

Services at Sedlescombe during the interregnum.

The P.C.C. in consultation with Canon Soar who will be in charge of the parishes, agreed that the Services should be as follows:

1st Sunday in the Month:

- 8.0.am. Holy Communion.
- 10.0.am. Parish Communion.
- 11.0.am. Mattins.

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays:

- 10.0.am. Mattins & Parish Communion.

3rd Sunday in the Month:

- 8.0.am. Holy Communion.
- 10.0.am. Parish Communion.

It is hoped that the change in time from 9.30.am; to 10.am. will make it possible for those who normally come to Mattins to join with the main congregation.

PLEASE NOTE

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE AT 11.15.am.

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Friendship required.

A charming Asian family are living at Jacob's Farm, Brede Lane, in the Oast House.

We understand that they are very lonely and would much appreciate being shown the right hand of fellowship.

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Farewell to the Rector.

see page 3.

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Roselands.

see page 2.

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WHATTLINGTON TODAY

Saturday 6th January, 1973
Children and Old People's
Christmas Party at 4.0.pm.

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During the Interregnum the Sunday Services will remain unchanged. We are very grateful to Canon Soar for taking on both parishes.

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Full Church and Choir for the Carol Services: a very happy ending to the Rector's ministry.

'THE SIGN'

As from this month the 'Sign' will no longer be included in Parish News for reasons of expense.

BUT 50 copies will be bought each month, and some will be put in both Churches, and at the Post Office, and will be free for the asking/taking.

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Wives Group.

7.30.pm. Tuesday 9th January at the School. Mr.Hodsell will be showing slides on 'Gardens'.

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ALSO TODAY 6th January the
GANG SHOW

will be at Staplecross Village Hall so, if you missed this SUPER entertainment when it was at Sedlescombe come tonight.

Commences 7.30.pm.

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in these circumstances. The winter months are naturally difficult, so flowers at these times would be especially welcome.

Rosemary Watson Brown.

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WHATLINGTON.

The Editors during the Interregnum would be very grateful for any news from Whatlington. SO, if you have any news or grievances you would like to see in print, please forward to Mrs. Jones, address bottom page 4.

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Farewell Handshake to the Rector.

There was a full schoolroom for this occasion under the chairmanship of the Churchwarden, Mr. E. Fellows.

Whatlington was well represented and Mr. Ambrose made a short speech.

Owing to some misunderstanding, when the presentations were made nothing was said of their contents.

The Rector was presented with a Record Token by Sedlescombe so that he might buy a set of Records of his choice with the hope that, when he plays them, he may be reminded happily of that village. To Mrs. Barry, rose-bushes, for her new garden, and so to have perfumed memories of Sedlescombe!

Whatlington presented the Rector and Mrs. Barry with a cheque.

Dr. Wright paid a touching tribute to the Rector's great courage through all his adversities, caused first by his acutely painful arthritis, and more recently by his serious operations, and said that his one desire through all was to get back to his work as quickly as possible (or impossible !)

All then said their goodbyes except Sedlescombe P.C.C., members of which stayed on for a meeting chaired, unexpectedly, by the Rector himself.

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Both of us wish to express our very deep gratitude and appreciation for all the kindness and warm affection shown to us during our time here, and expressed so generously last Friday at the Farewell.

The gifts presented to us will provide us with lasting memories of the eight happy years spent in Sedlescombe and Whatlington, and the means to enjoy our semi-retirement at Heyshott.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Rosemary and Philip Barry.

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We are sorry to report that Mrs. Knight has been in a motor-accident, but everyone will be pleased to know that she herself although badly bruised is making good recovery, and her dog seems none the worse for his adventure.

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A CARETAKER UNBARES HIS SOUL

When a King or Queen of England dies, a successor is proclaimed immediately. 'The King is dead: Long live the King'. When a publican leaves, his replacement is at hand to take over at once. When a rector retires, there is usually a gap of several months. This is not a bad thing, if it reminds us all that the Church is not a one man band, but a fellowship of people who care, not just a building and what goes on in it, but for their fellow men. We have been lucky, at Sedlescombe and Whatlington, in having a rector who taught that caring is a Christian's first job.

Certain things must await the appointment of a new rector, but there is plenty for us to get on with. I will do my best, in this interregnum, to help the churchwardens and all of you to keep the services alive, and prepare for the future.

There's a fine and friendly spirit in both our congregations, but - as a newcomer I must give my impressions - Sedlescombe Church is not an inspiring place. It is a cluttered, Victorian mess. What can we do about it? After all, any parish church ought to make us catch our breath, awaken our sense of wonder, and make us say: "How beautiful"! Instead, we are greeted in the porch by ugly red peg-boarding for notices, in the nave by hassocks that don't match, in the sanctuary Victorian tiles clash with tatty kneelers and the reredos behind the altar is griny with age, inartistic, and crying out for a curtain to hide it. Even the war memorial, which could be noble and appropriate in the porch, is tucked away in a north aisle.

Why not start with the hassocks? If the Church Council agree, we could get quotations for a good standard kneeler, and many of the congregation, even those who come occasionally, would give a hassock. Next time you come to Sedlescombe Church, look at it as though it were a cherished drawing-room, and think what you and all of us could do to make us say: "How glorious is this place; this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Reg Soar.

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The Living Church.

Sedlescombe		Whatlington.	
Communicants: 60		Communicants:	
Membership Fund: £11.67.		Membership Fund: £6.30.	
Cash in plate: £7.27.		Cash in plate: £1.50.	
		Carol Service: £13.07.	

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Contributions in future for Parish News either to:
Mrs. Jones, 'Merry Tales' Chapel Hill, Sedlescombe. Sed. 573.
or in an envelope addressed to Mrs. Jones to be left at Sedlescombe
Post Office not later than 12. noon on Wednesdays (kind permission of
Mr. Drury).