

The Gift of Simple Kindness - Revd Phil Streeter

Whatever one thinks about Jesus Christ we would all agree that he was a *kind* man. Look at the sort of people that he formed friendships with – a wretched company of dropouts, outcasts, derelicts and square pegs in round holes. The sort of people who never seemed to fit in anywhere. There was nothing religious about him – he was just amiable, a person who we would all feel relaxed to be with.

Not only did he chatter to them about everything and nothing, he actually strolled into their homes, relaxed at their tables and ate with them – the very climax of kindness and audacity. It's one thing to toss coins into the laps of beggars and buskers (as we would throw currant buns to grizzly bears) but it's another thing to drink coffee with them – the beggars and buskers that is!

The friendly Jesus crossed the chasm over which no man of his day or generation was willing to pass. By doing so, he lost his reputation, ripped his good name to shreds and hurled it away, all because he determined to be *kind*.

I say determined because very often kindness requires a chunk of effort on our part. The Christian Bible says "Put on kindness" it's as positive and definite as putting your clothes on in the morning. *Kindness* is not always an "easy come, easy go" cosy carpet slipper spontaneity. Frequently as we have all found out, it demands purpose of will and gritting of teeth.

Kindness does not take pride in the fact that it speaks its own mind, usually it painfully bites its own tongue. *Kindness* swallows hard and turns the other cheek - it claps the fingers of gentleness to irritatingly walk a second mile - it senses that it must endeavour to give soft answers to rough questions because of possible pain and hurt behind the question.

Kindness is a lovely word for a lovely quality. It even sounds good doesn't it? Try saying it slowly. *Kindness* is an old fashioned word used of red wine which has grown mellow with age and lost its harshness – the connoisseur would remark "This wine is kind".

As I said at the beginning, Jesus was a *kind* man. His ability to be kind was like the light which does everything it possibly can to fill the darkness. He knew that honey attracts and vinegar distracts and that we also attract to ourselves what we are ... and the smile of Jesus says "Don't you see that it's better to be kind than right?"

SEDLESCOMBE AND DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY

PLANT MARKET

10.30 am – 12.30 pm
SATURDAY 12 MAY
SEDLESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

TODAY

SPONSORED BY
BLACKBROOKS GARDEN CENTRE

TODAY

ADMISSION 30 p

PARISH NEWS

May 12th 2007

SEDLESCOMBE with WHATLINGTON

Vol.41

No. 19

Sixth Sunday of Easter

20p

TODAY (Saturday 12th)

Sedlescombe & District Garden Society holds its **Annual Plant Market** in the Village Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm (*the event is sponsored by Blackbrooks Garden Centre*) and will provide an opportunity for you to purchase a wide range of garden and house plants grown by Society members and by amateur and commercial nurseries. Garden tools, books and other garden accessories will also be on sale. It will be helpful to organisers if plants can be brought to the Hall between 9 – 10am - please contact David Smith (01424 433360) if transport is needed.

Members of **Sedlescombe Green W.I.** who have made cakes and other tasty items for the **Cake Stall** at the Plant Market are asked to take them to the Hall between 9.30 and 10.00am or to leave them at 2 Forge Cottages before 9.30am; if anyone is unable to deliver, please contact Margaret on 870808 as soon as possible.

Whatlington Parish Church will be holding a Coffee Morning from 10.00am 'til 12 noon in the Village Hall at Whatlington. There will be stalls for cakes, bric a brac, plants and books together with a Raffle and Tombola. Do come and join us for a coffee and a natter – you will be most welcome; *Valerie Bishop (773017)*

SEDLESCOMBE GREEN W.I. our next meeting (which is our Resolutions Meeting) will take place on Wednesday 16th May at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. The competition is 'My Favourite Poem' and Tea Ladies for the day are Mrs Davey and Mrs Elmes. A warm welcome awaits all of you ladies! *Gladys Galster*

ROSELANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION will be holding a Table sale on Saturday next (19th) from 12 noon (setting up starts 10.00am); Tables @ £5 each (though the numbers will be limited) and entrance is 40p; Teas and Cake Stall and a Tombola; for further information please 'phone 871160.

The Readings:	Acts:	16:	9 – 15
	<i>Psalm</i>		67
	Revelation	21:	10 - 22
	St John	14	23 - 29

Services and Meetings this week

<p>St John the Baptist, Sedlescombe</p> <p>Sixth Sunday of Easter [13]</p> <p>10.00 am Parish Communion [for United Benefice of Sedlescombe with Whatlington] together with Junior and Youth Church <i>Revd Francis Willoughby</i></p> <p>Tuesday 15th 3.15pm Funeral Service for Peter Moughton at Hastings Crematorium</p> <p>Seventh Sunday of Easter [20]</p> <p>10.00am Parish Communion and Junior & Youth Church</p>	<p>St Mary Magdalene, Whatlington</p> <p>Sixth Sunday of Easter [13]</p> <p>10.30am Family Service</p> <p>Seventh Sunday of Easter [20]</p> <p>8.30am Parish Communion</p>
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Chapel Hill Church – United Reformed	
Sunday 13th	10.30am Christian Aid Service led by Revd Roy Cole
Wednesday 16th	Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon in the Meeting Room
Sunday 20th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Pat Reigh

SEDLESCOMBE PARISH CHURCH

The Funeral Service for Peter Moughton will take place at Hastings Crematorium on Tuesday 15th May at 3.15pm. when it is hoped that as many of those who held Peter in such high regard will be there to pay last respects.

A Flower Festival will be held at St John the Baptist Parish Church over the week-end of June 23rd/24th and we shall look forward to your support. Further details to follow but for the moment, just make a note of the date. *Margaret*

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL NEWS

- our **Family Quiz Night** took place last Friday with 10 teams taking part, and it was a huge success. The winners were “The Chocolatiers” taking the prize for the highest score. Our super Fish ‘n Chip supper was provided by Maggie from the Queen’s Head and our grateful thanks to her.

We now look forwards to the next PTA event which is the **May Ball** at the Brickwall Hotel on Friday 18th May.

School Sports Day takes place on Friday 25th May on the village Sports Field and will be from 9.45 – 12 noon for 7 – 11 year olds and 1.30pm to 3.00pm for our 4 – 7 year olds. You are all welcome to attend but bring your own chairs/blankets to sit on!

School Sports Area – many within the village community will understand that we have listened carefully to the concerns of our neighbours in the immediate

vicinity of the School. We have therefore amended the recent Planning Application for extension of hours of use for the new Sports Area and we hope that it meets with approval and support.

A Special Request - a family at school with 2 young boys is in need of child care during school term-time. If you are interested in this (paid) job and would like some further information, please ‘phone us on 870585 ... two lovely little boys called Archie and Louis! Thank you. *MH*

CHAPEL HILL CHURCH - this is **Christian Aid Week** – please give generously to this worthy Charity through the collecting tin in the Village Shop.

Further information on Chapel Hill Church can now be found on the Village Website at www.sedlescombe.org.uk/Localgroups/localgroups.html Click on ‘chapel’ for a link to either the message for the month or the diary.

SEDLESCOMBE FAYRE (Saturday 2nd June) Stop Press!

- Actress Barbara Flynn, star of ‘Miss Potter’ will be performing the Opening Ceremony;
- Friends of Sedlescombe Church are looking for some help in running their ‘Handbags & Gladrags’ stall;
- Sadly there will be no procession through the village to start the event off;
- Full report to follow next week.