

# The Seeker

www.handleychurch.org.uk



## June ~ July

## 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  
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#### 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

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#### 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)

### Waistcoat Festival – A Burning Success!

A hot sunny day saw large crowds turn out for Handley's first Waistcoat Festival, commemorating the Great Fire of Handley in 1892. The day ended with a children's lantern parade and lighting of the Scout's new beacon at Hanlega's.



Mel crowns the King and Queen of the Waistcoat Festival



The Beacon Field draws a crowd

### Superfast Broadband

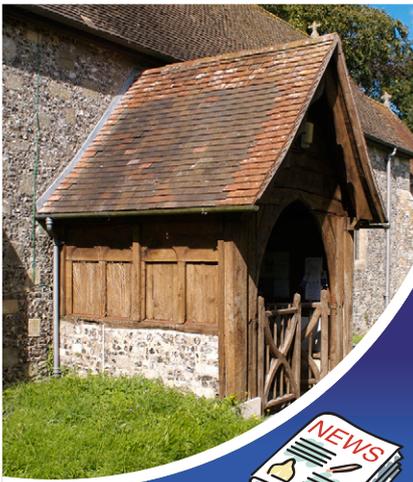
You may have heard that there is a possibility of getting superfast broadband into Sixpenny Handley through a transmitter/receiver on St Mary's church tower. This is through the firm Wessex Internet. There would be a range of packages available, and you would have to be able to place your receiver in sight of the top of the tower. To get the planning permission we need, the Church cannot proceed with this until there is a proven need for this service. If you are definitely interested, please let us know and contact wessexinternet.com.

### Stop the Traffik

Remember the devastating Rana Plaza factory disaster in Bangladesh last year? This tragic event drew the world's attention to the hidden injustice and exploitation that takes place within the fashion industry. This terrible event and the persistent campaigning by activists has led to a shift in business attitudes towards taking responsibility for the conditions of workers who make their products.

Attitudes are changing within the fashion industry, but there is still so much more to be done. This is where we need you! In the Tamil Nadu region of India alone, we know that over 200,000 women and girls continue to be deceived, trafficked and exploited in cotton spinning, dying and weaving mills. The cotton produced within these mills is sold to fashion businesses all over the world. Have a look at the Stop the Traffik website for ways you can help.

"Cotton made by these trafficked young women and girls may be in the T-shirt I am wearing today. It may be in the clothes in your wardrobe at home. At the moment we don't know. But we can change this. As consumers we have a powerful voice, we can use it to urge companies to change their behaviour so that they can tell us that the clothes we are buying are Traffik-Free." Ruth Dearnley, CEO of STOP THE TRAFFIK.



News items and articles welcome!

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

Thanks!

## FROM THE REGISTERS



**The Funerals of** Penny Berry, David Eynon, Godfrey Turner.  
**A Thanksgiving for** Mary Meaden.  
**The Blessing of** the Marriage of George and Namiki Gillet.  
**The Baptisms of** Noah Hewitt, Hannah Ferguson, Nancy Holmes.

### 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.

### Pardon? I can't see!

In the next few weeks, 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 we hope to improve) please contact the vicar or churchwarden.



He was a militant non-believer. He summed up his worldview with a quote from an ancient philosopher: *Had God designed the world, it would not be a world so frail and faulty as we see.* So Jack turned his attention to learning, excelling in every area he studied. Soon the dons of Oxford University thought of him as a respected peer and he began to write and lecture.

Yet far beneath the surface his doubts were taking their toll. He described his mental state with words like *misery and hopelessness*. He said, *I maintained God did not exist, yet I was also angry with God for not existing.*

Then two friends, also Oxford dons, JRR Tolkien and HVD Dyson, urged him to do something he'd surprisingly never done before; read the Bible. So he did. And Jack began to wrestle with the claims Jesus made, concluding that he was deluded, deceptive, or the very One he claimed to be; the Son of God.

On the evening of September 19th 1931, Jack and his two friends took a long walk though Oxford. They talked late into the night. And Jack, CS 'Jack' Lewis, would later remember a rush of

wind that caused the first leaf to fall – a sudden breeze, which possibly came from to symbolize for him the Holy Spirit. Soon after that night, Jack became a believer.

