

## ARMENIA AND MORE

Nobody will have been left with anything but a stunned feeling on seeing the pictures from Armenia in the last few days - utter devastation of towns, homes and workplaces accompanied only by the look of despair on the faces of victim and rescuer alike. It is hard to believe that a living community could again establish itself out of such ruins, but the instinctiveness to overcome great problems usually carries more weight than a case for abandonment. Hard on its heels has come the rail crash at Clapham emphasising how fragile the dividing line is between existence and personal earthquake. "How can God let such awful things happen?" may well be the question on the tip of many tongues, and whilst a direct and instant answer appears elusive, if we do have faith, the quest for the answer will not be vain effort.

Of Armenia it may be said that the Soviet authorities have finally dismantled their previously self-deceptive posture of basking in the glory of their achievements but remaining silent to the world as well as deflecting their own peoples' attention when things went wrong. Because of this the whole international community is reaching out to help and is meeting the outstretched hand pleading for help. Of Clapham it is a tragedy resulting from either human or mechanical failure, which is perhaps another form of human failing for not making a failure-proof machine.

God created the earth and all that therein is, we believe, He also created the human race and placed it on the earth. Neither is perfection, the earth offers potential for survival but is not proof against geological fault; the human race has the potential for doing good, but evil exists and even failing is inescapable. Put the two together and there will every now and then be an Armenia or a Clapham or a personal earthquake in our own midst.

The call we must answer is one of Christian love and understanding starting in our own circle, that effort will neither be in vain nor fall on stony ground. The Armenians can build houses to withstand earthquake only as far as is humanly possible, BR can make the rail system safe as far as humanly possible - God calls us all to be channels of His love which is infinite.

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SEDLESCOMBE with WHATTLINGTON

P A R I S H N E W S

17th. December, 1988

ADVENT 4

Vol

No. 4

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### SEDLESCOMBE GREEN W.I.

Everyone enjoyed a lively Christmas meeting on Wednesday, 7th. December. Four members demonstrated Christmas crafts and we all tucked in to a delicious finger food buffet and a glass of sherry. Members and their families will be singing CAROLS on Tuesday, 20th. December, meeting at the Village Green 7 p.m. The collection will be in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, so please have your pennies ready! May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

### SEDLESCOMBE SENIORS

For our last meeting in 1988 on Thursday, 22nd. December, there will be a number of short contributions from members, plus some music provided by Mr. Ossy Leach.

### W.R.VS. MEALS-ON-WHEELS SEDLESCOMBE ROUND

Our Monday driver wishes to retire. Any one interested please get in touch with Mrs. M. Keeling, Jacobs Farm, Sed.205.

### SEDLESCOMBE CHURCH FLORAL DECORATIONS

The ladies who are on the rota for decorating the church for Christmas are reminded that the work will commence at mid-day on Thursday, 22nd. December; contributions of flowers and/or foliage will be gratefully received.

### NOTICE TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Parish News will appear as usual on Friday, 23rd. Dec., but there will be no edition on the following Friday. The edition after next week's will be published on 6th. Jan.

### TOYS AT CAROL SERVICE, SEDLESCOMBE

If they are any children who have toys, dolls, puzzles etc. which they no longer use but are in good condition, and are prepared to let them go to a Children's Home, would they please bring them to the Carol Service 6.30 p.m. 18th. Dec., where they will be gratefully received.

### PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Anyone interested in going by coach to see Phantom of the Opera, please put your name on lists in the Sed. Post Office, Clock House Stores and Elizabeth Lesley.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYING POINT: That in all things we may be filled with God's grace and accept His Holy Will.

THIS WEEK'S READING POINTS: Isaiah 11: 1-9. 1 Corinthians 1: 26-end. Luke 1: 26-38a.

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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SEDLEScombe

Sunday, 18th. December  
ADVENT 4

8 a.m. Holy Communion  
9.30 a.m. Matins and Parish  
Communion - Rev.E.Ovenden

6.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE  
The Rev. R.Bushby

Saturday, 24th. December  
CHRISTMAS EVE

11.45 p.m. Midnight Service  
Canon P.Harvey

Sunday, 25th. December  
CHRISTMAS DAY

8 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Family Communion  
Bishop Martin Green

WHATLINGTON

Sunday, 18th. December  
ADVENT 4

4 p.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT - Rev.P.Cryer

Sunday, 25th. December  
CHRISTMAS DAY

8 a.m. Holy Communion  
Rev. P.Cryer

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SEDLEScombe UNITED REFORMED CHURCH. There will be no morning service this week as our Carols by Candlelight service is at 3 p.m., taken by the Rev.Robert Bushby. A very warm welcome to everyone.

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SEDLEScombe CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS. We would like to thank all those who contributed to our Christmas decorations for the church tree. We raised a grand total of £31.24.  
Thank you.

THE CHOIR  
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TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN SEDLEScombe AND WHATLINGTON

It is hard to believe that, by the time you read this, we shall have been in Clanfield for more than three weeks. It was with heavy hearts that we left you all but with many happy memories. Thank you for all your kindness and friendship for over fifteen happy years, and for your co-operation in helping us to achieve some measure of success in the name of Christ Our Lord.

May we take this opportunity of thanking you all for your generous gifts and for the many expressions of good wishes for our future happiness, too numerous to be acknowledged individually, but greatly appreciated none-the-less. Always Sedlescombe and Whatlington will have a very special place in our hearts.

It is good to be near Sue and her family and to begin to be settled in our little home.

Our love to you all and every good wish for a truly joyful and blessed Christmas and health and happiness in 1989 from

DENNIS & MARJORIE PRINCE  
Clanfield, 2nd. December, 1988