

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Friends of St Denys

**Saturday and Sunday
7th and 8th June**

CELEBRATION MUSICAL WEEKEND

**IN
ST DENYS' CHURCH
WORCESTER
MALE VOICE
CHOIR**

**and
SAUCE CITY
JAZZ BAND**

See inside for further details.

Kempsey

**Saturday 28th June:
7.30 p.m.:
PHILAMUSICA
SUMMER CONCERT
in ST MARY'S CHURCH.**

**Saturday 5th July:
2.00 p.m.:
St MARY'S
CHURCH SUMMER
FETE!**

See inside for details

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E-Mail;

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Please submit Copy by 2nd Mon-

The Rector's Message

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you're the kind of person who likes to have certainties about everything? If you are then I guess that at times, life must be difficult because there are only two things that you can know for sure: the first is that you've been born and the second is that you'll die and anything in between those two, you cannot predict or ultimately control. Are you able or willing to accept this fact of life, especially those of you who tend to leave or abandon things you can't control? The trouble is that we're brought up to believe that there's an answer to every question, but there isn't and the sooner we accept that in an open and not a grudging way, then the more acceptable life will become. We all know that knowledge is power and the more answers you know, then the more powerful you become and hence the more control you have or, at least, like to think you have, because ultimately there is so much that you can't control. If you are a so-called "control freak" then life must indeed be difficult, but no more difficult than you're making it yourself.

A lady recently said to me "You're supposed to be giving us the answers but all you've done so far is raise questions!" Yes, my friend, and that's the way it's going to stay, because I'm not the kind of person who dispenses answers even though I am a clergyman and therefore in the

Reverend Peter Holzapfel

"answer business": in fact I don't want just to ask questions, but difficult questions, painful questions and challenging questions: the kind of questions that make life uncomfortable. But please know that I'm not inflicting on you anything that I don't live with myself and questions that I find it difficult to bear such as "what about the thousands who have recently lost their lives in Burma and China? How precious were their lives to God?" "What about the starving mother watching her emaciated baby die?" "What do we say to the parents who have lost their children or the loving wife or husband whose partner walks out on them even though all they wanted was a happy family?" These questions and a million more whys convince me that life is totally unpredictable and often, in earthly terms, wickedly unfair. So, no, you won't get answers from me as if I was some kind of spiritual doctor dispensing cures!

So what good am I? And what's the good of the whole Christian thing? The answer in a sentence is that it can give you the strength to cope with the questions to which there are no answers. It begins with an act of faith in that you choose to believe in God. You may wish to bail out at this point and conclude that there is no God. This is a perfectly reasonable conclusion to come to but the question I would ask is this "if you don't believe that there's a God of any description then what is life but a sick joke?" You may choose to be part of this

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joke without rhyme or reason and have the strength to bear it, but I'm afraid I haven't. I need to believe in something because although it doesn't give me all the answers, it nevertheless gives me something to live for. I defy the absurdity of life and the all pervasive force of evil every time I affirm that there is a power greater than the one I see in the world and ultimately that love is stronger than hate and that good conquers evil. I can't prove it: I believe it and it gives me a purpose in living which otherwise I wouldn't have. The alternative for me would be to live totally selfishly and "to eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die" which seems to be the philosophy of much of our world. Is that your philosophy? Under what principles do you live your life? How do you make sense of it all?

I would even go so far as to say that if, when I die, there's absolutely nothing there but a vast chasm of empty space and an eternity of silence I still wouldn't regret how I've lived my life and the God I've chosen to believe in, because it's given me a reason for living and the strength to bring forgiveness, hope and love into seemingly hopeless, loveless and irredeemable situations.

So, no, the Christian faith won't give you all the answers but it will give you the strength to live with the questions to which there are no earthly answers.

We shouldn't forget that Jesus died with an agonising question on His lips "My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And look what happened to Him three days later! Mind you, it's all a question of what you choose to believe.

May you have the strength or rather the necessity to find a God to believe in and to try and make sense of this seemingly senseless world.

With every blessing.....*Peter Holzappel (Revd.)*

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: 12th and 26th. June and 10th July. 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.

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, 9th and 23rd June and 7th July. We meet each fortnight 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.

Sunday 8th June: ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION SERVICE at WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 4.00 p.m.:

This is a very special service during which our new Church Wardens are sworn into office: Do come along and give our wardens the full support they deserve and also meet and hear our new Bishop.