The change revolutionized his world, and consequently the world of millions of readers. The stories of Narnia have been enjoyed for generations and the films have brought them to a new audience. His other writings are still read and help people to think for themselves about the God who created, loved and gave himself for the world. You might like to try reading 'The Screwtape Letters', a satirical book where an elder devil tutors a novice demon on how to confuse and distract human beings, or 'Mere Christianity', a popular introduction to faith, or 'Surprised by Joy' where he describes his own journey of faith. You might also remember the play and film 'Shadowlands' which was about his relationship with his wife.

So, can the chasm between doubt and faith be spanned with reading the Bible and Christian fellowship? Why don't you find out for yourself?

Your friend and vicar, Mel

### Summer Break

The summer holidays are not far away, and things settle down a bit during August. Teddy Bears have a break (perhaps they can go down to the woods for a picnic), and the 11 o'clock Service at Sixpenny Handley also has a break over the school holidays. The last one is on 20th July, and then starts up again at the beginning of September. All other services run as normal.

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### Sixpenny Handley Church

Just visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.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!

So easy, so why not?

Have you climbed a mountain lately? To state the obvious, mountains are *big* in the Bible! After all, Noah's ark came to rest on a mountain. Abraham took his son up a mountain. Moses was given the Ten Commandments on a mountain. Elijah challenged false prophets on a mountain and met God in *'the still small voice'* on a mountain. King David built Jerusalem on a mountain. And Jesus taught on a mountain. So it's no wonder that we climb mountains – just because they are there. Mountains are important!

A search and rescue team was sent on a mission to find an aeroplane that had crashed on top of a mountain. It was their duty to rescue any survivors. After finally reaching the top of the mountain, they came upon the crash site. There was one lone survivor, sitting with his back against a tree, chewing a bone. As he tossed the bone onto a huge pile of other bones, he noticed the rescue team. 'Thank God!' he said, 'I am saved!' The rescue team did not move, as they stared at the pile of human bones beside this lone survivor. Obviously he had eaten his comrades. The survivor saw the horror in their faces and hung his head in shame. 'You can't judge me for this,' he insisted. 'I had to survive. Is it so wrong to want to live?' The leader of the rescue team stepped forward, shaking his head in disbelief. 'I won't judge you for doing what was necessary to survive, but your plane only went down yesterday!'

We all have mountaintop experiences – although I hope not quite like that one – moments when time seems to stand still, and the experience stays with us forever.

Jesus took his friends Peter, James and John up a mountain. And Jesus was changed. In an event we call the Transfiguration, *His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light* (Matthew's Gospel, 17:2). Notice that Jesus was not reflecting light; he was shining with light. No wonder his friends were terrified! And then God's voice summed everything up:

*'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'* And when the disciples fell down in terror, Jesus responded immediately with touch and comfort. *'Get up,'* he said. *'Don't be afraid.'* He is with them. God with us. Some mountaintop experience!

We all need to listen to what Jesus says, to who he is, rather than follow our own agendas – to accept what he is talking about.

