

Christmas at Sedlescombe.

Church full at Midnight and at 10.30.am: very reverent services, with wonderful congregational singing helped by the large percentage of men.

Many visitors at 10.30.am. on Christmas Day, most of them young, which is most encouraging. But we would have liked to see more parishioners.

Except for the Choir, no children or parents came from East View Terrace, and this is sad.

Many thanks to all who decorated the Church so beautifully. AND for the gift of that fine Christmas Tree.

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Any replacement?

On January 3rd the grand piano in the Church which belongs to the Rector will move house to Heyshott Church.

Is there anyone with a grand piano in good condition who would like the space at home, and would be willing to give it a good home in the Church? A piano is essential for choir training; and a grand rather than an upright fits in better, and makes a useful base for the Crib and Easter Garden!

Sedlescombe Tennis Club

The Club is holding a 'Cheese and Wine' Party at "Brookfield" on Sat. Jan 13th from 8.30.p.m. 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', good music and a Raffle.

All tennis and sport lovers are most welcome to this Social.

WHATLINGTON.

Excellent numbers on the Sunday before, and a fair number on Christmas Day. Church looking beautiful as usual.

31st December. Sunday.
8.0.am. Holy Communion.
6.30pm. Carol Service.

Saturday 6th January 1973.

Children and Old People's Christmas Party.

MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPES.

The weekly, quarterly and yearly supply for 1973 will be available in Church on Sunday.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR OWN.

Please, will neighbours deliver to those not in Church.

The monthly envelopes may be delayed owing to a stupid mistake by the Suppliers.

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Sedlescombe School Presentation. In our excitement about the gift of 'Our book about us', we quite omitted to mention the gift of two beautiful framed etchings, one of the Church and one of the Green, by Mr. A.W. Bentley, which the School also gave to the Rector. They will be greatly prized, and will hang with pride in the Rectory at Heyshott. What a generous Staff and pupils!

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Contributions for Parish News to Mrs. Jones 'Merry Tales' Chapel Hill, Sedlescombe. Sed 573. or, if it is easier Mr. Drury has kindly agreed to accept them in envelopes addressed to Mrs. Jones by noon on Wednesdays.

This week's praying-point: that we may keep the vision of God and His laws firmly before our eyes all through 1973.

This week's reading-point: I. John. Ch. I.
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NOTICES AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK.

Sedlescombe

Whatlington.

31. Dec. Sunday. Christmas I

9.30. am. Mattins & Parish Communion.

8.0. am. Holy Communion.

6.30pm. Carol Service.

1st. Jan. Circumcision. New Year's Day.

8.0. am. Holy Communion.

6th January. EPIPHANY

8.0. am. Holy Communion.

Next Sunday. Epiphany I.

8.0. am. Holy Communion.

9.30am. Parish Communion.

6.30. pm. Evensong and

Holy Communion.

11.0. am. Mattins.
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On Sunday 7th January, children are asked to bring the gift of a toy, book, or other kind of present to offer at the Crib as our Epiphany Gift. These will be taken to S. Lawrence Home.
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Services during the Interregnum.

So far there is no sign of a new Rector being appointed. One priest was offered the Living but turned it down, mainly on the grounds of accommodation, having large family commitments which would not begin to fit into the new Rectory.

Canon Soar is willing to carry on looking after both parishes; but clearly there must be some adjustment of the Services; and it is far better to re-arrange them and have the ministry of a priest we all know and like so much, rather than having visiting priests who do not know our ways.

The suggestion is that on the First Sunday in the month there should be the usual three Services, retaining Mattins as a separate Service. On the other Sundays Mattins and Parish Communion should be at 10. am, thereby making it possible, we hope, for those who normally come at 11. am. to join the main congregation.

This is due to be discussed at the P.C.C. Meeting on Friday 29th Dec, and the result will be announced in due course.

Services at Whatlington would continue as at present. Saints Days will be observed as announced in Parish News.
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Sedlescombe United Reformed Church.

The Service this Sunday will be at 11. am. as usual.

WHATLINGTON.

Two Services as usual on Sunday, with the Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30.p.m. by candlelight. This will be the Rector's last Service, and what could be a nicer way of ending a Ministry?

6th JAN. CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLES CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The Convalescent Fund.

