



**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 Seeker

handleychurch.org.uk



#1 2020

THIS IS A RUBBISH CAMPAIGN.



Tear Fund
LENT 2020

Join the Rubbish Campaign by taking the **Plastic Pledge** to give up using one single-use plastic item for 40 days (or more!). Every single-use plastic item we save is one less thing in a landfill site, ocean or incinerator – or one less thing shipped overseas for another country to dispose of.

The most common items include disposable cups, drinks bottles, non-recyclable packaging, wipes and female sanitary products. Finding alternatives to these plastics is easier than you might think!

OUR ACTIONS SEND A MESSAGE

We can use our choices – as well as our voices – to urge decision-makers to make changes that will help people in poverty. Plastic waste and carbon emissions have a devastating impact on our global neighbours, contributing to pollution, disease and climate change. When we show by our actions that we want to live in a fairer and less wasteful world, we are caring for them and valuing what God has given us. And we are sending a powerful signal that we want decision-makers to act.

It would be
FANTASTIC if all our
local communities could
join in this Lent Campaign.

There will be a special Family
Service on 1st March 10am at
St Mary's 6dH to launch
our local campaign and
take the pledge.



LENT FILM NIGHTS

7pm Wednesdays through February & March
St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley

All the films are free, donations welcomed for refreshments – ALL WELCOME

Over 5 Wednesdays in February and March as part of Lent, we will be showing five great films which explore the human condition some which will help us to reflect on the importance of faith, community and life. Even if you don't regard yourself as a religious person we hope that you will find these films thought provoking so please do come along. There is no charge just a simple donation for refreshments which will be available. Our five films can be found on page two...

[Please note these films are not suitable for young children]





**News items
and articles welcome!**

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

Thanks!



Now you can!



Look out for the new crisp packet
recycling point in St Mary's

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.



LENT FILM NIGHTS

[Please note — not suitable for young children]

THE WAY — 4TH March C12

A powerful and inspirational story about family, friends and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an irascible American dentist who comes to France to deal with the tragic loss of his son (played by Emilio Estevez). Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage "The Way of St. James" to honour his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom doesn't plan on is the profound impact this trip will have on him.



THE RAILWAY MAN – 11TH MARCH C15

Based on the remarkable bestselling autobiography, THE RAILWAY MAN tells the extraordinary and epic true story of Eric Lomax (Colin Firth), a British Army officer who is tormented as a prisoner of war at a Japanese labour camp during World War II. Decades later, Lomax and his beautiful love interest Patti (Nicole Kidman) discover that the Japanese interpreter responsible for much of his treatment is still alive and set out to confront him, and his haunting past, in this powerful and inspiring tale of heroism, humanity and the redeeming power of love



I DANIEL BLACK – 25TH MARCH C15

Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, from director Ken Loach is a gripping, human tale about the impact one man can make. Gruff but goodhearted, Daniel Blake (Dave Johns) is a man out of time: a widowed woodworker who's never owned a computer, he lives according to his own common sense moral code. But after a heart attack leaves him unable to work and the state welfare system fails him, the stubbornly self-reliant Daniel must stand up and fight for his dignity, leading a one-man crusade for compassion that will transform the lives of a struggling single mother (Hayley Squires) and her two children. Graced with humour and heart, I, Daniel Blake is a moving, much-needed reminder of the power of empathy from one of the greatest living filmmakers.



THE SHACK – 18TH MARCH C12

Based on the New York Times best-selling novel, The Shack takes us on a father's uplifting spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips [Sam Worthington] spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa [Octavia Spencer]. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.



CHOCOLAT – 1ST APRIL C12

The most tempting of all sweets becomes the key weapon in a battle of sensual pleasure versus disciplined self-denial in this comedy. In 1959, a mysterious woman named Vianne (Juliette Binoche) moves with her young daughter into a small French village, where much of the community's activities are dominated by the local Catholic church. A few days after settling into town, Vianne opens up a confectionery shop across the street from the house of worship – shortly after the beginning of Lent. While the townspeople are supposed to be abstaining from worldly pleasures, Vianne tempts them with unusual and delicious chocolate creations, using her expert touch to create just the right candy to break down each customer's resistance. With every passing day, more and more of Vianne's neighbours are succumbing to her sinfully delicious treats, but the Comte de Reynaud (Alfred Molina), the town's mayor, is not the least bit amused; he is eager to see Vianne run out of town before she leads the town into a deeper level of temptation. Vianne, however, is not to be swayed, and with the help of another new arrival in town, a handsome Irish Gypsy named Roux (Johnny Depp), she plans a "Grand Festival of Chocolate", to be held on Easter Sunday. Based on the novel by Joanne Harris.



DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON

Here we are a month into a new year and a new decade. When asked the question, “What era in history I would most have like to live in?” I would have chosen the roaring 20s. Though they were a decade of excess that eventually led to the great depression in the 30s, they were also a decade of great innovation and art. Many people today, including Mrs Vicarage are big fans of the Art Deco movement. The 20s symbolised shrugging off a decade of darkness and violence, in which millions died and suffered as a result of the Great War.

The decade saw many changes in religion and belief. The Great War had two polarizing effects either turning people to God or turning them away. However, the urban and city churches went through a period of growth as many people moved from the countryside and agricultural work to work in ever expanding factories. The flip side of this is that the rural church saw a decline in its attendance and the closure of many Free-Church chapels began.

The church also got more politically active than it had done for many years and took a strong interest in issues like the family, marriage and divorce, prohibition of alcohol, employer-employee relationships, crime and other social issues.

As Plough Sunday reminded us at the beginning of January, Jesus said *“No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”* So we need to avoid the temptation of looking back through rose coloured specs, thinking things were better back then. However I do hope 1920s fashion makes a comeback in the 2020s!

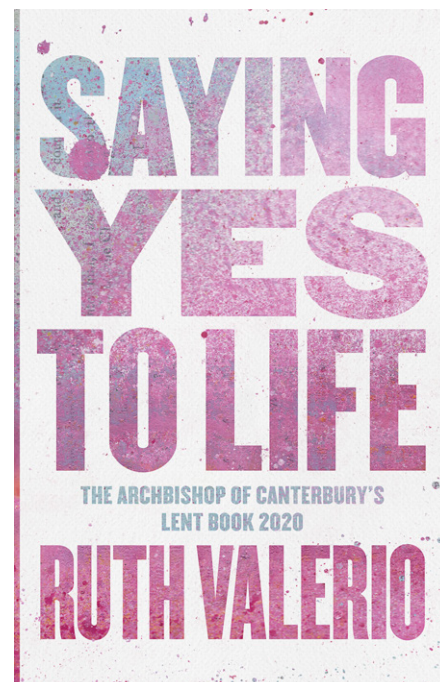
This decade will be possibly our last chance to save the environment and the fragile eco system of our blue planet. As we haven't yet managed to colonize space, we have nowhere else to go. The inferno of the Australian bush fires, the flooding in many tropical countries and local flooding is our planet shouting enough is enough! In the book of Genesis God puts Adam [humanity] over creation. However this was not an invitation from God to plunder our planets resources and do

whatever we feel like with his creation. Rather it was to share with God the awesome responsibility for creation. Sadly a Westernised American theology has viewed creation as something to be exploited for personal gain.

I am no eco warrior and like many of you I often feel overwhelmed as to what I could possibly do that will make a difference. However one thing the Gospels have taught me is that from small efforts and beginnings mighty things can happen. Jesus chose twelve disciples and a handful of other followers to change the world. Some of us will feel called to engage in the political fight for creation and may join various pressure groups like Extinction Rebellion but this isn't for everyone. However we can begin to make changes within our homes to our way of life and in the community. I'm excited to see that several community initiatives have already begun locally including recycling crisp packets, a pop up recycle day café and repair shop amongst others. These in themselves won't save the planet, but by engaging with them it does start to make a difference and starts to train us to think differently about our life styles.

The church in the 1920s became very socially aware championing social issues of its day and I'm please to say the church of today is trying to do the same thing with the environment. Our own Bishop Nichols is the lead Bishop in the CofE and in the House of Lords for the environment, [see article in December Downsman]. This years the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book focuses on the environment. **“Saying Yes to Life”** by Dr Ruth Valerio.

