



SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2009/10

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Tuesday 15th December at 7.30 p.m.
Carols at The Nash, Festive Fun and The Chase Brass Band
TICKET ONLY

Sunday 20th December 6.30 p.m. St Denys' Christmas Carol Service

See inside for details

Kempsey

Saturday 12th December at 7.30 p.m.
St Mary's Church, Kempsey
PHILOMUSICA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 9th January at 7.30pm
"BEAT THE BLUES" FUN & SOCIAL EVENING
in Kempsey Parish Hall

See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd Monday next month

Dear Friends,

I've been recently watching that series "Christianity" on BBC 4 in which we have been beautifully reminded of what a magnificent and many sided faith Christianity is. It has spread throughout the world and takes so many different forms in its incredibly rich diversity. This diversity is something for which we give thanks and yet, whatever and wherever, it all begins with the birth of a baby in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. This is our starting point that God's own Son was born as one of us, to share our human life with all of its joys and sorrows and to die for us on the Cross and be raised to new life for the saving of us all. The gift of God to all of us was a baby who didn't arrive with trumpets and loud fanfares but insignificantly and unknown in a stable in a small town in the back of nowhere.

And this truly sets the scene for a perfect Christmas because it reminds us all of what this season is really all about. It is about God giving us life: not fame or fortune but life. It is also about God giving us new life through faith in Jesus and a life that will continue for eternity. Jesus said "I am come that you may have life in all its fullness."

And so as we enjoy our Christmas parties, opening our Christmas presents and eating our Christmas dinners, let us all remember who it really is that we're remembering and what we're really celebrating: His birth into this world and our birth into a world and a life without end.

A VERY HAPPY AND TRULY BLESSED CHRISTMAS

God Bless you

Peter Holzapfel (Revd.)

PARISH REGISTER – St Denys' Church

Baptism: 15th November: Thomas Edward Hallam

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 December and 11th and 25th January.** We 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.

HAPPENINGS in SEVERN STOKE and environs

Saturday 12th December at 3.30pm in St Denys' Church:

The WALKERS & HIKERS CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This is a very enjoyable occasion as we join with many walking and hiking enthusiasts to celebrate the Christmas season and give thanks to God. Last year St Denys' was packed and a wonderful time was had by all followed by festive refreshments. **I hasten to add that this service is not just for walking enthusiasts (otherwise the Vicar might not be there!) but for everyone.**

So do come and join us for this increasingly popular event.

Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm:

PHILOMUSICA CHRISTMAS CONCERT in St Mary's Church, Kempsey

It's great to announce another visit from our friends The Philomusica who will be giving us a concert full of festive song to really get us in the mood for the Christmas season.

Tickets are available on the door to include Wine and light refreshments during the interval.

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club meets on Wednesday 9th December from Noon; Christmas dinner at the Nash and then every Wednesday from 20th January, at 2.30 p.m. in The Parish Hall. Everyone most welcome to come and join this very active and enjoyable club that meets every other week. A warm welcome assured and a good time promised.

Age Concern Coffee Morning - meets every Thursday at 11.30 a.m. up to 17th December and resuming on 7th January at St Mary's House.

"Little Angels" for Babes & Toddlers meets at St Mary's Church each Friday at 11.00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY on Friday 11th December resuming again on Friday, 8th January.

"This is a lovely gathering for little ones in which they have a great deal of fun, a little children's service and shared refreshments afterwards. Everyone is most welcome.

Women's Fellowship meets in St Mary's House on Wednesday 9th December at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 9th JANUARY: 7.30pm "BEAT THE BLUES" FUN & SOCIAL EVENING
in KEMPSEY PARISH HALL

January can often be an anti-climax after all the activity and excitement of Christmas and so we thought we'd try to rectify this a little by having a really enjoyable evening of fun, laughter and fellowship to take away some of those winter blues. Please come along and give yourselves a treat and a real lift.

The National Trust - Croome Park

Carols at Croome Church—Saturday 5th December: Booking essential

Croome Court and Park are open to 20th December, Fridays through to Mondays only from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Last entry to the Court is 3.30 p.m.

From Boxing Day each day to 3rd January, 2010 from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., last entry to Croome Court is 3.30 p.m.

From 9th to 31st January on Saturdays and Sundays only, the Park will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and the Court from 11.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. (last entry).

Access to the Park and Court is only through the main Visitor Reception and Car Park.

For more details contact W/ 371 006 or e-mail: croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk

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.: "Little Angels" for Mothers, babes and toddlers.

DECEMBER**Sunday 6th**

8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green,
 10.30am: Family Communion Service CW at St Mary's Church (Please note that this is a Communion Service because of the Christingle Service in the afternoon)

4.00 p.m.: CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:

This is always a wonderful, moving and happy start to The Christmas Service as we gather to remember the birth of Jesus, The Light of The World. The service is enjoyed by both young and older folk as the Christingles are lit and we sing by candlelight with each child receiving a Christingle. So do come and join us on this special festive occasion. Proceeds from the Service go to support the work of The Children's Society.

