



IN GOD'S GOOD TIME

Some things are so simple that we refuse to believe them. We think they can't be true. There must be a catch. There's got to be some small print somewhere.

One of these things is about the way God deals with us in granting us the gift of faith. There, we've said it already: gift. God is totally generous. He doesn't make any charge for revealing himself to us. It costs us no silver or gold to respond to that gift. We can't buy faith in God.

Yet no matter how many times preachers may say this from the pulpit, we find it hard to believe. We've become used to paying our own way. We don't expect to get something for nothing. After all we're not asking for charity!

It's a pity that God's ways are not our ways. For then we would be able to keep God in check. If God expected us to put in a 40 hour spiritual week and earn our own eternity, then we could make him accountable.

Then God would have to be fair and just, instead of treating everyone as though they were long lost friends. Some people would be shown up for what they are: lazy, unreliable and undeserving. The rest of us, who lead good industrious lives, would know that we could rest in the knowledge that we have done a fair day's work in God's service and could look forward to something of a bonus.

But God seems to have a soft spot for certain undesirable types. He doesn't seem to appreciate the long hours we put into our religion. In fact he seems incapable of time-keeping at all. And before we know where we are, all sorts of eleventh hour Christians are being treated the same as us. It's as if he had grace to burn.

It would make more sense if God stopped being so generous. People will only take advantage of him. And what's more, it's so unfair. Just because the boss is rich doesn't mean that all the workers should get equal pay.

Why can't God be more like us? Perhaps in time he will be. But whose time?

SCRIPTURE

I choose to pay the last-comer
as much as I pay you.
Have I no right
to do what I like with my own?
(Matthew 20: 14-15)

We receive more than we can ever give;
we receive it from the past on which we draw
every breath,
but also - and this is a point of faith -
from the source of the mystery itself,
by the means which religious people call
grace.

(Edwin Muir)

PARISH NEWS

September 18th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 38

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10p

SEDLESCOMBE VILLAGE HALL - members of the Management Committee are reminded that there will be a meeting next Tuesday 21st September, commencing 7.30pm in the Village Hall;

SEDLESCOMBE GREEN W.I. - our September meeting will take place next Wednesday (23rd) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - it will be a Members' Evening. "My Favourite Poem, Piece of Music or Short Story" bring yours along.

Tea ladies for the evening are:- Dorothy Gardiner and Lilian Hart; We welcome Visitors and new Members.

ST JOHN the BAPTIST CHURCH - **Harvest Flowers** will be on show on Saturday 25th from 10.00am until 5.00pm, and on Sunday 26th from 12 noon until 5.00pm to raise money for Church Funds. Refreshments will be available all day on both of the days and the Harvest Week-end will end with Harvest Praise and Supper in the Church at 6.00pm. Gifts of vegetables and fruit for the decoration of the Church will be gratefully received and can be left there from **Thursday 23rd** ready for preparation to begin on Friday. Collection can also be arranged if you 'phone 870688 or 870808.

Cakes, scones and apple pies will also be thankfully received for refreshments and for sale on the Cake Stall - please contact either Eileen on 870628 or Rosemary on 870533.

Finally, we hope as many as possible will come along on either or both of the days to share the Festival - a real country occasion for everybody and an opportunity to give thanks.

SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY - **it's Show Time again!**

The Autumn Show takes place on Saturday 25th September in the Village Hall. The show is for members only and exhibits can be staged from 1.00pm onwards with Judging commencing at 2.00pm; this year looks good for Autumn colour - look around for Garden Flowers (Class 1), Michaelmas Daisies (Class 2) or a late flowering Rose (Class 3); Class 11 is the fuchsia grown on from the rooted cutting kindly provided by Mrs Downey from Kent Street Nurseries. Large or small, bring yours along and let's see what happens to these plants.

The Theme: God treats us with a generosity that is almost foolishness.

The Readings: {RCLA Proper 20 }

Jonah 3:10-4:11 Jonah was not easy to please.....

