

COCK-CROW AUTHORITY

Peter talked a good game. On several occasions he steps forward with the right answer, the right attitude, the "you can always rely on me" speech. He seems well able to take up the reigns of power.

And so it was on that day at Caesarea Philippi when his profession of faith led to Jesus calling him a real rock, someone to be relied upon, someone who would exercise authority in the community of faith after Jesus's death.

Of course, we know how the story ends. Peter stands up for Jesus, but before the cock crows he has denied any knowledge of him three times. And, at the crucial moment on Calvary, Peter runs off into hiding.

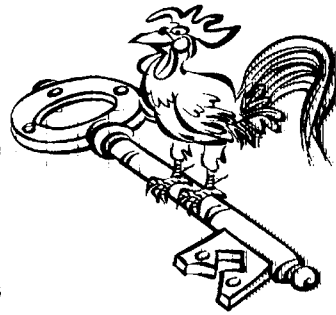
Those in positions of leadership within the Church are as human as Peter. But they still are graced with the role of leaders. And the authority given to the Church and invested in them in a special way still remains despite their individual weaknesses.

Authority doesn't mean "do what I say". Authority doesn't even mean having the power to dictate what is going to happen. Authority means having the duty to make things grow. It comes from a Latin word (augere) which means growing, increasing or augmenting.

Some people listen to authority and obey it because they fear sanctions. Sensible people listen to authority, and play their part in shaping it, because it has the power to help them grow, develop and achieve the greatness for which God has destined them. That's why people said that Jesus "spoke with authority". People instinctively knew that what he said was good for them.

Today we expect the Church to follow in that tradition of Peter. We expect it to be a rock, a focal point of faith and unity, a guide and teacher. The Church exercises its authority by pointing out those places where the grass is greener, those tracks that lead not to mere pleasure but to deep fulfilment. The authority of the Church exists to help us grow in Christ, to develop in faith, to become even more human.

Cock-crow authority has existed since the first Easter. It's a sign that God is prepared to entrust the deepest mysteries of salvation to frail and imperfect agents.



SCRIPTURE

But who do you say I am?

Simon Peter answered: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered him: Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah:

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.

(Matthew 16:16-18)

PARISH NEWS

August 21st, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 34

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10p

TODAY - at 6 pm in the church, the Holiday Club will be performing their play, "The Great Escape". This is the outcome of their efforts during the past week, when all the props and costumes were made, songs learned and play rehearsed.

The Holiday Club went well, with the two churches - St John the Baptist and the United Reform Church - working together yet once more in great harmony and with enormous success. The organisers and helpers all worked extremely hard to make the week a happy one for the numerous children who attended daily and hopefully there will be a good audience tonight to reward their endeavours.

SEDLSCOMBE GREEN W.I.

Our 25 August meeting will be an outing to Bexhill for an evening of Ten Pin Bowling. Members who put their names on the list are asked to meet on the Green at 7 pm when we can sort out transport for anyone needing a lift.

R.N.L.I. On **Wednesday 25 August** from 10 am to 12 noon Gladys and John Galster are holding their coffee morning in aid of the Lifeboats.

There will be cake and produce stalls, raffle and competitions. Entrance 50 p, to include coffee and biscuits. We look forward to seeing you.

BANK HOLIDAY FUN DAY AND BOOT SALE in aid of Bodiam Church of England School. **Monday 30 August** from 12 noon. Boots can be booked through Jacqui on 870350 - £6 per stall. Fun for everyone. Special low prices for children - 20 p for many games.

CRIMES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF JULY Only 3 incidents on the list this month - details displayed outside the post office as usual.

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP Stoolball match on **Sunday 5 September** on the sports field. Refreshments, raffle, game against Robertsbridge to enjoy. Do turn out and support our local team and the Hospice.

MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF World's Biggest Coffee morning. Our venue is the Brickwall Hotel, date **1 October**.

The Theme: Those who know and recognise the Christ are truly happy.
The Readings: {RCLA Proper 16}
Isaiah 51:1-6 God's word is true, deliverance is assured
Romans 12:1-8 Worship God with the whole of your being
Matthew 16:13-20 Peter professes Jesus as Christ.

Services and Meetings this week
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity August 22nd, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE		WHATLINGTON	
Trinity 12 [22]		Trinity 12 [22]	
10.00am	Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church	8.00am	Holy Communion
Monday	S.Rose of Lima and Saints of Latin America [23]		
7.30pm	Healing Eucharist		
Tuesday	S.Bartholomew [24]		
7.30pm	Holy Communion		
Wednesday	S.Louis [25]	Wednesday [25]	
10.00am	Holy Communion	2.00pm	Burial of Cremated Remains of Harold Brunger
		Thursday [26]	
		8.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday	S.Augustine [28]		
4.00pm	Bell Ringers' Service		
Trinity 13 [29]		Trinity 13 [29]	
10.00am	Parish Communion and Holy Baptism	8.00am	Holy Communion

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}
Morning worship 10.30 am. Leader, Dave West, Speaker Mrs Margaret Read.
No evening worship.
Coffee morning Weds 10.30-12 in the church.
'Alpha' begins **Thursday 30 September**. Open to anyone. Further details from
Geoff and Wendy Powell (tel: 870967)

SEDLESCOMBE & WESTFIELD SURGERIES

The following is a repeat of information given at the beginning of August about opening arrangements for the surgeries for Christmas and the Millennium Holiday. The surgeries will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, the Bank Holidays after Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. There will be Emergency Surgeries on the last mornings of each holiday period. We are making arrangements to minimise the number of repeat prescriptions to be collected over that period. There will be limited deliveries during the period. Where possible, please try to contact the surgery between 9 and 10 am. If you are an asthmatic or are insulin dependent please discuss before the holiday whether you need any emergency supplies. If you are having visitors over the period remind them to bring ALL medicines with them. Consider having the 'flu jab in October when it is available if you are at risk (over 65, with lung [inc asthma] problems, kidney disease or diabetes). Arrange transport for hospital appointments well in advance. District Nurses will provide only emergency cover over the period. Discuss any routine supplies well in advance. When the surgery is closed Medical emergencies only may call the SEADOC service on 0345 626118.

The arrangements we have made mean you should not need to trouble the emergency service for routine matters.

Sedlescombe & Westfield Surgeries Christmas & New Year Surgeries

	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
	Normal Surgeries		
Fri 24-Dec	Xmas Eve		
Sat 25-Dec	Xmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sun 26-Dec	Boxing Day	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mon 27-Dec	Bank Holiday	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tue 28-Dec	Bank Holiday	EMERGENCY SURGERY PHONE 9-10AM	CLOSED
Wed 29-Dec		SED OPEN SURGERY 9-10 SRS	OPEN SURGERY 2-3 PM TJB
		WEST OPEN SURGERY 9-10 TJB	OPEN SURGERY 2-3 PM SRS
		SED OPEN SURGERY 9-10 CDH	CLOSED
		WEST OPEN SURGERY 9-10 TJB	OPEN SURGERY 5.30-6.30 CDH
Thu 30-Dec		CLOSED	CLOSED
Fri 31-Dec	Bank Holiday	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sat 1-Jan	Bank Holiday	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sun 2-Jan		EMERGENCY SURGERY PHONE 9-10AM	CLOSED
Mon 3-Jan	Bank Holiday	EMERGENCY SURGERY PHONE 9-10AM	CLOSED
Tue 4-Jan		Normal surgeries	