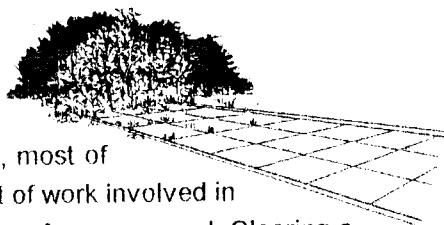


MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION!



Apart from people who build motorways, most of us have no idea of the enormous amount of work involved in shifting huge swathes of earth to make way for a new road. Clearing a path and making the route straight is quite a task, and it's soon forgotten by the motorist who expects the roads to run smoothly.

So clearing a path is something which most of us get round to only once a year, and even then it's only a few yards of paving stone outside the back kitchen! This gives us a false sense of security in Advent when we are repeatedly told to clear the path for the coming of the Lord. We can end up thinking that it's just some minor chore which we will get round to and which won't take us long to polish off. But, in fact, preparing the way for the Lord is motorway stuff. It's no mere spring-cleaning. It's not tidying the garden. It's about a constant, deep-digging, dirt-removing look at the way we live our lives. It demands a willingness to recognise where we have gone off the track, and a determination to do something about it.

To be baptised by John the Baptist was a life changing decision. To be baptised in Jesus Christ is to play with fire and the Holy Spirit. And to renew our baptismal fervour in Advent is the only real way to prepare for Christmas.

SCRIPTURE

All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to John, and as they were baptised in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.

(Mark 1: 5)

The liturgy of Advent encourages us to wait. It deliberately puts us on hold so that we can savour the full depth of the promise which Christmas holds out for us. Not to enter into the waiting, simply to jump to Christmas, is to opt for boil-in-the-bag liturgy.

(Oliver Todd)

PARISH NEWS

December 4th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.33 No. 48

The Second Sunday of Advent

10p

TODAY - SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB CHRISTMAS FAIR in the village hall, 10 am to 11.45 am. Tombola, crafts, floral arrangements, gifts, cakes etc. Admission 20p.

At our meeting on **Weds 8 December** (village hall, 7.15 pm) Mr A de Val will be demonstrating "Magic of Christmas". Members' competition "Pantomime". New members and visitors very welcome.

ALSO TODAY - SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Santa Claus will tour the village in a horse drawn carriage prior to declaring the Fayre open at 1.30 pm. Lots for everyone - stalls, games, refreshments, Santa's Grotto, Bumper Raffle to be drawn at 4.15 pm. Carol singing on the flood lit playboat at 4.30 pm.

Both these events will be glad of your support.

SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH WALK on **Sunday 5 December**. Meet at the village green at 2.30 pm for a walk around Oaklands Park. All welcome including well-behaved dogs.

SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS meet at 7.30 in the village hall on **Mon 6 Dec** to rehearse our plays. All those involved please come along.

SEDLESCOMBE SOCIETIES' ASSOC Committee meeting in the Queen's Head **Tues 7 Dec**, 7.30 pm.

SEDLESCOMBE & DISTRICT CLUB A sideways look, or perhaps a worm's eye view of recent social history, was given by Ted Cornford at the last meeting. The message was 'beware of the marketing gurus who tend to make you want more than you've got and do we understand why we want a status cult'. It was a deeply interesting view of life past and life now. There will be more to come...

Arrangements have now been completed for a Christmas lunch at the Rainbow Trout on **9 Dec**. The meeting after that will be on **6 Jan** for the AGM.

SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL invites you along to their plays - **Thurs 9 Dec** and **Fri 10 Dec** at 1.45 pm in our hall, 4-7 year olds performing "Do you believe in Father Christmas?" and the "Nativity".

