

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events **Severn Stoke & Environs**

Friends of St Denys

Saturday 10th May

7.30 p.m. in

Severn Stoke Parish Hall

**"AMATEUR RAMBLINGS
OVERSEAS"**

**A Talk with Slides by
Mike Everitt.**

**Sunday 25th May at
11.30 a.m. – from**

**St Denys' Church,
Severn Stoke**

The Ponty Chatterton

Sponsored Walk

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

**CELEBRATION
MUSICAL WEEKEND**

Kempsey

ALPHA COURSE

**Starts Wednesday
7th May at 7.30 p.m.
at**

**St Mary's Church,
Kempsey**

See inside for details

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

The Rector's Message

Dear Friends,

I heard recently that the government is thinking of introducing an "outlook tax" by which if your house is situated in open countryside with a lovely view then you would pay for the privilege. I wonder what will happen to those unfortunate enough to live by the motorway? Perhaps they'll have something knocked off their council tax! Somehow, I doubt it. It's almost as ridiculous as the "window tax" that was inaugurated in the 18th Century whereby you paid for the number of windows in your house and that's why you see a lot of Georgian houses with their windows bricked up. The less light coming into the house the less you paid.

For some reason I've been thinking a lot about windows recently and being reminded of how important they are to our state of health, mind and well being. I think it began when someone told me of how they were offered a cabin on a cruise liner without windows. You pay a good deal less but at what cost to your general health! I would hate to travel round the world or even to France in a sealed up room! Even prison cells have one window.

As human beings we thrive on light and we need it both for our physical and mental health. We need not only the light to enter a room but also to see outside the room to people and things beyond. But what is true of our physical and mental health is also true of our spiritual health. It's not surprising that the very first thing that God created was "light": "Let there be light" He said "and there was light." The Bible contains many

Reverend Peter Holzapfel

the World." He is the One who brought light

To a world shrouded in darkness: hence "the people who dwelt in darkness have seen a great light!" Jesus is our light for He is the window on our soul and, without Him, we stumble as we try to move forward in the twilight of our lives. Jesus is the One who gives us purpose: He is the One who gives life, including our own, its meaning: He is the One who reassures us that we are special and loved: He is the One through whom our sins are forgiven: He is the One who shows us which way to go when we don't know which way to turn.

And so I ask "is there a light shining in your life and do you have a window in your soul through which the light of God can shine?" Unfortunately many people neglect their spiritual health and then wonder why they get sick and feel lost and alone. If you feel lost and in the dark, then please know that there is a light that shines for you: "a light that shines in the darkness and which no amount of darkness can ever extinguish."

I wonder how many windows there are in your house? I hope there are lots and that natural light floods every room. But even if you live in a house that has dozens of windows you're still in darkness without the light of God. The good news is that you can have this light and you won't even be taxed on it! Indeed it will light your path and set you free!

With every blessing,

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

MAY

Thursday 1st: **ASCENSION DAY 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion in The Lady Chapel**

Sunday 4th: Sunday after Ascension: 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

**SUNDAY 11th: PENTECOST (BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH): 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP
 10.30 a.m.: SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE FOR PENTECOST**

Our young people will be taking a very active part in this service which will involve testimony and a special drama production entitled "THE RIVER". The service will be followed by a Bring & Share Parish Lunch in Church. Do come along and join in with the celebration and fellowship and give our young people and their leaders your fullest support.

3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP

Sunday 18th: Trinity Sunday: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 25th: Trinity 1: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 6.00 p.m. Evening Praise at The Firs.

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, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong

The Cornflower Club - Meets on Wednesday, 14th and 28th May and 11th 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: Starts on Wednesday, 7th May – 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's Church (please note that this is Wednesday and not Monday on account of The Bank Holiday). **Ensuing Alpha Course Meetings, Mondays, 12th and 17th, Wednesday, 28th (due to Bank Holiday the previous Monday) and Monday 2nd June St Mary's Church at 7.30 p.m.**

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

At the Annual General Meeting on 6th April

OPENING THE CHURCH

As one of the conditions of Grant Aid from English Heritage towards last year's major repairs, the Church Council undertook to keep the Church open for six hours on Sundays (except 5th Sundays in the month) from March to October, each year. The Church is a lovely place to be for peace and contemplation.

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.

