

TENANTS' AGREEMENT

One of the points of today's gospel story is that the people who worked in the vineyard were not the owners but the tenants. They rented it off the landlord. It was not theirs; they had it for only a while.

Being a Christian is rather like being a tenant. So much of what we take for granted is loaned to us on trust by God, although because we live side by side with it we end up thinking it is ours.

Our very lives come from God and one day he will decide to take them back and transform them into a new and everlasting existence. In the meantime we are charged with looking after ourselves. Not taking proper care of ourselves is sinful and wrong. We have a duty to develop ourselves physically and intellectually. To be happy with third best is to abrogate our responsibility as tenants of our own lives.

And of course we have a similar duty towards those who are less able to look after themselves than we are. The bible often speaks about "widows and orphans" to describe people who have no clout in society and who could easily fall victim to the greed and manipulation of others. Children, victims of oppression, refugees, some types of mentally and physically handicapped people, - they all fall into this category.

Then there is the very world we live in. We now recognise that we do not own the world. We lease it from God for the time we are alive on earth, and we have to keep it in good enough condition to hand it over to the next generation of tenants, our children and grandchildren. The decisions we make now about our environment will affect people for generations to come.

Tenants sign an agreement to keep the property in good shape, or else they lose their deposit. As we thank God for the many wonderful things in our lives that he has loaned us for a while, we need to remember also that as tenants we have a duty to maintain God's estate in good condition. It would be bad enough to live in a tumbled-down world. Even worse to lose our deposit.

SCRIPTURE

So they seized the heir,
threw him out of the vineyard
and killed him.

(Matthew 21:39)

The joy and hope, the grief and anguish
of the people of our time,
especially of those who are poor or afflicted in
any way,
are the joy and the hope, the grief and the
anguish of the followers of Christ as well.

(Second Vatican Council)

When someone moves into the Village near to you, it would be very helpful if you could inform Mrs Raymond (870508), Clerk to the Sedlescombe Parish Council, so that a welcoming letter can be dropped in to them by a parish councillor.



PARISH NEWS

October 2nd, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 40

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

10p

SEDLESCOMBE HARVEST FLOWERS

Thank you to all those who made the Harvest weekend such a success - the flower arrangers, the cake-makers, the helpers each day, and the visitors. The Flower Festival made the wonderful sum of £ 469.38!!!! Well done, and thank you!

The Harvest Evensong and Supper raised £142.89 for our Harvest project - Harvest Help in Africa. Again, thank you. Sylvia & Margaret write: Thank you to everyone who helped to make the church so beautiful. We had a steady stream of visitors despite the unsettled weather and they made very complimentary remarks in the visitors' book. The weekend culminated with a very nice Harvest evensong and supper. Thank you to Fr Colin and the ladies responsible for the catering.

Rosemary & Eileen write: A special thank you to all those who responded so magnificently to our appeal for cakes. We had a vast quantity of delicious things to eat which were almost sold by Saturday night so some people baked again for Sunday, a wonderful effort, thank you.

BONUS BALL Winner last week number 36, Mrs M Rawles. Subs of £5 are now due for October.

SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS meet at 8

pm in the Queen's Head on **Monday 4 Oct.** Please come along, with your subscription of £5!

SCOUTS JUMBLE SALE Saturday 9 October, 2-4 pm., Scout Hut. Please bring jumble to the hut from 11 am or phone 870608 or 870309.

EAST SUSSEX DISABILITY ASSOC Calling all interested in this Association.

The Sedlescombe & District Committee is holding its AGM **Thurs 14 Oct** 2.15pm in the village hall. Come and find out how the Alexandra Rose Day collection is spent, meet the beneficiaries over tea and enjoy the raffle and Bring & Buy Stall. Enquiries to 870205.

Jenny Keeling

FRIENDS OF BATTLE & DISTRICT GUIDES & BROWNIES are holding a fun Quiz on **16 Oct**, 7 for 7.30 pm in the Battle Guide Hut. Teams of 6, £4 per person to include fish & chips supper. Details and bookings, phone Margaret on 870808.

NEWS FROM THE HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP A donation of £40 brings the Stoolball Match result to £201. Next event: **Sat 30 October** in the village hall between 10 and 12 noon, a Table Sale. Tables £5, ring 870688 or 870332 to book.

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL needs a mid-day supervisor, every school day during term time, between 12.20 and