



The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



Aug 2016

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 552 608
ask@handleychurch.org.uk

Curates

Rev Paul Skinner
01725 552 785
Rev Dr Michael Foster
01258 830 764

Churchwardens

St Mary's with
Gussage St Andrew

Roy Warner 552 787

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

(Area code 01725)

Dorset Ride+Stride – Saturday 10th September

Ride+Stride is a sponsored event in which people walk or cycle or horse-ride between churches, exploring our wonderful Dorset countryside and enjoying the hospitality of our church communities.

Ride+Stride started in 1991 and raises funds for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, which helps churches and chapels of all Christian denominations meet the increasing costs of maintenance, restoration and improvement of facilities. They have given Sixpenny Handley significant help over the years. Half of the money raised is returned directly to your nominated church and the other half is used to fund Dorset Historic Churches' grant programme.

Visiting Dorset's beautiful churches on foot, by bicycle or on horseback provides a fun day out, suitable for children, families and friends. To register as a participant, for further information on what's happening in Dorset, or to request a sponsorship form please see your Ride+Stride Organiser, John Cullingford, on (01725) 516453.

Did You Know?

It costs over £40,000 each year just to keep our churches open and functioning. Remember, we get no funding from the government at all, so if you would like to keep the church open near you, we need your help! Please think about giving regularly. There are different ways you can give. The easiest is a Standing Order, which gives regularly for you. A set of dated envelopes also helps you to give regularly. Please talk to us if you are interested - and think about giftaid if you are a UK taxpayer so we get 25% extra at no cost to you. The Church is for everyone, so please contact the vicar if there is any way we may be able to help you.

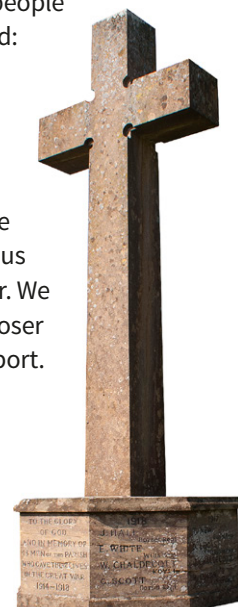
Trussell Trust wins two awards

From the single dad struggling to feed himself and his ten-year-old son on just £10 a week, to the man who almost cried when he was given a new toothbrush; they are just some of the people Foodbank Manager, Laura Chalmers has helped. Anyone could find themselves in a crisis needing emergency food, with Laura seeing people from all walks of life coming through the foodbank's doors. She said: "We see people from all social classes. Numerous times in the foodbank, I have spoken to people and thought: 'that could so easily be me'"

We were delighted and humbled to receive two accolades at the Charity Awards ceremony in 2016 – a category award for Social Care and Welfare and the Overall Winner. These awards serve to remind us that we have an important role to play in helping to stop UK hunger. We must thank all of you who help us every day to get just a little bit closer to making that happen by giving food, your time and financial support. Thank you. Best wishes, The Trussell Trust team

War Memorial awarded listed status

The War Memorial outside St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley, has now been awarded grade II listed building status. Listing helps mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest.





News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!

FROM THE REGISTERS



The funerals took place of
Violet Nye, Colin Napier,
Doreen Leverton, Leslie Rimen

The wedding of
Peter and Jennifer Netherton

The baptisms took place of
Lily and Freddie Netherton

Easiest Way to Support your Church

Every time you shop online you could also be raising money for Sixpenny Handley Church. Over 2,700 well known retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco will donate a percentage of what you spend to say thank you for shopping with them.

All you have to do is:

1. Register at easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Choose **Sixpenny Handley Church** as your cause
3. Get shopping – it couldn't be easier!

Prayers

Do you have a Quiet Time? St Mary's and St Rumbold's are open every day for prayer, and of course we can pray anywhere. However, you may like to have a private little prayer at home, knowing that others are praying at the same time. If so, perhaps you can set aside a few minutes on Monday evenings at 9 o'clock. Use the prayers included here as well as your own, or just be quiet in the presence of God, knowing that you are sharing the time with others in our area.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Dear Lord, remind me constantly that in the end I shall reap what I sow and that I cannot escape the demands of your law of love. Fill my life with all the fruits of the Spirit so that I may walk with You and serve You faithfully in spirit and in truth.

A Thank You Prayer

God's world is good. We like it. He made the sun to give us light and to keep us warm. God's world is full of twinkly stars, Beautiful flowers and furry animals. God made us. He made this world. God wants us to be happy. God loves us.

Yvette Leavy (age 5)

A Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is discord, union.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

A Prayer for the Countryside

Dear God, help us to appreciate your creation and hard work. Some of us need to be taught how to love and respect our birds, sea creatures and land animals. Please help us to care for animals around us as if they were our relatives. Lord hear us. Amen.
Caroline (age 10)

Dear friends...

