



# The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



Oct 2017

**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  
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### Curates

Rev Paul Skinner  
01725 552 785  
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### Churchwardens

*St Mary's with  
Gussage St Andrew*

Roy Warner            552 787  
Sue Curtis            552 397

*St Rumbold's, Pentridge*

Mary Ferguson      552 222  
Jane King            552 231

### Lay Pastorial Assistants

Lydia Carter          552 720  
Margaret Jones      552 358  
Maureen Lockyer    552 492  
Jean Mayne          552 692  
David Salmons      552 721

(Area code 01725)

### Also available in colour

A full colour PDF of The Seeker is available from our website.

## Rural church growth at the heart of latest funding for dioceses

The Strategic Investment Board, on behalf of the Archbishops' Council, has awarded £10.5 million to eight dioceses to support major growth and change projects. This is the fifth tranche of Strategic Development Funding which has so far provided £34.6 million to dioceses as part of Renewal and Reform. The eight dioceses that will receive grants are Coventry, Guildford, Hereford, London, St Albans, Salisbury, Southwell and Nottingham and Truro.

Speaking about a grant of £1.27 million for rural ministry and mission, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, said: "I am delighted Salisbury has received such strong support. On an average Sunday 40% of those worshipping in the Church of England do so in a rural setting. Rural church has a different dynamic to suburban and urban contexts. Small groups of regular worshippers keep the heartbeat of prayer and worship alive for the whole community. It is communal religion. The needs and care of large rural multi-parish benefices need particular care. We are delighted that Salisbury is developing as a centre of excellence in which rural ministry and mission is developed and encouraged with imagination and flair."

Director of Renewal and Reform, Mike Eastwood, said: "Renewal and Reform is about a growing church in and for all people and in and for all places. The hope that each of these projects gives for a positive future for mission and ministry at the local level is inspiring. The seeds of Renewal and Reform are now beginning to grow across the country as plans become reality."

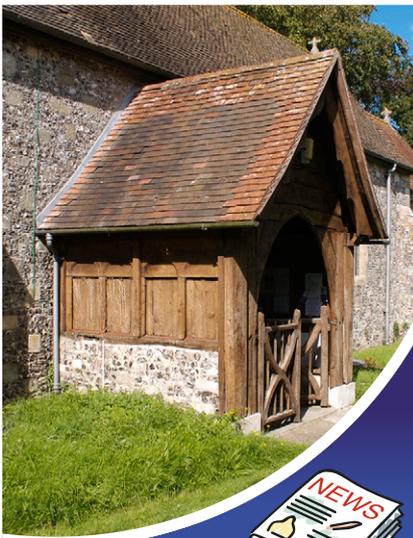
Extract from Church of England website – search "Rural church growth".

## Come to Church this weekend

Here are twelve reasons I am inviting you to church this weekend;

1. It will help you define what you believe.
2. You may get some of life's big questions answered.
3. You will probably make some new friends and see some old friends.
4. It will help you understand the Bible.
5. If you have children, it will teach them good stuff.
6. People who attend church usually live longer (not made up, google it!)
7. It will give you an outlet for helping others.
8. You'll sing inspirational songs (even if you can't sing).
9. You'll receive love from other people.
10. You'll be able to show love towards other people.
11. You'll hear about the great things God is doing locally and in the world.
12. You really haven't anything better to do (watching TV or sleeping-in don't count as better things!)

Why not come to church this weekend? You'd be crazy to do anything else. We will have another dozen reasons next month.



News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!

## Remembrance Day



The red poppy is worn by millions of people every year. The British Legion reminds us what the red poppy is, and, very importantly, what it is not. It is not a symbol of death, or a sign of political support for war. It is not any reflection or support of political or religious beliefs. Nor is it red to reflect the colour of blood. No, poppies are red because that is their natural colour, and they are used because they are the first thing to grow and flower when land is disturbed. Poppies are worn by millions of people coming together, as a symbol of remembrance.

Service details on page 4.



