

# SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER & JANUARY 2008/9 The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel 40 Pence

## Forthcoming Events

### Severn Stoke & Environs

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday, 16th December

7.30 p.m.

### *Carols at The Nash*

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### **Christmas Celebra- tions and services**

See inside for details

## Kempsey

**Confirmation Service  
Sunday 30th November  
10.30 a.m.  
at St Mary's, Kempsey  
with the  
Bishop of Dudley**

### **Christmas Celebra- tions and services**

See inside for details

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**Please submit Copy by 2nd  
Monday next month**

Dear Friends,

Please don't forget to buy the batteries! It seems to me that Father Christmas is very good at bringing all kinds of gadgets and gizmos but that he often forgets to supply the batteries to make them work. How many of us have at some time or another spent part of Christmas Day searching for a garage that's open so that power could be supplied to the wonderful presents that we've been given? The greatest gift that the world has ever been given is Jesus, God's own Son, and you'll be pleased to know that He comes with His own power supply although, even then, you have to be prepared to turn Him on so that His love and power can work for you. How many people will truly receive Jesus into their lives this Christmas or will He, once again, remain the unopened and unused present? How many unopened Jesuses have you at the back of the cupboard or do you treat them rather like an unwanted circular and immediately consign them to the bin without even breaking the seal?

It really is a tragedy if you do because He could help you to make sense of it all and not just Christmas but the rest of your life. In these days of stringency when the value of everything seems to be falling let's remember that God's love for you remains of constant 100% value and never goes into recession. The only person who can de-value God's love for you is you by not accepting it or

taking it seriously. I've noticed that this year the theme of Post Office Christmas stamps is famous scenes from familiar Pantomimes and whilst I wholeheartedly approve of Pantomimes yet I do ask myself "where has Jesus and the Holy Family gone?" You can, of course, still get them but you have to ask for them specially and get them from "under the counter" as it were as if they were some kind of illicit material. What a shame when, without Jesus, our lives can so easily degenerate into a Pantomime!

But it really doesn't have to be that way even in a tough and unfair world. Many of us, most of us, will have had a mixed year in that there will have been happy times that we wish could have lasted longer and tough times that seemed to go on for ever. It seems to me that this is in the nature of life as we know it and no one is immune whatever their religion or lack of it. But the thing that makes the difference for me is that Jesus can help me make sense of it and even if that isn't possible (which it often isn't) He can help me to accept it, come to terms with it and give me the strength to go on hoping and living. If you don't open your Christmas present from God and either bin Him, consigned Him unopened to the back of the cupboard or place Him out of sight under the counter then you're denying yourself something that is life-changing and life-affirming.

So, please don't forget your batteries this Christmas! And please remember that Jesus comes with His own power

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supply. Our task is to switch Him on and allow His love, power, hope, joy and peace to flow into us for the rest of the year and beyond. Will you do that this Christmas and accept the gift that God has so lovingly and freely given?

A very happy and truly blessed Christmas and New Year to you all *Peter Holzappel (Revd.)*

### **A BIG THANK YOU TO RAY, JEAN & JOANNE**

On behalf of all of us, I should like to take this opportunity of saying a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to Ray, Jean and Joanne who have run our local **Post Office in Kempsey** for so many many years and for all the loving service and friendship that they have offered to everyone who has used the Post Office over that time. The sad thing, of course, is that we're losing our Post Office and a much needed community resource, but the good news is that we're not losing Ray, Jean and Joanne who will continue to live in the village. May God Bless them in their retirement and give them health and happiness in the future as we thank them for **A FIRST CLASS JOB** that has been done for us all and for the great benefit of this village and community.

**THIS COMES AS A SPECIAL DELIVERY & WITH MUCH LOVE AND THANKS** *Peter*

### **PARISH REGISTER – St Denys' Church**

Funerals: Wednesday 5th November – “Bill” Jackson of Kinnersley, aged 88 years old. We send our sympathy to Madge and to her son, Peter, their relations and friends. Many will remember his service in this community, as Chairman of the Parish Council for seven years until May 1998 and for his enthusiasm for the Kinnersley Villagers' Association.

Thursday, 6th November – Marjorie Tarran of Clifton aged 86 years old. We send our sympathy to Marjorie's relations and many friends. She maintained a wonderful network of loyal friends, many of whom she met during her long and exemplary nursing career.

