

**MILLENNIUM
COUNTDOWN**

The following prayer will be used in many Christian churches over the Christmas period:

Great and loving God,
2000 years ago
a crowd gathered to see the new-born Jesus.
This night, we too gather to greet his birth.
May our hearts know true peace and joy tonight;
and, like the shepherds, may we leave this place filled with joy and praise.
Through Jesus the Messiah.
Amen.



**MILLENNIUM
RESOLUTION**

Churches Together in England have prepared a special Millennium Resolution which is intended for use on New Year's Eve 1999 during a moment of silence, although it can, of course, be used periodically as a renewal of commitment. The text runs:

Let there be:
respect for the earth,
peace for its people,
love in our lives,
delight in the good,
forgiveness for past wrongs,
and, from now on,
a new start.



BLESSING 2000

May the God of all ages,
who breaks into time
through Jesus his Son,
encourage you with his constant presence.
May Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
who opened the gates of eternity,
confirm you in your journey of faith.
May the life-giving Spirit,
who spoke long ago through the prophets,
continue to bring light to your eyes.
And may Father, Son and Spirit,
whom you bless,
return his blessing on you;
may he support, preserve and inspire you,
all the days of your life. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

December 18th, 1999

SEDLESCOMBE WITH WHATLINGTON

Vol.33 No. 50

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas to Epiphany 10p

SEDLESCOMBE PLAYERS Cast of "Strewth" only for **Monday 20 Dec in the village hall** at 7.30 pm. Next full meeting is on **Weds 5 Jan** in the hall at 7.30 pm. Please remember from then on rehearsals are every Monday and Wednesday.
SEDLESCOMBE GREEN W.I. will be going round the village carol singing on **Monday 20 Dec** meeting on the green at 7 pm. If anyone would like to join in they will be pleased to see you and if you would like a visit with a carol, please phone 870533.

NEWS FROM SEDLESCOMBE SCHOOL The school PTA Christmas Fayre raised £1454 profit for the school. This is a wonderful result and we'd like to say thank you to everyone in the village who was able to support this event. We are spending £500 of the profit on some additional Numeracy resources in line with the National Numeracy Strategy.

Mrs Cheryl Smith, Year 2 teacher, leaves this term. She will be greatly missed but we wish her every happiness in her future. Miss Kim Harris joins our staff in January, to

teach Year 2. We welcome her to our school and hope she will be happy and enjoy being with us (a temporary contract).

School finishes this Friday and the staff, children and myself wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy, successful New Year. I am always so appreciative of the support we receive from so many of our village friends - thank you very much.

The new school Term begins again on 5 January 2000. See you all next year!
Marian Ham

HUNGER LUNCH A big and grateful thank you to all those who helped make the lunch a successful and enjoyable occasion. Thank you to all the soup makers, the soup was delicious and there was plenty of it. Thank you, too, to all those who supplied things for the cake stall and raffle stall and to those who turned out on such a foul day to support us. We made £280.50 which will be sent to Christian Aid specifically for the Indian cyclone appeal.

JEANNE FELLOWS says "I would like to thank everybody who so kindly sent cards, flowers and plants during

The Themes: Advent 4 God fulfils his promises.
 Christmas: God's love made flesh and living among us.
The Readings: Advent 4 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Midnight Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 11:1-4; John 1:1-14

**Services and Meetings for Advent 4 - The Epiphany
 December 19th, 1999 - January 2nd, 2000**

SEDLIESCOMBE & WHATLINGTON	
Advent 4 [19]	Sunday Holy Family [26]
8.00am Holy Communion [S]	8.00am Holy Communion [W]
9.00am Holy Communion [W]	10.00am Parish Communion [S]
10.00am Parish Communion, J&YCh [S]	Monday S. John, ap. & ev. [27]
6.00pm Carol Service [S]	10.00am Holy Communion [S]
Monday [20]	Tuesday Holy Innocents [28]
7.30pm Healing Eucharist - <i>Rectory</i>	10.00am Holy Communion [S]
Tuesday [21]	Wednesday S. Thomas Becket [29]
9.30am Crib Service Rehearsal [S]	10.00am Holy Communion [S]
Wednesday [22]	Thursday [30]
10.00am Holy Communion- <i>Rectory</i>	8.00am Holy Communion [W]
4.30pm Crib Service Rehearsal [S]	Friday [31]
Thursday [23]	10.00am Holy Communion [S]
8.00am Holy Communion [W]	2000 A.D.
12.30pm Funeral - Emily Somerville [S]	Saturday Holy Name of Jesus [1]
Friday [24]	10.00am Holy Communion and Millennium Praise [W]
10.00am Holy Communion - <i>Rectory</i>	12.30pm Holy Communion & Millennium Praise [S]
3.00pm Crib Service [S]	Sunday Epiphany [2]
11.45pm Midnight Mass [S]	8.00am Holy Communion [S]
Saturday Christmas Day [25]	9.00am Holy Communion [W]
8.00am Holy Communion [W]	10.00am Parish Communion [S]
10.00am Parish Communion [S]	

The Chapel Hill Church {United Reformed}

No morning worship but we give you a warm welcome to our "Carols by Candlelight" service at 3pm. followed by light refreshments. No home group meetings for the next two weeks. Christmas Day at 10.30 am and junior church, with Geoff Powell. Friday 31 Dec at 11 am, thanksgiving and praise for the past year and for the special new year to come, with a light lunch to follow. Coffee mornings continue on Wednesdays at 10.30 am over Christmas period.

my stay in hospital and for all the offers of help for shopping. Thanks to Fr Colin for his help and prayers and to Mr J Sheppard for getting me once more out of pain and walking. I hope to be back in circulation soon".

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A reminder that the next meeting is on **Tuesday 11 January** in the village hall at 7.30 pm. Papers to do with the meeting will be distributed early in January rather than now so that they don't get mixed up with Christmas post and parcels.

CRIMES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Six incidents, listed outside the post office. PC Mick Kempster has asked for the text of a police leaflet "Who are you buying presents for?" to be included in the News. The points made are:

Make sure your house looks occupied - use time switches for lighting and close the curtains

Keep your home secure and store your gifts out of sight until Christmas comes

Don't advertise you are spending Christmas away - ask a neighbour to keep an eye on things and to notify the police if they see or hear anything suspicious

Don't leave goods or presents in view in your car

Don't forget - empty boxes outside advertise valuables inside.

Have a safe, secure and happy

Christmas.

TWO TOWERS TRUST present 'Joe Carpenter & Son' an English Nativity by Graham Clarke in St Clements Church, Hastings Old Town, on Friday 7 January at 7.30 pm and Saturday 8 January at 2.30 pm. The play is describes as a funny and moving one set in an English village. Donations will be to the Two Towers Trust.

NO MORE PARISH NEWS UNTIL 8 JANUARY 2000

There will be no editions of the News on either of the next two weekends. The next one will be on **Saturday 8 January**. A reminder of copy dates for the News and Battle Observer - midday Tuesday for the News and the weekend prior to the Friday edition if you want something mentioned in the Village Voice column of the Observer. I am always pleased to have copy for the Village Voice so don't hesitate to let me know what your organisation is getting up to.

OBITUARY

We record the death of EMILY SOMERVILLE, a long-time resident of Sedlescombe who died on December 15th at Hailsham aged 95! Her funeral will be in the parish church at 12.30pm on Thursday December 23rd. May she rest in peace to rise in glory.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL from the Editor in Chief and the Editor!