



The Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



#4 2019

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

Who's who?

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The Vicarage
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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



Dads ...in action!

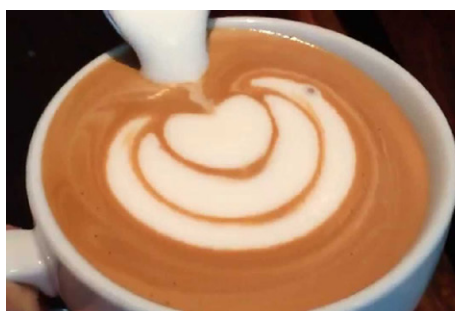


June saw our first Father's Day event in Sixpenny Handley. A family service took place in St Mary's which was well attended, including the Archbishop of Latvia Jānis Vanags and some of his clergy. They were visiting the Diocese and wanted to see a rural church engaging

with the community in new ways. The service was a celebration of being a bloke and that we should all have a fatherly instinct to care and nurture others even if they are not our own off spring. The readings focused on St Joseph to which a small chapel is dedicate in St Mary's and that we are all God's children through adoption. Jesus gives us all an example of how we should live and care for one another. The service was followed by an event down by the Village TAP which involved a picnic with competitive Dad games, including the Scotch Egg and spoon race, plank racing and bean bag throwing. Great fun was had by all. Antony Brown was crowned the most competitive Dad amongst stiff competition from the other Dads and several Grandads! The ladies also joined in on some of the family games and their own race. Handley men also sported waistcoats several of them wearing two upholding the 6dH tradition. Can I thank the Village TAP for their support and 1st Woodcuts Scouts for lending the games equipment.



Some have commented that such events are sexist, but I don't think this is true. There are many opportunities for the ladies to celebrate and gather together, such as Mothering Sunday and with organisations such as Mothers Union and the WI. Many studies have shown that men today feel more isolated than ever before. In the UK the biggest killer of men under 45 is suicide. This is a freighting statistic because this has a huge impact on families and communities. I believe it's important that local churches and communities develop opportunities for men to get together to share the joys and woes of life and foster a mutual support for one another. I'm please to say our new Men's Breakfast group on the second Saturday of the month is growing as is our new ladies group TLC.



Café Alpha

St Mary's Church
12th September
to 14th November

Alpha





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 Colin Symes and Alec Hunt

Remember!

If you would like to give your child a good start in life, talk to the vicar about a christening.

If you are getting married, you can get married in your local church if you live in the parish or have some other link.

And if a loved one dies, please talk to us about how the church may be able to help.

Contact the vicar for more information. We are here for you.

In full colour

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



DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON



I write this article as we approach Midsummers, and creation is in full bloom as I look out of my study window. The past couple of months rural life, creation and the environment have been taking a lead in much of my ministry. On Sunday the 26th May we celebrated Rogation Sunday when traditionally the fields, crops, water courses and village boundaries are blessed. Many rural communities participate in a boundary walk which is known as beating the bounds, where each village would remark its parish boundary. We symbolically did this by coming out of the church and blessing Handley and the surrounding countryside from the top of the hill. This celebration follows on from Plough Sunday in January which marks the beginning of the agricultural year. The church service and blessings were to ensure a good harvest and we pray that this will be the case for our farmers this year. Last year's hot summer and drought was not good for much of the farming community.



Open Farm Sunday

At the beginning of June it was great to take part in Open Farm Sunday and visit Myncen Farm with many other people. It was a stunningly beautiful day and as well as rides on a traction engine, tractors great food and cider there was lots to learn about farming. Farmers have

to strike an incredibly difficult balance between producing food commercially for many hungry mouths, while also caring for the countryside around us and ensuring they can earn a living from the land. It was great to see the many environmental initiatives that our local farmers have put in place to support wildlife. We have tried to do this in our own small way at the Vicarage by not mowing all the laws and allowing wild flowers and grasses to grow to encourage insects and wild life.



The beautiful spray of wild flowers I have outside on the vicarage lawn is far more beautiful than close cut striped grass. I have also been bringing the small vicarage pond back to life after last summer when the house was empty, and it nearly dried up. Now it's full of plant life, lovely insects and even some newts, plus a few fish.



Poppies providing a wildlife field margin alongside Ackling Dyke Roman Road near Handley Cross roundabout (June 2019).