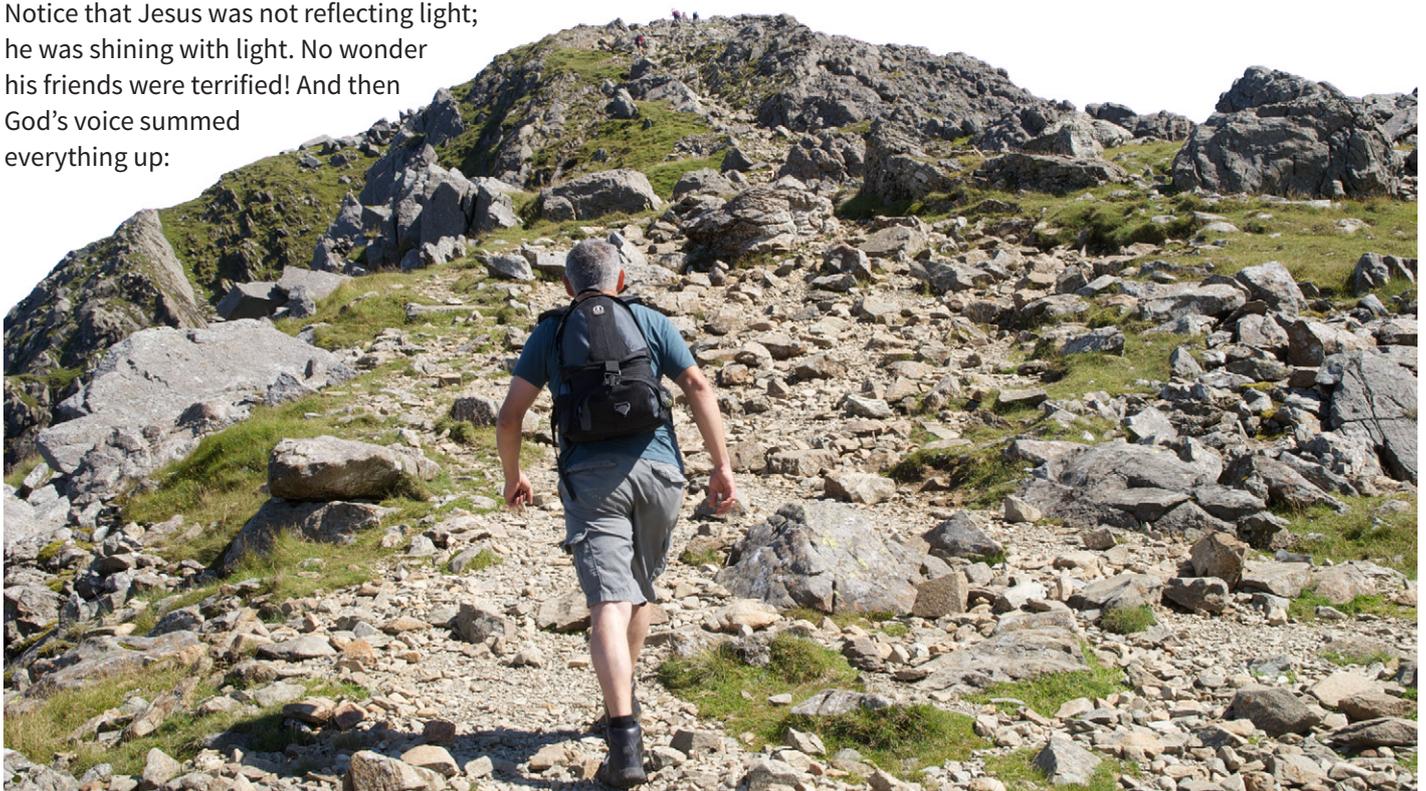
I remember a doctor friend doing some voluntary work in the Himalayas in Nepal. They held a Communion Service on the top of a mountain and, looking out over the Himalayas, sang *'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'*. She said it was a life-changing moment.

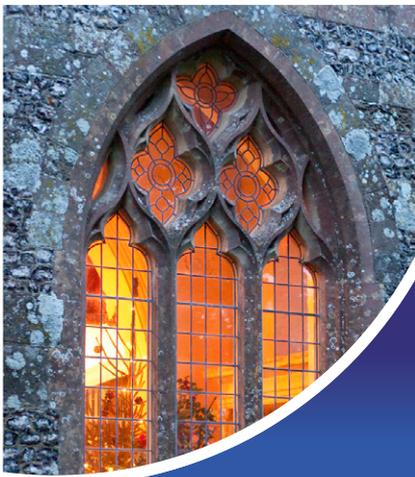
*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

As we think about summer activities, days out, trips to the beach, walks in the country, remember who created earth and heaven in the first place, and who re-creates heaven and earth for us.

You have had at least one mountaintop experience, one situation that was alive with the promise and presence of God. Of course, you don't have to go up a mountain to have a mountaintop experience (although it might help!) and it might only last a moment. We can't pin God down. But they are – *if we let them* – life-changing.

We can use these God-given special moments to recharge, to renew ourselves. As we listen to God's voice, listen to Jesus calling us to walk with him wherever the journey may take us. For the journey takes us to him.





### + 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 Summer 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
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	HC	Informal	Evensong	HC	#
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	MP	Informal	Evensong	#	HC
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day 10 am			Evensong	MP
June 22 <sup>th</sup>	MP	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	#
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	HC		#	Evensong	MP
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	MP		Informal	Evensong	#
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	MP		#	Evensong	#

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

### Fathers!

We are still celebrating parents. After our Mothering Sunday before Easter, 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.

### Lee Abbey

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 going again at the end of June. This means there will not be an 11 o'clock service at Sixpenny Handley that day. We hope to go again next year - Please have a look at the website to see if you would like to come next time.

June							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 T ☕	27	28	
29	30						

Wed 25th 10:30am School Praise Assembly, St Mary's

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

### A Weekly Reminder: Without GOD, our week would be...

Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday and Shatterday.  
Remember seven days without God makes one weak!