

WIND AND FIRE

The preacher looked pretty confident. He started out boldly and just went from strength to strength. His message was simple: the Jesus whom the authorities had executed was risen from the dead and in the



power of God's spirit now offered life to anyone who would believe in him. The congregation lapped it up.

What few people knew was that not long before his sermon the preacher was so terrified that he had locked himself in. He was afraid of what might happen to him if he preached publicly.

The sermon was at 9 o'clock on Whit Sunday; and the preacher was St Peter. Why the sudden transformation? What had turned the disciples from being a bunch of timid mumblers into a group of fearless preachers? Two things: wind and fire.

The Holy Spirit is wind. He is that breath which inspires us to achieve much more than we could ever dream of by ourselves. The Spirit animates, gives wind to our sails, encourages and comforts us. And when we do not know what to do or say it is the Spirit who prompts us.

The Holy Spirit is also fire. Those who open themselves and ask for his gifts find that they are set alight. They find it hard not to tell others about their life in Christ. They gain fulfilment from prayer and worship. They become living ambassadors of the Gospel.

Today, Pentecost, we recall that the Spirit has been given to each of us. Our choice is simple. We can shelter from the wind or we can set the world on fire.

SCRIPTURE

He breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit".

(John 20:22)

The deepest prayer
That I could ever say,
Is that which makes me one
With that to which I pray.

(Angelus Silesius)

ECONOMIC PENTECOST

The disciples received the gift of the Spirit...and in the face of poverty and persecution they transformed human lives and formed communities that became signs of the power and presence of God. Sharing in this same resurrection faith, contemporary followers of Christ can face the struggles and challenges that await those who bring the gospel vision to bear on our complex economic and social world.

(USA Catholic Bishops)

PARISH NEWS

May 22nd, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 21

PENTECOST SUNDAY {Whitsun}

10p

TODAY- between 11 am and 2.30 pm, 1st Sedlescombe Scout Group **MAY FAIR.** Stalls, games, music by Maurice Endersby, circus skilled entertainer between 12.30 and 1.30 pm, followed by the Flower Princess competition. Judging at 2 pm. There will be refreshments, cakes, raffle, plants, tombola and books. We look forward to seeing you.

SEDLSCOMBE GREEN W.I.

Monthly meeting at the village hall **Wednesday 26 May 7.30 pm.** This will be the "Resolutions Meeting" followed by members' "A Moment I'll Never Forget". Tea hostesses J Chapman and M Stimpson. Competition: flower of the month. New members and visitors always very welcome.

SEDLSCOMBE DISTRICT

SENIORS A grand variety of dishes brought murmurs of delight from members and wives at the annual buffet luncheon at the Queen's Head on Thursday 13 May. The array of foodstuffs, presented in the style of fine hotels, won Mr Cook and family a round of applause. It was, as always, nearly too much. The rich sweet dishes disappeared rather fast

.. Our thanks were appropriately delivered to the house.

Next Thursday sees the return of a long-experienced speaker, Alan Bryett, who will be describing the grim days in W.W.II when he was incarcerated, along with many others, in Germany when he had to bail out from a stricken bomber. His talk is entitled "A March Through Hell".

SEDLSCOMBE SOCIETIES' ASSOCIATION

Plans for the Flower Show, Country Fayre, Carnival Parade and Barn Dance on **31 July** on the sportsfield are going well. The theme this year is "The Wild West". We are hoping for a good turnout for the Carnival Parade and Children's Fancy Dress, so get your thinking caps on and let's have a bumper show. More show news next week.

NATIONAL MENINGITIS TRUST

Thank you to all who contributed to the little boxes. £40 was finally sent and has been gratefully acknowledged.

THANK YOU to the gentleman who handed my active life holder,

The Theme: We celebrate the gift of God's Spirit to the whole world.

The Readings:

Acts 2:1-21 No one is excluded from hearing the gospel

1 Corinthians 12:3-13 We are united in the same Spirit

John 20:19-23 The risen Christ gives the Holy Spirit

Services and Meetings this week

The Day of Pentecost {Whitsun}

May 23rd, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE	WHATLINGTON
Pentecost [23] 10.00am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth church 11.30am Burial of Ashes: Ted Waller 5.00pm United Service on the Green	Pentecost [23] 8.00am Holy Communion
Monday [24] 6.30pm School Governors' meeting NO eucharist today	
Tuesday S.Bede [25] 10.00am Holy Communion-Roselands	
Wednesday S.Augustine [26] 10.00am Holy Communion	Thursday [27] NO eucharist today
Friday [28] 8.15pm Scout Executive	
Trinity Sunday [30] 10.00am Holy Communion, Junior and Youth Church	Trinity Sunday [30] 8.00am Holy Communion

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am. Leader, Dave West. Speaker, Mrs Margaret Read.

5pm Churches together in Pentecost Praise on the village green

Weekly meetings: Men's Group, Tuesday 3 pm in the church

Home Group, Tuesday 7.30 pm

Coffee morning, 10.30 am in the church

containing my pension book and TV and BT stamp cards, into the post office after I had unknowingly dropped them between the shop and my car. Thank, too, to Rosemary, for returning it to my home.

Ruby Selmes

SEDLESCOMBE SPORTS

ASSOCIATION will be holding two boot sales on the sportsfield on **Saturday 5 June and Saturday 26 June**. Gates will open at 8 am, pitches £5. For more details phone Sarah on 870707. Why not take the opportunity to make money from your unwanted goods?

MILLENNIUM GALA CONCERT

The Hastings Philharmonic Choir will be giving their biggest concert this year in the White Rock Theatre on **Saturday 12 June 1999** at 7.30 pm. There will be 150 singers, with orchestra, soloists and a children's choir.

The first half of the programme is "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff and the second will feature such varied music as the men singing "There is Nothing Like a Dame", the women giving the Humming Chorus from Madam Butterfly and favourites from the last night of the Proms, such as Land of Hope & Glory and Jerusalem. Union Jack flags and hats will be on sale, plus Millennium souvenirs. Tickets are £10 (Seniors £8.50) and children under 16 £5.

Clearly not something to be missed.

SUSSEX RURAL COMMUNITY

COUNCIL are running a "National Volunteer Week" between 1-6 June, to assist local voluntary groups. It gives the community a chance to thank everyone who helps voluntarily and it also gives groups a chance to make people aware of what they do and attract new volunteers. Contact Nan Hacking on 01424 88026 for details.

AGE CONCERN are offering a new service, a National Health Hearing Aid Battery Exchange" service. In conjunction with the Conquest's Audiology Dept National Health hearing aids can now be exchanged at the Age Concern offices in Battle. The service will be available weekly on Wednesdays, 2-4 pm starting on **2 June**.

For more details contact Andrea Talbot at the Almonry in Battle, 01424 775721.

HASTINGS & RURAL ROTHER

HOME FROM HOSPITAL group (part of Hastings Age Concern) are looking for volunteers, especially from Westfield and Sedlescombe, to help out people returning home from hospital with such chores as shopping, collecting prescriptions or pensions, offering company etc. Training is given and expenses paid. Contact Rhiannon Oliver on 01424 440333, if you can help.