PLEASE NOTE: that there will be no evening service at St Mary's

Thursday 10th 7.30pm: "LIGHT UP A LIFE" Service at Upton Parish Church

This is for everyone throughout our Deanery, when we remember and give thanks for our Hospice movement and pray for the wonderful work that they do. I do encourage you to give it your support. We can help with transport if necessary and please see Peter or one of the Church Wardens if you'd like a lift. Proceeds from the service go towards supporting our local Hospices.

Sunday 13th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Family Communion, 3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptisms, 6.00 p.m.: **ST MARY'S CAROL SERVICE**

This is always a very special service singing familiar carols with contributions both from our own Choir and children from our School playing the Handbells. The service begins in candlelight and it is a wonderful opportunity to hear again the Christmas story and to sing God's praises at the birth of His Son.

Sunday 20th 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, **10.30am: CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE, for the last few years this has been an increasingly popular service with contributions from the children and a really lovely and happy atmosphere for the whole family as we hear again the wonderful Christmas story.**

PLEASE NOTE that there will be no evening service at St Mary's because it is the St Denys' Carol Service and I know that many of you like to go and support our sister church on these occasions.

Monday 21st December: 6.0pm: CAROL SINGING at THE LAWNS NURSING HOME: Please do come and join us as we go along and join the staff and residents at The Lawns to sing the old familiar carols and help to share festive cheer with everyone.

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m.: MIDNIGHT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Friday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY: 8.00 am: Holy Communion BCP (with hymns), 10.30 a.m.: FAMILY SERVICE (with shortened reserved sacrament Communion)

Sunday 27th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion, PLEASE NOTE: there is no evening service today.

JANUARY 2010

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

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

Sunday 17th 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 24th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion, 6.00 p.m.: Evening Praise at The Firs.

Sunday 31st : (5th Sunday) 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: United Benefice Communion Service at St Mary's, Kempsey, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th 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.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP**Wednesday, 2nd December at 6.00 p.m. in St Denys' Church—
the Annual Christingle Service.**

Everyone is welcome, particularly families where the children receive a lighted candle and an orange to remind them of Jesus, The Light of The World.

SEVERN STOKE and CROOME d'ABITOT PARISH COUNCIL

The Council records it's thanks to all Residents who help to keep the Parishes looking tidy & well looked after.

Thanks also goes to several Parishioners who go along road verges collecting litter and others who cut vegetation in public areas.

The Parish Council would be delighted to hear from anyone who can spare a little time to help maintain other Parish items, like benches or Notice boards. If you can help please contact Hugh Hanmer on (W/ 371 327).

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 8th December — 'A Christmas Entertainment'

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Wednesday 16th December - 2.30 p.m. Carol Service at Berrow Church led by the Bishop of Worcester.

Thursday 28th January — 12.45 p.m.. at Upton Church Room— Lunch followed by the AGM.

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE**DECEMBER**

4th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins
12th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey
19th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson
24th Mrs Cox and Mr Cox

JANUARY

1st Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
8th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt
15th Mrs Joan Price and Friend
22nd Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins
29th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey

FEBRUARY

5th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE**DECEMBER**

4th Mrs Henderson
12th and 19th and 25th **All welcome to decorate
the Church for Christmas**

JANUARY

1st and 8th Mrs Opie
15th and 22nd Mrs Ewins
29th Mrs Henderson

FEBRUARY

5th Mrs Henderson

St. Mary's & St. Denys' website - a new, updated look www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk, – Check out this website! Please do get in contact, via the Contacts page, if you have anything to contribute.

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CHURCHWARDENS: Mr. Bryan Hadley
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CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd: 6.00 p.m.: Brownie & Guide Christingle Service

Sunday 6th: Advent 2 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.

Thursday 10th: 7.30 p.m.: "Light up a Life " Service at Upton Parish Church for the Hospice Movement.

Saturday 12th: 3.30pm: Walkers & Hikers Christmas Service at St Denys', Severn Stoke followed by refreshments; everyone most welcome to come along.

Sunday 13th: Advent 3 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

Sunday 20th: Advent 4 6.30 p.m.: **St Denys' Christmas Carol Service. (No morning service)**

Thursday 24th : Christmas Eve: 11.30 p.m.: Midnight Communion Service.

Friday 25th : Christmas Day 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion at St Denys', Severn Stoke.

Sunday 27th: Christmas 1 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise

JANUARY 2010

Sunday 3rd : Christmas 2 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.

Sunday 10th: Epiphany 1 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

Sunday 17th: Epiphany 2 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 24th: Epiphany 3 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Praise.

Sunday 31st: Epiphany 4 (Fifth Sunday) **10.30 a.m.: United Benefice Service at St Mary's, Kempsey**

FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th: Second Sunday before Lent 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.

**Peter and the Churchwardens would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very
 Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.**

Thank you to all the loyal and willing Newsletter distributors, thank you!

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.