The AGM also readily accepted the generous donation of special lightweight crates, to be stored in the Church against the next Flood, when they will be used in pairs to raise and support the ends of each pew out of flood's way.

From the Rector, Peter:

I would like to say **THANK YOU TO BRYAN HADLEY** for all that he has done and continues to do as Church Warden of St Denys' Church. Bryan has carried on fantastically following the retirement of Jim Spence which has meant that he is the sole Church Warden at St Denys' with a great deal of hard work falling on his shoulders. Bryan's great love for God and for His church is so evident and he works tirelessly for the good of us all. It is a joy and a privilege to count him as a friend and he is such an encouragement for me personally. **THANK YOU Bryan** for all the love and commitment you show to us all and for all that you do for God and His kingdom.

Bryan is going to be assisted this year by **Gail Brookes** who has offered to serve as assistant Church Warden and as she so wonderfully put it "to be his legs!" Thank you Gail for stepping into the breach.

SUNDAY 8th JUNE: 4.00 p.m.--"CHURCH WARDENS INDUCTION SERVICE" at Worcester Cathedral.

Please do come along to the Cathedral this afternoon and support our Church Wardens as they are inducted into office by our new Bishop, Rt Rev John Inge. It is an important occasion and a real opportunity to show your gratitude for those who give so much to the life of our churches. It's also a good opportunity to see and hear our new Bishop!

SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL

News of the SPRING FAIR held on 19th April will appear in next month's Issue.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 13th May, 7.30 p.m. – A Talk on the "History of Upton Museum" - by June Firkins and the Competition is "An interesting small antique or collectible".

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 22nd May at 7.30 p.m. at Upton Church Room – Bring and Buy and Speaker: Sue Fitzjohn on "Youth Work".

FRIENDS OF ST. DENYS

The Birding Competition is still in progress as this Issue goes to Press – Winners will be announced in the next Issue.

MAY

Saturday 10th May – 7.30 p.m. in Severn Stoke Parish Hall

”AMATEUR RAMBLINGS OVERSEAS” - Exotic places off the beaten track!

A TALK with SLIDES by Mike Everitt.

Everyone welcome! Make it a night out for the family and enjoy a RAFFLE too.

Tickets £4.00 each, children under 15 free, including scrumptious light refreshments.

Sunday 25th May at 11.30 a.m. – from St Denys’ Church, Severn Stoke

The Ponty Chatterton Sponsored Walk

EVERYONE WELCOME AND SO ARE WELL BEHAVED DOGS ON LEADS AT ALL TIMES!

This is a new walk of only 6.5 miles, in memory of Ponty, who served the Friends so well. There is just one stop on the way at the kind invitation of Ian Buchanan at Stone Cottage, Croome for lunch at about 12.30 p.m.

Please bring your own packed lunches and make this a real outing for everyone of all ages!

Sponsorship Forms are available from Gail Brooks W/ 821 823 or John Henderson W/ 371 218, but you don’t need to have been sponsored to join us. Come and have fun seeing parts of the Parishes you might not have seen before.

All proceeds go towards The Friends’ Funds for the maintenance and beautification of St Denys’ Church and for the enhancement of community spirit in the locality.

JUNE

After the Flood –

CELEBRATION MUSICAL WEEKEND

Events in St Denys’ Church, which will be decorated for two memorable concerts .

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.

RECTOR: Reverend Peter Holzapfel

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Kempsey.

(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

MAY

Sunday 4th: Sunday after Ascension 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP.

Sunday 11th: Pentecost 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion CW

Sunday 18th: Trinity Sunday 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP,

Sunday 25th: Trinity 1 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise

Followed by "The Ponti Chatterton Walk"

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.)

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

MAY

2nd Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson
9th Mrs Helen Cox and Mr Cox
16th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
23rd Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt
30th Mrs Joan Price and Friend

JUNE

6th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins
13th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

MAY

3rd and 10th Mrs Opie
17th and 24th Mrs Henderson
31st and 7th June Mrs Ewins, Mrs Foulds and
Mrs D Derrett

JUNE

14th and 28th Mrs J Westwood

Church Cleaning: We desperately need more volunteers, who would be able to give a couple of hours, every two or three months, to help clean the Church on a Friday or Saturday, vacuuming, dusting and mopping. If you can, or would like more information, contact John 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)