



JUST FOR THE BIRDS....?

God's providence is a difficult thing to grasp. "There is no need to be afraid," says Jesus, "you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows." But we do become afraid, because we know that bad things can happen to people. And they do. So is this providential care of God just some pie in the sky, something just for the birds?

Providence brings out the extremes in people. Some see life as acting out a play written by God. So whatever happens to us, however badly we mess up our lines, doesn't really matter because the ending is already written and the final curtain call is either heaven or hell. We needn't trouble ourselves too much with this world's injustices because God, the scriptwriter, will take care of everything in the end.

At the other end of the scale are those who believe that God is the executive producer of the play. He backs it with his money but leaves us to get on with the script and the acting. So if we do not do something about the problems of the world then no one else will, and everything will come crashing down in disaster. The play will flop.

The balance is between an active God and human freedom. If we pretended we could adequately answer this question then we would be fooling ourselves. It lies at the heart of our understanding of God. In the deepest sense it is a Christian mystery.

Of course, one thing is certain: God is present in our world. "I will be with you always," said Jesus. And yet God doesn't seem to want to intervene directly. Not even in favour of thousands of refugees fleeing ethnic cleansing or innocent people dying of starvation. God appears to work through secondary causes, through other agents, through you and me.

If God chooses to use other people in order to bring his presence to bear in the world, then it must be through people who are imbued with his values and teachings. Somehow it is a joint effort. We raise the sails but God provides the wind.

A survivor of the holocaust was asked how she could keep believing in God's providence after all that had happened to her. "Where was God?" she was asked. "He was there everyday saying 'Thou shalt not murder'." Maybe God's the prompter.

SCRIPTURE

What I say to you in the dark,
tell in the daylight;
what you hear in whispers,
proclaim from the housetops.

(Matthew 10: 27)

Trust in the providence of God is not a heaven-sent formula for the indolent, not a way of by-passing responsibility with regard to social and material concerns...you have to take on the affairs that come your way, knowing that they come from God and must be steered back again to him.

(Hubert van Zeller)

PARISH NEWS

June 19th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol 32 No. 25

The Third Sunday after Trinity

10p

FRIENDS OF BATTLE GUIDES & BROWNIES

Thanks to the kind people who left me jumble last Saturday. In fact the Jumble Sale is **TODAY, 19 June**. I muddled the dates - my apologies. If you have any jumble it can be left at 2 Forge Cottages or phone 870808 before 11.30 am.

Margaret

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE Meeting in the village hall at **7pm Tuesday 22 June** (please note change of time). This committee meeting will be followed by a public meeting to discuss possible re-siting of the new hall. **All user groups should make sure they are represented.**

SEDLESCOMBE GREEN W.I.

Monthly meeting will be in the village hall on **Wednesday 23 June** at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Mr K Brooks "Hastings Then and Now". Tea hostesses: Pam Samson and Dorothy Downey. Competition: Flower of the Month.

SEDLESCOMBE DISTRICT

SENIORS The tradition of providing humour and musical entertainment was maintained at the last meeting

when members brought their own versions of amusing stories, anecdotes and glimpses of times past in print and on tape. All present voted it a comical two hours and opted for more sessions of the same. Some of the members noted how membership has moved up and down over the years and ideas to build up the numbers are expected to be announced shortly. Judging by the enthusiasm on 10 June there should be a small queue of retired and semi-retired men waiting at the clubroom door. (What? No women! Have to keep the running joke up, chaps. Ed).

The speaker at the next meeting, **24 June**, will be Eric Edwards from South London, who will be lecturing, with slides, on the history of the London cab trade.

THE SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS

will be meeting at 8 pm in the Queen's Head on **Monday 28 June**. This is an important meeting for the drama group so would all members, and would-be members, please attend. We are planning our next entertainment and look for additional members to join us.

The Theme:	How dear we are to God!
The Readings:	
Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah calls on God's protection
Romans 6:1-11	Baptism - a sign of death to sin
Matthew 10:24-39	Take heart - you are dear to God.