Dear friends...

Your friend and vicar, Mel

My favourite sweets are Jelly Babies. They were first produced after the First World War, when they were called "Peace Babies". Each colour represented the flag of a country that fought – a symbol of all the different nations of the world coming together in peace.

When the Second World War started, the production of "Peace Babies" stopped. After the War, a man decided to buy the factory where "Peace Babies" were made. This man was a Christian, and he wanted to do something special. And he turned 'Peace Babies' into what we now know as 'Jelly Babies'. In doing so he did something just a little bit secret. He doesn't own the company any more, and it only works with Bassett's Jelly Babies, but the different Jelly Babies still tell us something about the wonderful love of Jesus Christ.

The **green** Jelly Baby is crying, which represents God's sadness. He is sad that People don't know him, and when we hurt him and do wrong things.



The **black** Jelly Baby has a heart shape on his chest, which represents the dark sin in our lives. Even when we do bad things, God still loves us.

The **red** one has a 'B' on his tummy, which represents the blood as Jesus died on the cross, to show how much he loves us and to show the way to heaven.



The **pink** one is a baby, as when we become a Christian we become a "child of God" (we become "born again"). We can start again with all the excitement of a child learning about the world.



The **yellow** Jelly Baby is wearing a necklace, which represents the riches of Heaven. Knowing Jesus is the most precious, the most special thing you will ever do. And finally, the **orange** Jelly Baby is



wearing a bum bag, which tells us that we need to be prepared – be prepared to help others and be ready for Jesus coming again. We know from reading the Bible that the story is not finished yet!

You might remember last Christmas at the Christingle Service, we told the Christmas story through bars of chocolate. Now we have the whole Christian message told through Jelly Babies! We explore faith every week, in lots of different ways – please do come along and celebrate love with us. You can always expect a warm welcome! There is usually tea and coffee and biscuits afterwards (and sometimes Jelly Babies). After all, the best families eat together. And the Jelly Babies make one big family!

## Planning Ahead

This is the season when we start planning ahead for next year – so why not think about a wedding or a christening? They are wonderful times when families come together to celebrate. Please talk to the vicar.



May my heart rejoice in your love, O Lord.  
Let me live each day anew.

### **Freedom**

Lord God I thank you for the gift of freedom.  
Help me to use this gift with integrity.  
I am free to make choices.  
Help me to choose to follow you,  
to live in a Christian way by caring for others.  
Remind me to consider always  
those less fortunate than myself,  
the oppressed, the prisoner,  
those who are not free to worship in public.  
Guide me always to seek your holy will  
in all the events of my life.

### **Consciousness**

Where do I sense hope, encouragement,  
and growth areas in my life?  
By looking back over the last few months,  
I may be able to see which activities  
and occasions have produced rich fruit.  
If I do notice such areas, I will determine  
to give those areas both time and space in the future.

### **Trust**

Jesus, you always welcomed little children  
when you walked on this earth.  
Teach me to have a childlike trust in you.  
To live in the knowledge that you will never abandon me.

### **Conclusion**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.

## **THE BIBLE – be surprised!**

### **Which command in the Bible is repeated most often?**

You might imagine the most common command in the Bible is something rather stern; *Behave yourself! Say your prayers! Worship God better! Give more money to the Church!*

But you would be wrong. It is the command *do not be afraid*. It is said to be in the Bible 365 times (I admit I haven't actually counted). One for every day of the year!

There is always plenty in the world to be afraid of, and yet Jesus says, *don't be*. And to beat fear altogether, the Bible tells us one of Jesus' most striking promises about the detailed love and care of God; that it reaches *to every single hair on our heads*. (Matthew 10:30).

You may have thought we shouldn't pray about trivial things: You may have felt silly praying for something like a parking space in town, or good weather on holiday. I certainly know I have. Of course, there *are* far more important things to pray for, and we must make sure we pray for those things as well. But if God really takes notice of every single hair on our heads, that means that, just as nothing is too big for him to do, nothing is too small for him either. We can rest assured that God knows and cares about all the details of our lives, just as he also knows and cares about sparrows, the most humble of birds. (Matthew 10:29).

