

## “Another day, another thought for the day”

By proclaiming that the Roman Catholic Church is the only *true* Church, this present disastrous Pope has turned the clock back 50 years in the ecumenical movement and one can only look on in dismay. I then console myself by saying “who gives a damn anyway?” our own Church of England Synod meeting in July seemed more concerned about church politics than in mission - who gives a damn anyway?

The reality is that millions of people couldn't care less what we, or the Pope actually say or think but they do want the church to speak about life and death, about love and grace, about justice and hope and because we are not speaking about those things who is surprised if people go elsewhere? The General Synod goes on missing the point, circulating reports where people are no longer interested (and which nobody reads) and passes resolutions that nobody cares about. Jesus certainly did not come to bring us this stuff - he did come to bring us life in its fullness.

I'm sorry if this all sounds depressing but with the lack of any 'summer' to speak of, the recent death of a friend, the antics of the Church of England and Pope Benedict - it was all too much for me. I don't want to offend my many Roman Catholic friends but I do suspect that many of them think the same about Pope John Paul II's successor.

Meanwhile, people are also anxious that the values enshrined within our society are being overshadowed by the growing influence of Islam in Britain. Why isn't the C of E being more aggressive in challenging that, I ask? Islam is changing the nature of Britain and there seems to be a total lack of policy, strategy or coherence by the Church of England in responding to this.

And to conclude - Climate Change! The scientific establishment is convinced that global warming is a threat that is going to wipe out civilisation as we know it. Politicians and the chattering classes have bought the idea and yet, the vast bulk of us carry on buying, consuming, driving, flying, and landfilling as if there were no tomorrow. It's not clear whether the public's attitude to climate change is governed by scepticism, ignorance, disbelief, self-interest, laziness, inertia or a mixture of all of them. In the meantime, you could think of spending the remainder of the summer by building your ark!

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

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### Observation on Ageing ...

**The surprising thing about young fools is how many survive to become old fools** (*Doug Larson - Writer*)

### Next week -

**Friendship Club working with Roselands** - another Bingo session will take place at Roselands next Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup>) starting at 2.00pm - all are welcome.

**Sedlescombe Green W.I.** - our next meeting takes place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm when the Speaker will be Ms Barbara Cornwall on 'Sussex Customs and Ways'. The competitions are *Flower of the Month* and/or *Your Sussex Picture*. Visitors are always very welcome to join us - for more details please 'phone 870808..

### Looking ahead ...

#### **Fayre on the Green – to be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

There will be traditional stalls and games, including plants, tombola, cakes, bric a brac and a barbecue - Fun for all the family! Grant and Jan from the Queen's Head have kindly offered to supply musical entertainment for the event along with a promotion of real ales and cider. All proceeds raised will be given to aid the building of the new village Sports Pavilion. Please make a diary note and show your support by joining us on the Green for the afternoon.

If you are a business/individual/group who would like to contribute either to the fund raising through sponsorship or product donation, do not hesitate to contact either Ralph Dellow (870223) or Judy Torrance (870344) – any help will be greatly appreciated.

**The Readings:** Jeremiah : 23: 23 – 29  
 Psalm 82  
 Hebrews 11: 29 – end and 12 v 2  
 St Luke 12: 49 - 56

**Services and Meetings this week**

<p><b>St John the Baptist, Sedlescombe</b></p> <p><b>Trinity 11 [ 19]</b></p> <p>10.00 am Parish Communion Junior &amp; Youth Church</p> <p>Please note that the Church is open from 8am every day until early evening for everyone to visit or to spend a little peaceful time away from the rush of daily life, in prayer or just in quiet contemplation;</p> <p><b>Trinity 12 [ 26]</b></p> <p>10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church</p>	<p><b>St Mary Magdalene, Whatlington</b></p> <p><b>Trinity 11 [ 19]</b></p> <p>8.30am Parish Communion</p> <p><b>Trinity 12 [ 26]</b></p> <p>8.30am Parish Communion</p>
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**Chapel Hill Church – United Reformed**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Roy Cole

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12 noon in the Meeting Room

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Roy Cole

**Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning** takes place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am until 12 noon; please make a date for coffee and cakes with friends at Asselton House on The Green - more details nearer the day – but do put this one in the diary as well.

**Bonus Ball** just a reminder that subscriptions of £4 are now due for August - envelopes can be left in the Post Office for me to collect during the week. *Rosemary*

**Congratulations!** - to Roy and Margaret Smith (15 Gorselands) on becoming grandparents! Roy and Margaret are pleased to announce the arrival of Charlie Lewis born at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on August 5<sup>th</sup> and weighing in at 7lbs 6ozs - a son for Mike and Lizzy. Baby, parents and grandparents are all doing well!

**Sedlescombe Church Bellringers**

Thank you to everyone who came to see us at the Flower Festival, we were so pleased to see you and that so many of you 'had a go'! However, out of the 2 days' sterling work by Sue and Alan only one lady, Gill has come forward and is now learning to ring – very quickly I might add. We are in urgent need of some new ringers, maybe you learnt as a child – we know that many of you did – maybe you learnt and gave up because of family commitments but now have the time, or maybe you

would just like to give it a go. If any of these criteria fit YOU do give me a ring (751298) or come along and see us any Wednesday night in the church at 7.30pm.

Practice nights are great fun, loads of chat (gossip as well!) we are a very varied bunch ranging from 14 to 81 years old. The idea is to learn to ring for services (but you do not have to stay for the service!) and also to have a band of bellringers who can ring for local weddings, funerals and many other sorts of occasions such as 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays etc!

Finally, if you do come and join us you will be a small part of history, our tenor bell celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1995, the Number 5 bell celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2006 and the numbers 2, 3 and 4 celebrate their 400<sup>th</sup> birthday this year - just imagine if they could talk, the tales they would have to tell would be amazing! So go on, come and give bellringing a try.

*Jane Blanford – Tower Captain*

**Shooting Stars** - did any of our readers stay up all night last Sunday to witness the once a year display? If so, perhaps he/she would like to make some notes on what they saw and what they thought for inclusion in next week's *Parish News*. This week's Team Editor must admit to sleeping through it all whilst his wife was getting out of bed at intervals to try and catch a sight of what was going on, but unfortunately without success.