

Change or no change?

The old lady was very short sighted, and she had stared at the fish tank all the evening. Eventually she turned to her husband and said, 'Same old rubbish. Nothing but sex and violence.' Certainly television programmes often follow the same tried and trusted formulas, which probably reflects society's desire to stick to the safe and familiar, but I'm not sure they're quite that bad.

I came across an interesting fact the other day. Did you know that the railway gauge for North America, which is incidentally the same as ours, can be traced back to the Romans. It seems that the rather odd measurement of 4 feet 8.5 inches is the same as the distance between the wheels of an Imperial Roman war chariot. So there's not much change there, then.

But change is a fact of life, it goes on all around us, our friends and relatives are constantly dealing with change and of course we get caught up in it. Not only because of them, but because it is happening to us as well. None of us can put off the ageing process with all its attendant changes, and then there are changes in jobs, relationships, homes and a thousand other things to cope with as well.

Some people actually enjoy the process, but many of us resist it and even fear it; we prefer to stick with the safe and familiar, because it makes our lives feel comfortable. The disciples may have wanted to hang on to Jesus, His presence made them feel secure and safe, but He had to return to His Father. (Acts 1: 9) Suddenly all they had to cling to were their memories and the teachings Jesus had given them.

It is, I think, to their credit that they believed and continued to trust Jesus' words even in His absence. They stuck with it, and boy was it worth it, because at Pentecost a few days later, they were transformed

When change comes, or simply threatens, we often need something safe and reliable to hang on to. We also have God's word and promises. The Psalmist said, "Your love stands for ever." (Ps. 89:2). Jesus also promises to be with His people to the end of the age (Matt.28 20) . So, through all the changing scenes of life, we can cling to God's love and His presence, all made possible through God's Spirit given at Pentecost.

If change is affecting you, don't despair; just hold on to the promises of God, and like the disciples you too will come through, stronger for the experience.

RC

• PARISH NEWS

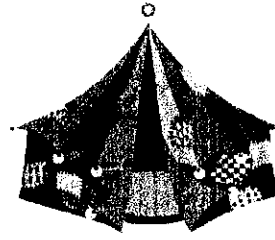
• 26 May 2007 •

• SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

• Vol.41 No 21

• Pentecost

• 20p. •



Sedlescombe Fayre - 2nd June 2007

We have just over a week to go before this major village event with all committee and supporters working hard towards the day. We can promise you a great day's entertainment kicking off with a parade into the arena at about 1.45pm followed by the opening ceremony performed by Barbara Flynn, from the film "Miss Potter". There will be all the traditional side stalls and games of chance alongside craft, village group, charity stalls plus face painting, bouncy castle, ball pool and go karts for the children. Sedlescombe Rangers will also be holding a football tournament with their youngest players. The Flower Princess will be attendance
Arena displays will include Hastings Coastal Twirlers, Belly Dancing and Falconry. All money raised from the day is used to help organisations around the village. If you haven't marked your diary yet, - Please do so now!

Appealing for 2nd June

We would welcome any additional donations to help us provide a super stocked day. If you able to supply any of the following please contact the telephone number listed: Plants - 870808, Cakes - 870465, Bric a Brac (except electrical) - 871415, Tombola prizes - 870517 We thank you for your support

Sedlescombe Environmental Working Group.

Yellow Pages have just been delivered locally. Many millions of Yellow Pages are dumped into landfills each year. However, they can be used as compost. Simply tear them up page by page excluding the spine and covers and place in a bucket of water . When the pages have soaked for a while add them to your compost bin.

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PENTECOST	
The Readings:	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 37 Romans 8:14-17 St John 14:8-17
Services and Meetings this week	
SEDLSCOMBE St John the Baptist Pentecost [27]	WHATLINGTON St Mary Magdalene Pentecost [27]
10 am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church	8.30 am Parish Communion
Next Sunday - Trinity Sunday [3]	Next Sunday - Trinity Sunday [3]
10 am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church	8.30 am Parish Communion
Chapel Hill Church - United Reformed	
Sunday 27 May 10.30 am Pentecost Morning Worship led by Gwen Epps	
Tuesday 29 May 2.30 pm Home Group at 15 Gorselands	
Wednesday 30 May Coffee Morning 10.30 am - 12 noon in the Meeting Room	
Sunday 3 June Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Cynthia Teal	
Total collected for Christian Aid through collecting tin at the Village Shop was £9.61. Total village collection for the whole week was £109.42. Many thanks to all who contributed.	

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Sedlescombe School

On Tuesday 5th June we are extending a warm invitation to the village community to enjoy a school lunch! Cost is £3 per person for a 2 course meal. Lunch is at

12.40 pm in the hall. Everyone is welcome but we do require you to book your lunch by phoning the school or popping a note into school by Wednesday 30th May. This is the deadline as we need to

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know numbers. Our Year 6 children will be your waiters and waitresses! We hope to see many of you — bringing back “school day memories!”

On Sunday 3rd June a little boy in our Reception class is doing a sponsored travel and we would appreciate some support from members of our village please. Why should you sponsor Charlie? Let me explain: Charlie has cerebral palsy and wants to buy a laptop computer to use at school instead of writing so that he can keep up with the rest of the class. He is going to travel one mile under his own steam, walking, cycling and riding at Alexandra Park. He will start at Silverhill and aims to finish at the band stand by the cafe at 1 pm. He invites you to join him at the finish to cheer him on.

The Sponsor form is in the Post Office.

On Tuesday 12th June at 6.45 pm we invite parents/carers of our new Reception children to a meeting here, in preparation for the new school year in September.

Marian

St John the Baptist Church Flower Festival

On Friday - Sunday, 22-24 June. Beautiful flower arrangements to

view. Light refreshments each day. Organ recitals, Bell ringing demonstration. Plant, Book, and Bric-a-Brac Stalls -- and more. All proceeds for the church fabric fund.

Free Advisory Visits for Parish Woodlands:

Do you own a woodland – small or large? Would you like advice on the sustainable productivity of your woodland? Are you interested in finding out about renewable wood fuel production or would you like to produce timber for your own use or to sell?

WoodNet is a charity based at the Woodland Enterprise Centre near Flimwell aiming to help make woodlands in the Wealden & Rother Rural (WARR) Area more productive whilst maintaining biodiversity. WoodNet Outreach Officer, Richard Smith, can visit your woodland and advise on potential timber products and ways of developing your woodland sustainably.

Find out more at: www.woodnet.org.uk. To book your WoodNet Outreach Visit and for more information on all WoodNet activity please contact: Jenny Martin, jenny@woodnet.org.uk, Tel: 01580 879552