

Sunday, December 24th.

Christmas Eve.

9.30.am. Mattins & Parish Communion.

11.45.pm. Blessing of Crib and
Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

10.30.am. Family Communion.

Please come with your children and help them to keep Christmas as Christ's Birthday.

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Carol Service.

Full Church for a beautiful Service. Congregational singing very good, helped by a large number of men. Over £25 given to Shelter.

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Sedlescombe and District
Disabled Association.

Very foggy weather reduced numbers but a happy afternoon was spent by 35 members and the Darby and Joan Club at Staplecross Village Hall.

The Brede Players kindly entertained with a Sketch and this was followed by Tea and Gifts.

The cost of the afternoon was covered by funds previously raised for the Disabled by Sedlescombe Youth Club.

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Sedlescombe School.

End of Term Carol Service with presentation to the Rector and Mrs. Barry. see page 3.

Decorating Sedlescombe Church
for Christmas.

Agreed to decorate Saturday morning, but not to put some vases in position until Sunday afternoon. So PLEASE come and help on Saturday as usual.

WHATTLINGTON.

Christmas Eve.

8.0.am. Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

8.0.am. Holy Communion.

Sunday after Christmas 31.Dec.

8.0.am. Holy Communion.

6.30pm. Carol Service.
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Christmas Party Whist Drive.

Full House! Over £20 raised.

Congratulations.
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W.I. Christmas Party.

Most enjoyable evening starting with a wonderful supper followed by games and Whatlington's special brand of entertainment!

Many thanks indeed to all who worked so hard to make the Party as good as ever.
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Two small Christmas trees over from Darby and Joan to be had for the asking at the Rectory.

Any requests?
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Sedlescombe Tennis Club.

The Club is holding a 'Cheese and Wine' Party at "Brookfield" Sedlescombe on Sat. Jan.13th from 8.30.pm. by kind permission of Mrs.C.Woodhams. Tickets 50p each obtainable from Club Members or at the door. There will be a 'Bring and Buy' stall, good music and a Raffle.

All tennis and sport lovers are most welcome to this Social in aid of funds for the new court surrounds.

This week's praying-point: that the spirit of the Christ Child may triumph
over the unruly hearts of men, and bring us peace.

This week's reading-point: S. John Ch. I. vv I - 14.

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NOTICES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK.

Sedlescombe Whatlington.

Sunday. Dec. 24. Advent 4.

9.30.am. Mattins & Parish Communion. 8.0.am. Holy Communion.
11.45.pm. Blessing of Crib and
Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30.am. Family Service. 8.0.am. Holy Communion.

Wednesday S. John E.

8.0.am. Holy Communion.

Thursday. The Holy Innocents.

8.0.am. Holy Communion.

Friday

7.45.pm. 'Farewell' to the Rector and Mrs. Barry;
followed by P.C.C. meeting.

Next Sunday. 31st December.

9.30.am. Mattins & Parish Communion. 8.0.am. Holy Communion.
6.30pm. Carol Service.

The Collections on Christmas Eve and Day at Sedlescombe will be
divided between The Children's Society, Church Army and Nakuru.

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Sedlescombe United Reformed Church.

The Service on Christmas Eve at 11.am. will be led by Mr. S.T. Meadows.
Our CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE was warmly supported and enjoyed by a
large congregation, who especially enjoyed the singing of our Junior
Church Choir. The Collection in aid of 'Save the Children' was £7.72.

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The Choir sang well up to standard for the Carol Service; and it
says much for the keenness of Richard Finch and the boys and girls that
they only had one full rehearsal with the adult members, and together we
were able to do so well.

.....The unrehearsed choir gathered on the Village Green on Tuesday
night did full justice to the Carols under the able direction of the
Rector and it was only the cold and damp that finally dimmed their
enthusiasm. Thanks go to all the stalwarts who didnt fail this year
in keeping this traditional 'Carols on the Green' although their
hearts must have quailed when they opened their front doors!

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WHATLINGTON

The Rector will be taking the Service at 8.0.am. on Sunday 24th Dec. and the Services on December 31st - Canon Soar will very kindly take the 8.0.am. on Christmas Day.

We wish all those who will be working so hard with poultry etc, a well-earned rest over Christmas - and the same to all others who serve the public in their various capacities, not least the milkmen and postmen, if they get the chance!

