Alliance logo, to ensure it comes from good sources. How we spend our money makes a difference and says everything about what sort of people we are. And look out for the Real Easter Egg Company, making the only Easter eggs that tell the Easter story!

Waistcoat Festival

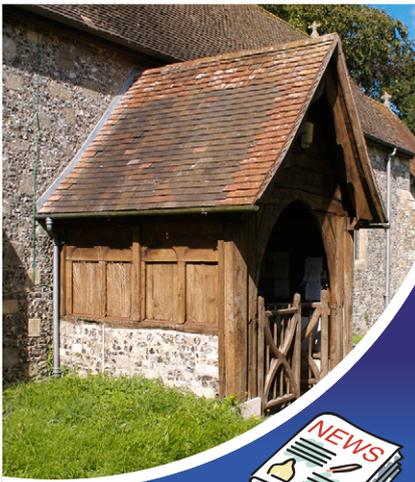
Don't forget to come up to the church during the *Waistcoat Festival* on Saturday May 17th. There will be all the usual attractions as well as excellent cream teas and cakes.



Lee Abbey is a beautiful house and community on the rugged north Devon coastline. Visitors often comment that it is a 'thin place', in the sense that God is felt to be very near. It is a great place for families, as there are lots of things for different ages to do, and there is no pressure to attend any of the events. It is also a lot of fun.

After last year's successful trip we are planning another, over the weekend of 27-29th June. Please have a look at the brochure, the website or talk to Margaret Durrant if you are interested in coming – but hurry, places are limited!





News items and articles welcome!

Please drop them in to the Vicarage, or email; rev.mel@handleychurch.org.uk

Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



The funerals took place of

- Teresa Messer
- Betty Gulliver
- Jan Scovell

The baptism took place of

- Jack Raishbrook

Pardon? I can't see!

In 2014, St Mary's will be getting a much better sound and vision system. If you would like to contribute towards this exciting project (or any of our other areas where we hope to make improvements) please contact the vicar or church warden.

Did you know?

It costs over £40,000 each year just to keep our churches open and functioning. So if you would like to keep the church open near you, we need your help! Please think about giving regularly, and think about giftaid if you are a UK taxpayer so we get 25% extra at no cost to you. Remember, we get no funding from the government at all. The Church is for everyone, so please contact the vicar if there is any way we may be able to help you.



Who would have thought that a wet Sunday afternoon would be the start of something great? Two years ago we invited the families of babies baptised at Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge to a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Suitably tiny sandwiches and cakes were prepared, helpers were ready to look after the children and their parents, and I was looking forward to reading a story. But it rained, and rained. And rained. Thinking nobody would venture out on such a day, only a few cups and saucers were put out, and the urn only half filled. But they came. Conversations showed a real need to get out, particularly in such weather, and an idea was born – a 'Teddy Bear Drop-In'.

Now, every Thursday morning during term time, St Mary's buzzes with activity. Bright mats and toys welcome the children and their carers, and there is a constant flow of squash and biscuits for the children, and coffee and biscuits for the adults. The group is organised by Jean Mayne, 'Granny Jean' to all the children. She is helped each week by other Lay Pastoral Assistants. (LPAs are trained and licensed through the church to help in pastoral matters). They play with the children, chat with the parents, and keep

everyone topped up with refreshments. It is a delight to see the children develop, and the parents form supportive friendships. Good times and difficult times are shared, I usually get to read a story (which I enjoy as much as the children) and there is much laughter.

Two years on and a second generation is coming through – brothers and sisters, and new families who have heard that this is a good place to be. We are holding our second Teddy Bear Drop-In Anniversary Service on Sunday May 25th at 11am – do come along. Last year, most people sat on the floor for a very informal and happy service, which included birthday cake and blowing bubbles, followed by (yes, you've guessed) squash and biscuits! (Don't worry, some people sat on the pews as well!)

We are also celebrating parents. After our Mothering Sunday service last month, we are celebrating *Fathering Sunday*, on June 15th (Fathers' Day) beginning at 10am. After all, we can all show fathering love as well as mothering love! Come along and celebrate with us.

Your friend and vicar, Mel

easyfundraising.org.uk

Shop online and raise funds for free for **Sixpenny Handley Church**

Just visit easyfundraising.org.uk, search for our cause and follow the simple steps to sign up.

Then **start shopping** using the links to over 2,000 retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, Next, ASOS and thousands more.

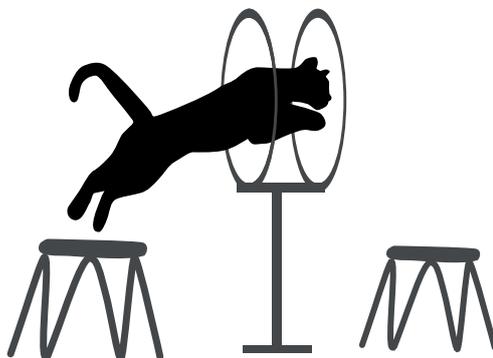
Every time you shop, you'll earn a donation to our cause at no additional cost to you!

Sign up at easyfundraising.org.uk shop online and raise for free!

So easy, so why not?

The little boy lived in a small country town where there had never been a circus. He knew about circuses from his schoolbooks, but he had never seen a real one. One day he saw a poster on the side of a building announcing that a circus was coming to his town. Well, he knew right away that he must see that circus, so he began to save up for it, and he started counting the days. On the night before the great event he was too excited to sleep. He was up before dawn to on the High Street by nine o'clock. Soon afterwards, the great circus parade came along. He saw lions and tigers, beautiful horses, tremendous elephants, jugglers, clowns, acrobats, and the circus band. His eyes were wide with excitement, his feet couldn't stop jumping up and down, and he couldn't stop shouting.

