



GAIN THE WORLD AND LOSE YOURSELF

There are all sorts of stories, plays and even operas about people who make a pact and sell their soul to the devil. The devil gets them in the end, but they have what they want out of this world. Or so they hope.

No one in their right mind would make a real pact with the devil. It's an insane thing to do. But sometimes we can slip, without noticing, into a conformity with "the world" which is at odds with our faith, with the values we profess to hold as Christians. We end up falling in love with the world. Not in the sense of enjoying God's creation, but in the sense of living as if our values were the same materialistic, self-preserving and self-promoting ones that are prized by secular society.

For many people it's stupid to put oneself in the number two position. It's seen as foolishness in the extreme to do without, so that others may benefit from our abstaining. In a dog-eat-dog atmosphere it's suicide to have a conscience about how we make money. We don't call it business without ethics, we call it market forces. And we pretend to be powerless over it as we laugh all the way to the bank.

It's no use just attacking others. Each of us knows that we too have bought into this culture, this "must have" mentality. We would find it hard to do without many of our luxuries and we dream of still more. We have become attached.

Yet it seems that the more we have the less we are. Possessions don't seem to satisfy, and money, power and status don't help us to fix on eternally valid truths. They only bring insecurity. They keep us going for a while and they more often than not obscure the broader picture. No matter what we've got we always want something else.

Jesus asks us what the point is of living life so merrily at the shallow end, when there is such an ocean of living water to be enjoyed if only we knew where to swim. What do we gain by winning the whole world if it ruins our life?

It's as if by falling in love with the world we lose more and more of our true selves.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus turned and said to Peter:
Get behind me, Satan!
You are an obstacle in my path,
because the way you think
is not God's way but man's.
(Matthew 16: 23)

Are you laying a feather-bed for me?

No, that shall not be.

For my Lord was stretched

On a hard and painful tree.

(St Lawrence)

Blessed are they who do not

their own will on earth,

for God will do it

in heaven above.

(St Francis de Sales)

PARISH NEWS

August 28th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 35

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10p

TODAY AND SUNDAY 29 AUGUST

1066 Quilters - Quilt Exhibition,

10.30 am to 4.30 pm, Brede Village
Hall.

BANK HOLIDAY FUN DAY AND BOOT SALE

In aid of Bodiam Church of England
School. **Monday 30 August** 12
noon. Boots can be booked through
Jacqui on 870350 - £6 per stall. Fun
for everyone. Special low prices for
children - 20p for many games.

SEDLESCOMBE LIBRARY CENTRE (VILLAGE HALL)

On **Tuesday 31 August** Mary
Palmer from the East Sussex Library
is paying us a visit between 1.45 pm
and 3.30 pm, hoping to meet as
many borrowers as she can.

We change a few of our stock of
books every few weeks at Battle
Library so we can keep our stock
up-dated. This Library Centre is
there for anyone who wishes to use
it.

Jeanne Fellows

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP

Stoolball match on the sports field,
Sunday 5 September. Do go along
and support the local team, playing
against Robertsbridge.

There will be refreshments and a
raffle to add to the enjoyment.

LIZ YONGE would like to thank all
those kind friends who sent cards,
letters or flowers following Philip's
death. She was touched by all the
compassion shown to her and says
that Philip would have been similarly
appreciative.

GARDEN SOCIETY The Garden
Society's coach trip to Cornwall in
June 2000 is now getting booked up.
Anybody in the Parishes who thinks
they might like to go should let me
know as soon as possible as we will
otherwise fill the places from other
areas. Notices are on the Society's
board at the Post Office or phone
John on 870243.

The Theme: Bearing the cross
The Readings: {RCLA Proper 17}
Jeremiah 15:15-21 The prophet receives the word, which becomes his delight
Romans 12:9-21 What it means to live as a Christian
Matthew 16:21-228 Follow the ways of God, not of the world.

Services and Meetings this week
The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity August 29th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE		WHATLINGTON	
Trinity 13 [29]	Trinity 13 [29]	Trinity 13 [29]	Trinity 13 [29]
10.00am Parish Communion and Holy Baptism, Junior and Youth Church	8.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion
Monday [30] Pilgrimage for the Sick and Disabled to Walsingham - no services here		Thursday <i>Vivian Redlich</i> [2] & <i>New Guinea Martyrs</i>	
Tuesday S.Aidan [31] 10.00am Holy Communion-Roselands		8.00am Holy Communion	
Wednesday [1] 10.00am Holy Communion		Trinity 14 [5]	
Friday S.Gregory the Great [3] 9.00am Holy Communion		9.00am Holy Communion	
Trinity 14 [5] 8.00am Holy Communion			
10.00am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church			

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning worship 10.30 am, taken by Geoff Powell
 6.30 pm Village churches worshipping together at Ashburnham Chapel.
 Coffee morning Wednesday 10.20 - 12 noon in the church.
 'ALPHA' begins Thursday 30 September, open to all. Further details from Geoff and Wendy Powell (870967)



WALKING THE WAY

The aim of Walking the Way is to provide opportunities to hear again and understand afresh the call of Jesus to be God's missionary people and to put that call into practice.

Walking the Way seeks to achieve this by asking parishes to join with their bishop and one another in prayer and worship, proclamation and outreach as together we seek to grow in our knowledge of God's love so that others may come to an awareness of that love themselves.

Walking the Way will be held over three and a half days. It will be lead by our area bishops with the help of the diocesan missionary, members of the Mission and Renewal team, and locally appointed people from within the deanery - that's YOU AND ME!

Thursday 30 September 1999 - a social event to be held at All Saints' Church, Sidley.

Friday, 1 October 1999 - at Battle Memorial Hall, a line dance.

Saturday, 2 October 1999 - workshops at both Battle and Bexhill in the morning and a line dance at Bexhill in the evening.

Sunday, 3 October 1999 - a full rite of initiation service - Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion - to be held at the De La Warr Pavilion.

More news of times of these at a later time.