



MASKED VIRTUE?

We all like to present our good side in public. We want to look our best and to seem decent and nice. This, of course, is only normal. It would be odd if we wanted to appear vile and vicious, or miserable and moody. Nobody wants to be seen warts and all.

And in a strange way this carries over to how we approach God. Hosea tells us today, "This love of yours is like a morning cloud, like the dew that quickly disappears." We've got used to putting on a mask even in God's sight. We know the sort of person God calls us to be, and we know how far short of that ideal we fall. So instead of coming before God and just accepting who and what we really are, we come dressed as the person we think God is waiting for. But God doesn't want neat prayers. Just genuine love will do.

Or alternatively, we never really feel at ease in God's presence because so far we've not quite polished up our spiritual halo enough, and we can't help thinking that we're not quite good enough for God to listen to yet. Although everyone else in church looks to be on fine footing with God, perhaps we don't fully match up at present. We're just hanging on for the right circumstances and things will work out. We become religious Micawbers waiting for our spiritual moment to turn up! Yet it's sick people who need to consult the doctor, not healthy ones.

If only we understood what Jesus meant when he said, "I've not come to call the virtuous, but sinners."

SCRIPTURE

As Jesus was walking on
he saw a man named Matthew
sitting by the customs house,
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.

(Matthew 9:9)

The best churches are not full of saints.
They're full of sinners who want to be better.

(Oliver Todd)

The Church exists for the sake
of those outside it.

(William Temple)

PARISH NEWS

June 5th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 23

The First Sunday after Trinity

10p

T O D A Y - the first of the 2 **Boot Sales** to be held on the Sports field by SEDLSCOMBE SPORTS ASSOCIATION: Pitches £5 each - open from 8.00am; come and make some money out of your unwanted goods!

MOTHERS' UNION - our next meeting will be held at Roselands on Tuesday 8th June when our Speaker will be Mr F Gill from the Royal Institution for the Blind; come and join us (at 2.30pm) when a warm welcome will await you.

SEDLSCOMBE & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB will be meeting next on Wednesday 9th June in the Village Hall at 7.15pm; Mr R Tunks will be demonstrating "Window on the World", and Members' competition will be ... 'Recent Trends' - European Style; new members and visitors will be very welcome.

ALEXANDRA ROSE DAY - the house to house collection is already in progress and lasts until June 13th; we help local disabled people and last year your support enabled us to provide grants towards aids in the home and with cars. We shall be having a **Tea Party** at Jacobs Farm on Thursday 10th June (weather permitting) - all are welcome; for more information 'phone Jenifer Keeling on 870205.

WHATLINGTON ANNUAL FETE & DUCK RACING takes place next Saturday 12th June in the Village Hall and Filed from 2pm 'til 4pm; lots of things for evryone - easy car parking; enjoy an afternoon with us.

SEDLSCOMBE SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION - members are asked to note that the next Meeting will be held on **June 15th** (not the 8th); venue is the meeting room at the Queen's Head.

KOSOVO COFFEE MORNING - many thanks to all helpers and to all who supported the event; with donations and some good weather as well, we raised £175+ super, thanks to everyone - again!

PERSONAL - many thanks to all the people who helped with my recent move - so very much appreciated; **Kay Maberley**

The Theme: We praise God who has called us to the work of Christian service
The Readings:
Hosea 5:15-6:6 The Lord seeks of us steadfast love
Romans 4:13-25 God accepts personal faith, not good life
Matthew 9:9-13,18-26 God's merciful love calls sinners to him.

Services and Meetings this week

The First Sunday after Trinity June 6th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE		WHATLINGTON	
Trinity 1 [6]		Trinity 1 [6]	
8.00am Holy Communion		9.00am Holy Communion	
10.00am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church		3.00pm Holy Baptism - <i>Povey</i>	
Monday [7]			
NO eucharist today			
Tuesday [8]			
10.00am Holy Communion- <i>Roselands</i>			
2.30pm Mothers' Union - <i>Roselands</i>			
Wednesday S.Columba [9]		Thursday [10]	
10.00am Holy Communion		8.00am Holy Communion	
Friday S.Barnabas [11]			
7.00pm Holy Communion			
Trinity 2 [13]		Trinity 2 [13]	
10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church		8.00am Holy Communion	

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning Worship 10.30am The Revd Brian Johanson
 Wednesday 10.30am-12 noon Coffee Morning in church

NEWS FROM SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL - Marian Ham (Head Teacher) writes...
 I would like to express my thanks to all parents (present and past), the Governors, Staff, Children and the whole local community for their help and support enabling us to become the winning school in the whole of the South of England for the Camelot Award for work with Parents and the Community. The original application was back in December and after local judging we went forward as a Regional Finalist - now we go to the National Finals against 9 other Regional winners at Alexandra Palace on July 11th, when the event will be televised live on BBC-2. I am so delighted and proud of our school - thank you everyone!

On Wednesday 9th June we shall be having a **Celebration Party** for the school and village community to whom the invitation is warmly extended. If you would like to come, please let us know by 'phoning us on 870585. Space is no problem (weather permitting!) - any donations of cakes, biscuits etcetera will be greatly appreciated. **The Parish Council** warmly congratulates Mrs Marian Ham, the staff and all the children for their part in winning the Camelot Award - Well done and good luck for the Finals!

SEDLESCOMBE DISTRICT SENIORS - at our next meeting which will be held on Thursday 10th June, it will be one of those days when the entertainment comes from the floor. Members' own anecdotes, tape recordings and curios all come to the fore for everyone's enjoyment. At the last meeting, Alan Bryett from Bromley held us captive about his own experiences in POW Camp having been shot down over Berlin in 1943. Describing survival in appalling conditions, he drew a parallel with today's situation in Kosovo and with the plight of refugees walking hundreds of miles for some sort of safety, just as the POW's were forced to walk away from the advancing Russians. Time passed very slowly in those days, but not at our meeting.

don't forget the **MILLENNIUM GALA CONCERT** to be given by Hastings Phil. Choir at the White Rock Theatre **next Saturday (12th)**

..... the **"War + Roses" SUMMER CONCERT** to be given in the Village Hall by Battle Light Opera for St Michael's Hospice Sedlescombe Support Group on **Thursday 17th June**; tickets from the Post Office or 'phone 870688, supper will be included.

..... **Cheese & Wine Evening and Garden Safari** - members of the SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY are reminded that this takes place on **Friday 18th June**; tickets and maps from the Post Office.

SEDLESCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - members are reminded that the next meeting will be on Monday 5th July; the Standing Committee meets on Monday 14th June, both at 8pm in The Rectory.