### **United Benefice of Kempsey and Severn Stoke with Croome d'Abitot Church News**

**United Benefice Prayer Meetings** – Welcome to our meetings (usually every other Monday) for an hour, **from 8.00 p.m. on Monday, 8th December and 12th and 26th January. We meet each fortnight either in St Mary's Church or at the homes of those taking part.**

**Contact John and Cara (W/ 371 218) for the next ensuing venue.**

We give thought and prayer for people and projects around us and for the health and enhancement of the Churches' work. You don't have to say a word unless you wish, but just be with us.

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Stops at the Telephone Box at Deerhurst Close, Severn Stoke – every **THIRD TUESDAY** at 12.40 p.m.. Next visit – 9th December, 2008. Do support this excellent County Service.

### **EARL HAIG FUND**

The amount raised around this area will be reported in the February Issue.

**CHURCH SERVICES at St MARY'S, KEMPSEY**

Every Thursday 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel  
 Every Friday 11.00 a.m. Mothers and Toddlers Service

**DECEMBER**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>: Advent 2: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green,  
 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion, **4.00 p.m.: CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – proceeds to the  
 Children's Society.**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>: Advent 3: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion,  
**6.00 p.m. St Mary's Christmas Carol Service.**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>: Advent 4: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, **10.30 a.m. Christmas Crib Service**, No Evening Service, please  
 support the Carol Service at St Denys' Church.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion Service.**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP (with Hymns),  
 10.30 a.m. Family Service Celebration (shortened with reserve sacrament).**  
 No evening service.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>: Christmas 1 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion. No evening service.

**JANUARY**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas 2 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green,  
 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany 1 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion, 6.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany 2 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany 3 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 6.00 p.m. Evening Praise at  
 The Firs.

**FEBRUARY**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>; Epiphany 4 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP:  
 Kerswell Green, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

**HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY**

**The Cornflower Club** – If you'd like to come along and join for an enjoyable and fun-packed  
 programme of events then you're most welcome - Meets on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 p.m.  
 for Christmas Dinner at The Nash, Kempsey and on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30 p.m. in  
 Kempsey Parish Hall. **New Members are always welcome.**

**Age Concern Coffee Morning** - meets every Thursday at 11.30 a.m. at St Mary's House.

**Women's Fellowship** – meets on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. at  
 St Mary's House, Kempsey.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 p.m. – Christmas Carols at The Lawns Nursing Home,  
 Kempsey** to share Christmas cheer with the residents of The Lawns and is open to everyone.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.00 p.m.: CAROL SINGING AROUND THE PARISH starting from  
 St Mary's Church.** We sing traditional carols around Kempsey and end the evening at the home of  
 Robert and Maureen Pioli who always give us such a warm and wonderful welcome. Any proceeds from  
 the evening will be shared between St Mary's Church and the needs of the homeless.

**SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Installation of a Sound and Loop system has been approved by the PCC and we now await official approval from the Church authorities. We hope to have a temporary system working for the Christmas services.

**The Severn Stoke Fellowship and Study Group** meets fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and to coincide with school terms (roughly!) at 2.30 p.m. at the homes of various Members.

Next dates: 8th and 22nd January. Everyone is most welcome to join this group, which is informal, very welcoming and stimulating. Please contact John and Cara (W/ 371 218) for details and next Venue.

**SEVERN STOKE and CROOME d'ABITOT PARISH COUNCIL**

There will be a report of proceedings of the council Meeting held on 19th November in the February Issue.

**SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL**

**THE PROJECTED CHRISTMAS FAIR MENTIONED IN THE LAST ISSUE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

Party Bookings for the Hall: Speak to Maggie or Trish (W/317339)

**SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP**

**Christingle Service** at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke at **6.00 p.m. Wednesday 3rd December.** Everyone welcome.

**MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery**

Thursday 22nd January at 12.45 p.m. – Upton Church Room– Annual Meeting and Lunch.

**EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Tuesday, 9th December – **Christmas Party!**

**The National Trust - Croome Park**

Saturday, 6th December – Carols at Croome – Essential to book.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December – 1940's Christmas.

For more details: Contact W/ 371 006 or e-mail: [croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Malcolm Walford retires – What a record!**

Malcolm, whom many of you will know through his long association with the Croome Estate is to retire this November. He started work in the Estate Building Department at High Green in 1953 and has worked continuously for the Croome Estate Trustees for 55 years and three months! He also worked for the eleventh Earl of Coventry and has served the Coventry family loyally.

