



GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEED

One of the worries that people have over GM food is that there might be side effects which don't show up for a long time. When or if they do, it will be too late. You could argue that if the sower in Jesus's parable had had genetically modified seed then the darnel (weeds) might not have been able to attack it. In other words, why does God allow potential to remain

unfulfilled, promise to be broken, goodness to be choked by evil? If God loves us, why doesn't he take care of things so that sin never prevails against goodness?

A clue to the answer comes in Jesus's words, "Let them both grow until the harvest". God seems to avoid the short cuts that we favour. We cannot understand why God does not intervene more to avert disasters and evil. If wickedness seems to prosper at the expense of good, can it be because God doesn't care or is powerless?

What God seems to be bothered about most is respecting the sort of people we are. We live in God's kingdom with free will - the ability to decide what we want to be and do. Free will is a gift from God which gives us a self worth. We are not pieces on a chess board. Rather, we are trusted by God to act responsibly. If God were to keep intervening every time we were about to make a mess of things, then we would have a "nanny-God" and our free will would be taken away by a God who "knows best".

Yet Jesus' words, "Let them both grow until the harvest" give us an idea that there is purpose and justice to the way God acts. Good and bad exist together in this world, but Jesus is saying that at the end of time there is a reckoning. The darnel gets burnt. Part and parcel of our free will is that should we choose to reject God and go for our own selfish lifestyle, then God allows us this freedom. He does not modify us genetically so that we end up doing what he wants while thinking that we are in the driving seat. God lets us choose to reject him and, when it comes time to harvest the fruit of our lives, he respects our decision for ever.

SCRIPTURE

First collect the darnel and tie it into bundles to be burnt; then gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 13: 30)

PARISH NEWS

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SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

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The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10p

TODAY! Sports Association Treasure Hunt, leaving the Green at 6 pm. Cost £5 per car. Barbecue in Queen's Head Garden afterwards.

SUNDAY 18 JULY - JUNIOR CHURCH are hosting a Parish lunch at Brambles to which all members of the Parish Church congregation are cordially invited. The lunch will follow the 10 am service.

SEDLSCOMBE PLAYERS committee meeting at 8 pm on **Monday 19 July** at Ann's house, 4 Gammons Way.

SEDLSCOMBE W.I. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 21 July** at 2 o'clock. The speaker is Judith Kinnison Bourke who will tell us "Dorothy's Story". There is a warm welcome for anyone who would like to join us. Why not come and find out what Dorothy's story is all about. Competition: An Unusual Spoon. Tea ladies, Mrs Blades and Mrs Cornish.

SEDLSCOMBE GREEN W.I. Committee members are reminded the committee meeting will be at Rosemary's, 15 East View Terrace at 8 pm **Wednesday 21 July**.

SEDLSCOMBE DISTRICT SENIORS The years flew by; 150 of them, all to do with the development of the railways. But the talk was not about trackways. It was the hotels that came about with the smoking monsters and a fascinating subject it was too, the speaker, Mr Gordon Buck, having spent many years

in photographing the various types of architecture that comprise the traveller's rest across the country.

It was a unique subject and surprisingly many of the provincial hotels which sprang up in the middle of the 19th century and onwards belonged to private investors who sold on to the railway companies. The clock having turned, most are back in the hands of the private sector. From St Ives to Gleneagles, Fleetwood to Liverpool, they are all open to the world, although many stations closed a long time ago.

The next speaker is an unusual one. Mr W Brunger will be talking about the life of a shepherd in the days when skilled men were on the hills in all weathers.

SEDLSCOMBE THEATRE CLUB Theatre visit to "Mamma Mia" on **Thursday 22 July** - coach leaves the Green at 5.15 pm.

SEDLSCOMBE SOCIETIES' ASSOCIATION Just 2 weeks until the Big Day out in Sedlescombe, the Annual Carnival Parade, Country Fayre, Flower Show and Barn Dance. The celebrations start with the Carnival Parade leaving Brede Lane at 1.45 pm led by Spencers Night Hawks Jazz Band and finishes after the Barn Dance at 11.30 pm. The time between will be filled with lots for you to enjoy on the Sports Field - bumper Tombola, 6-a-side football, freshly-made pancakes, tug-of-war and children's fancy dress. The theme this year is the Wild West so come on, get those stetsons etc out of mothballs. We could do with some more entries for the Carnival Parade, lorry or tractor or trailer or walking. There are lots of trophies to

