

## TAKING THE PLUNGE

Baptism links us with the Trinity. In fact it gives us a share even now on earth in the life which the Trinity enjoys. That's why we speak of being baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Being baptised in the name of the Father is not just words. It's sharing the Father's life, something of his characteristics. The Father is the author of all life and we too are given the role of bringing life to wherever we may be called. This could mean human life through parenthood, or perhaps being challenged to foster and promote growth, development, harmony and peace. We are charged with always having the broader view in mind, having a sense of vision, a share in God's plan, the courage to dare, the strength to build and create. Baptism is more than a few drops of water on the head.

To be baptised in the name of the Son is to share Christ's own mission. This is about improving the world and returning it to the Father. Christ's call involves living a life that contradicts many contemporary ideas. It includes self-sacrifice, dying to oneself, giving rather than taking, being at the service of others, present to those in need, proclaiming the values of God's kingdom. Being baptised in Jesus Christ inevitably involves dying and it means taking the plunge, getting fully immersed in the Gospel.

It is the Holy Spirit who inspires those who are baptised in his name. To be baptised in the Spirit is to bring hope, comfort and encouragement to others, to be an inspiration, to live a life of holiness that in turn uplifts other people. Love, joy and peace are signs that our life is imbued with the gifts of the Spirit which give us strength to go on.

So baptism is more than a nice ceremony. It's about being part of the Trinity. And it means getting more than your feet wet.

### SCRIPTURE

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water,  
and suddenly the heavens opened  
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove  
and coming down on him.

*(Matthew 3: 16)*



PARISH NEWS

January 9th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No.2

The Baptism of our Lord

10p

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting is to be held in the village hall on **Tuesday 12 January**. The Council has invited Rother District Council's Treasurer, Mr Derek Stevens, to attend the Open Forum at 7 pm to answer the Council's questions concerning Special Expenses.

### MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be at Roselands on **Tuesday 12 January** at 2.30 pm. Our subject will be "A Group Discussion". Visitors are very welcome. *V Hewett*

### CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS - ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The total amount collected at the Carol Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Family Eucharist amounted to £370.88. Traditionally the sum raised at these three services is donated to charity. This year the charities selected are: The Barnabas Fund (supporting suffering Christians in the Muslim World), St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, Home-Start Hastings & Rother

(voluntary home visiting scheme for needy families with pre-school children) and St Michael's Hospice. A cheque for £95 has been sent to each of these, the shortfall being made up out of Church funds. The Christmas Eve Crib service collection of £79.92 has been sent to Christian Aid for disaster relief in Central America.

*Hope Gosse, Treasurer*

### BONUS BALL CLUB

Subscriptions of £5 for January now due. Winner last week, number 22 Mr P Yonge.

### SEDLSCOMBE & DISTRICT GARDEN

New members will be welcome to join our Society which meets in Sedlescombe village hall.

We have interesting speakers who talk and show slides on various garden subjects.

We have Shows in Spring, Summer and Autumn where you can exhibit your garden flowers, plants and vegetables.

We have at least three coach trips a

**The Theme:** Jesus revealed as the Son of God, the Beloved.  
**The Readings:**  
 Isaiah 42:1-9                      A sign of the fulfilment of God's plan  
 Acts 10:34-43                      Anyone who puts their faith in Jesus will be saved  
 Matthew 3:13-17                    By his Baptism Jesus identifies with the needs of all

**Services and Meetings this week**  
**January 10th, 1999    The Baptism of the Lord**

<b>SEDLSCOMBE</b>		<b>WHATLINGTON</b>	
<b>The Baptism of the Lord            [10]</b>		<b>The Baptism of the Lord            [10]</b>	
10.00am	Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church	8.00am	Holy Communion
3.00pm	The Christingle Service		

**There are NO midweek services this week**

<b>Second Sunday after Epiphany    [17]</b>		<b>Second Sunday after Epiphany    [17]</b>	
8.00am	Holy Communion	9.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion speaker: Anthony Morton King Junior and Youth Church		

**The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}**  
 Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am. Leader Dave West, Preacher Mike Freeman.  
 7pm - an hour of singing favourite hymns at Roselands, open to all.  
 Weekly meetings:    Men's Fellowship, Monday 7.30 pm  
                                  Home Group, Tuesday 7.30 pm.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★    SEDLESCOMBE AND DISTRICT    ★  
 ★    GARDEN SOCIETY                ★  
 ★    **GEISHAS AND GARDEN FESTIVAL**    ★  
 ★    AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY            ★  
 ★                                    RAY WAITE                                    ★  
 ★    PLANT SALE AND RAFFLE            ★  
 ★    SEDLESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL        ★  
 ★                                    2.00 P M WEDNESDAY                    ★  
 ★                                    20 JANUARY                                    ★  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

year to many lovely gardens, all at a reasonable cost.  
 A very large plant market is held in May where you can buy most of your summer plants.  
 We organise a Garden Safari in June round the village, followed by a Cheese & Wine evening in the village hall.  
 In December a social evening is held in the village hall when we Wine and Dine you.  
 All this and more for a FAMILY membership of only £4 a year.  
 Our next meeting will be held in the village hall on **20 January** at 2 pm.  
 Why don't you come and join us?

*Heather Harper,  
 Membership Secretary*

**THE SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS**  
 will be putting on their Victorian evening on three occasions in February - **Wednesday 3rd** at 7.30 pm and **Saturday 6th** at 2.30 and 7.30 pm. The evening performances

will include supper and the matinee tea and cakes. Tickets, £5 for the evening performances and £3.50 for the matinee, are now on sale in the Post Office.  
 This promises to be a really funny entertainment, with two melodramas and lots of singing in which the audience will be encouraged to participate. The cast hope that audience participation will go as far as people turning up in Victorian costume, to give the whole evening an authentic atmosphere.

**CRIMES REPORTED FOR DECEMBER 1998.**

An encouragingly short list again which you can read in detail outside the Post Office. There is also a summary of facts and figures for Battle Community Policing in 1998 which shows that it is working well. The Force policy is the reduction of burglary of dwellings and this is being achieved by the Sector. Cars still continue to be targeted and regretfully car related crime continues to increase.  
 It is clear from the statistics quoted that the Community Police Officer deals with many different jobs and we are grateful to PC Mick Kempster, our Community Officer, for his diligence and efficiency.