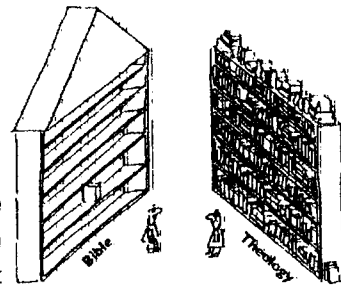


# TEACH YOURSELF GOD



Every now and again the Church throws up some individual who confounds the wise. It may be a St John Vianney, the Cur, of Ars, who was such a simple priest that people found it hard to believe he could attract so many people to Christ. Or it may be someone like Padre Pio who was no great theologian but obviously knew Jesus much more closely than many a scholar.

In a society where information is at a premium, it comes as a bit of a shock to hear Jesus thanking his Father for hiding the mysteries of faith from the wise and the clever, and revealing them to "mere children".

We too can fall into the same trap of thinking that unless we know all the ins and outs of theology then we are mere also-rans in faith. But this is not so. All our faith asks us to do is to know and love God: to know the person who revealed his Father, and to be alive in his Spirit.

Faith and theology are not the same thing. We believe in God but we do not believe in theology. Theology is the human endeavour to put flesh and blood on what we profess in our Creed. It is two thousand years' worth of trying to explain things. It is our fumbling attempt to express in words and concepts what we know Jesus spoke of in the scriptures. That's why there's only one Bible but lots of books on theology.

Of course, we cannot get away with just saying "I have a simple faith" and then doing nothing to deepen our understanding. Every adult Christian has the duty to try and grow in their understanding of God and their faith. This is a womb to tomb demand. But we are judged by God not on how much we know (for that is next to nothing in God's eyes) but on how much we try to love.

This means that we all have an equal chance in the sight of God. Religion is not for the clever, for those with minds that can analyse and dissect dogmas. God has revealed the mysteries of faith to those who simply learn to know his Son. If we are in need of learning, then it's learning to know Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE

Come to me  
all you who labour and are overburdened  
and I will give you rest.

*(Matthew 11: 28)*

PARISH NEWS

July 3rd, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 27

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10p

## SEDLSCOMBE SOCIETIES' ASSOCIATION

The next meeting to make final plans for this year's Flower Show & Fayre will be at the Queen's Head meeting room on **Tuesday 6 July** at 7.30 pm. All members are asked to attend. Please ring Chris on 870424 with your promises of cakes and preserves for the cake stall.

Anyone willing to help on the day would be most welcome. Please phone Sarah on 755744 or Gladys on 870451 for more details.

## SEDLSCOMBE DISTRICT SENIORS

It costs to be a London taxi driver: £26,000 for the vehicle and a compulsory £1000 check every year. These were just two of the facts revealed in one of the most interesting talks in the Seniors calendar.

Mr Eric Edwards spoke of the history of the London cab trade, going back to Tudor times when the boats on the Thames were prolific in plying trade up and down the river. The Sudan chair (it came from the Sudan) came into fashion with two men literally

running their fares up and down the mire streets. And so on to modern times when the first motor vehicles appeared around the turn of the century. Mr Edwards also has other talents. He attended drama school, holds an Equity card and appears as a film extra from time to time. He had a very appreciative audience.

On **8 July** at 10 am in the Queen's Head (as a guide for potential members) the talk will be a 150-year history of railway hotels by Mr Gordon Buck, a familiar figure on the subject of railways.

## MYSTERY OUTING Wednesday 18

**August 1999** leaving the Green at 1 o'clock, arrive around 2 o'clock, stop for about half an hour for a look round the gift shop and use the facilities etc. Back in the coach for tour of the area for about one and a half hours, with commentary. Back for a cream tea, then journey home, returning about 5-5.30 pm. Cost £8. Please contact Gladys Galster on 01424 870451 if you would like to come.

**The Theme:** God's ways are not our ways.....

**The Readings:**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

**God comes in humility & gentleness**

**Romans 7:15-25**

**It is often a truggle to do the right thing**

**Matthew 11:16-19,15-30** Jesus invites us to come to him for rest and help

**Services and Meetings this week**

**The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

**July 4th, 1999**

<b>SEDLESCOMBE</b>		<b>WHATLINGTON</b>	
<b>Trinity 5</b>	<b>[4]</b>	<b>Trinity 5</b>	<b>[4]</b>
8.00am	Holy Communion	9.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>[5]</b>		
7.30pm	Holy Communion		
8.00pm	Sedlescombe PCC		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>[6]</b>		
10.00am	Holy Communion - <i>Roselands</i>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>[7]</b>		
10.00am	Holy Communion		
		<b>Thursday</b>	<b>[8]</b>
		8.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Friday</b>	<b>[9]</b>		
8.00pm	Scout Executive Committee		
<b>Trinity 6 {Sea Sunday}</b>	<b>[11]</b>	<b>Trinity 6 {Sea Sunday}</b>	<b>[11]</b>
10.00am	Parish Communion and Holy Baptism, J&YChurch	8.00am	Holy Communion

**The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}**

Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am, followed by Holy Communion, taken by Geoff Powell. No evening worship.

**Weekly meetings:** Men's Group, Tuesday 3-4.30 pm in the Church  
Home Group, 7.30 pm Tuesday in th Church  
Coffee morning 10.30 am Wednesday in the Church

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**TENNIS COURTS** Has watching Wimbledon inspired you to pick up a racquet and have a game of tennis? Sedlescombe's two hard courts are available for public hire and the key can be obtained from the Bridge Garage during opening hours. The price is a reasonable £2/court/hour.

**COMMUNITY BUS** New bus timetable - see noticeboard.

**MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL AWARDS FOR ALL LOTTERY GRANTS**

Grants between £500 and £5000 are available to help local groups undertake a wide range of activities to mark or celebrate the Millennium. Rother DC has arranged a briefing seminar for **Wednesday 28 July** at 6.30pm at Robertsbridge Community College. If you would like to attend write to the Director of Community Services at 14 Beeching Road, Bexhill, TN39 3LGN and you will be sent further details.

**BONUS BALL** Subscriptions of £5 are now due for July. Winner last week, number 43 Mrs D Gardiner.

**REMINDERS**

The Playgroup is having an Open Morning on **14 July** when parents with children of two and a half now or will be in September can go along to the village hall, meet the Supervisor and join in the activities. The two

and half year olds can attend every Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning and there are sessions for the Rising Fives on Monday and Friday afternoons.

The Sports Association are holding a Treasure Hunt from the village green on **Saturday 17 July** at 6 pm. If you would like to unearth some fascinating facts about our local area on a pleasant evening's drive you are welcome to join in at a cost of £5 per car. (A copy of Landranger 199 would be useful but not essential as copies will be available). If you don't fancy the drive, go along to the barbecue in the Queen's Head garden afterwards. If you need more details, phone Sarah on 870707.

**THE SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS** is now an 'official' group, having adopted a Constitution at its meeting last Monday. This will enable the drama group to make application for grants to provide curtains etc when we get our new hall. Subscription to join the Players is £5 per year and we are looking for additional members, especially since our next production, to mark the Millennium, will have a cast of thousands!

Fr Roy Cotton who recently retired from Brede to come and live amongst us in Sedlescombe is currently rather poorly in hospital. We send our best wishes to him and hope he will soon be fully recovered. We also send our best wishes to Sylvia Labbett, from Whatlington who is in a London hospital awaiting major surgery.