The very generous Fund raised last June is going to be used as intended! The Rector and Mrs. Barry and Caroline are going to Portugal at the end of February for a fortnight staying in a lovely hotel by the sea. The Algarve is reputed to have an average temperature of 61 degrees, so we hope by late February-March it will be considerably warmer than England!

The holiday has been deliberately postponed so that the effects of the operation will have worn off; for what is the good of going to a posh hotel if you can only peck at the menu?!

We hope that those who gave so generously will accept this arrangement - obviously it would have been far nicer to have returned fit and well to Sedlescombe and Whatlington rather than Heyshott. We suggest that you come and see the results by paying us a visit in our new home! (Heyshott lies two miles south of Midhurst on the Chichester road-Tel.No.Midhurst 2052).

Sedlescombe W.I.

Gaily decorated tea-tables welcomed members and visitors at the December meeting, when Whatlington joined Sedlescombe for a Christmas Quiz, which the Home Team won by 3 points. A pansy was chosen 'flower of the month'. There were 3 raffles, two were won by Miss Wilson, the third by Mrs. Harden. The Secretary had heard from the M.P. regarding Childrens allowances, the matter still to be reviewed. Dressmaking classes in the Village Hall would start on Monday, Feb. 19th, and continue for 8 wks from 10 -12. noon Mondays. The Discussion Group will meet at Goosegate on Friday, 12th Jan. at 3.p.m. Those wishing to 'Keep Fit' in '73 are invited to come along Thursday January 11th, to the Hall at 10.am.

Brede Produce Guild send an invitation to all Sedlescombe W.I. to come to a meeting in Brede Village Hall, 2.30.p.m. Jan. 5th, to learn more on Flower arrangement. (10p). There were 38 members and 4 visitors present.

January 17th Group Capt. Ward will take us on a 'Journey up the Amazon' with slides.

..And so, farewell:.....

There will be many perhaps who will heave a sigh of relief that this is the last weekly effusion from the Red Rector! Though to be fair, many have said how much they will miss it, even though they often violently disagree, 'because it adds life and spice to the village.'

It is with great regret that we leave here, for we have all been very happy, and roots have gone deeper here perhaps than in any of the three other parishes in which we have served. But clearly the break had to come, and I only hope that the new Rector will soon be appointed to carry

on the work.

If there is one message I would like to leave it is 'Care for the young'. The elderly and disabled are splendidly cared for, and the faithful at Church have been truly wonderful in their concern for those in need, and in their loyalty and goodwill. But we are hardly touching the problem of winning the young for Christ.

True, we have a very happy relationship between the Church and School, and all the children look on the Rector as their friend - so too, I hope, do the Youth Club. - but only a tiny minority go either to the Parish Church or the United Reformed Church. There are flourishing Junior Sunday Schools and Church; but what happens when they are too old for that? If their parents cannot or will not bring them to the Parish Communion, who will? The way ahead has been prepared; now priest and people must work together accepting the challenge.

The population of the village is bound to grow whether we like it or not, and each new family is a new challenge. There are already 42 children in the school between the ages of 9 - 11: What a potential for good or ill! And that potential will in large measure depend on the attitude shown to the young by the church-goer and non-church-goer alike - and particularly by those who tend to complain about youth and call them names.

The time to create an active co-operative public opinion is NOW. There will be a strong lobby who will try to oppose this, and we know their names. Therefore there must be a stronger movement which will see the building of the new School as the centre from which a real community spirit can be fostered between young and old, backed by the full power of the Church and the goodwill of the Parish Council.

The future happiness and character of Sedlescombe lies here, to make or to mar. Needed: men and women of vision, courage and goodwill, to overcome village inertia and galvanise the many sources of talent and skill to the good of the community.

Thank you all most sincerely for all the kindness, generosity and patience shown to us during the past 8½ years. It has been a privilege to serve in the Church and on the various committees as part of the ministry; and there have been rich rewards. God bless and keep you all.

Philip Barry.

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Holy Baptism. Whatlington.

23. Dec. Katherine Helen Donker, daughter of Rudolf and Nicola Donker.
(Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raper).

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The Living Church.

Sedlescombe
Communicants: Sunday: 46
 Christmas: 206.
Membership Fund: £2.33
Advent 4: £5.12.. Christmas Coll: £53.67

Whatlington
Communicants: Sunday 20;
 Christmas 20:
Membership Fund: £6.75.
Advent 4. £3.11. Christmas Coll: £6.