

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

**Friends of St Denys
Saturday 25th April
7.30 p.m. at Severn
Stoke Parish Hall
Chris Paul's "Ill met
by Moonlight"**

Be exhilarated by this
story of bravery

Easter Church Services

See inside for details

Kempsey

**Saturday 25th April:
ALL DAY**

**SAVE THE CHILDREN
PHOTO
EXHIBITION**

in

**St Mary's Church,
Kempsey**

**The Theme - "Man
Made Structures"**

Easter Church Services

See inside for details

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

Dear Friends,

Each year on Good Friday at 10.30 a.m. there is a service at St Denys' Church called "Good Friday Praise." I was recently asked by someone "but why have a Praise Service on Good Friday? Surely that day of all days is a sad day and one for quiet reflection." We do, of course, have a service of meditation in the afternoon but I fully understood what this person meant. The name itself "Good Friday" seems inappropriate as on that day Jesus suffered unspeakably and died and the forces of evil appeared to triumph. It is, however, not the pain that Jesus endured that we praise and celebrate but the fact that He was willing to undergo it on our behalf and in order to set us free from the consequences of our sin and alienation from God. It is "Good" not because of what happened but why it happened.

On that dreadful day following the crucifixion and death of Jesus we are told that the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. This "small" event in comparison to the drama unfolding on Calvary was probably witnessed by just a handful of people and only occupies one verse in the Bible account and yet it provides the key to understanding the true meaning of it all. The Temple Curtain was what separated the altar and the "holy of holies" from the rest of the building and only the High Priest could go beyond the curtain for that is where

the presence of God was thought to dwell in an unadulterated form. The ordinary people, mere mortals, you and I, were never allowed to go near this holiest of places. But the death of Jesus changed all that for ever because there was no longer this separation between God and His children and we now have free and uninterrupted access to the presence and Love of God at any time and in any place. No event could have been more symbolic than the tearing of that curtain for the barriers between us and God had well and truly been demolished and for all time.

The other evening I watched a programme about life in Communist East Berlin prior to the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War. This was to mark the end of Communism in East Germany and the tearing down of that infamous Wall that took place 20 years ago. It was fascinating and heartbreaking to hear people's reminiscences of life behind the Iron Curtain for although there was terrible cruelty, poverty and injustice there was also the security of being guaranteed a roof over your head, a job and a wage however meagre. In the free and Democratic society that now exists such securities can no longer be guaranteed and there was a good deal of nostalgia for the old days behind the Wall. One lady remarked "we certainly didn't live in mud huts and I have to say that I didn't mind the Wall at all."

We can very easily get used to living behind walls and indeed curtains, whether the Temple Curtain or the Iron Curtain, which provide a real sense of

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security. You know who and what you are and you know your limitations because they're imposed upon you. Freedom is different and it's all together more challenging because it demands that you use your freedom wisely and that you have far greater responsibility for the choices you make.

In celebrating Good Friday and Easter Day you're celebrating the freedom that Jesus won for you in breaking down the barrier between you and your Father God. The whole of Christianity is a celebration of Freedom and Choice: the freedom to come into God's presence and to fully receive His Love knowing that your sins are forgiven and the Choice of choosing to accept that freedom and to live your life the way that God wants you to live it. It is very tempting to continue to live in the security of sin behind the curtain rather than have the courage and faith to live in freedom beyond the confines and yet it is to freedom that we are called and for freedom that we are born.

The call of Good Friday and Easter is the call to be free: "free to worship God without fear all the days of your life." Will you accept that call and venture beyond the wall of your limitations? Do you want a new life of freedom and choice and the dignity and responsibility that goes with it? Jesus said "If the Son of God shall set you free then you will be free indeed!" The people of East Berlin celebrated that freedom 20 years ago when the Iron Curtain was torn and the Berlin Wall torn down. The whole of humanity celebrated that freedom 2,000 years ago when the Temple Curtain was torn and the barrier between us and God destroyed for ever.

A Very Happy Easter to all of you and 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, 6th and 20th April and 4th May. 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.

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: 9th and 23rd April. 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.

CHRISTIAN AID

Advance Notice—**Between 10th and 16th May, House to House collections** will be made for this Charity, which with others seeks to provide food, medical aid and the means of hope in war torn and strife ridden countries throughout the World.

St. Mary's & St. Denys' website - a new, updated look – The church website, www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk, has had a bit of a make-over during Jan 2009. We've made it more colourful and widened it to work better on modern PC screens. Please do take a look at the new format and see what you think. We hope you like it. We are always updating it with fresh information so do keep a regular eye on the website and please do get in contact, via the Contacts page, if you have anything to contribute.

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

APRIL

Sunday 5th Palm Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green,
10.30 a.m.: Special Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Thursday 9th Maundy Thursday 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel

7.30pm: Special Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion Service in Church.

Do come and join us for this very special service as we remember how Jesus shared His last meal with His disciples. The service will take the form of a shared simple meal with the Communion Service being a part of this event as indeed it would have been at The Last Supper itself. This is a United Benefice Service and everyone from across our parishes is most welcome. It would be good to know how many we are catering for and therefore there will be a list for you to sign from Sunday 29th March at the back of our churches.