Services and Meetings this week
The Third Sunday after Trinity June 20th 1999

SEDLSCOMBE	WHATLINGTON
Trinity 3 [20] 8.00am Holy Communion	Trinity 3 [20] 9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion & Baptism {Palmer} Junior and Youth Church	3.00pm Holy Baptism {Mitchell}
Monday S.Alban [21] 7.30pm Holy Communion	
Tuesday S.John Fisher & S.Thomas More[22] 10.00am Holy Communion-Roselands 7.00pm Village Hall Management Cttee 7.30pm Village Meeting - re. New Hall-	
Wednesday [23] 10.00am Holy Communion	
Thursday Birth of S.John Baptist [24] 7.30pm Holy Communion	Thursday Birth of S.John Baptist [24] 8.00am Holy Communion
Saturday [26] Sedlescombe School Strawberry Fair	
Patronal Festival Sunday [27] 10.00am Parish Communion, J&YCh 6.00pm Festival Evensong & supper	Trinity 4 [27] 8.00am Holy Communion

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}
Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am, taken by the Revd Ray Sowersby. Weekly meetings: Men's Group, Tuesday 3 pm in the church. Home Group, Tuesday 7.30 pm in the Manse. Coffee morning Weds 10.30 - 12 noon in the church. **Advance notice:** Next Sunday, 27 June, will be our church Anniversary Service, held at 3 pm with light refreshments afterwards. No morning or evening worship that day.

SEDLSCOMBE THEATRE CLUB

Reminder - outing to the Globe Theatre for "Comedy of Errors" on **Tuesday 29 June**. Coach leaves the Green at 10.30 am. Also, places going well for Ypres visit. Please ring if you would like to go.
Shirley, 870517

FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

Sponsor forms are now available from the Post Office and the pub for the sponsored Dog Walk in the Great Wood on **Saturday 10 July**, 2-4 pm. Park in the Marley Lane entrance to the Great Wood from which the walk will begin. All entrants will receive a rosette and a certificate and the biggest fund raiser will receive a trophy. We hope there will be a good response to this event. Any queries, ring Anthony Rand on 870722.

HASTINGS PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

Liz Yonge writes: "Please say many thanks to all from Sedlescombe who supported the concert on the 12th. The White Rock was packed and the audience most enthusiastic and really fired up for the 'Last Night of the Proms' bit. We had to do an encore, with them, of 'Jerusalem'. We have heard some wonderful comments from people who attended. The Conductor was thrilled, too (she isn't always!)"

THE HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP

would also like to thank those who supported the Battle Light Opera summer concert on Thursday. Our grateful thanks go, of course, to BLOG for their kindness in coming to Sedlescombe. We would also like to mention the Whist group. Thanks to their generosity we were able to use the

hall that evening, when they would normally be playing cards.

BONUS BALL Winner last week, number 47, R Spurrell.

KOSOVO CRISIS APPEAL

From the collecting tins in the Parish Church and in the village shop, together with the two coffee mornings held by Hilary Hannam, £520.24 has been raised for the Kosovo Crisis Appeal. Thank you to all those who gave their support.

The Rector & Churchwardens

SECURITY TIPS

Continuing on from last week's comments by PC Mick Kempster, he reminds us that holidays can be spoilt if returning to find a burglary. Try to remember that the majority of offences are committed by opportunists. Timer units for lights are always a good idea, one for downstairs and one for upstairs - the latter coming on around the time the downstairs goes off.

If you have two cars, consider leaving one in the drive rather than the garage to give the impression someone is in. Or perhaps one of your neighbours could use your drive or park a vehicle there.

Whichever day your dustbin gets emptied, from the next day onwards it will remain empty. Perhaps a neighbour could put a bag of rubbish in for you! It's easy for the burglar to just lift the lid and see it's empty. Also an empty dustbin has more chance of being blown over by the wind. If you are the unfortunate victim of burglary, **please remember not to touch anything.**

Our thanks to Mick for his helpful suggestions.