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

JUNE

Sunday 1st: Trinity 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 8th: Trinity 3: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. : Informal Family Communion, 3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptism, 4.00 p.m.: Visitation Service at **Worcester Cathedral**

Please note that there is no evening service at St Mary's because at 6.30 p.m. there is the annual Thanksgiving Service for St Denys' (followed by The Jazz Evening) which I know that many of you wish to support.

Sunday 15th: Trinity 4: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP: **This is a special service of Thanksgiving and Prayer for our Bell Ringers as both Malcolm Hollingshead and Philip Barker-Brown celebrate 60 years of bellringing! Congratulations to them both and thank you to all those who ring our bells so joyously each week. Do come along and join us on this very special occasion.**

Sunday 22nd: Trinity 5: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Parish Communion, **6.30 p.m.: OPEN AIR SERVICE at THE NASH with THE BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY**

Sunday 29th: Trinity 6: **(5th Sunday)** 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, **10.30 a.m.: United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Denys', Severn Stoke**, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

JULY

Sunday 6th: Trinity 7: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club - Meets on Wednesday, 11th and 25th June at 2.30 p.m. in Kempsey Parish Hall.
Age Concern Coffee Morning - meets every Thursday at 11.30 a.m.. Please note that for the foreseeable future this will take place in St Mary's Church because of recent flooding affecting St Mary's House.

ALPHA COURSE 2008: Continues on Mondays, at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's Church

The course will last over a six or seven week period. IF INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO PETER (Vicar) or CHRIS & CAROL COOKE (W/820838)

Saturday 28th JUNE: 7.30 p.m.: PHILAMUSICA SUMMER CONCERT in ST MARY'S CHURCH. Do come along and enjoy a musical evening presented by our friends The Philamusica. It will make a lovely evening for you to enjoy in the company of friends with light refreshments in the interval and wonderful music and singing.

SATURDAY 5th JULY: 2.00 p.m.: ST MARY'S CHURCH SUMMER FETE! Bigger and better than ever with more stalls as well as Donkey Rides! All the usual stalls will be present and we shall be using St Mary's House (newly restored) as well as the Church grounds. The Church will also be open and there will be live music and dancing provided by the children of Kempsey School. There is so much for everyone to enjoy so do come along and have a really great time!

PARISH REGISTER

We are sad to report the death of Ann Beasley, at The Boynes Nursing Home after a long illness. She was buried at Blackmoor Catholic Church on 12th May. Ann lived in Stoke Gardens with her late husband, Denis for many years and was always a generous supporter of village events. We send our sympathy to her family.

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minor repairs are being carried out to the Church and the lowest quotation to replace the carpets, following last year's flood, has been approved by the Insurance Company

SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL

The Spring Fair held in April raised a magnificent £325 in aid of Hall Funds. Thanks to all those who gave so generously and who supported the event.

The Hall looks marvellous after its make-over and needs **BOOKINGS!**
Speak to Maggie or Trish (W/317339)

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 10th June, 7.30 p.m. – A Talk on the “Aromatherapy” - by Lynne Nash and the Competition is “ A herbal remedy”.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 26th June at 2.15 p.m. Garden Meeting and Shared Tea.

KEMPSEY TENNIS CLUB

Whoever you are, however you play, whatever your age.....

Kempsey Tennis Club is excited about the future and wants to share its enthusiasm with you - the Club wants you to **DO MORE THAN JUST WATCH!**

Having recently completed a £60,000 facility project, which has seen the reconstruction of two tennis courts, with floodlighting being added at the same time, the Club is keen to encourage as many people as possible to take up tennis and take advantage of the Club's improved facility. It will enable the Club Members to play tennis all year round.

Membership of the Club starts from just £10 per year and Kempsey Tennis Club has a current membership of over one hundred, encompassing all ages and backgrounds in Kempsey and the surrounding area.

Throughout the year Kempsey Tennis Club offers coaching and competitive opportunities to all, including non members. The Club runs a successful year round junior coaching programme and regularly hosts LTA sanctioned junior tournaments, which attract players from around the region, and serves to raise Kempsey's profile.

Kempsey Tennis Club also prides itself on being particularly active in arranging social events. In the past, the Club has, amongst other things, organised its own fetes, treasure hunts, casino evenings, Christmas parties and quiz evenings.

