

# SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

## Forthcoming Events

### Severn Stoke & Environs

#### REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY

9th NOVEMBER

Service at 10.45 a.m.

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Saturday 15th November

### BEEBLE DRIVE & PUDDINGS

7.30 p.m.

Severn Stoke Parish Hall

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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

See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd  
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

“Dear Mr Holzapfel you have won £600,000!” read the e-mail that I received “but in order to verify your claim we need certain personal information including your passport number.” The e-mail was so professional looking and technically accurate that I, like a fool, sent off my personal details! The e-mail was, of course, bogus and fraudulent and I’ve had to work fairly hard at making sure that we’re secure because someone out there has some of my personal details. Fortunately I didn’t give any bank or financial information but I did give them enough to start up a credit card in my name or even to take out a mortgage in my name. I was told by the fraud department that identity theft is greatly on the increase. This is indeed a salutary warning to us all that we must be vigilant in what we respond to and never to divulge any information about ourselves unless we’re absolutely sure of who the person is.

It reminded me of the words of Jesus who said “I have called you by name and you are Mine.” The thief needed to ask my name but God already knows it and He knows yours: in fact God knows all your personal information even things that perhaps you wish He didn’t know! But whereas the thief might use that information to do you harm, God wants to do you nothing but good, because He loves you and He wants the very best for you. God loves you so much that you don’t have to be

frightened to be yourself. How many people would you really dare to be yourself in front of, with absolutely nothing hidden? I guess that there wouldn’t be many if any, but that is not the case with God in front of whom you can stand absolutely naked in every respect.

My details may have been stolen in order that someone could forge my identity and pretend to be me, but as far as God is concerned it’s no use anyone pretending to be me or you because He knows us fully and cannot be fooled. One day we shall all have to give an account before God of the kind of person we were and the kind of life we lived and on that day it will be no good pretending to be someone else, because God knows the truth, the whole truth, of just who and what we are.

In the e-mail I was assured that I had won a prize but that assurance turned out to be a lie, but for those who put their trust in Jesus, there is in fact a very sweet reward awaiting you in heaven and that is the gift of eternal life in the presence and love of God. This promise, the promise of God to all of us, is true and can be trusted. God does not lie or try to deceive and you do have a gift waiting for you which is far more precious than gold. But in order to claim it, you have to be yourself and no counterfeits will do. So now, right now, is the time to start asking yourself “what do I believe and what do I stand for in my life?” because one day your very life might depend on the answer you give.

Continued from Page 1

In the bogus e-mail I was told “please do not start celebrating your win yet and do not tell anyone about your prize until your identity has been verified and your cheque issued.” No wonder they didn’t want me to waste any money on celebrations because in their next e-mail they asked for £350 administrative costs before my cheque could be issued! They wanted to make sure that I still had enough money in the bank to pay them their fee before they “sent” me my non-existent cheque!! Well, as far as Jesus is concerned and the salvation He alone offers, you can certainly start celebrating and you can tell the whole world what God has done for you. Salvation does not require an “administration charge” because the price has already been paid when Jesus died on the Cross for you and rose again. The only thing that it costs us is, to dare to believe that it’s true and to put our faith in Him.

So, do you? Do you believe in Jesus and what He’s done for you? I hope so because you really do have a wonderful prize waiting for you in heaven: the gift of eternal life and everlasting peace, joy and love. So, let’s pray for the person who sent me that e-mail, whoever he or she is, that they too come to accept Jesus as their Saviour before it’s too late and they themselves stand before God and He says “Go away from Me! There are no counterfeits, forgeries or fakes in heaven and I know exactly who and what you are!”

Hold on to your true identity and true value: it’s worth a great deal.

God Bless you all *Peter Holzappel (Revd.)*

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

Funeral: 3rd October: Deanna Rae Connolly of Ripple with sympathy to her family and friends.

### **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, 10th and 24th November and 8th December. 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.

### **UPTON DEANERY which includes the Benefice of Kempsey and Severn Stoke with Croome d’Abitot.**

Consideration is having to be given to reducing the number of full time clergy serving the Deanery from five to four within the next ten years or when next there is a retirement. The reason sadly is that nationally there are inadequate funds to provide for the stipends (wages) and pensions of the existing Clergy; let alone for additional numbers, for which we would all hope. In particular, to lead the Church of England and its members through the current difficult times, both in terms of faith and the current political and economic crises.

Much thought is being given to how the fifteen Parishes in the Deanery can best be served. There are seventeen churches in regular use, stretching from Kempsey in the north down to Eldersfield in the south and from Hill Croome and Strensham in the east to Welland and Castlemorton in the west. Inevitably, there will need to be new alliances of existing Benefices, so that the varying needs of town and country can be met, ably assisted by further lay support. We pray for understanding of the problems and for solutions, which can be achieved by good will and co-operation throughout the Deanery.

