



## THE LAMB OF GOD

The image of a lamb can be confusing. We conjure up warm and cosy pictures of a small fluffy creature, perhaps frolicking and jumping in a green field in the sun. We even think of the lamb as a pet. And everywhere that Mary went\_

And certain types of hymns and songs play on this strange image. So Jesus is presented in a meek and mild fashion, as tame as a pet. Yet when we look at his life it is very hard to find any evidence to support this vision of him.

Perhaps what lambs represent most of all is innocence. We see them as helpless and without blemish. In the Old Testament the lamb was used as a sacrificial victim to God. It was clean and therefore acceptable in God's eyes. It was the Passover lamb that signified God's acceptance of the Jewish people's cry for freedom. So before long we begin to hear of a person who will fulfil this role of lamb on behalf of the people. He is called the Suffering Servant, someone who will come and take on the ills of the nation, be led to terrible suffering and trials, and then be slaughtered like a lamb in expiation for the sins of the people. He will be like a lamb led to slaughter.

This would be ringing in the ears of some of the crowd when John the Baptist pointed out Jesus. He had already preached that someone important was coming; someone he was unworthy even to help fasten his shoes. And now he fingers Jesus as that person. [We see this represented in the altar-piece in the parish church.]

When John calls Jesus the Lamb of God, he is hinting at what they have heard about the Suffering Servant and he is tapping into that yearning they had for the Messiah, someone who would come from God to set up a new kingdom, freeing them from oppression.

John's words, then, were exciting. This is him, this is the one we've been waiting for, this is the one who will take away the sins of the world.

Within three years Jesus would be led away like a lamb to the slaughter. But his death would prove to be a turning point, a victory over the forces of evil and death. Then the New Testament would see visions of heaven where the lamb was sitting on a throne in glory, the triumphant Lamb of God.

### SCRIPTURE

Look, there is the Lamb of God  
that takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29)

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SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

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10p

### VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Committee meeting in the village hall, 7.30 **Tuesday 19 January**. Representatives of user groups are encouraged to attend.

### SEDLSCOMBE SOCIETIES' ASSOCIATION

Committee meeting **Tuesday 19 January** at 7.30 pm in the Queen's Head meeting room.

### SEDLSCOMBE GREEN W.I.

Committee members are reminded the first committee meeting for 1999 will be at Sylvia's, 15 East View Terrace, on **Wednesday 20 January**, 8-9 pm.

### SEDLSCOMBE W.I.

Meeting on **Thursday 21 January** at 2 pm. "Kipling" by Mr G Hutchinson. Competition: "My favourite poem". Teas, Mrs Berry, Mrs Blades and Mrs Brunger.

### NEARLY NEW/JUMBLE SALE

in the village hall, **Saturday 23 January** at 2 pm. No extra jumble needed.

*Nancy Robinson, Roselands*

### FRIENDS OF BATTLE DISTRICT GUIDES & BROWNIES

Jumble Sale at Battle Guide Hut, **Saturday 30 January**, 2 pm. For jumble collection please phone 870808.

### SEDLSCOMBE CHURCH CLEANERS

A belated Happy New Year and thank you for all your help in keeping our Church bright and shining in 1998. Here's to 1999.

*Margaret*

### SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH WALKS

Those who joined the November Footpath Walk will remember the very bad state of stiles on the Spilsted Walk. Happily, we can now report a great improvement with East Sussex County Council replacing five stiles. Work is also being carried out on other paths in the parish to stiles, bridges and waymarking.

The next walk will take place on **Sunday, 31 January**, leaving the village green at 2.30 pm. This is another short walk around Oaklands Park. Everyone welcome to join in.

**The Theme:** Look, here is the Lamb of God  
**The Readings:**  
 Isaiah 49:1-7 The servant who will bring salvation to all  
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 God can be trusted to give strength  
 John 1:29-42 John the Baptist points out the Lamb of God

**Services and Meetings this week**  
**Epiphany 2 January 17th, 199**

SEDLESCOMBE	WHATLINGTON
<b>Epiphany 2 [17]</b> 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Parish Communion speaker: Anthony Morton King Junior and Youth Church	<b>Epiphany 2 [17]</b> 9.00am Holy Communion
<b>Monday [18] Unity Octave begins</b> Weekday services in the Rectory 6.30pm School Governors 7.30pm Holy Communion	
<b>Tuesday [19]</b> 10.00am Holy Communion - <i>Roselands</i> 12.30pm SSC Eucharist 7.30pm VH Management Committee	7.30pm Deanery Synod at Sidley
<b>Wednesday [20] S. Fabian &amp; S. Sebastian</b> 10.00am Holy Communion	<b>Thursday [21] S. Agnes</b> 8.00am Holy Communion
<b>Friday [22]</b> 8.15pm Scout Committee - Rectory	
<b>Epiphany 3 [24]</b> 10.00am Parish Communion, J&YCh	<b>Epiphany 3 [24]</b> 8.00am Holy Communion

**The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}**  
 Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am. Leader Geoff Powell, Speaker Dave West.  
 7pm Worship in a fellowship home.  
 Weekly meetings: Men's Fellowship, Monday 7.30 pm  
 Home Group, Tuesday 7.30 pm.



**SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY**  
**"GEISHAS AND GARDEN FESTIVAL"**

PLANT SALE

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY  
**RAY WAITE**

RAFFLE

SEDLESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL  
 2.00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AT A CHARGE OF £1.00



**SEDLESCOMBE DISTRICT SENIORS**

A decision to alter the name from Sedlescombe Seniors to Sedlescombe District Seniors was taken at the AGM on Thursday, 7 January. The aim of the change is to start a programme of widening membership from other villages and districts.

The Seniors was started in January 1970 as a men-only organisation with entertainment and interest coming from within and outside the membership. Since then there have been scores of speakers covering a great range of subjects.

A presentation of a bench machine tool was made to Mr Geoffrey Pexton, retiring Hon Secretary after 12 years in office and it was unanimously decided to make him the first-ever President. The Chair for the meeting was taken by Mr David Hollis and Mr G Makey was re-elected Treasurer. The new Hon Sec is Mr Geoffrey Heldman (870819).

Speaker for the next meeting is Mr R Emeleus who will give the background and history of "The Old Pharmacy in Battle". Any prospective members in Sedlescombe and surrounding areas are invited to contact me. GH

**BONUS BALL** winner last week, number 45 Helen Farley.

**OBITUARIES** We record the death on 9 January of Ena Berry, for many years a resident of Sedlescombe who spent the last years of her life in a Bexhill nursing home. Her funeral will be at Eastbourne Crematorium on **Wednesday 20 January** at 1.45 pm. We offer our sympathy to her nieces and their families and pray Ena may rest in peace to rise to glory.

We also record with sadness the death of Ted Waller whose funeral will be held at the Parish Church on **Tuesday 19 January** at 2.15 pm. Ted was a WWII veteran and a President of the Sedlescombe Royal British Legion Branch. We offer love and sympathy to his family.

**SEDLESCOMBE RANGERS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB** Rangers Under 12's got the new year off to an impressive start playing in near zero temperatures with an 8-2 victory over Winchelsea Beach. Rangers H Sullivan, Z Nathan and M Smith each scored two and there was one each from M Tapp and D Smith. Manager P Smith was pleased with the whole team's performance.

**SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS** Tickets for the Victorian evenings on 3 and 6 February (and Sat matinee) now on sale at the Post Office and going fast.