

# SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008

40 Pence

## Forthcoming Events

### Severn Stoke & Environs

**Friends of St Denys**  
Sunday 7th September  
**12.30 p.m.**

### SUMMER BARBECUE

Hill House, Severn Stoke

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### HARVEST SUPPER

**Saturday 11th October**  
**7.30 p.m.**

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At St Denys' Church

### HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

**Sunday 28th September**  
**at 10.30 a.m.**

## Kempsey

A new

**Alpha Course**  
starts Tuesday 23rd  
September 7.30 p.m. in  
St Mary's Church

**Confirmation Classes**  
start Wednesday 1st  
October 6.30 p.m. in St  
Mary's House

**Walk for St Mary's!**  
Saturday 4th October  
at 10.00 a.m.

See inside for details

John Henderson

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Cara Henderson

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

Dear Friends,

Do you ever get the feeling that there's much more to life than what you're experiencing? I'm sure that this is true for all of us whoever we are and however successful we are in earthly terms. I'm a fan of the TV programme "Dragon's Den" and I'm sure it's equally true for those five multi-millionaire investors who can so quickly make or break the dreams of those who are brave enough to appear before them. The millionaires appear to have everything that money can buy and I'm sure that this is true but are they lacking in anything: perhaps something that money cannot purchase?

Yes, they are and so are we however rich or poor we may be. Jesus said that He had come to give us life in all its fullness and the key to achieving this lies within our minds. St Paul tells us that we must have our minds "renewed" and "transformed" by the Holy Spirit of God. The mind is a powerful and mysterious thing that largely remains unknown and is deeper than the depths of the ocean. It is a wonderful thing, a marvellous creation of God, a vast area that hasn't yet even begun to be explored. We may have landed on the moon and soar into outer space but we've barely landed on the surface of the mind. Yes, folks, believe it or not I'm talking about your mind! We haven't even begun to realise the potential of what each of us possesses.

## The Rector's Message

Think for a moment of some area of your life which causes you problems and then ask yourself why you have this problem. The problem you have is largely or, more often, totally in your mind. And this is why God wants to transform our minds so that we are thinking positively and not negatively, creatively rather than destructively, thinking in terms of possibilities rather than impossibilities. How many of us have been hampered in our lives by the fact that someone, usually in our early life, has told us that things would not work out and that our dreams were impossible? God wants to change all that and He's telling you right now that "nothing is impossible for those who put their trust in Him and their faith in Jesus."

But, just in case you're wondering, I'm not simply advocating the power of positive thinking although there is a great deal to gain through this. I'm sure that those successful business people on "Dragon's Den" got where they are today on positive thinking. You can achieve a great deal through self-discipline and positive thinking but God wants so much more for us.

He, and He alone, wants to transform our minds through the power of the Holy Spirit that is at work within us. And we won't get this through self-determination or willing it to happen but through surrendering our lives more fully to God so that He and not we can change things.

Continued from Page 1

How did Jesus work miracles? Because He had both the power and the mind of God or, to put it another way, because He knew He could. So, then, why did Jesus say to His disciples and why is He therefore saying to us that we can do such miracles and even greater miracles? Because He knew that we too could follow in His footsteps as children of God who are filled with His Spirit, the Spirit of God.

Do I believe that we can see miracles happening in Kempsey and Severn Stoke? I certainly do. Why? Because this is part of God's promise to us. Do I believe that God can transform our minds and enable us to have life in all its fullness? I certainly do. And when is it going to happen? When we start to believe it, surrender our lives more fully to God and claim the inheritance that is ours. God did not just call us to believe in Jesus Christ but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds into the people who will make the power and love of God a greater and greater reality upon this earth and that includes both Kempsey and Severn Stoke.

May God bless you richly as you surrender your life to Him and have that fullness of life for which your spirit longs and for which you were born.

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

## **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, 1st, 15th and 29th (this one in St Mary's House) September and 13th October. 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.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY CYCLE RIDE**

**Saturday 13th September – A sponsored event for horse and cycle riders and walkers on behalf of the Historic Churches Trust, which makes grants for repairs to Worcestershire Churches.**

**Participants of all ages are invited to seek sponsors for each place of worship visited between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on that day. Sponsorship Forms available from Bryan Hadley (W/ 371 383)**

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

### **ALPHA COURSE**

**Tuesday, 23rd September at 7.30 p.m. in ST MARY'S CHURCH, Kempsey.**

If you would like to discover more about the Christian faith, who God is and who Jesus is and what God has done for you through Jesus, then come to an Alpha Course. This will be our 3rd Alpha at St Mary's and lots of folks have enjoyed and benefited from them over the past twelve months. Come along as you are and you will be made so welcome. If you're enquiring or whether you've been coming to church for years, this is still the course for you. It will run each week on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m.. There is no charge apart from giving your time and the sessions will include refreshments. For more details or to sign up for this course, please have a word with Peter or with Chris & Carole Cooke, (W/ 820 838).