**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 (Except 31st October due to half term)

**NOVEMBER**

Sunday 2nd: 4th before Advent: 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 9th:** 3rd before Advent: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.45 a.m. **REMEMBRANCE  
SUNDAY SERVICE, 6.00 p.m.: YOUTH SERVICE**

Sunday 16th: 2nd before Advent: 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 23rd: Christ the King: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion,  
6.00 p.m. Evening Praise at The Firs

**Sunday 30th : Advent Sunday: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP,  
10.30 am: CONFIRMATION SERVICE  
with Rt Rev David Walker: Bishop of Dudley  
(This is a United Benefice Communion Service)  
PLEASE NOTE: There is no evening service today**

**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**  
PLEASE NOTE change to normal service pattern.

**HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY**

**The Cornflower Club** begins again after the Summer break in The Parish Hall. 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, 12th and 26th November and 10th December at 2.30 p.m. in Kempsey Parish Hall.

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

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER: "HOLY SPIRIT DAY" at HARNHILL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE: CIRENCESTER**

This will be a truly inspiring and potentially life-changing day as we meet for a day of learning more about God's Holy Spirit and inviting Him more fully into our lives. It is being organised through our Alpha Course but if anyone else wishes to join us for this very special day then please have a word with Peter or one of our Readers or Chris & Carol Cook.

**MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery**

Thursday 11 November at 2.15 p.m. – Bring and Buy and write cards for Schools..

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

The demonstration of the Sound and Loop system was successfully completed and awaits a formal PCC decision.

**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 and 27th November and 11th December. 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**

A considerable amount of footpath clearance and roadside verge 'grip' re-establishment has been possible in the last month with extra help directly from Worcestershire County Council.

**SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL**

LOOK OUT for advertisements for

**THE CHRISTMAS FAIR – Fun for all and present opportunities!**

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.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU****Doorstep selling: extended cancellation rights**

From 1 October, the Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008 will extend the current rules on cooling-off periods and cancellation rights for consumers who buy goods or services at home or at other sites away from trade premises.

A consumer will be able to cancel a contract for goods or services costing more than £35 within seven calendar days, **irrespective of whether the visit by the trader was solicited or unsolicited.** At present, cancellation rights do not apply if the visit was solicited. This means that many consumers are left unable to cancel a contract.

The regulations cover contracts for home improvements and maintenance, as well as contracts for the supply of most other goods or services, including mobility or disability aids and household and personal items. Energy suppliers are also covered.

The regulations require cancellation rights to be clearly and prominently displayed in any written contract or provided in writing if there is no written contract.

A business that does not comply with the regulations will be unable to enforce the contract against the consumer. For further information and advice, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or see [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).

Malvern CAB is open: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Wednesday (Specialist Debt Advice - by appointment) Tel: 01684 563611

**The National Trust - Croome Park**

Wednesdays 5th, 19th November and 3rd December – **Lecture Lunches.** Bookings necessary.

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

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



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**CHURCHWARDEN: Mr. Bryan Hadley**  
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**Assistant Churchwarden: Mrs Gail Brookes**  
Kempsey 01905 821 823

## CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

### NOVEMBER

**Sunday 2nd: 4th before Advent 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion ( CW)**  
**SUNDAY 9th: Remembrance Sunday 10.45 a.m. SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**Sunday 16th 2nd before Advent 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP)**  
**Sunday 23rd Christ the King 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise**  
**Sunday 30th Advent Sunday (5th Sunday) 10.30 a.m.: UNITED BENEFICE**  
**COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION SERVICE**  
**at St Mary's, Kempsey with Rt Rev David Walker, The Bishop of Dudley.**

### DECEMBER

**Sunday 7th : 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 Christmas Service for Hospices at Upton Parish Church:**  
**All welcome**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> : 3.30 p.m.: Special "Walkers & Hikers" Christmas Carol Service at St Denys':**  
**Everyone most welcome.**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.: Christmas Carols and Entertainment at **The Nash** with**  
**The Chase Brass Band**  
**Sunday 21st 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**

### CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

#### NOVEMBER

7th Mrs Joan Price and Friend  
14th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins  
21st Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey  
28th Mrs Bedwell and Friend

#### DECEMBER

5th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson

### CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

#### NOVEMBER

8th and 15th Mrs Henderson  
22nd and 29th Mrs J Westwood

#### DECEMBER

6th and 13th Mrs Opie

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.