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Whatlington. W.I. 14th December,

Mrs. Martin, President, took the chair and drew members attention to various items of correspondence, and requested the Press Correspondent to take notice of the instructions received about Press Reporting.

Ardingly. Apologising for such early consideration to the W.I. Exhibition for this Show (June 7, 8, 9) the details were noted; further it was thought that a special Outing on the 9th June for the Institute could be arranged.

Half-yearly Council Meeting in March. The Resolutions were discussed. Mrs. Jackson, Treasurer, then read details of the Budget which were agreed. The moment of anticipation had arrived!

P.C. Sturgeon (Dog Handler) from Bexhill. A very interested audience. It being assumed that Police Dogs were Alsations, he assured us that 90% were, and amongst the other 10% his own dog was a "Rottwieler", nearly 8 stone in weight. As we saw and considered the dog's size we were not surprised to hear the huge diet required. P.C. Sturgeon disposed of many fallacies about the handling of these dogs, and the subject provoked many questions, not only of course about Police dogs. All were very appreciative. Competition: Scrap Book, to go to Hospitals. 1st Mrs. Fuller.
2nd Mrs. Deeprose. 3rd. Mrs. Lavender.

Sedlescombe School Presentation to the Rector and Mrs. Barry.

Before the Carol Service in the School there took place a simple but very telling presentation. The Staff and Children gave Mrs. Barry some beautiful flowers and a lovely box of chocolates; and then they presented the Rector with a Gift Token for £5, and followed it up with a wonderful book-folder called "Your Book about Us" from Sedlescombe School 1972". Every child had contributed something, and the book contained letters, opinions, photographs and personal potted-biographies, as well as personal tributes from the Headmaster and the Managers; ending with some most amusing recollections by the Headmaster of some of the Rector's comments and sayings.

The Rector would like to say in Parish News a very big thank-you to all who took such a great deal of trouble to produce such a lovely present - quite the nicest he has ever had in over 40 years as a priest, more than making up for some of the kicks received elsewhere!

The Book will be on view at the Farewell on 29th December.

"No room in the Inn".

Five years ago the film 'Cathy come home' shook the conscience of the nation for a brief period over the Homeless: today there are far MORE homeless than there were then; and still the problem is hardly being scratched.

Fewer houses were built this last year - in a time of the greatest possible need than in any year since 1963. What has gone wrong? How comes it that we tolerate increasing thousands of homeless, sleeping rough, or in cars or shacks, not to mention the two million SLUMS which still disgrace the country, and at the same time not only tolerate but cash in on the criminal exploitation of land and property? Where is the nation's conscience?

It amounts to total failure by Government, Opposition and Trades Unions to get priorities right, leaving this open-sore unheeded and unhealed. A crowd of homeless were reduced to lobbying their M.P.s last week, did it do any good?

Instead of the Trades Unions behaving like thick children quarrelling over the Industrial Relations Act, they ought to use their immense powers to rescue their own folk from such homeless degradation.

"No room in the Inn". How bitterly history repeats itself. There are many who care desperately for the homeless, and give and work ceaselessly on their behalf. But they are far too few. When did YOU last bully your M.P. about the homeless? If we ALL downed tools for two or three days until we wrung a promise from Govt. Opposition and Trades Unions to bury hatchets and work together to house all the homeless by the end of 1973, that would be quite something. But what a hope!

For anyone who thinks, prays and cares, it will be very hard to have a happy Christmas in the conventional sense - there is too much tragedy and sorrow, of which Vietnam is the most wicked example. But we can gain an inner sense of joy from the fact that Jesus was Himself a homeless refugee understanding men's needs; and that the whole purpose of His coming was to win men and women to work with Him to change men's hearts and so society. We are not helpless, we can do something about it, through all the many channels that are available - if only we are prepared to make the effort. And that's the kind of Christmas present worth making in loyalty to our Saviour, born in a stable as at this time for us.

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Mrs. Emmett thanks all friends for their kind enquiries and letters. She is getting on slowly but would love visitors to her bedside in Ward 4, Royal East Sussex Hospital.

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The Living Church

Communicants: 59.

Membership Fund: £5.44.

Cash in plate: £6.75. Collection for Shelter: £25.34.

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