When the parade finally ended, the little boy stepped out of the crowd, handed his money to the last man in the parade, and went back home. He thought to himself that the circus was just about the greatest thing he had ever seen. It was not until years later that he discovered he had still not seen a circus. He had only watched the parade and gone home. He saw the parade but missed the circus.

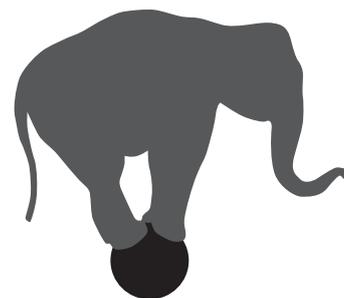


As the crowds saw Jesus ride into town on what we now call Palm Sunday, I wonder if they realised what was going on. Did they see more than just a man riding on a donkey? Did they see Jesus as the Son of God or did they miss it? And what of us? Do we just see the parade and miss the circus? Do we see the hot cross buns and the chocolate eggs, but miss the Son of God?

There was once a stable boy who listened carefully to the story of Palm Sunday. After hearing it, he said, Jesus must have had wonderful hands. If Jesus could sit on an untried, unbroken animal, if he could soothe it and control it and guide it while people were shouting, waving branches and throwing down clothes, Jesus must have had wonderful hands!

The hands of Christ are indeed wonderful hands. They reach out to people from every walk of life. They touch the sick and dying, raise the dead, feed a hungry crowd and calm a storm. They allow Jesus to ride into Jerusalem and face the cross. What matters is that they are His hands. The hands of God reaching to us. Reaching to everyone. Saving the world.

He knew that the parade was going to end with his death. But death is not the end of the story. Come to church this Easter and explore what this means, and what it means for you.



The Paradoxical Commandments

by Kent Keith, in a book called 'The Silent Revolution.'
I feel it sums up a lot of how we should behave, how we should love...

1. People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
Love them anyway.
2. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.
3. If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.
Succeed anyway.
4. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
5. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
Be honest and frank anyway.
6. The biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest minds.
Think big anyway.
7. People favour underdogs but follow only top dogs.
Fight for the underdog anyway.
8. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.
9. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.
Help people anyway.
10. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway.

Annual Meetings

It is the time of year to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meetings. Join us at;

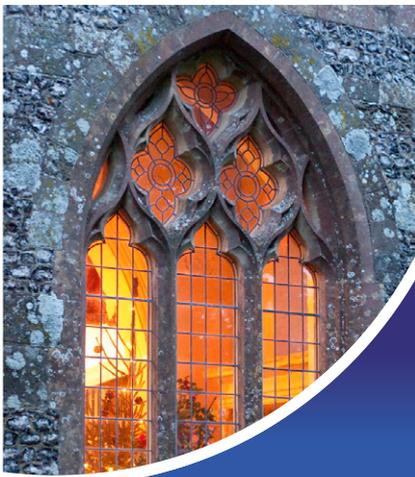
St Mary's

Sunday 27th April at 6pm (in place of the evening service)

St Rumbold's

Tuesday 29th April at 7pm.

If you would like to help with the running of our churches in any way, please talk to us!



+ Bible Study Group

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 Mike on 01725 552 720 for details.

Come and meet friends

▼ **Drop into St Mary's!** on most Saturday afternoons 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 from about 11 o'clock, or The Walnut Tree on the last Wednesday, for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

T Teddy Bears

Pre-school children and their carers are invited to St Mary's on Thursday mornings during school term from 10.30am to noon, for fun, drinks and biscuits and maybe a Bible story or two. There is no charge.

◆ Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group (usually) meet every Tuesday for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a Roebuck steak! Phone Paul Skinner (552 785).

☕ **Men's Group** – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Details from David Lockyer (552 492).

☼ **Mothers' Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Sheila (553 133) or Mary (552 041) for details.

Join us for Easter and Spring 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary's Sixpenny Handley Informal service includes children's time			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew
	9.30am ☕	11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
April 6 th	HC	Informal	Evensong	HC	#
April 13 th	Palm Sunday 11 am			Evensong	HC
April 20 th	Easter Sunday 9.30 am			#	HC
April 27 th	MP	(10.30am)	Informal	APCM	HC
May 4 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC
May 11 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	HC
May 18 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP
May 25 th	MP	Teddys!	Evensong	#	HC

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

Palm Sunday – 13th April

11.00am A combined service with Jess the donkey! St Mary's

Maundy Thursday – 17th April

6.00pm Remembering the Last Supper, Gussage St Andrew

Good Friday – 18th April

11.00am The Story of the Cross around the village, starting at Oakley Lane

2-3pm Quiet Time, Pentridge

6.00pm Telling the Easter Story in words, music and pictures.

Easter Sunday – 20th April

9.30am Family Communion, St Mary's

11.15am Holy Communion, St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Ascension Day – Thursday 29th May

6.00pm Holy Communion, Gussage St Andrew



April

See side panel for key to symbols

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

Wed 2nd 10.30am School Praise Assembly, St Mary's,

12.30pm Lent lunch and talk, St Mary's,

Mon 7th 7.30pm Lent Course. Parish Office, Sixpenny Handley,

Wed 9th 12.30pm Lent lunch and talk, St Mary's,

Thu 10th 2.45pm Mothers' Union. Sixpenny Handley, Lent meditation

Sun 27th 6.00pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Mary's

Tue 29th 7.00pm St Rumbold's Annual Meeting, Pentridge

May

Updated weekly on our website

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

Sat 17th

Waistcoat Festival. St Mary's, including cream teas and cakes!