Congratulations Malcolm. We wish you a happy, healthy and well earned retirement. Editor



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**CHURCHWARDEN: Mr. Bryan Hadley**  
 Severn Stoke **01905 371 383**

**Assistant Churchwarden: Mrs Gail Brookes**  
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## **CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke**

### **DECEMBER**

**Wednesday 3rd 6.00 p.m.: Christingle Service for the Severn Stoke Brownie & Guide Group – All welcome.**

**Sunday 7th Advent 2: 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW), 4.00 p.m.: at St Mary's, Kempsey: Christingle Service**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.: Special Deanery Advent Service for local Hospices at Upton Parish Church. All welcome.**

***SATURDAY 13th Morning – ALL WELCOME TO DECORATE THE CHURCH***

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 3.30 p.m.: Special "Walkers & Hikers" Christmas Carol Service at St Denys': Everyone most welcome with hot soup after. Proceeds to St Denys'.**

**Sunday 14th Advent 3: 9.15 a.m. Morning Praise Service.**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.: Christmas Carols and Entertainment at **The Nash** with The Chase Brass Band - Please see item under Friends of St Denys.**

**Sunday 21st Advent 3 6.30 p.m.: St Denys' CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE.**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve: 11.30 p.m.: MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day: 9.15 a.m.: HOLY COMMUNION**

**Sunday 28th Christmas 1: 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise**

### **JANUARY**

**Sunday 4th Christmas 2: 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW)**

**Sunday 11th Epiphany 1: 9.15 a.m.: Morning Praise for all the Family**

**Sunday 18th Epiphany 2: 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP)**

**Sunday 25th Epiphany 3: 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise for all the Family**

### **FEBRUARY**

**Sunday 1st Epiphany 4: 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW).**

**Peter and the Churchwardens would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.**

**Thank you to all the loyal and willing Newsletter distributors, thank you!**

Further copies of this Newsletter can be obtained on-line:

[www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk](http://www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk) and click on **Home Page** for St Denys' news and events.

## HAPPENINGS ROUND SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 6.00 p.m.: GUIDE & BROWNIE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

I always regard this very special service as the start of the Christmas Season. What a lovely way to begin, as the Guides & Brownies lead us in this beautiful telling of the Christmas Story. Please do come along and give it your fullest support.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December: 7.30 p.m.: DEANERY ADVENT SERVICE at UPTON PARISH**

**CHURCH:** A new venture for the Deanery and a very good one as we meet as a whole worshipping family to celebrate together and hear the Advent story and the birth of our Lord Jesus. The focus of the service will also be the wonderful work that is being done through the Hospice movement and there will be a collection for the work of our local hospices. I do hope you'll give it your fullest support.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December: 3.30 p.m.: WALKERS & HIKERS CAROL SERVICE at ST DENYS'**

**CHURCH:** This was begun last year and it was so enjoyable and successful that we're having it again this year! You don't have to be a walker to attend and so do come to the service and enjoy the lovely refreshments afterwards. All the proceeds will go towards the support of St Denys' Church.

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December: 6.00 p.m.: CAROL SINGING AT ORCHARD HOUSE**

**Do come and join us for 30 minutes of Carol singing at Orchard House Rest Home, Kinnersley and help to share some Christmas cheer with both residents and staff.**

**Volunteers singers, please contact John Henderson (W/ 371 218).** *Peter Hobzapfel (Revd.)*

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU **Managing your finances at Christmas**

Many people struggling to pay bills, with no spare cash for cards, presents etc, may be dreading Christmas, however follow our key tips to help stretch your budget and you may be able to make sure you have enough to pay the bills in the new year.

**Plan ahead.** Work out how much you can realistically afford before you start spending, taking into account what you need to keep back for your essential bills like rent or mortgage, council tax, gas and electricity. **Set a limit** on how much you are going to spend and stick to it.

**Christmas is an expensive time of year for everyone.** Make a 'no presents' pact. with close friends and relatives or agree to exchange only token gifts with a fixed limit.

**Avoid credit loans from doorstep lenders** or high street catalogue shopping outlets. You may be able to get a much cheaper loan from your local credit union if you have already started saving with them.

**Try shopping with cash only** - that way you can't spend more than your budget.

**Shop around,** you may find it cheaper elsewhere.

**Don't be pressurized by children** into buying expensive toys or other items you can't afford. Explain the situation to them.

**Don't run up an overdraft unless you have an arrangement with your bank** – the interest you have to pay will be punitive. **Get advice** as early as possible if you do run into debt problems.

See the Citizens Advice website [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) for free advice on how to tackle debt with confidential, independent money advice.

Malvern CAB is open:

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 10.00 a.m - 4.00 p.m.  
Wed (Specialist Debt Advice - by appointment)

Tel: 01684 563611