The Good Samaritan is such a famous story. You can look it up in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus tells it to make us think. And he uses a standard format, rather like we used to tell stories jokes that started 'there was an Englishman, Irishman and Scotsman. In those days it would go 'there was a priest, a Levite and an ordinary Israelite'. But the story jars with when Jesus makes the third character... not a Scotsman or an Israelite, but a hated Samaritan. We stop and listen.

In the usual way, we would expect the story to end with the Israelite being the one who helps the injured man. And we might conclude that we need to widen our idea of who is a neighbour - to include all people who are a bit like us. But following God is not about 'us' and 'them'. Instead, Jesus goes way beyond anything the original audience would have expected, in at least two ways - first, that a neighbour can be anyone, even a hated foreigner like a Samaritan. And then, more surprising still, the logic of the story pushes us to identify with the victim.

The people in the story who should be neighbourly pass by. It is the hated Samaritan who becomes the loving neighbour, the one who actually comes to help. And this help includes getting messy and spending money. It is all there in the Bible. This, Jesus says, is what it means to follow God.

The problem is that being a neighbour can be inconvenient. It can be asked of us at an awkward time, or by the person we would least like to help. It might involve us going out of our way. And yet this is what the story is all about.

For all the characters in Jesus' story, the victim is an inconvenience. And we can all say we are in a hurry, we are tired, we can't afford it, we can't get involved, we don't like the look of them, we don't want them here...

Of course we have to be realistic and sensible about what we can and can't do, but if someone is in need and we know about it, we are responsible.

The story is prompted by the question 'Who is my neighbour?' Jesus reframes the question at the end; 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour?' And Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Have a great summer, Mel

HEART CASTLE

Adapted from John Eddison in 'Heart Castle'
with thanks to Tim Reynolds

Once upon a time a King built himself a castle. It was magnificent, beautiful and could stand the fiercest storm, and he called it HEART CASTLE. And not only was it splendid, it spread an air of confidence throughout the whole area, and people looked towards Heart Castle and took fresh courage and hope.

But when the King went away, things began to go wrong. It was not that there was anything wrong with the castle for, as I have told you, it was perfectly made, but something went wrong with the people looking after it. A bad spirit crept into the place, with the result that lawns were left unmown, the paths unweeded, broken windows were not mended, and Heart Castle, that had been such an inspiration to so many, became little more than a monumental joke.

In command of the castle was a man called Sir William Power, usually known as WILL POWER, or sometimes just plain WILL. He was one of those well-meaning people who have all the right ideas, but he could not make other people obey his orders or follow his example. Mind you, he had a very difficult task, with the people he had to deal with. For instance, there was IVOR GRUDGE. Ivor was never happy unless he could find something to grumble about. If it wasn't the food, it was the weather. And if it wasn't the weather it was the government. Wherever he went he spread an atmosphere of gloom. Being in his company was like standing in a steady drizzle without an umbrella.

And then there was Mark – MARK TIME. Mark was one of those people who would never get a move on with what he had to do. He was all right so long as he was being watched, but as soon as he was on his own he would put down his tools and have a jolly good rest. He never seemed to make any progress. He had a twin brother – JUSTIN TIME, and he was the sort of person who turned up at the very last minute for a job, usually without all the equipment he needed and hopelessly out of breath. I am afraid Mark and Justin gave Sir William a great deal of trouble.

Then there was Luke – LUKE WARM. Everybody liked Luke. He was friendly and easy-going, but he was apt to make friends with the wrong sort of person and was quickly lead astray. Like a pillow, he always bore the impression of the last person to sit on him!

And then there was Peter – PETER OUT. He was a very good beginner, but he never saw anything through to the finish. If he took a book out of the castle library, and three weeks later you looked to see how he was getting on, he would be on about page four. He had started, but he just couldn't finish. He was a good cricketer – he used to go in first for the team. But when he reached double figures, and everyone was looking at him to make a decent score, he would lost his head and throw his wicket away with a careless stroke. He was the despair of the castle's fine old cricket coach, a man called GERRY HATRICK.

And I could go on. There was another Will in the castle – WILL KNOTT. He liked to think of himself as independent. He looked the word up in the dictionary one day and though, 'that's me!' Everyone else just thought him disobedient. And, of course, the castle had the greedy one, PHIL ME. He was all right until he met a chap called ROLAND BUTTER, who led him badly astray. There was also a cheat, OWEN MONEY, a joker, JOE KING, and, I'm sorry to say, the castle even had a bully, PERCY CUTE.

But I mustn't give you the impression that it was only the male members of the castle who were so difficult. There were some pretty tiresome females as well. For instance there was

ANNIE MOSITY, who had a tongue like an adder. No one's reputation was safe in her hands, especially when their backs were turned. Will Knott had a sister, MAY KNOTT, who was hopelessly unreliable. Peter Out's sister was just as bad – CLAIRE OUT. She was just plain unfriendly, and no one could stand her company for more than a few minutes. There was another grumbler, MONA LOTT, and it was no surprise when she became engaged to Ivor Grudge. They found a dark, damp place to live called BLEAK HOUSE, and they lived miserably ever after. At the same time Percy Cute married RUTH LESS.

