

From Fr Stephen

It is with much sadness that my family and I come to an end of our time with you in Sedlescombe. We have only been here for some 4½ years and by local standards that is not at all long, yet in this comparatively short time we have all come to love both the Church and the Village. Sedlescombe will always hold a dear place in my family's memories and it will also continue to be a part of my Priestly Ministry. When I arrived here on Advent Sunday 2002 I had only been ordained for just a few months and I found myself very much thrown in at the deep end. In my first sermon I said that this parish would do a great deal towards the sort of Priest that I might become, in other words, how matters worked out in Sedlescombe would contribute in a very real way to my development as a Priest. I am very grateful to you all that for the very large part this has all been a hugely positive experience. At times it is not easy being a Priest but I have always felt a sense of kindness and support towards me from Churchwardens and PCC, the wider church members and the village in general. This has been a really good place for a Priest to take his first steps in Ministry. I should like to place on record my special thanks towards all those for whom the non-Stipendiary nature of my Ministry has meant extra work and responsibility on their part. In particular, your Churchwardens past and present have been very much involved in this way. There have been many occasions when I have not been able to do something or be present somewhere because of my secular work commitment and they have stepped into the breach. Their understanding has been much appreciated by me.

As I am sure you are aware, the reason we are leaving is to secure our future – I am to be Priest-in-Charge of St Leonards, Turners Hill and also Anglican Chaplain at Worth School which is run by the Benedictine Order. I am delighted to be given this exciting opportunity both to have sole responsibility for my own parish and also to be in Priestly Ministry in the wonderful and deeply spiritual setting of Worth Abbey. I very much hope that you will not have to wait too long for a new Priest here - please be assured of my prayers.

With my love,

Your Parish Priest,

Fr Stephen

PARISH NEWS

14th April, 2007

SEDLESCOMBE with WHATLINGTON

Vol.41

No. 15

Second Sunday of Easter

20p

Be careful about reading health books – you may die of a misprint! Mark Twain

Sedlescombe C.E.P. School - the Summer Term commences next Tuesday 17th April (after an in-house Training Day for Teaching Staff on Monday) and we look forward to an exciting and fulfilling term. Half-term will be in week commencing May 28th. On Friday 4th May the P.T.A. is running a Quiz Night (you are all invited) – tickets available by 'phoning us on 870585. Looking ahead, we shall have our end of term Stage Production in the Village Hall on the 18th and 20th July when we present the junior version of 'Grease' called 'Gel' ... make a note now, more details later. The term ends on Wednesday 25th July.

SHORT MAT BOWLS - the popularity of this activity continues and there will be another session in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th April starting at 2.00pm. Newcomers are welcome as there are spare sets of Bowls available for practice. It is important that you bring a pair of flat-soled shoes. Further information from either:- Bob Harris (871415), Colin Clark (871441) or Don Ebdy (870613)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Annual General Meeting By kind permission of Reg and Pauline Glew, the meeting will be held at 36 Park Shaw on Tuesday 17th April at 10.00am. You are very welcome to attend but to help with numbers attending, if it is your intention to be there please 'phone Jean on 870223 or let Reg or Pauline know.

SEDLESCOMBE W.I. - our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th April at 2.00pm in the Village Hall when our Speaker will be Commander R Taine on the subject of Naval Officers' Tales. The competition is 'A Sea Picture' and the Tea Ladies are Mrs Green and Mrs Irwin - a warm welcome awaits all ladies. *Gladys Galster*

The Readings:	
Acts:	5: 27 – 32
Psalm	118 vv 14 - end
Revelation	1: 4 - 8
St John	20 19 – 31
Services and Meetings this week	
St John the Baptist, Sedlescombe Second Sunday of Easter [15] 10.00 am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church followed by Farewell to Fr Stephen, Toni and Ruth Third Sunday of Easter [22] 10.00am Parish Communion and Junior & Youth Church	St Mary Magdalene, Whatlington Second Sunday of Easter [15] 8.30am Parish Communion Third Sunday of Easter [22] 8.30am Parish Communion
Chapel Hill Church – United Reformed <u>Sunday 15th</u> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Melvin Nolan <u>Wednesday 18th</u> Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon in the Meeting Room <u>Sunday 22nd</u> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Peter Wortley	

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Sedlescombe Branch

Our regular monthly meeting takes place next Wednesday 18th April, 10.30am at the Queen's Head - we hope to see as many members as possible.

E Burgess

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH

CHURCH - this coming Sunday (15th) is the last Sunday on which our Curate-in-Charge (Fr Stephen Huggins) will Officiate prior to his departure to take up a new appointment at Turners Hill. The Parish will then be in Interregnum until a new Appointment is made. The day to day responsibility will rest with the Churchwardens (Peggy Evenden and David Green) who will be under the immediate oversight of the Rural Dean, Revd David Frost of St Stephen's Bexhill. Services will continue as normal and as notified at the Church and in the Parish News. Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will continue by arrangement as previous and by contacting either Peggy (774772) or David (870562) in the first instance.

QUIZ NIGHT

- the Table Quiz held on March 31st was a resounding success with well over 50 people attending. The 2 winning teams were presented with chocolate Easter Eggs. A total of more than £200 was raised for Village Hall funds and the organising team thanks everyone for their support, promising to put on another one of these popular functions in the Autumn.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 5th May an open public debate is to take place in the Village Hall combining with students of Pestalozzi on the subject of Climate Change throughout the world. Topical and important - keep the date free; further details to follow.

Saturday 12th May is the date for the Garden Society's Annual Plant Market from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Village Hall; keep watching the *Parish News* for more details.

OTHER REMINDERS

Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting - will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm. Tables must be set up between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Space remains for one or two more tables - please contact The Clerk on 870508.

Parish News - contributors are asked to hand in copy at the Post Office by 9.00am next Wednesday (18th) for the April 21st Edition which should be available from the Post Office on Friday 20th.