

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

**Friends of St Denys
Thursday 13th
March – AGM and
Talk by Roy Finch –
The Tree Man
7.30 p.m. at The Rose
& Crown Do come
and support us, all
welcome.**

**Severn Stoke and
Croome d'Abitot Pa-
rochial Church
Council AGM – Sun-
day 6th April after
the Morning Service**

**Join the Bird Com-
petition, starting on
14th April.**

See inside for further details.

Kempsey

**Monday 31st March:
St Mary's Church
AGM – 7.30 p.m.**

See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd

The Rector's Message

Dear Friends,

I once knew a jogger who used to run every day with six bricks in a backpack in order to get himself fit. Personally I would only be "fit to drop" and even the thought of it is enough to make me go weak at the knees! But, he did it, convinced of the fact that once he'd broken through the pain barrier his heart, lungs, legs and every other part of his anatomy would be better for it. He said that after a while your body got used to it and that you were hardly aware you were carrying half a ton of bricks on your back! I was never convinced, however, looking at the sweat trickling down his exhausted face that displayed a pained expression. Jesus carried a heavy load when he stumbled to Calvary and the pain must have been excruciating but the burden He carried was not His own but yours and mine. He carried it not in order to get fit but so that He might be nailed to it and die upon it so that you and I might be made fit for heaven. There is nothing heavier and nothing more painful than our sin and it was this that Jesus bore on His back. Jesus was no jogger: He stumbled and fell along the dusty dirty road so that we might walk as free men and women into the life and liberty of heaven. He died for you on the Cross and descended into the deepest darkest pit of hell but three days later He was raised from the dead to new and everlasting life: the same life that we will enjoy if we trust and follow Him. This is what we celebrate at Easter that Jesus has walked the walk for us, borne the pain that was ours, died the death that should have been our sentence and was raised to the life that we neither earned nor deserved but which is our inheritance of faith through Him.

We recently had a service of celebration for marriage and I said at that service that no one can enter fully into a new life until and unless they have left their old one behind. It is OK for the bridegroom to look over his shoulder as his beautiful bride comes down the aisle but not fifty minutes later when they have both signed on the dotted line and committed themselves to each other.

Reverend Peter Holzappel

New lives are not built on the foundation of old lives or past experiences. How many of us, then, are attempting to do the impossible? Jesus carried your heavy weight of sin to the Cross so that you and I could leave it there and not drag it with us into the new life beyond. The trouble with most of us is that we insist on taking it with us: we fail to make the most of Easter Day because we're too busy remembering Good Friday.

The jogger carried his bricks every day in order to become fit. He said that after a while he failed to notice the weight and yet his face told a different story. Many of us say that we've dealt with the past and are ready to move on but our behaviour, attitudes, feelings and words betray the fact that we haven't.

There is no need for any of us to continue to bear this burden no matter what the burden might be. Jesus said "take my yoke upon you for My burden is easy and My load is light. So, come to Me all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest."

So, why not give it a go this Easter? Pack up your troubles and, no matter how heavy they are, leave them with Jesus. Then, and only then, will you know why you are celebrating.

May you have a truly blessed and happy Easter

Peter Holzappel (Rev.)

PS: Easter this year is the earliest it's been for 95 years but it's never too early or too late to take Jesus up on His offer.

With the help of Webmaster Nigel Taylor of Kempsey, we are planning to set up a website for the Newsletter. More information in the next Issue!

Parish Records:

Wedding: 2nd February at St Denys' Church – Paul Darren Pickering
and Sarah Jane Raw

Christening: 24th February at St Denys' Church-Emma Jane Tinsley – Alison (nee Revill) and Ian Tinsley were the proud parents.

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: 13th March with Gerry Lowman and 27th March with Maureen Watkins. You are welcome to join us. Please contact John and Cara (W/ 371 218) for details.

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, 14th and 28th April and 12th May, For the winter, we will 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.

