



The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



#3 2019

The church magazine for **St Mary the Virgin, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and St Rumbold's, Pentridge**

Who's who?

Vicar

Revd Canon Richard Hancock
The Vicarage
Sixpenny Handley
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Curates

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

Churchwardens

St Mary's with Gussage St Andrew

Chris Stokes 552 672
Sue Curtis 552 397

St Rumbold's, Pentridge

Mary Ferguson 552 222
Jane King 552 231



TLC – The Ladies Club!

In the last addition I announced the launch of our new Men's Breakfast Group but promised that there would be something for the Ladies soon. Gill Corrine one of our Alpha Leaders is running the TLC (Tuesday Ladies' Club) which meets twice a week Tuesday afternoon at her home, 2pm till 3.30pm. All Ladies are welcome but please to let her know if planning to attend. Call 552868 or email: gill-mil@hotmail.co.uk



Father's Day Sunday 16th June

Come and Celebrate being a Chap!

Fatherhood is a privilege and a challenge, and a bit of male bonding and ego massage helps us rise to the challenge. Even if we haven't fathered the next generation, or our tribe has left the nest and we have obtained Grandad status — we all still have that fatherly instinct. I hope that we can establish an annual Handley tradition of celebrating being a bloke and being a Dad. Do come to join us in this inaugural event.

10 am

Family Service at St Mary's followed by Bring-n-Share Picnic down at the Recreation Ground by the Penny TAP.

12:30–4 pm

Parachute Games and Competitive Dad Activities

ALL WELCOME



In true Handley tradition all Chaps are encouraged to wear a waistcoat to the event. Prizes for best waistcoat and most competitive Dad!



DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON



Easter Celebrated

Our Easter celebrations went well, with uplifting worship celebrating this great feast. It all kicked off with our Palm Sunday Celebrations when we processed from the Village Hall to the church singing hymns and carrying palm crosses, led by our fabulous hobby Donkey looked after by young Max Beckett. The procession included our new young servers, a choir, the congregation and Rev Paul Skinner and I dressed in full regalia. A wonderful family service followed where we shared the Easter Story.

On Good Friday children and parents came to St Mary's to make Easter Gardens and the end results were great. The gardens had cress planted in them so by Easter Sunday they had all burst into life. All of our churches were beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday and it was a delight to see both St Mary's and St Rumbolds' full of people including many children.

Scout Family Camp

We are lucky to have such a fantastic Scout Group in the village, in the form of 1st Woodcutts, which is made up of great young people and a hardworking team of leaders. Mrs Vicarage and I along with our youngest son Ben, who is an Explorer, attended the family camp over the May bank Holiday weekend. Around 150 of us were there and we all took part in an exciting program of events including, archery, rocket making, knot work as well as the traditional songs round the camp fire. We were well fed and watered with a full roast dinner on the Sunday night; roast pork, chicken, gammon and beef with all the trimmings. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know more families in the village and I was honoured to lead a sort service of dedication to St George on the Sunday morning where all the Scouts packs reaffirmed their scout promise. I'm thrilled to have been accepted to become one of the new Assistant Scout Leaders joining the 1st Woodcutts Team and working alongside Skip and my youngest Ben.



Time to hang up the trowel

It was also good to be able to present George Jackson with a commemorative trowel for his many years of dedication to the maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard at a recent service.

We are always looking for more people to join our churchyard teams so if you are interested then please do get in touch.

Mission Action Plan

At St Mary's Annual Parochial Meeting on the 10th April we launch our Mission Action Plan (MAP) which will help guide the church over the next ten years as we seek to better serve the community we are in and be a spiritual focus for all people making the church more relevant for the world today. I'm pleased to share that following discussions with the Archdeacon the Diocese have agreed to reduce our Parish Share to £17,000 in 2020 and that the outstanding debt of £18,000 does not need to be recorded in our accounts in effect righting it off. This puts St Mary's on a much better footing for the future. If you would like to read our Mission Action Plan a PDF version can be downloaded from handleychurch.org.uk/about/vision.html

Alpha returns with Café Alpha

Our Alpha Course finished just before Easter and it was a pleasure to share the Alpha journey with a lovely group of people as we explored the Christian faith in more depth. We are all pilgrims on the road some old and some new and we can always learn new things about life and God's plan for us. Most importantly we can support one another on the road. Alpha will return in September with Café Alpha which will take place once a week in the mornings. We will be serving great coffee with fabulous cakes and watching the short Alpha presentations followed by discussion. It will be perfect for those who have just dropped children off at school. Watch this space

Churchyards

If you have walked through St Mary's Churchyard recently you will have noticed the beautiful spring flowers bursting forth and how well kept it is looking. All of our churches are lucky enough to have a small dedicated team of volunteers who keep them looking so good. They give freely of their time and often other resources to ensure we have a good community space and a place of respect and contemplation where our loved ones can rest in peace. The new team at St Mary's has been working hard with the PCC to implement a new Churchyard Project that will bring us in line with CofE and Diocesan Regulations regarding open Churchyards. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Canon Richard Hancock. TSSF