On Saturday 28th June - Kempsey Lawn Tennis Club and Kempsey Cricket Club would like to invite you to a **BARN DANCE** at **Clifton Lower Farm** signposted off the A38 . The renowned “**Dampiers Round**” will be playing from 7.00 p.m. onwards, complemented by magnificent views and an excellent **Pig Roast and Licensed Bar**.

For more details, **contact Linda Rimell on 07980 866963**

Why don't you **DO MORE THAN JUST WATCH?**

For further details about Kempsey Tennis Club,

visit <http://www.kempseytennis.co.uk> or call Charlotte on 07775 614 217.

FRIENDS OF ST. DENYS**JUNE**

After the Flood –

CELEBRATION MUSICAL WEEKEND

Events in St Denys' Church, which will be decorated for two memorable concerts with a Photographic Display by the Reverend Peter Holzapfel .

Saturday 7th June at 7.30 p.m. –

Come and be roused by the wonderful singing of

THE WORCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

with soloists -

Tickets available in advance – £7.50 each, including a glass of Wine and nibbles, children under 15, £1.00 each .

Sunday 8th June at 7.45 p.m. –

Your annual cheer up concert from

THE SAUCE CITY JAZZ BAND – Tickets available in advance £6.00 each and children under 15, £1.00 each

Tickets available from John Henderson W/ 371 218.

SAVE – If you buy tickets IN ADVANCE for BOTH concerts, pay only £10.00 each and children, £1.00 each.

**Sunday, 22nd June – The Salvation Army at The Nash,
Kempsey.**

**Come and join us in the lovely garden for a service of celebration (inside if wet)
followed by**

**STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM AND WINE CUP
provided by The Friends of St Denys' for £5.00 each.**

Please remember to bring garden chairs with you, everyone welcome!

ADVANCE NOTICE – JULY

Saturday 19th July – SUMMER FETE on the Rose & Crown Green, Severn Stoke
Please think of giving Bottles, to John Henderson W/371 218, Cakes to Penny Paul W/ 371 319, Plants and Produce to Merab Opie W/371 100, Books and CD's to Suzy Paddock.

It's going to be a great day, so please book it in your Diary now!

RECTOR: Reverend Peter Holzapfel

Office Address; St. Mary's Church House
Squires Walk,
Kempsey.

(For messages and letters)

Tel: 01905 820 740

E-mail address; cherrytree@tesco.net

Cherry Tree Rectory
3, Oakfield Drive,
Kempsey,
Worcester, WR5 3PP
Tel: W/ 820 202

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

Assistant Churchwarden: Mrs Gail Brookes
Kempsey **01905 821 823**

CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

JUNE

Sunday 1st: Trinity 2

10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP.

Sunday 8th: Trinity 3

6.30 p.m.: THANKSGIVING service for St Denys' Church
followed at 7.45 p.m. by our annual and ever popular **SAUCE CITY JAZZ BAND!**

(Please note that there will be no morning service at St Denys',
but please come along and give thanks for all that happens here at 6.30 p.m.)

Sunday 15th: Trinity 4

9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP,

Sunday 22nd: Trinity 5

6.30 p.m.: OPEN AIR SERVICE at THE NASH

with THE BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY

followed by delicious strawberries and cream. What could be better?

Do join us on this happy occasion and bring a folding chair.

Please note that there will be no morning service at St Denys'

Sunday 29th Trinity 6 (5th Sunday)

10.30 a.m.: U/B Service of Holy Communion at St Denys'
Please pray for all those being ordained and priested today at Worcester Cathedral
including Christine Holzapfel.

JULY

Sunday 6th : Trinity 7

10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

JUNE

6th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins
13th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey
20th Mrs Bedwell and Friend
27th Mrs Helen Cox and Mr Cox

JULY

4th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson
11th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
18th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt
25th Mrs Joan Price and Friend

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

JUNE

7th Mrs Ewins, Mrs Foulds and Mrs D Derrett
Everyone welcome to help decorate
for the Musical Week-end
14th and 28th Mrs J Westwood

JULY

5th and 12th Mrs Opie
19th and 26th Mrs Henderson

Flower Arrangers: Please will you show your talent, by joining the Rota – Every help will be given to new volunteers. Please contact John Henderson (W/371 218)