St DENYS' CHURCH, Severn Stoke

Church Cleaning: Thank you very much to those who have kindly volunteered. **We should still be grateful to have more names** so as to spread the load. It involves only a couple of hours to clean the Church on a Friday or Saturday, vacuuming, dusting and mopping. If you can, or would like more information, please contact John Henderson (W/ 371 218).

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE**MARCH**

7th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson
14th Mrs Helen Cox and Mr Cox
21st Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
28th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt

APRIL

4th Mrs Joan Price and Friend
11th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE**MARCH**

LENT - No Flowers

Saturday 22nd – ALL HELP welcome to decorate the Church for Easter Sunday
Saturday 22nd and 29th March – Mrs Ewins

APRIL

5th and 12th Mrs M Foulds
19th and 26th Mrs L Everitt

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

MARCH

2nd MOTHERING SUNDAY 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green
 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP
 9th 8.00 a.m. .: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Family Communion, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP

HOLY WEEK

16th PALM SUNDAY 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 11.00 a.m.: PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION & SERVICE
 At 11.0 a.m. we invite as many of you as possible to gather on the green at King's Hill, Kempsey from where the Palm Sunday procession will begin. Each person will be given a Palm Cross and we shall proceed (singing) down the main road and to St Mary's Church. It is hoped that this year we shall have a real Palm Sunday donkey! Anybody is welcome to join us at any point along the route and so if you can't walk all this way then you can still join in. Alternatively you can wait for us at the church (we should arrive about 11.30 a.m.) and there will then follow a brief service followed by A SHARED LUNCH.

Please bring something to contribute (there will be a list on the table at the back of church during early March) but do please stay on for the shared lunch and time of relaxation and fellowship together. It is so important for the building up of our church.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A UNITED BENEFICE EVENT & THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER SERVICES TODAY (apart from the 9.15 a.m. service)

Monday 17th , Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th March: 7.30 p.m.: **Compline** in The Lady Chapel

20th: MAUNDY THURSDAY - 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion in The Lady Chapel
 7.30 p.m.: UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION at ST DENYS', SEVERN STOKE

21st : GOOD FRIDAY – 10.30 a.m.: GOOD FRIDAY PRAISE SERVICE at St Denys', Severn Stoke
 2.00-3.00 p.m.: GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION at St Mary's, Kempsey.

23rd : EASTER DAY – 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP (with hymns), 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion for Easter Day,
 6.00 p.m.: "EASTER SONGS OF PRAISE" at THE FIRS

Do come and join us for this evening of celebration as we sing many of the well known and best loved Easter hymns & carols

30th: EASTER 2 – 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION at ST MARY'S, KEMPSEY, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP

APRIL

6th: Easter 3: 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 - Meets on Wednesday, 5th and 19th March and 2nd April 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.

Lenten lunches at The Firs, Kempsey – Wednesday 5th and 12th - 12.30 p.m. in aid of flood victims of Bangladesh and Mozambique.

ALPHA COURSE 2008: It is very likely that, following the great success of our first attempt, our next ALPHA COURSE will begin in April. This is a wonderful and enjoyable introduction to the Christian faith. It will also serve as the main part of our **CONFIRMATION COURSE** for this year. If you would like to be confirmed then this is the course for you. The course will last over a six or seven week period. IF INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO PETER (Vicar) or CHRIS & CAROL COOKE (W/820838)

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

We breathed a sigh of relief that St Denys' Church was not flooded again early last month, when the waters rose. Work has started to repair the pipe organ and ordering of new carpeting is underway, the final pieces of the jigsaw.

SEVERN STOKE and CROOME d'ABITOT PARISH COUNCIL**OPENING THE CHURCH**

As one of the conditions of Grant Aid from English Heritage towards last year's major repairs, we undertook to keep the Church open for six hours on Sundays (except 5th Sundays in the month) from March to October, each year. This will involve the Church being attended, during those opening hours and **volunteers are sought**, so that we can work out a Rota. The Church is a lovely quiet place to be and such visitors as there may be, are likely to be pleasant and interested. If we can get enough volunteers, a two hour stint will be the norm.

