

ABOVE THE WATER-LINE



One of the more perplexing questions that faces every Christian is to do with how much we are responsible for our own salvation, and how much does it depend simply on God?

We have to be clear at the start about one thing: none of us can earn our own salvation. There are no deeds good enough to force God's hand. It is not as if we can be absolutely bold in claiming our place in heaven just because we have said lots of prayers, been to church each week, given a fortune to charity and founded an international chain of homes for the terminally bored!

Eternal life and happiness is a gift beyond all price. In fact, the only person capable of purchasing this gift for us is Jesus.

Yet, of course, we know that Jesus has done precisely this by his act of redeeming us ("buying us back") on the cross. He has paid the price for us. So where do we go from here? If Jesus has claimed us for his Father, is there any point in stirring ourselves into action? Surely it's in the bag?

Maybe we could say, in reply to this dilemma, that since we are aware of the great gift given to us at baptism, we ought to respond by leading lives which reflect God's goodness and concern. So our good deeds would be the signs that we are trying to live in faith. They would be the signs that we are redeemed but not the cause of our redemption.

In other words, if we thought that by being good we were buying heaven, then we've missed the boat. If we thought that we needn't do good at all because we're already redeemed, then we're beginning to sink. But if we realised that because we've been redeemed then our only response to God should be a life of service, then we're probably above the water-line.

It's notable that as soon as Peter thought it was all up to him, he began to sink beneath the waves. His life-raft came when he recognised his need for God.

SCRIPTURE

Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water,

but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink.

(Matthew 14:29-30)

WORDS OF WISDOM

Whoever walks towards God one cubit,
God runs towards them twain.

(Jewish proverb)

If Christ offers us up
with his own death in this sacrament,
it is that we may die a voluntary and
daily death,

and merit a daily resurrection.

(Austin Farrer)

PARISH NEWS

August 7th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 32

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10p

TODAY!!

CHURCH FLOWER FUND Cream teas at Highfield Cottage, Church Hill, 2.30 - 5 pm. Please bring a chair if possible. *Shirley 870517*

SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT

FLOWER CLUB At our next meeting on **Wednesday 11 August** in the village hall at 7.15pm Mrs B Wheeler will be demonstrating "From a Flower Arranger's Bookshelf". Members' competition "The Flower Arranger's Garden" - a petite exhibit. Members are invited to bring a friend as a guest of the Club at this month's meeting.

MYSTERY OUTING

A reminder to be on the Green at 1 o'clock on **Wednesday 18 August** for the outing. There are still a few seats on the coach if anyone is interested.

Leave the Green at Sedlescombe at 1 o'clock. Arrive destination at 2 o'clock. Have a comfort stop of about half an hour when you could also look in the gift shop. Get back on the coach and the owner will take us on a guided tour of the area, back for a cream tea in about one and a half hours. Board coach for home somewhere around 4 o'clock. The cost is £8. Contact Gladys Galster on 01424 870451 if interested in coming. Wishing you an enjoyable afternoon.

SEDLESCOMBE FLOWER SHOW

& COUNTRY FAYRE Our grateful thanks to the committee for all their hard work in giving us such an enjoyable day. There are a number of notices in connection with the event:

1. Gladys and John Galster are holding about six vases which people failed to pick up from the marquee after exhibiting their flowers etc. They can be picked up at 6 Gorselands but a telephone call first to make sure we are in would be appreciated. Tel: 01424 870451.
2. Thank you to all who joined in the Cowboys and Indians Quiz run by Chapel Hill Church. There were three prize-winners, each with full marks - Ted Cornford, J Durnford and Miss M Holburn from Hastings. A completed form giving the correct answers is on the noticeboard outside the Post Office.
3. The cup winners at the Flower Show were as follows:

Cut Flowers and Foliage

Dr Hunnard cup for most points:

Roger and Elissa Hanbrook

Royal National Rose Society Medal:

Betty Button

The Theme: His voice speaks of peace
The Readings:
1 Kings 19:9-18 God carries out his will in his own way
Romans 10:5-15 Salvation comes as a result of faith in Christ
Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus calls Peter to walk in faith

Services and Meetings this week

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity August 8th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE		WHATLINGTON	
Trinity 10 [8]		Trinity 10 [8]	
10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church		8.00am Holy Communion	
Monday S Lawrence {transf} [9]			
7.30pm Holy Communion			
Tuesday [10]			
NO meeting of the Mothers' Union			
Wednesday S.Clare [11]			
10.00am Holy Communion		Thursday [12]	
		8.00am Holy Communion	
Saturday S.Maximilian Kolbe [14]		Saturday [14]	
9.00am Holy Communion		5.00pm Wedding Rehearsal	
The Blessed Virgin Mary [15]		The Blessed Virgin Mary [15]	
8.00am Holy Communion		9.00am Holy Communion	
10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church			

The Children's Holiday Club starts on Monday August 16 at Sedlescombe Church

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning worship 10.30 am, taken by the Revd Ray Sowersby. No junior church during August.

7pm An hour of singing favourite hymns and songs at Roselands, open to all. You will be made most welcome.

Coffee morning Wednesday 10.30 am in the church

Wyatt Trophy: Betty Button
National Sweet Pea Society Award:
D W Stanbridge
Maurice Cornford Shield:
Roger & Elissa Hanbrook
Boxall Cup: Reg Wells
Pot Plants
Duncan Cup for most points:
J Ferguson
Garden News Shield: H Kaupert
Garden News Shield: J Ferguson
Vegetables
Sed Horticultural Society Cup:
Josie Cornish
Kirk Cup: Roger & Elissa Hanbrook
Society Shield: M Hilder
Fruit
Whitefield cup for most points:
John Tunstall
Society Shield: Josie Cornish
Flower Arrangements
Maureen Baker Cup: Sally Lovell
Weston Cup: Joan Rowe
Garden News Shield: Joan Rowe
Domestic
Holmes House Cup: P Brock
Aris Perpetual Rose Bowl: S Lovell
Cantell Cup: Sarah Elliott
Home-made Wine & Beer
Tankard for most points: Sarah Elliott
Wine Cup: Julie Robinson
Handicrafts
Pat Harden trophy for most points:
Joan Rowe & Sarah Elliott
Tye Cup: Rosemary Merrills
Children's Classes
Children's Cup for most points:
Emily Boreham
Seniac Challenge Cup:
Edward Boreham
Autumn Cup: S J Fisher
Congratulations to all of you. We look

forward to seeing you next year!
BONUS BALL Subs of £4 now due for August. Last 2 weeks' winners: number 24, Ruby Selmes and number 42, Peter Cameron.

ARTHUR PAYNTER Iris and family wish to thank all neighbours and friends for their help, kindness and messages of goodwill during this sad time.

BATTLE AREA COMMUNITY TRANSPORT You may have seen the "little red bus" nipping around. Passengers are delighted with the opportunity to travel about in the area which was not available before the bus appeared. However, to enable the service to operate smoothly the bus needs a kindly, friendly co-ordinator. Would YOU be interested? It would mean supporting the voluntary drivers, arranging group hire. Expenses would be reimbursed and an ansaphone would be supplied. For more information ring 01424 772001 during office hours.

SEDLSCOMBE & WESTFIELD SURGERIES Last week's Parish News carried details of surgery arrangements over Christmas and the Millennium New Year. This information will be repeated shortly and at intervals throughout the rest of the year so keep your eye on the News.

OBITUARY Laurence Woodham died last Wednesday in the Conquest Hospital. The Funeral will be at Hastings Crematorium on Friday August 13th at 3.15pm. We offer our sympathy to Florence, to Mark and Sarah and the family. May he rest in peace to rise in glory.