Extinction Rebellion

Over the past few months the urgency of climate change and the damage that is happening to our environment has been in the news headlines most weeks. People like David Attenborough have been speaking out about our wastefulness and the effect it is having on our planet. It's great to see that virtually all food outlets in the UK have now stop using plastic straws which can have such a devastating effect on wildlife. Small steps like these can make a difference but the urgency of our situation can't be underestimated. I'm delighted to see young people actively involved in trying to make a difference politically by their school strike campaign. If our nation is going to change then the young will have to take an active part in our political process. Direct action groups such as Extinction Rebellion XR have also been helping to raise awareness of the climate catastrophe that will soon be upon us.



I was recently asked by Salisbury Extinction Rebellion to be involved in a peaceful protest outside Salisbury Civic Hall to draw attention to the 200 species a day that become extinct. A funeral was held outside the hall as councillors arrived for a meeting, at which an agenda item was the environment. A coffin was carried across the square with many plaques of animal now extinct. As Salisbury Diocese is the first ECO Diocese in the country and Bishop Nicholas is the lead Bishop on the environment in the Church of England, I was very happy to play my part in a small way. St Francis of Assisi is the Patron saint of the environment so as a Franciscan, I read

out the Cantic of the Creatures which he wrote in Praise of God's creation. I'm please to say that the Salisbury Councillors adopted several new environmental measures for the city at their meeting.

The Cantic of the Creatures



*Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour
and all blessings.*

*To you alone, Most High, do they
belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to
pronounce Your Name.*

*Praised be You my Lord with all Your
creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give
us light.*

*And he is beautiful and radiant with
great splendour,*

Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister
Moon and the stars,*

*In the heavens you have made them
bright, precious and fair.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through
Brothers Wind and Air,*

*And fair and stormy, all weather's
moods, by which You cherish all that
You have made.*

*Praised be You my Lord through Sister
Water, So useful, humble, precious and
pure.*

*Praised be You my Lord through Brother
Fire,*

*through whom You light the night and
he is beautiful and playful and robust
and strong.*

*Praised be You my Lord through our
Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and
governs us, producing varied fruits with
coloured flowers and herbs.*

*Praise be You my Lord through those
who grant pardon for love of You and
bear sickness and trial.*

*Blessed are those who endure in peace,
By You Most High, they will be crowned.*

*Praised be You, my Lord through Sister
Death, from whom no-one living can
escape. Woe to those who die in mortal
sin! Blessed are they She finds doing
Your Will.*

*No second death can do them harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him
thanks, and serve Him with great
humility.*

You may not feel that engaging in protests is for you, but I would encourage us all to look at the changes we can personally make that will have a positive effect on our environment, even small things can if multiplied by many make a BIG difference. The bible teaches us that God expects us to be wise stewards of his creation. Yes he did create it for us, but not as a resource to be squandered, to be turned into profits but to be celebrated and enjoyed and passed onto future generations.





+ 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

☪ Men's Breakfast Club
2nd Saturday of the month at St Mary's at 8.00 followed by breakfast at Hanlega's. Signup form at back of church or email; canonrick@icloud.com

*** Special Event**
Please refer to the main text for details of special events marked on the calendar.

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.

🌸 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	Gussage St Andrew 9.30am	St Rumbold's Pentridge 11.15am	St Mary's Sixpenny Handley		
			9.30am	10.00am	6.00pm
Aug 4 th	#	HC	HC	#	#
Aug 11 th	HC	#	Informal	#	#
Aug 18 th	#	MP	HC	#	Evensong
Aug 25 th	HC	#	#	Family	HC

Our service patterns will be changing in September*

SUNDAY SERVICES	Gussage St Andrew 9.00am	St Mary's Handley 10.00am ☕	St Rumbold's Pentridge 11.15am	St Mary's Handley 6.00pm
Sept 1 st	HC	HC	HC	Evensong
Sept 8 th	#	Breakfast Church	#	HC
Sept 15 th	Matins (MP)	HC	MP	Evensong
Sept 22 nd	#	Family Service	#	#
Sept 29 th	#	Harvest Festival	#	#

*Subject to final confirmation by the PCC

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

MagnifiCafé ☕

We are planning to develop a weekly morning café in St Mary's Church which will meet on Thursday mornings from 9am–12pm. We hope to launch this in July. This will be perfect for those who have just dropped off children at school and fancy a coffee, natter as well as cake, toast and even scrambled eggs.

Teddy Bears will be part of this so there will be things for those with toddlers to engage with and we will be running a Café version of Alpha in September so people can discover more about the Christian faith today. You don't have to be a church goer to attend this, it's for the whole community and we hope it will become a regular gathering place for the village.



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
11	12	13	14	15 ☕	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 ☕	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 ☕	30	31

September See website for updates

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