

THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY

The face of Christ we see on Ash Wednesday is the human being, subject to the same temptations as we are ourselves. Yet today, on the Sunday next before Lent, we see the same Christ, but in his divine nature, sharing and basking in the glory which is God's alone.

It's significant that the account of the Transfiguration in the gospel comes amidst predictions of Jesus' impending Passion. It is as if the Transfiguration experience is given to the three disciples as a boost to their faith, because Jesus knows how hard it will be for them to accept that he must be handed over and suffer.

Yet the Transfiguration encapsulates the meaning of Lent. It joins together the shame that becomes glory, the agony that is also the ecstasy, and the death that turns into life. And when the disciples protest, and say that they

will shield Jesus from suffering, he lets them know that the only way he can triumph is through obedience to the Father, through his death on the cross.

Perhaps we have become used to the story of the Transfiguration. Maybe we view it as just one of the many events of Jesus' life. What we must not do is to lose sight of the lengths to which God is prepared to go on our behalf.

The Transfiguration points to a God who gave us the Law (Moses) to be a guide to daily living. It shows that time after time we had the Prophets (Elijah) to keep us aware of God's will. And most of all it presents us with God's only Son who was to give up his own life so that we might enjoy a life that never ends.

If we learn to live in Christ, then we will also have Transfiguration experiences. There will be moments, when we least expect them, in which we will catch just a glimpse of something greater than this world. Through other people and events, through anguish and elation, we will receive that boost to our faith. Renewed in hope, like Peter, James and John, we will be able to say, "Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here". What a wonderful reminder as we prepare for the solemn season of Lent.....

SCRIPTURE

His face shone like the sun,
and his clothes became
as white as the light.

(Matthew 17: 2)



PARISH NEWS

February 13th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 7

The Sunday next before Lent

10p

LENT PROGRAMME this year includes a study group meeting at the Rectory on Sunday afternoon at 4.30 pm followed by tea and with Evensong at 6 pm in Church. There will be STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Friday each week at 3 pm.

Also on Fridays there will be the now traditional "hunger lunch" following the Eucharist at 12.30 in the Rectory. The lunches will be at 1 o'clock and for £2.50 you will receive home-made soup and bread or a roll, and very friendly service. The money will be sent to Christian Aid so every mouthful you eat will put a spoonful into someone's mouth who may not have eaten for a long time, slept in a warm bed or had a roof over their head. Please come and support us in our efforts to help those less fortunate. You are going to have lunch anyway, aren't you? And we will do the washing up!

BONUS BALL Last week's winner, number 10, Mrs N Hipwell.

W.I. MEETING in the village hall on Thursday, 18 February at 2 pm.

"Spinning to completed Article" by Mrs Jean Peters. Competition: A

Woollen Scarf. Teas: Mrs Cornish, Mrs Hart and Mrs Elmes. Visitors welcome.

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL - COMMUNITY BUS

Have you seen the new red community bus? It is now in operation and providing a twice-weekly service for Sedlescombe and from Battle (and from there on to the Conquest Hospital and other local destinations). Bus timetables are available from Battle Tourist Information Centre. According to the timetable, buses will leave Sedlescombe Green on Wednesdays at: 09.30, 11.50, 14.20, 16.50, returning from Battle at 08.40, 11.00, 13.30, 16.00. On Fridays, they leave Sedlescombe Green at 09.30, 13.00, 16.50, returning at 08.40, 12.10, 16.00. The buses also go to East View Terrace and can accommodate wheelchairs, although pre-booking for wheelchairs is necessary.

SEDLSCOMBE DISTRICT

SENIORS It may not sound a gripping subject but when the immensity of the subject - the finding

The Theme: The radiance of God's glory
 The Readings:
 Exodus 24:12-18 Moses receives the Law
 2 Peter 1:16-21 Peter's experience which gave him more confidence
 Matthew 17:1-9 The Old Covenant is replaced by the New

Services and Meetings this week

The Sunday next before Lent February 14th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE
Sunday before Lent [14]
 10.00am Parish Communion and Holy Baptism
 Junior and Youth Church
Monday [15]
 7.30pm Holy Communion
 8.00am Sedlescombe PCC
Tuesday [16]
 10.00am Holy Communion-Roselands
Ash Wednesday [17]
 10.00am Holy Communion and Giving of Ashes
 7.30pm Holy Communion and Giving of Ashes
Friday [19]
 12.30pm Holy Communion
 1.00pm Lent Lunch -Rectory
Saturday [20]
 9.00am Holy Communion
 7.00pm Scout Bingo
Lent 1 [21]
 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Parish Communion, J&YCh
 4.30pm Lent Group
 6.00pm Evensong

WHATLINGTON
Sunday before Lent [14]
 8.00am Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday [17]
 8.00am Holy Communion and Giving of Ashes
Thursday [18]
 8.00am Holy Communion
Lent 1 [21]
 9.00am Holy Communion

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am, taken by Geoff Powell.
 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 & DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY
"ALPINES AND THEIR CULTIVATION"



PLANT SALE

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY

RAFFLE

KEITH MOORHOUSE



SEDLESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL
 2.00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AT A CHARGE OF £1.00

and distribution of water - was unfolded by Mr George Coleman at the last meeting of the SDS the attention of the audience became more and more fixed. Mr Coleman, with a lifetime's experience in the successive organisations running our supplies, brought the History of Hastings Waterworks to a breadth rarely heard before. He began with the 1830s when water was 12 gallons per household in 300 Hastings houses and the supply came from the Bourne stream. With primitive conditions came the chronic diseases. Today there are approximately 100,000 people, each dwelling averaging 40 gallons. And the demand is increasing. Between the statistics lay many an engineering scheme covering geology, reservoirs, political struggles and the take-overs. Mr Coleman will be returning to lift the veil on how future supplies will be achieved. Linda Lewis, an executive of the De la Warr Pavilion, will be mixing a little history with theatre and art developments at the next meeting.

SEDLESCOMBE RANGERS

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB The Under 12's overwhelmed Glenco by an incredible 16-0 last Sunday, the Under 15's were unlucky to lose 2-1 at Little Common and the Under 10's

were beaten by Hollington Harriers. The Under 9's played Hastings Athletic and won 5-0.

(Sorry, there is not room to include the prolific goal scorers and Men of the Matches! Ed)

THE SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS would like to thank the village for their great support last week. The cast thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it would appear the audiences did too. Some financial details at a later date.

Very sadly **JACK WHITE** of Churchland Lane died peacefully in the Conquest Hospital on Thursday 4 February. His family wish to thank relatives and friends for the many cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received and offer sincere thanks for the many tributes paid to Jack. The enormous support has been a great comfort at this sad time and the donations to the Conquest Hospital are gratefully acknowledged by Linda, Davey and family, and Ashley).

CRIMES IN JANUARY list sadly a little longer again in this month. The good news is that only one of the incidents was of burglary of a dwelling Details are outside the Post Office. Our grateful thanks to PC Mick Kempster and the team for their continuing vigilance on our behalf.