**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

**SEPTEMBER**

Sunday 7th: Trinity 16: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, **12.30 a.m. Friends of St Denys' Annual Village Barbecue at HILL HOUSE, Stoke**, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

**Severn**

Sunday 14th: Trinity 17: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. : Informal Family Communion, **which will include special prayers and re-commissioning for all those in church and community that are involved with the nurture & guidance of children and young people**, 2.00 and 3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptisms, 6.00 p.m. Evensong BCP.

Sunday 21st: Trinity 18: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 28th: Trinity 19: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Parish Communion, **6.00 p.m.: Evening Praise at The Firs.**

**OCTOBER**

Sunday 5th: Trinity 20: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green, 10.30 a.m.: **HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE**, 3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

**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, 3rd, 17th September and 1st October 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.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Wednesday 1st October at 6.30 p.m.: begin in ST MARY'S HOUSE. This is a course for anyone who wishes to be confirmed into The Church of England and will cover the fundamentals of The Christian Faith, the importance of Prayer, the Bible, the Sacraments including Holy Communion and what it means to be an Anglican in today's society and a member of the Church of England. There will be lots of opportunity for sharing, discussion and asking questions. The course is open to everyone (you have to be aged 11 or over to be confirmed) both younger and older and you are warmly invited to come along to this first meeting and find out more. The Confirmations this year will take place on SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER (Advent Sunday) at 10.30 a.m. when we shall be joined by The Bishop of Dudley: Rt Rev David Walker.

**WALK FOR St MARY'S! - Kempsey - Saturday 4th October**

Walk and eat your way round the Parish from The Seabourne Inn at 10.00 a.m. to the Gurkha Knight, organised by The Friends of Kempsey. Tickets from Peter, the Vicar and Peter and Jo at the Seabourne.

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

Next Meeting – Wednesday 10th September, 2008 at Pippins, Kinnersley with Merab and Brian Opie.

**The Deanery Synod** meets at **Severn Stoke Parish Hall** on **Thursday 25th September at 7.30 p.m.** This is an important meeting when the proposals for the re-organisation of The Deanery will be debated and voted upon.

**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: 11th and 25th. September and 9th October. 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****Message from the Parish Clerk, John Andrews:**

"Residents of Kinnersley and High Green will be pleased to know that the police driving school at Defford has barred its trainers from using this area for high speed driving. It is pleasing to know that the police have heard and taken notice of local opinion."

**SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL**

Think about booking the Hall for your next Anniversary or perhaps your Christmas Party. Its new facilities are excellent and are crying out to be used!

Speak to Maggie or Trish (W/317339)

**SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP**

In September, there is the District Outing to Burford Wildlife Park.

New Guiders are desperately needed to help out and as always, new Entrants are welcome to any of the Scouting and Guiding Groups.

**The National Trust - Croome Park**

At Croome Park – Thursday 4th September 2008, at the restored RAF building, main visitor reception, between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m.

The National Trust intends to submit a Planning Application for an important new phase in the development of Croome Park.

We should like to invite you, as a local resident, to view this application before it is submitted, and would value your opinion on our plans.

NT staff will be there to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

Please drop in if you can.

Special Events – Saturday 13th September – FREE ENTRY, guided tours, Church Tower open.  
Saturday 20th September – Wildlife and Wetlands Walk.

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**  
Severn Stoke **01905 371 383**

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE: There is a change in the pattern of Sunday morning worship at St Denys' following a decision of the PCC that we should have two informal services of praise each month, to try and encourage more people and in particular, younger families, to attend. These services will be on the 2nd & 4th Sundays and so please note carefully the following diary of services, so that you will be familiar with the service on any particular Sunday. PLEASE PRAY for an increase in attendance at St Denys' because the ultimate future of this wonderful church depends on people attending, using and supporting it. If you haven't visited the church for a while then I do encourage you to think about what you could do to try and ensure it's survival into the future.**

*Peter Holzapfel (Revd.)*

### SEPTEMBER

**Sunday 7th: Trinity 16** 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion ( CW)  
12.30 p.m.: Friends of St Denys' **ANNUAL VILLAGE BARBECUE**  
**Sunday 14th: Trinity 17** 9.15 a.m.: **MORNING PRAISE SERVICE** for all the family  
**Sunday 21st: Trinity 18** 9.15 a.m.: **Holy Communion (BCP)**  
**Sunday 28th: Trinity 19** 10.30 a.m.: **MORNING PRAISE SERVICE** for all the family

### OCTOBER

**Sunday 5th: Trinity 20** 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion ( CW)

### CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

#### SEPTEMBER

5th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt  
12th Mrs Joan Price and Friend  
19th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins  
26th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey

#### OCTOBER

3rd Mrs Bedwell and Friend  
10th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson

### CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

#### SEPTEMBER

6th Mrs Opie  
13th and 20th Mrs Doreen Ewins  
20th and 27th Mrs Henderson  
27th and 4th October 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)

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.