Friday 10th: Good Friday 10.30 a.m. Praise service at St Denys', Severn Stoke,

2.00 p.m. Meditation at St Mary's, Kempsey Jesus invited His disciples to keep watch and vigil with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane and this is what we do now as we remember the pain and loneliness and death that Jesus endured for us on the Cross. Do join us for an hour of thoughtful and moving reflection & prayer.

Sunday 12th: EASTER SUNDAY 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP with Hymns, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion,
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 19th: Easter 2 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (BCP), 10.30 a.m. Family Service, 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 26th: Easter 3 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP), 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 3.00 p.m. Holy
 Baptism, 6.00 p.m. **EVENING PRAISE** Come along and praise and thank God

in a relaxed, informal and joyful way as we're led by our Music Group to praise the Lord for all that He has done for us. The service will be followed by refreshments and a time of joyful fellowship with one another. .

MAY

Sunday 3rd: Easter 4 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green,
 10.30 a.m.: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 10th: Easter 5 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion, 6.00 p.m.

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club – 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, 1st, 15th and 29th April and 13th May at 2.30 p.m. in Kempsey Parish Hall. **New Members are always welcome.**

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

Women's Fellowship – meets on Wednesday 8th April at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's House, Kempsey.

Saturday 25th April: SAVE THE CHILDREN PHOTO EXHIBITION

St Mary's Church, Kempsey will be open throughout the day for you to come and visit this annual photographic competition to raise funds for Save The Children. The theme this year is "Man Made Structures" and there promises to be an even larger entry of great images for you to see and enjoy. So do come along, have a nice cup of coffee and a cake and enjoy this ever-popular event.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CARERS

Free workshops are being run to assist Carers with legal and financial issues relating to Carers. For more information, please contact W/ 26500 or e-mail: carersinfo@carersworcs.org.uk

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

At the PCC AGM on 15th March, Bryan Hadley was re-elected as Churchwarden and Gail Brookes was elected as People's Warden. Other officeholders were re-elected, as was the remainder of the Council, save for Coral Male, who wished to retire after many year's service. The Rector recorded his thanks to Mrs Male and to all those who would continue to serve on the Council.

SEVERN STOKE and CROOME d'ABITOT PARISH COUNCIL

The Council has nothing to report for this Issue.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

The Group will be celebrating St George's Day on 23rd April with a service in Pershore Abbey.

The Team Leaders are still urgently seeking Leaders to succeed them, when they are obliged to retire later this year. Please contact Pam Gerrard on W/ 820955, if you can help.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 14th April— A talk by Elizabeth Moulder on 'Writing' and the competition is "Write a short Poem".

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 29th April—Upton Church Room—Deanery Open Meeting—A talk by Jenny Barton on "Uganda", followed by a Bring and Share Supper.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX—For free impartial advice on debt, bankruptcy and redundancy: The bureau's complete opening times are now as follows:

Malvern Bureau	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Friday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Wednesday specialist appointments only.
Upton Upon Severn Outreach	Library each Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and each Friday 10 am -12.30 p.m.
Pickersleigh Outreach	9.00 a.m. -1.00 p.m. each Monday
Tenbury Bureau	Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Home visiting service	Home visits are arranged subject to staff availability and the needs of the client.
Mobile	By appointment on the Elgar mobile office

For further information and advice, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or see www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Malvern CAB is open: Wed (Specialist Debt Advice - by appointment) Tel: 01684 563611

RECTOR: Reverend Peter Holzapfel

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

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

Tel: 01905 820 740)

E-mail address; cherrytree@tesco.net

CHURCHWARDENS: Mr. Bryan Hadley
01905 371 383

Mrs Gail Brookes
01905 821 823

CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

APRIL

Sunday 5th PALM SUNDAY: 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW) Palm Crosses will be blessed and given to everyone attending this special service

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 9th 7.30 p.m.: A United Benefice Service at St Mary's, Kempsey

as we remember the last meal that Jesus shared with His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion. We shall be remembering this in a very special way in the context of an actual shared simple meal in which the blessing of the bread and wine will be an integral part as it would have been at The Last Supper. From Sunday 29th March there will be a list for you to sign in our churches so that we have some idea of how many to cater for.

GOOD FRIDAY: 10th APRIL 10.30 a.m.: Do please join us on this most holy of days as we give God thanks and praise for the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us on the Cross in setting us free from the consequences of our sin.

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

Jesus asked His disciples to watch and keep vigil with Him as He agonised in the Garden of Gethsemane and we are invited to do the same during this deeply moving hour of meditation as we remember the agony and pain that He was willing to endure for us.

Sunday 12th EASTER DAY: 9.15am: Holy Communion Easter Celebration Service.

Sunday 19th Easter 2: 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 26th Easter 3: 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise

MAY

Sunday 3rd Easter 4 : 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW), 3.00 Holy Baptism.

Sunday 10th Easter 5: 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

APRIL

3rd Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey

11th Mrs Joan Price and Friend— Easter Saturday

17th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt

24th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins

MAY

1st Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey

8th Mrs Bedwell and Friend

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

APRIL

11th Easter Saturday—All welcome to decorate the Church in a yellow and white theme, please and for those who regularly help, please do your usual windows or flower stands.

17th and 24th Mrs Westwood

MAY

1st and 8th Mrs Henderson

15th and 22nd Mrs Faulds and Mrs Derrett

Further copies of this Newsletter can be obtained on-line:

www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk and click on **Home Page** for St Denys' news and events.