



A GOD WHO HOLDS CAESAR

It is said that when a government department once sent King George V a speech to deliver, he sent it back with the note "What about AG?" The civil servants finally were defeated and asked, "What is AG?" George V replied, "There's nothing in this speech about Almighty God."

A leader who had such a sense of his own dependence upon God, whilst still being a king, was blessed indeed. But today the combination of politics and religion raises fears in many people's minds. It's common to hear the phrase that religion should keep out of politics.

When we first hear Jesus's reply, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God", we can be forgiven for thinking that he too agrees with the popular phrase. Maybe priests should stay in their pulpits and not make pronouncements about daily life, while politicians should limit their comments to parliamentary topics?

But what Jesus is saying is that God is greater than Caesar. Caesar is entitled to what belongs to him. But is there anything which does not belong to God? Even Caesar and Cyrus are held in the palm of God's hand. God is sovereign of the universe and nothing escapes his gaze.

So if politics is about the way we organise our lives in society so that all runs smoothly and all are treated with equal dignity and rights, are there any political decisions which religion should have no voice on?

Christians believe that Christ's victory over sin and death lays the foundation for the society which we are invited to live in. All decisions which affect the social well-being of men and women are the concern of religion. No religion can ever align itself with one political party because religion is greater than party ideology. But if we allow ourselves to be confined to hymn-singing and flower arranging while others make crucial decisions about the quality of life that our nation is to enjoy, then we have allowed Caesar to be given what really belongs to God and his Church.

SCRIPTURE

Give back to Caesar
what belongs to Caesar -
and to God
what belongs to God.

(Matthew 22: 21)

SAINT LUKE'S DAY - Monday, October 18th

As we praise God for Saint Luke, doctor and gospel writer, we celebrate the Healing Ministry, praying for our local doctors and hospitals, and have our monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying-on of hands with prayer for healing. This will be in the Rectory at 7.30pm.

PARISH NEWS

October 16th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.32 No. 42

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

10p

TODAY Family Bingo in the Scout Hut, doors open 7 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm.

SEDLSCOMBE W.I. Meeting, **Wednesday 20 October.** This is our AGM. Competition: "Bought in Haste". Tea ladies, Mrs Leith, Mrs Phillips & Mrs Downey. Please try and come - visitors welcome.

SEDLSCOMBE GREEN W.I. The next committee meeting will be at Rosemary's house, 15 East View Terrace on **Wednesday 20 October** at 8 pm.

TABLE SALE on **Saturday 30 October** between 10 am and 12 noon in Sedlescombe Village Hall in aid of St Michael's Hospice. Still some tables available at £5 in advance, £6 on the day. Come on, look out all those unwanted treasures and make some money ready for Christmas, at the same time helping a really worthwhile cause, our local Hospice. To reserve a table phone 870688 or 870808 as soon as possible.

I should like to express my appreciation for all the cards, presents and good wishes I received on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Especially I wish to thank Margaret at No 2 for decorating the outside of the cottage to let everyone know I was

90, also Lynn and everyone at the Clock House for the beautifully decorated cake she made for me. Alas, all has gone but not forgotten. Also for the unique birthday card devised by the Sedlescombe District Seniors. Finally I would like to thank all the friends who joined us to enjoy a fun packed day organised by Marjorie.
Lén Gosling

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members of the Sedlescombe branch would like to thank all those who helped in making an evening of enjoyable entertainment on 6 October. The photography of Ian Rumley-Dawson on Wildlife in East Sussex was tip-top. All who attended were most appreciative of the quantity and quality of the food supplied by the W.I. The branch would like to give them a big thank you for their efforts and all the others who helped with organising the event.

MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

Thank you everyone who supported the coffee morning held as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning annual event at the Brickwall Hotel. Eighty people signed on and there

The Theme: Follow the demands of conscience - Give God what belongs to him

The Readings: {RCLA Proper 24 }

Isaiah 45:1-7 The great powers are as nothing compared to God

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Steadfast followers of Christ

Matthew 22:15-22 Jesus banishes trickery with truth

Services and Meetings this week

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

October 17th, 1999

SEDLSCOMBE	WHATLINGTON
Trinity 20 [17]	Trinity 20 [17]
8.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church	
Monday S.Luke [18]	
7.30pm Healing Eucharist - Rector	
Tuesday Sussex Reformation Martyrs [19]	
10.00am Holy Communion - Roselands	
Wednesday [20]	
10.00am Holy Communion - Rector	
	Thursday [21]
	8.00am Holy Communion
Saturday [23] Celebration of Bishop Eric's 25th Anniversary as our Bishop Solemn Eucharist and "In the Steps of the Apostles" in the Cathedral at Chichester	
Trinity 21 [24]	Trinity 21 [24]
10.00am Parish Communion Junior and Youth Church	8.00am Holy Communion and Burial of Ian Fadden's cremated remains

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

Morning worship and Junior Church 10.30 am. Leader Dave West, Speaker Bob Brown. No evening worship.

Weekly meetings Men's Group Tuesday 3 pm in the church
Coffee morning Weds 10.30 am in the church
'Alpha' Thursday 7 pm in the church
'Art & Craft' Friday 1 pm in the church.

was a good buzz of conversation, with faces known and not so familiar, who contributed to the success of the morning. In addition, with the many donations put through my door, the event realised £671.71. On behalf of all local cancer patients and their families who will benefit, a heartfelt thank you. Especial thanks to the friends who form the team and each year make a valuable contribution to the efficient running of the morning, as well as Mr Pepe Pollio and his staff at the Brickwall Hotel.

Mary Reeve

SEDLSCOMBE RANGERS

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Sedlescombe Rangers Under 16's remain undefeated following their victory over St Leonards Athletic. The Under 8's were unlucky to lose but the Under 9's continued their magnificent form.

- Under 8's 0 Glenco 1
- Under 9's 2 St Leonards Youth 1
- Under 10's 2 Glenco 0
- Under 11's 3 Hastings Athletic 4
- Under 12's 1 Hastings Town White 1
- Under 16's 11(!) St Leonards Ath'c 1

BATTLE AREA COMMUNITY BUS

The Battle Area Community 'red bus' has been offering a service to the residents of the parish since the beginning of this year. The bus was purchased through funds from a variety of sources but more money is needed to train additional voluntary drivers and to purchase a mobile

phone for use in emergencies. If you are able to make a contribution please send to The Almonry, High Street, Battle, TN33 OEA, cheques payable to Battle Area Transport Group. There is no restriction on any category of passenger who can be from 0 to 90. If your mobility is poor and you cannot get to the nearest bus stop you can arrange a "Dial a Divert" service so that the bus collects you from your home. 24 hours' notice is needed. Number to ring is 01424 772001.

What a smart new Post Office we now have. The village much appreciates the Mainwoods' spending so much time, money and effort to make this centre of our village life so attractive. Please continue to give the Post Office/shop every support so that all this effort is worthwhile.

VILLAGE HALL If anyone is planning to use the village hall to hold some kind of celebration to welcome in the Millennium you will need to book soon as a special licence will need to be applied for if the hall is to remain open beyond midnight on 31 December. Remember, too, there will be a fair number of changes to the surgery opening over the Christmas/New Year period. Details will be repeated in the P News in due course.