Philippians 1:21-30 Live so as to reflect God's love & faithfulness.

Matthew 20:1-16 A story of stinginess and generosity

Services and Meetings this week

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 19th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE		WHATLINGTON	
Trinity 16	[19]	Trinity 16	[19]
8.00am	Holy Communion	9.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church		
Monday	[20]		
7.30pm	Holy Communion		
8.00pm	Sedlescombe PCC		
Tuesday	S. Matthew [21]		
10.00am	Holy Communion-Roselands		
7.30pm	Village Hall Management Cttee		
Wednesday	[22]		
10.00am	Holy Communion		
Friday	[24]	Thursday	[23]
2.15pm	School Harvest in school	8.00am	Holy Communion
8.00pm	Scout Executive Cttee		
Saturday	[25]		
10-5	Harvest Flower Festival {and tomorrow}		
Sedlescombe Harvest Thanksgiving		Trinity 17	[26]
	[26]	8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion. Junior and Youth Church		
6.00pm	Harvest Evensong & Supper		

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning Worship and Junior Church 10.30am Leader: Geoff Powell

Speaker: Bob Brown No evening worship

Sunday 26th September will be our Harvest Thanksgiving at 3pm, with light refreshments to follow

Weekly Meetings Men's Group Tuesday 3pm in church
Church Meeting Tuesday 7.30pm in church

Coffee Morning Wednesday 10.30am in church

ALPHA begins on Sept 30th - open to anyone - please contact Geoff or Wendy Powell (870967) for more details

continued.....

Class 24 is a harvest basket or trug of any type of garden produce (not bottled or canned) with an identification list. Back by popular demand - Class 20 "My favourite cake" 20cm round or square of any type. Handicraft Class this year is a photograph of Sedlescombe and local district - have you got one in the album? We look forward to seeing you on **September 25th.**

S. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

(Sedlescombe Support Group)

Many thanks to everybody who supported the recent stoolball match enabling us to send £161 to the Hospice. We have plans in hand for our next event which will be a Table Sale" on **Saturday 30th September**. Tables will be £5 each and you may book one now by 'phoning 870688 or 870808. More details to follow, but make a date!

SEDLSCOMBE RANGERS JUNIOR

F.C. - we are back in action after the summer break & with a busy season to look forward to. This year Rangers have U-8 and U-9 sides playing friendly fixtures in the East Sussex Mini Minor League, and competitive fixtures for the U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13 & U-16's in the Rother and South East Sussex Youth Football League. Last Sunday's results:

U-9's vs Hastings Town Youth Red 0-9

U-10 vs Princes Park Rangers 0-5

U-11 vs Langney Sports Colts 5-4

U-13 vs S.Leonards Youth 0-3

U-16 vs Shinewater 7-1

PERSONAL- Noreen Hipwell wishes to thank everyone very much for their cards (85 of them!) and their good wishes on

her 90th birthday - so very much appreciated.

SEDLSCOMBE SCHOOL NEWS

The school term is well under way and we have 22 new reception children who are settling in very well, We welcome Miss Claire Land, a KS1 teacher who is with us for one year.

This term is a busy one - we have an OFSTED Inspection 1-3 November so we are working hard to ensure we are prepared for this event! On Friday 24th September we have our Harvest Assembly in school, and you are welcome to join us.

If there are any members of our village community interested in coming into school to help e.g. with reading, art, computers, Maths etc. please contact me. We would love to have more volunteers.

On Monday 27th September we invite all Senior Citizens to come to a school lunch! Have a day off from cooking and be waited on by the children. The meal is £2.00, and we have an optional raffle. Please telephone the school or call in to book your lunch - closing date 23rd September. We hope to see many of you.

CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT

at Ashburnham Place on Wednesday October 6th, 7.00pm for 7.30pm with the Bishop of Lewes, the Rt. Revd Wallace Benn. Tickets £5 to include meal. Contact Wendy Powell by 30th September, please (870967).

CRIME REPORT held over to next week.