Dr Valerio is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund. An environmentalist, theologian and social activist. Ruth holds a doctorate from Kings College London, and honorary doctorates from the Universities of Winchester and Chichester. She is Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral and her home church is part of the 24/7 Prayer Network. She enjoys living sustainably – practising what she preaches and inspiring others as she does so.



The book is available from Sarum Collage Book Shop and on Amazon for less than £7. I would encourage all of us to read this during Lent.

Dr Valerio is also laying down a 40 day lent challenge in her **“This is a Rubbish Campaign”**. She invites us all to take up a plastic pledge and give up single use plastic for 40 days and longer hopefully. I will be ordering a batch of the cards and hope that as many people as possible in our communities will take up the challenge. This is a way for all of us both religious and non to do something positive in Lent. As part of this we will invite everyone to come to our Family Service on the 1st March the 1st Sunday in Lent to make the pledge and learn more about how we can save our environment.

Also during lent we will be having a series of Film Nights in the church showing films on a Wednesday evening which show us something of our human condition, our relationships and the spiritual dimension to life. Please see the adjacent page for details and dates of the films. These evenings will be free with donations welcomed for refreshments. I hope these options will enable us all to engage in a positive way during the season of Lent regardless of one's own personal religious beliefs and will enable us to do something positive together as a community.

Blessings

Canon Richard Hancock. TSSF



+ 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

MAGNIFICAFÉ

A weekly morning café in St Mary's Church on Thursday mornings from 9am–12pm. 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. Open to all.

TEDDY BEARS

Teddy Bears will be part of Magnificafé so there will be things for those with toddlers to engage with and we plan to run a Café version of Alpha so people can discover more about the Christian faith today.

SUNDAY SERVICES	Gussage St Andrew	St Mary's Handley	St Rumbold's Pentridge	St Mary's Handley
	9.00am	10.00am ☕	11.15am	6.00pm
Feb 2 nd	#	Family Service	HC	HC
Feb 9 th	HC	HC	#	Evensong
Feb 16 th	#	☪ Informal	MP	HC
Feb 23 rd	HC	HC	#	Evensong
Mar 1 st	#	Family Service	HC	vHC
Mar 8 th	HC	HC	#	Evensong
Mar 15 th	#	☪ Informal	Matins MP	HC
Mar 22 nd	HC	Family HC	#	Evensong
Mar 29 th	#	#	Joint Benefice	#

HC Holy Communion **MP** Morning Prayer **#** No service ☪ Breakfast 9.15

Ash Wednesday Feb 26th
Holy Communion and Ashing, 7.00pm, St Mary's

Make a Mothers' Day March 22nd
Join us for an extra Family Service on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, at St Mary's.

2 Second step – take our 40-day plastic pledge.

MY PLASTIC PLEDGE

We have a plastic pollution problem in the UK too. It's estimated that each person in the UK throws away 4,000 pieces of plastic every year.

We can change this rubbish situation. When we do so, we are valuing the world God has given us and following Jesus in loving our neighbours as ourselves. Could you make a pledge today to reduce your own waste?

☐ I will give up a single-use plastic for 40 days (or longer if I can!)

Write in the bottle which single-use plastic item(s) you'll give up:

tearfund *Following Jesus where the need is greatest*

www.tearfund.org/action
100 Church Road, Teddington TW11 8QE
T 020 3906 3906 E campaigns@tearfund.org @TearfundAct

Registered office as above. Registered in England: 994339. A company limited by guarantee.
Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)
Photos: Hermes Rivera/Unsplash 32065ACTQ25-(0519)

1 First step – call on multinational companies to stop being rubbish.

Don't be Rubbish!
PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR PLASTIC WASTE IN POORER COUNTRIES BY MAKING FOUR 'NOT RUBBISH' COMMITMENTS:

- Report - by 2020 the number of single-use plastic products you sell.
- Reduce - commit to halve the number of those products by 2025.
- Recycle - by 2022 ensure one million used plastic bottles are recycled.
- Refuse - work with waste pickers to ensure and build these four commitments, to collect and ensure recycled materials are used.

To make your voice count, please provide your name, location, and church name. Teddington TW11 8QE.

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Pick up your pledge card in church