

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

Our baptism makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. It incorporates us into the Church. But we are only too aware that Christ's Church is not full of saints but sinners. Otherwise we would not be allowed to join. For we are all sinners. Despite this, we are told by Jesus that whatever we bind and loose on earth will be considered bound and loosed in heaven. In other words we have a role in deciding what is acceptable behaviour and what is not within the community of the Church. We cannot just turn a blind eye to everything, because some ways of acting have serious consequences.



Our natural human reaction is to set up rules and regulations and then to say that anyone who breaks these is outside the community. We find black and white easier to deal with than grey. And often our concern can take the form of sanctimonious finger-pointing.

What our gospel today hints at is that we have a responsibility much earlier on in the process. Binding and loosing is rather like a court sentence. It's the last word. But we have a duty towards each other to try and ensure that our cases never come to trial, to try and nip things in the bud by confronting each other at a much earlier stage.

We cannot stand by idly and watch others harm themselves. If being a brother or sister in Christ means anything, then it means caring enough for each other to point out where we are going wrong. Of course, the reverse of this is that we too must be prepared to take criticism from others.

Naming and shaming rarely does any good, because the damage has already been done by that time. We have to help people change and grow. What matters is to be supportive enough to our family and friends, so that when we see them on a path to harm we have built up the right relationship to be able to offer a word of charitable correction.

If we consider it none of our business what another Christian does, then we're really saying that we do not consider them to be our brother or sister. Yet baptism means that we are here to look out for them, and they for us.

SCRIPTURE

For where two or three meet in my name,
I shall be there with them.

(Matthew 18:20)

PARISH NEWS

September 4th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 36

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10p

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER Stoolball match in aid of St Michael's Hospice on the sports field at 2.30 pm. Delicious teas, raffle and an enjoyable game to watch. Please support us.

The final event being arranged by the Hospice Support Group for this year will be a Quiz Evening on 20 October. Be thinking about your teams - more details later.

SEDLSCOMBE & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB Members are reminded of our "teach-in" on **Wednesday 8 September** in the village hall at 7.15 pm. If you need to know what is required for this, please ring 870465.

SEDLSCOMBE THEATRE CLUB There are still a few tickets left for the trip to Chichester to the theatre, also some seats to spare on the coach (theatre tickets £7, coach fare £10). Please let me know by **Monday 6 September** if you would like to go. Shirley, 870517

BONUS BALL

Winner this week, number 29 C Wenman. Subscriptions of £4 for September now due. Please hand them to Elaine. Thank you.

Rosemary

RNLI

Gladys & John Galster would like to thank everyone who supported them at their coffee morning on Wednesday 25 August. They are delighted to say that the RNLI benefited by the sum of £187.30.

BRYAN GRAVES, a former village policeman, retired on 31 August. He served in the village for many years and is gratefully and fondly remembered. We wish him a very happy retirement.

I always complain to Carol that she is far too youthful looking to be a grandma and now I find she has a husband who has retired!

This seems a good point to say that Carol and Rosemary always make a visit to the post office such a pleasure. They are unfailingly cheerful and helpful - thank you both.

The Theme: The call to participate actively in the rule of love, justice & peace.
The Readings: {RCLA Proper 18}
Ezekiel 33:7-11 God wants us to turn away from evil, and live
Romans 13:8-14 Love is the basis and meaning of all God's law
Matthew 18:15-20 Whenever we come together in His name, He is with us.

Services and Meetings this week

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 5th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE	WHATLINGTON
<p>Trinity 14 [5] 8.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>10.00am Parish Communion Junior & Youth Church</p> <p>Monday [6] 7.30pm Holy Communion</p> <p>Wednesday Birthday of S.Mary [8] 10.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>Saturday [11] 2.30pm Marriage Celebration of Alexander & Stephanie Summerfield</p> <p>Trinity 15 [12] 10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church</p>	<p>Trinity 14 [5] 9.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>Thursday [9] 8.00am Holy Communion</p> <p>Trinity 15 [12] 8.00am Holy Communion</p>
<p>Sedlescombe PCC on September 20th</p>	

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning worship and junior church 10.30 am taken by Mike Freeman and followed by Holy Communion. No evening worship.

Weekly meetings: Tuesday 7.30 pm Home Group meeting for prayer in the church. Weds 10.30-12 noon, coffee morning in the church. 'Alpha' begins on Thursday 30 Sept, open to anyone. Further details from Geoff and Wendy Powell (Tel: 870967)

People in the village have apparently been pestered by tree fellers who quote prices to cut down trees and then charge more, when the job is done. Do not say yes to these people or you might be landed with a bill you cannot pay. If they bother you, phone the police.

SIGNPOST Does anyone have a clue where the Stream Lane signpost might be? This attractive feature of our village was knocked over some little while ago and has now been taken. It's a large thing to hide - if you have any idea where it is please let the Parish Council know.

SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS

The drama group will be starting up again in earnest from the beginning of October. The first meeting, on 4 October, will be in the Queen's Head meeting room at 8 pm. Anyone interested in joining the group should come along. Subscriptions of £5 for the year will be collected at this meeting and the forthcoming production discussed. We are in need of more helpers if there is anyone who would like to join in but is not particularly interested in "performing".

Don't forget **the World's Biggest Coffee morning** on 1 October in the Brickwall Hotel in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Relief fund.

The Parish Church is looking for contributions of cakes for the mini flower show at the end of September to coincide with the Harvest Thanksgiving. More details later, but if you would like to start baking now and putting things in the freezer, this would be a great help.

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL

The children, teachers and ancillaries returned to school last Thursday for a long and busy term. In addition to their normal workload there will be an OFSTED inspection in November. We wish them well.