

Job or Work - or Blessing?

Recently, I have been reflecting on the fact that as a Parish Priest, Vicar and Minister I am doing something that I really want to do, and on the whole that makes me happy though like anybody else, I do have my 'off days'. Clergy in any case are particularly prone to a disease called "Irritable Vicar Syndrome". Well, it isn't too surprising, always trying to please everyone and that's impossible - so one does get a little low now and again.

However, doing something that one really wants to do is rare. I would like to think that everyone has a vocation in some way for which I distinguish between job and work. A job is something we do to make a living and to pay our bills, but work is something else. It has to do with our heart, and in our work, we should do what we enjoy. The idea is that there is a connection between joy and work however, is fairly new to a lot of people.

The 19th Century Industrial Revolution changed people's thinking. Joy in work was not one of the great values - obedience and efficiency, yes, but not joy. So, work was narrowly defined and consequently we have missed other aspects of work like art, music, poetry, healing, celebration and ritual, all of which are work in a healthy community.

So, there are two practical test questions for us to think about ... first, *What do we derive from our work?* and then, *What joy do others derive as a result of our work?* These questions take us into the heart of our vocation. If we cannot come up with much, then it means we have a job and not work which is OK but, we should be looking for work as well. We need jobs, but if the key is how others can derive blessing from our work (because that is what work really is to human beings) it is a return of blessing from blessing.

It is our "thank you" to the community for being here and it is why unemployment is so disastrous to the human spirit. It creates despair and then bitterness which leads to frustration and then to violence then on to crime. Let us rediscover (or discover for the first time) that there is a spirituality in work.

Revd Freddy Denman - Vicar of Sparkwell, Cornwood and Luton (Plymouth)

PARISH NEWS

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SEDLESCOMBE with WHATLINGTON

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TODAY (Saturday 9th)

LOCAL AND PROUD OF IT!

This week has been *National Independents' Week* and smaller shops around the country supported by their suppliers have held a variety of activities to reinforce their position within their communities under the slogan "*My shop is your shop*".

This afternoon, we shall be holding a "Street Party" on The Green and we warmly invite you to join us from 2 o'clock onwards.

Jenny and John

OPEN STUDIO tomorrow (Sunday 9th) local Artist Mark Fisher opens his Studio at The Den, Meadow Lane from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. for callers to view a range of originals, prints and greetings cards on sale. Commissions are undertaken, also Group Tuitions and Workshops can be arranged. The Studio will be open on several other dates during June for which full details can be obtained from Mark on 871605.

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL

May we again remind parents/carers for the new Reception Children that there is a *Preparation Meeting for the new School Year* in the School next Tuesday 12th June at 6.45pm - we hope to see as many of you as possible as a very important time in your child's life is approaching.

We are delighted to report that last Sunday, Charlie successfully completed his *Sponsored Travel* in Alexandra Park. There was a wonderful gathering of supporters there to watch him go through the finishing line tape and give him a great cheer. If you still have sponsor money to hand in, we look forward to seeing you soon! *MH*

DELMEZA HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE Delmeza cares for more than 450 families with over 100 in East Sussex and they need to raise their profile in the area. You are warmly invited to join us in the Village Hall on Tuesday next (12th) between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. when you will be able to see more about their work and to have a chat along with free refreshments. Please do try to support this important Children's Hospice.

The Readings:		1 Kings: 17: 17 - 24 <i>Psalm</i> 30 Galatians 1: 11 - 24 St Luke 7 11 - 17
Services and Meetings this week		
St John the Baptist, Sedlescombe Trinity 1 [10] 10.00 am Parish Communion [for United Benefice of Sedlescombe with Whatlington] with Junior & Youth Church Monday [11] 7.30pm Parochial Church Council Meeting Tuesday [12] 6.30 pm Rootz 'n' Shootz at Chapel Hill Church Trinity 2 [17] 10.00am Parish Communion with Junior and Youth Church	St Mary Magdalene, Whatlington Trinity 1 [10] 10.30am Family Service Trinity 2 [17] 8.30am Parish Communion	
Chapel Hill Church – United Reformed		
Sunday 10th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Roy Smith		
Tuesday No Home Group this week		
Wednesday 13th Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12noon in the Meeting Room		
Sunday 17th 10.30am Worship led by Mike and Judith Welch		

REMINDERS

Race for Life - Gill White and her 2 daughters will be running the "Race for Life" in Alexandra Park on Sunday 17th June in aid of Cancer Research UK. You can still sponsor them for this most worthy cause and the form is at the Surgery - thank you.

Sedlescombe Players' Annual General Meeting will be held in Committee Room 2 of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 18th June; all members are asked to do their best to attend. *SW*

Royal British Legion - calling all ex-Service and Merchant Navy personnel - the national "Veterans' Day" celebration takes place on Wednesday 27th June throughout the U.K.

For Veterans living in and around Sedlescombe the local R.B.L. branch will celebrate "Veterans' Day" on Saturday 30th June. If you would like to take part, please make early contact with me in order to anticipate the numbers we should prepare for - tel 870219.

E Burgess - Chairman

SEDLESCOMBE PARISH CHURCH - Glorious June

Our Flower Festival takes place from Friday 22nd until Sunday 24th June and plans are well advanced for the big fund-raising week-end at our Church. There will be organ recitals on each of the days and a bell-ringing demonstration during Saturday afternoon.

The usual variety of stalls will be in the churchyard as well and we are appealing for plants and cuttings, gifts of cakes and

preserves for sale as well as for use in refreshments to be provided and of course, prizes for the tombola! Over a period of 3 days much is consumed so your warm generosity with donations of this sort is invited. Please contact 870808, 870688 or 870533.

Margaret

SEDLESCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB - in co-operation with Roselands, SFC is now able to offer daytime *Bingo* once a month. The first game will be at Roselands on 27th June at 2.00pm and the callers will be Maureen Baker and Reg Glew - all are welcome. The games will be low cost and tea and biscuits will be provided.

SEDLESCOMBE FAYRE What a glorious day! Our prayers were answered and there must have been so many fingers crossed for us. It was a bumper attendance - we think the best for many years. Winners of prizes in the Grand Draw are on display in the Post Office and if the owner of a lady's handbag will contact me on 870344 'piggy' will be handed back to her owner and J Langer who won the Welly Throwing Competition can also collect his prize.

None of the huge success would have been possible without a hard working committee and a host of volunteers to whom Sedlescombe Societies Association says a huge "Thank you". A total of £1400 was raised for organisations around the village and applications for support funding can be made at our AGM later in the year.

Judy Torrance