

9th. February, 1980

SEXAGESIMA

Price 3p.

SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Please remember our next meeting on Monday, Feb. 11th. at 7.30 p.m. Two demonstrators will entertain us with various dried plant material arrangements. Bring a pair of scissors and some UHU if you can, please.

SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Council meeting is planned for Tuesday, 12th. February in the school at 7.30 p.m. with Open Forum at 7.15 p.m. Please note that the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 15th. April in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

SEDLESCOMBE HORTICULTURAL SOCY.

Members Evening, Feb. 13th. 7.30pm Village Hall. Exhibits for the Banks Trophy. Mr. Hunt - illustrated talk on Apples - Cider Making. Teas, Raffle. All welcome.

SEDLESCOMBE SENIORS

At our meeting on Thursday, 14th. February, our speaker will be Mr. H. E. Hinings who will talk about the Wealden Iron Industry.

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

There will be a Coffee Morning and Market in Sedlescombe Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, 16th. February.

SEDLESCOMBE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, WOMENS SECTION

Jumble Sale, February 23rd. 2 p.m. in the Village Hall. Raffles and refreshments.

WHATTLINGTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB.

Next meeting - Wednesday 13th. February, 7.30 p.m.

SEDLESCOMBE SCOUT GROUP

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our recent jumble sale. The result was over £70.

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL P.T.A.

We would like to thank the organisers of the Sedlescombe Majorette Troupe for their donation of £33.12p. to the Swimming Pool Fund. The money had originally been raised to provide funds for the majorettes, but since the troupe has now disbanded, the organisers kindly decided to pass over the money to the P.T.A. We would also like to thank the Sedlescombe Societies Association for their donation of £120. to the Swimming Pool Fund. The fund now stands at £1,854. 34p.

This week's praying point: That we may see ourselves as we really are, and so come to understand God better.

This week's reading points: 2 Kings 5: 1-14. 2 Corinthians 12: 1-10. St. Mark 7: 24 - end.

.....

SERVICES and NOTICES

SEDLESCOMBE

Sunday, 10th. February
SEXAGESIMA

9.30 a.m. Matins and Parish
Communion
11.15 a.m. Sunday School, Scout
Hut.

TH

Thursday, 14th. February
7.30 p.m. Deanery Synod

Friday, 15th. February
8 a.m. Holy Communion.

Next Sunday, 17th. February
QUINQUAGESIMA
8 a.m. Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. Matins and Parish
Communion
11.15 a.m. Family Service -
Scout Hut

WHATLINGTON

Sunday, 10th. February
SEXAGESIMA

8 a.m. Holy Communion
11 a.m. Family Service
6.30 p.m. Evensong

Tuesday, 12th. February
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Thursday, 14th. February
7.30 p.m. Deanery Synod

Next Sunday, 17th. February
QUINQUAGESIMA
6.30 p.m. Evensong.

.....

SEDLESCOMBE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - Sunday, February 10th. The service will be taken by Mr. B. Peters of Ashburnham.

.....

MOTHERS' UNION. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 12th. February, at 2.30 p.m. when the speaker will be Mrs. Fisher, and her subject will be 'Time to Care' dealing with the Social Concern Department of the M.U. She will also show slides illustrating her talk. We shall meet at the Rectory.

.....

NEWS CORRESPONDENT. I have taken on the voluntary task of village news correspondent to the Sussex Express. Any club, organisation or individuals who have news items they would like to be submitted for publication please let me have your reports not later than Wednesday evenings each week. Mrs. S. Carn, 14, Gorselands, Sedlescombe 434.

OXFAM "BLUE PETER" APPEAL. I am asked to thank all those who gave gifts towards this appeal. As everyone knows the result has been staggering! At the end of 1979 the total income in Sussex for Cambodia was £87,704. of which £70,086 was from "Blue Peter" gifts. KAY STEBBINGS.

There is to be an Oxfam public meeting at Hastings on Wednesday Feb. 13th. at 3 p.m. at the Royal British Legion Hall (near Hastings Station) Speaker (with slides) Jane Talbot, Regional Centre, Hove.

INFLATION. There is a viewpoint that suggests to us that instead of regarding inflation as an unmitigated evil we should in fact welcome it. That we should be more worried if there were no inflation, for there would then be nothing to stop mankind from continuing to dissipate the earth's precious resources. Whether one sees it as simply the law of supply and demand in operation, or, as some would assert, the hand of God putting a brake on man's extravagance, we should be thankful that inflation is making us pause to think before disaster overtakes us. A.W.B.

IN LIGHTER VEIN - RED FACES. One day Karl Marx rose from his grave in London. The whole world was bubbling with the event. Only in one place was the news greeted with embarrassment: the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, Marx decided to go to the USSR for his first official visit. There, they had no choice but to welcome him with all possible pomp. Brezhnev and the Politburo were all very put out, but tried not to show it. Marx said to them: "Listen, I am so moved, I would like to make a statement to all your people. I'd like very much to have a moment on TV. Less and less enthusiastic, the leaders replied that really, no, they'd love to but everything was planned for three years ahead. At last Marx persuaded them to grant him a very brief appearance. TV crews from all over the world were there; the broadcast was transmitted by satellite. The great moment arrived. Marx approached the microphone, and spoke into the hushed silence: "Friends, comrades, brothers, I have only one word to say to you: Sorry!" LUI, France. Readers Digest.

From the Rector -

I wonder if you have ever looked up at the stars on a brilliant starlit night, and I wonder if you have felt like the Psalmist - 'When I consider Thy heavens, even the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou has ordained, what is man that Thou shouldst remember him, and the son of man That Thou shouldst visit him?' That is an even bigger question for us than it was for him, because the astronomers, with their giant telescopes, and the scientists with their technology, have opened up for us the almost terrifying expanses of space and time, in which our world looks as tiny and insignificant as a grain of sand. As one famous astronomer put it, 'We may take pleasure in finding that the Universe is such a grand affair, but we can't flatter ourselves that our earthly affairs play any large part in it.'

I wonder if he is right. It is true that most of us tend to think too much of ourselves, but he does seem to say that the importance of a thing depends on its size. For example, a star like Betelgeuse (which is big enough to shrivel up our sun like a moth in a bonfire) just because it is so enormous, is a more important thing, than say, a human baby. To me that doesn't make sense. A baby, however small and ugly, is really a far more astonishing thing than all the stars put together. Because when that baby gets a bit older, he will be able to look at the stars through a telescope, learn about them, and allow the wonder of creation to lead him to reverence and worship the God Who made it all. The stars, for all their size, can't do anything like that. We can't imagine Betelgeuse looking down on that baby and saying to itself, 'What's that miserable looking object?' A star can't be impressed (as you and I can) by the immensity of space and ask itself the question, 'Who made me and what am I for?' A star can't choose what it wants to do, or enjoy itself, or make things, or learn things, or love people, or come to know and worship God.

So I am not going to let myself be bullied by the size of the Universe. Size does not matter. The reason I am more important than Betelgeuse is because God has made me, in all those ways rather like Himself ('in His own image', as the Bible puts it); and that's why our earthly affairs do play a very important part in the Universe.

With every good wish,

Dennis Prince.