But that doesn't mean life will be easy. We are always going to come up against problems. It is how the world is. And remember that in many parts of the world it can still be dangerous to be a Christian. I have said before that there were more people killed for being Christian in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century than in the previous 19 centuries put together.

Yet God cares about every hair on our heads – and that means that we are challenged to live up to that love. God expects us to make a difference – to make the world a better place. And there is something each one of us can do, because even the smallest of actions changes the world completely. It might be a kind word, a letter, a visit or a purchase or donation. It is easy to forget this, and we all need to learn this again and again, every day. Today, this week, you can be as Christ to someone, and together we can make the world better.

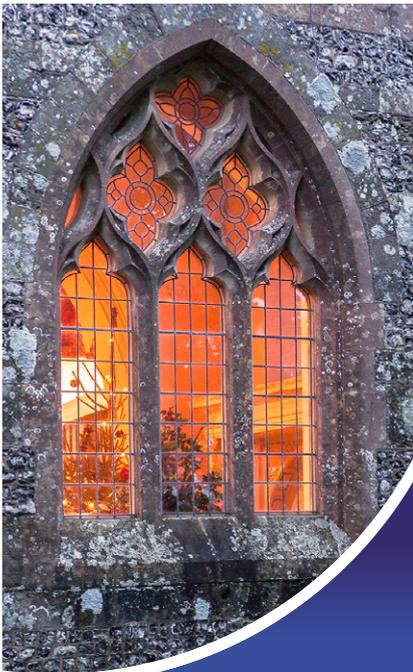
### **Support your local church**

The church is a presence and a place, offering time and space for celebration and mourning, song and quietness. It is your church. Remember that we get no funding from the government – if we want to have a church in our communities we have to do something about it ourselves.

In fact, having a church is a bargain! It costs only about £5 an hour to keep St Mary's open. Please think about paying for an hour or two. After all, this is only the price of a coffee and cake in town, yet you won't put on weight and it will last much longer!

Please think about setting up a standing order to support the church at the heart of our community.

If you shop online, you can raise money at no cost to you by shopping through the website **easfundraising.org.uk**. After all, what we do with our money says everything about who we are. As we start to think about Christmas, let's remember that our God is a giving God. He gives us life and his giving is renewed daily. In giving to others we have the opportunity to reflect something of God's nature.



**+ 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.

**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).

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary’s Sixpenny Handley		St Rumbold’s Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew
	9.30am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	HC	Evensong	<b>Harvest</b>	#
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Informal	Evensong	#	HC
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	HC	Evensong	MP	#
Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Informal	Evensong	#	MP
Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	Informal, HC	All Souls	HC	#
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	HC	Evensong	HC	#
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Remembrance</b>	Evensong	<b>Remembrance</b>	#
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	HC	Evensong	MP	#
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	Informal	Evensong	#	HC

**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**

You may just still be in time to celebrate Harvest – at *St Andrew’s* on Sunday 24th September at 6pm, and at *Pentridge* on Sunday 1st October at 11.15am. All of them are followed by bread, cheese and cider refreshments – do come and celebrate the wonderful world around us, and stay for something to eat afterwards!

**All Souls Service**

You are invited to come along to St Mary’s, Sixpenny Handley at 6pm on Sunday 29th October for this gentle service as we pray together and remember before God those we love but see no longer. There will be a chance to have names of loved ones read out and to light a candle as we pray together. There will be coffee and biscuits afterwards.

**Remembrance Services**

This year we come together to remember those who have suffered in war and conflict at our services at the War Memorial in Sixpenny Handley on Saturday 11th November at 11.00 am and in St Mary’s and St Rumbold’s on Remembrance Sunday 12th November. Please join us from 10.50 am.

**October**

See side panel for key to symbols

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

**November**

See website for updates

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