

A LIGHT HAS DAWNED



Lots of people are afraid of the dark. It seems universal for people to want to light up darkness. They feel more secure and it lets them see where they are going. It even makes people whistle!

For the writers of the bible, darkness represented chaos. It was where the unknown, with all its threats, dwelt. Darkness was also where evil lurked. That's why God's first creative act was to cast darkness away by making light. God had control over the worst that darkness could muster. The disorder of darkness was replaced by the regular appearance of sun and moon. The shadows of defeat and captivity, death and disorder were powerless before God.

That same darkness appears in the way people behave. To walk in the dark is to move along blindly with no thought of the consequences, to stumble aimlessly, to make decisions without the guidance of those whose vision is clear.

And today's gospel tells us that, for Christians, these days of darkness are over. Those who are called, like the first apostles, to follow Jesus are promised a light to dispel darkness. In fact the gospel writers talk about Christmas as the time when a light came into the world, a light which darkness could not overpower.

Light, of course, is the opposite of darkness. To walk in the light is have vision, a vision of how things could be. Light means hope, and those who walk in light are no longer prey to desperation; they have the promise of Jesus that they will inherit everlasting light.

When we speak of people finally seeing the light, we mean that they have at last come to understand the truth and importance of something.

We do our best today to make choices that are right, which live up to the ideals of the gospel. And if sometimes we feel a little in the dark, then the good news is that a light has dawned. It is Jesus Christ, the Lord.

SCRIPTURE

PARISH NEWS

January 23rd, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 4

Epiphany 3

10p

TODAY

NEARLY NEW/JUMBLE SALE in the village hall at 2pm.

Nancy Robinson, Roselands

SEDLSCOMBE GREEN W.I.

Birthday meeting on **Wednesday 27 January** in the village hall at 7.30 pm. "Committing Memories to Paper" by Mr John Eldridge. Tea hostesses: Joan Rowe and Violet Maynard.

FRIENDS OF BATTLE DISTRICT GUIDES & BROWNIES

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

SEDLSCOMBE OLD TYME DANCE CLUB

meet every Friday night in the village hall, 7.45pm - 10.30 pm. Admission £1. Why not come and join us for a very happy, friendly evening. A warm welcome awaits you.

BONUS BALL winner last week number 44, Nick Abbott.

SEDLSCOMBE PLAYERS

Tickets for the Saturday evening are sold out. There remain some for the Wednesday evening performance (3 Feb) and as yet there are plenty for the Saturday matinee (6 Feb). This promises to be an excellent evening in which it is hoped the audience will participate fully, including dressing in period costume. A delicious supper is included in the cost (£5) of the evening performances, and tea will be served at the matinee (ticket price £3.50). We hope you are practising your singing and that the village will give us full support. A percentage of the profits from the 3 performances will go to the new hall fund.

On the subject of the new hall the VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE met on Tuesday. As yet there is no news regarding our Lottery bid but all the signs are very favourable for the project on the Sports field. There is no question at this stage at least that the "Donkey Field" site will be used for this purpose. If we do not get Lottery money the whole enterprise will have

The Theme: God's Kingdom of forgiveness and salvation is near.
The Readings:
Isaiah 9:1-4 A reason for hope!
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 An appeal to do away with cliques and factions
Matthew 4:12-23 The Kingdom is near - a calling to work with Jesus

Services and Meetings this week
The Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE	WHATLINGTON
<p>Epiphany 3 [24] 10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church <i>Midweek eucharists in the Rectory</i> Monday [25] Conversion of S.Paul 7.30pm Healing Eucharist Wednesday [27] 10.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>Epiphany 4 [31] 10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Sedlescombe PCC Meeting has been postponed from February 1st until February 15th</p> </div>	<p>Epiphany 3 [24] 8.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>Wednesday [27] 7.30pm Whatlington PCC Thursday [28] S.Thomas Aquinas 8.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>Epiphany 4 [31] 8.00am Holy Communion</p>

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}
 Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am. Leader, Dave West, Speaker, Mike Freeman.
 7pm Prayer & Praise in the church
 Weekly meetings Men's Fellowship, Monday 7.30 pm
 Home Group, Tuesday 7.30 pm

to be reconsidered but at this stage we are going forward as planned. At the meeting Ken Stubberfield raised the question of bookings for the year 2000. He is already receiving requests for bookings and the committee agreed they could only be handled on a first-come first-served basis. However, they want to give regular bookers every chance to keep to their usual times and where there are clashes they hope they can be amiably sorted between the groups concerned. The committee is anxious that Ken, who works so hard for us and has done for many years, should not become embroiled in differences regarding booking the hall.

Remember that there is a Village Diary at the Post Office which can be consulted when setting dates for your events, to avoid duplication of effort.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY May 9 and 10 - the "Friends" Garden Walk About, with 10 new gardens.

SEDLESCOMBE FLOWER SHOW & COUNTRY FAYRE

Your committee is hard at work planning this year's show. Sadly they are losing their Treasurer who is leaving the village and they need a replacement. The group cannot function without a Treasurer and it is hoped therefore that someone will come forward quickly. We want to avoid a situation which arose a few years ago when the threat of no event had to be voiced because the committee could not fill its offices.

The theme for this year is The Wild West which gives enormous scope.

Not only was last year's fayre thoroughly enjoyable, it made a good

profit and the Association is inviting village groups to put in a bid for funds to help them operate. There are certain rules which have to be followed (you can't, for example, have your running costs met by the Association) but if you need one-off costs met or help with equipment the Sedlescombe Societies' Association may well be able to help. Contact the Chairman, Sarah Elliott, or the Secretary, Gladys Galster.

CHESS Congratulations to Sebastian Elliott on being nominated for an England place. Sebastian recently took part in an International Tournament in Hastings, acquitting himself well though he was in some cases the youngest by a good 30 years.

YOUNG BLOOD The one thing which constantly comes up when Sedlescombe groups meet together is the need for young people to become involved in the various organisations. This will be particularly relevant if we get a new hall which will have to be effectively managed and vigorously "marketed". We appeal to all the younger members of the village to support whichever group they may have an interest in so that the groups which give the village as a whole so much pleasure during the course of the year will not die out.