Opening times this year will be:

Easter Sunday, 23rd March from 11.30 a.m., when the Church Service ends, to 5.30 p.m. These times will apply on the 1st Sunday in each month, as well.

On the 2nd and 3rd Sundays from 10.30 a.m., to 4.30 p.m.

Please could you give your name to Bryan Hadley (W/ 371 383).

SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is open again for bookings with its magnificent new Kitchen fittings and facilities. Bookings through; Maggie Taylor or Trish Rowe (W/ 371 339)

ADVANCE NOTICE: Saturday 19th April at 2.00 p.m. – SPRING FAIR

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 11th March 7.30 p.m. "Out of my mind" - A talk by Peter Preece on Wildlife photography.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 27th March at Upton Church Room – Speaker and Prayers: Revd. Geoffrey Moore

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Wednesday 5th March The Brownies are providing Tea (and Cakes) for their Mothers to thank them and honour Mothers' Day.

Thank you too as always, the Guiders and Guides for the beautiful posies distributed at the Mothers' Day Service at St Denys' Church on Mothering Sunday.

RECTOR: Reverend Peter Holzapfel

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(For messages and letters)

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CHURCHWARDEN: Mr. Bryan Hadley Severn Stoke 01905 371 383

CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

MARCH with Holy Week

Saturday 1st Please pray for our new Bishop, **The Rt Rev John Inge** as he is consecrated as the next **Bishop of Worcester** in The Cathedral this afternoon.

Sunday 2nd Mothering Sunday 10.30 a.m.: Morning Praise for Mothers' Day

Sunday 9th Lent 5 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion CW

Sunday 16th Palm Sunday UNITED BENEFICE PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION & WALK OF WITNESS AT KEMPSEY.

This is a United Benefice Event and an opportunity for both our churches to join together for worship and witness on this special day. We shall gather on the Green at King's Hill, Kempsey at 11.00 a.m. and will then process along the Main Road holding our Palm Crosses and singing. We hope to have a real Palm Sunday donkey this year! We shall arrive at St Mary's Church around 11.30 a.m., when we shall have a short service followed by a shared lunch. Please feel free to join us for any part of the procession and so if you feel that you can't walk very far you can still join in. Otherwise you can meet us at the church for the service of thanksgiving at the start of Holy Week.

Please do stay on and enjoy food & fellowship together at the church afterwards and it would be good if you could bring an item to share. There will be a list at the back of church during the early part of March.

Monday 17th, Tuesday, 18th and Wednesday 19th – 7.30 p.m. COMPLINE in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's, Kempsey

Thursday 20th MAUNDY THURSDAY – 7.30 p.m. UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

Friday 21st GOOD FRIDAY – 10.30 a.m.: PRAISE SERVICE at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

This is a United Benefice Service of Praise & Thanksgiving to God as we prepare for this most special and holy time of the year. Please do join us and make this a significant part of your Easter worship.

2.00-3.00 p.m.: GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION at St Mary's,

Kempsey. Again an invitation across the United Benefice

as we gather to contemplate the sacrifice that Jesus made for us all on this most holy

of days.

Sunday 23rd: EASTER DAY – 9.15 a.m.: HOLY COMMUNION,

6.00 p.m.: EVENING PRAISE at THE FIRS, KEMPSEY – If you want to end your Easter Day celebrations in a very joyful and enjoyable way, then do please join us at The Firs, Kempsey as we sing many of your favourite and well known Easter hymns & carols.

Sunday 30th: Easter 2

10.30 a.m.: United Benefice Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's, Kempsey. Please note: No service at St Denys'.

APRIL

Sunday 6th: Easter 3

10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP: This will be followed by The PCC Annual General Meeting of St Denys' Church