So you can see that poor Will Power had his work cut out. He tried everything he could think of, until he finally decided that there were really only two options left – religion and discipline.

He tried religion first, and appointed a chaplain to the castle – the Reverend NEIL DOWN. He held lots of special services. Peter Out came to a few, and was never seen again, and after a while Neil Down resigned and went to work in the East End of London.

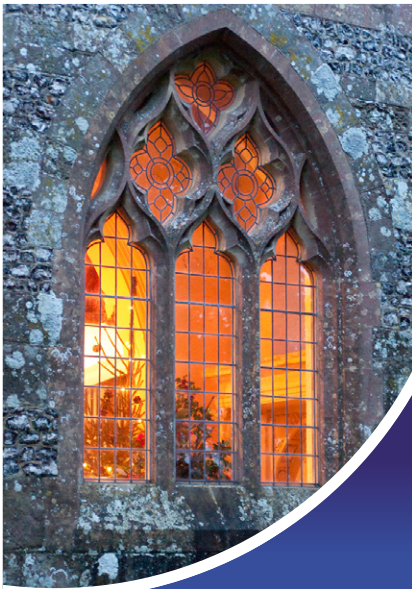
Will Power wrote to the army and asked them to send the toughest Sergeant Major they could find. They produced a terrific man called Sergeant Major Dover – BEN DOVER, and he turned up with CORPORAL PUNISHMENT and they tried to instil some discipline into the place. But the result was nothing changed, and after a while they asked for an easier posting and were sent off to Greece.

It was about this time that news got through to the King that all was not well with Heart Castle, and he decided to come down and see for himself. He was met by a shame-faced Will Power, and although he said very little, it was obvious that the King was very disappointed. When they returned to Sir William's office, the King said, 'I see you have done your best, but the only hope for the castle is that my son, the Prince, should come and take charge. It will mean you must step down, and that some of the castle staff must be sacked. Would you be willing to do that?'

Sir William asked for a few days to think it over, and then he sent a message to the king to say, 'Yes, he would be willing.' A week later there was a knock at the castle gate and a voice said, 'Look, I am standing at the door knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.'

Sir William heard the knock and recognised the voice. He opened the door and invited the Prince to come in, and handed him all the keys. Not everything was put right at once, but slowly and surely things began to improve. New names appeared in the castle, including splendid people like ERNEST ENDEAVOUR, FRANK SPEECH, PERCY VERE and JOY FULL. Once again Heart Castle became the splendid place the King had meant it to be, and once again it spread an atmosphere of security and peace throughout the whole land.





+ 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 alternate Thursdays at 7.15pm. Details from Mike on 01725 552 720.

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 Monday of the month from about 11 o’clock, or The Walnut Tree on the last Wednesday, for a coffee and chat with the vicar or curate.

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.

☪ **Men’s Group** – A beer and a chat to finish off the month at 7.30pm. Details from David Lockyer (552 492).

☪ **Mothers’ Union** – Tea, company and a good talk, usually every second Thursday of the month, from 2.30pm. Details from Mary (552 041).

Surprise yourself and come along

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	
Aug 7 th	HC	#	Evensong	HC	#	
Aug 14 th	MP	#	Evensong	#	HC	
Aug 21 st	HC	(10.30am)	Evensong	MP	#	
Aug 28 th	MP		Evensong	#	HC	
Sept 4 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Sept 11 th	MP		Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Sept 18 th	#	Harvest	Evensong	MP	#	
Sept 25 th	MP	Informal	#	#	Harvest	

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

Our Informal service is geared more towards families and includes activities for children.

Harvest Festivals

Looking ahead, make a date for our Harvest Festivals – at Sixpenny Handley on Sunday 18th September at 11 o’clock, at St Andrew’s on Sunday 25th September at 6pm, and at Pentridge on Sunday 2nd October at 11.15am. All of them are followed by refreshments – do come and celebrate the wonderful world around us, and stay for something to eat afterwards!



Summer Holidays

The summer holidays are on us, and things quieten down a bit during August. The 11 o’clock Service at Sixpenny Handley combines with the 9.30 service. Our pre-school drop-in Teddy Bears has a break (perhaps they can go down to the woods for a picnic). We all start up again at the beginning of September. Other drop-ins and services run as normal, so please join us.

August

See side panel for key to symbols

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

September

Updated weekly on our website

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	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 T ☪	30	31

Grace’s Concert

Make a date for Saturday 24th September when we have another concert at St Mary’s. The range of talent in our villages is amazing, and this is another chance to sit back and enjoy a lot of fun, talent and entertainment.