

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel 40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Friends of St Denys
Saturday 28th February
**SOCIAL
EVENING**

Severn Stoke Parish
Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 12th March
7.30 p.m.

At the Rose and
Crown, Severn Stoke
The Friends of St Denys
**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

See inside for details

Kempsey

Saturday 7th February
10.30am-12.30pm at
St Mary's Church,
Kempsey

**A time of Prayer
and Support for all
and any who are being
affected by the current
financial situation.
Everyone most wel-
come.**

(see Pastoral Letter)

See inside for details

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

Dear Friends,

On Saturday 7th February between 10.30am and 12.30pm, St Mary's Church in Kempsey will be open for anyone to pop in who is experiencing any difficulties concerning the current financial crisis that is touching the lives of so many people: indeed all of us are affected to some degree. It may be that your pension is not worth what it was, that you have been made redundant or that your business is in jeopardy. It may be that you're finding it tough to make ends meet. Whatever the situation or concern we want you to know that we are here to support and to offer practical help and advice. It won't be just tea and sympathy although the kettle will be on and there will be refreshments for anyone who wants to drop in. There will be the opportunity to share privately and your circumstances will be kept confidential. St Mary's will be open for anyone in our United Benefice and that includes everyone who lives within the parish of St Denys' at Severn Stoke. Do feel free to pop in whether it's for ten minutes or longer and we can assure you of a genuine and warm welcome.

One thing that will be on offer to anyone who wants it, will be the opportunity to pray about matters that concern you. Your first reaction to this might be that prayer is just talk and that it doesn't achieve anything and you might recall prayers that you've made in the past that haven't been answered in the way that you have asked for. Sometimes prayer can be a profound

disappointment, but I do urge you to reconsider and not to give up bringing your needs and concerns before our heavenly Father. There is far more to this life than just what we see and there is another world that is operating at the same time as our own. Despite all that you experience of pain and loss there is a God who loves you and who has not forsaken or abandoned you. It is difficult, almost at times impossible, to hold on to this truth when you're in the midst of pain and confusion. Jesus Himself on the Cross cried out "My God, why have you forsaken me?" but three days after He died, it was proved beyond doubt that His Father God had not abandoned Him when He rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples and many others. This is the victory of love over hate, the victory of the God's acceptance over the world's rejection and the victory of Life over death.

I believe that this victory can also be yours and mine whatever the current circumstances of our lives, because no matter how dark the night might seem, the light of God's presence and love has not been extinguished. This is our hope as human beings and without it we are indeed lost. Recent events show us that human ingenuity and brilliance can only take us so far, but the resourcefulness of God and His love goes on for ever. There is never a recession of God's Truth, Love and Power and it will always be there for you. There is no credit crunch in heaven for the Love of God is not obtained on credit but is God's free gift to all of us. It is free but it's not cheap and the cost to us is that we have faith and go on believing, which is a high

Continued from Page 1

cost considering the pain and uncertainty that many people have to endure. The value of continuing to believe and to pray, however, is considerable and it can never be devalued for there is that which no amount of money can buy: the freedom, forgiveness, peace and love of God and the opportunity for all of us to have a new start.

The choice is yours but the inestimable gift of God's love and the new life that He alone can give is on offer to each and every one of us. He can and will raise you above your circumstances if you let Him. Another thing that is happening on **Monday 23rd of February at 6.30pm at St Mary's House is an initial meeting for anyone who would like to find out more about The Christian faith. No previous experience or knowledge is required and all enquirers will be most welcome with no pressure and no strings attached. All you have to want to do is to find out more about what God can offer you and then, over time, decide whether it's for you or not. I shall be leading the course and at the first meeting we shall discuss what day and time is best for you to meet. It would be good to see you and I promise that it will be interesting, enjoyable and very relaxed. I hope you can make it but if you can't but would still like to be involved, then please leave me a message on W/ 820202.**

There's a lot going on and a lot going wrong in the world at the moment and it may well be touching your life. If it is then please know that there is He who is above all our troubles and that if you let Him then He will open up a whole new future and one which nothing can de-value or take away.

With every blessing and prayer that you will take us up on these two invitations

Peter

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, 9th and 23rd February and 9th March. 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.

Friday 6th March: WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A special service to be held at 7.30p.m. at Upton Roman Catholic Church which is open to everyone of all denominations across the Deanery. Everyone most welcome (men included!)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Please note the new slightly different time

Stops at the Telephone Box at Deerhurst Close, Severn Stoke – every THIRD TUESDAY at 12.30 to 1.15 p.m.. Do support this excellent County Service.

EARL HAIG FUND

The amount raised in the Church Collection and the House to House Collections for Remembrance Sunday in this area totalled **£483.75**. Many thanks to those who gave and to those who volunteered to do the collections.

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

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st: Epiphany 4 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: 3rd before Lent 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion, 6.00 p.m.
 Evensong BCP

Sunday 15th: 2nd before Lent 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Service, 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 22nd: Sunday before Lent 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 6.00 p.m. Evening
 Praise at The Lawns.

Wednesday 25th: Ash Wednesday 7.30 p.m.: Special Service to mark the start of Lent

MARCH

Sunday 1st Lent 1 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: Lent 2 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion, 6.00 p.m. Evensong

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, 4th and 18th February and 4th March 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 11th February and 11 March at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's House, Kempsey.

Women's World Day of Prayer Deanery Service at Upton Roman Catholic Church: Everyone most welcome. **Friday 6th February at 7.30 p.m.**

CAB NEWS—How to deal with your debts during the Credit Crunch

Many people who have had trouble managing their finances, have been assisted by their local Citizens Advice Bureau, who then helped them draw up affordable debt management plans with lower payments negotiated over a period of time that takes account of basic household expenditure. Others who cannot set up these arrangements or whose situation has got worse, could consider one of the following options to deal with their indebtedness.

Learn more about an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), Bankruptcy, Administration Orders and Debt Relief Orders. One of these options may suit your needs better than your current arrangement.

A CAB adviser can do a full assessment which will take account of all your circumstances. A CAB debt adviser will be able to help you – go to www.adviceguide.org.uk for more information and contact details.

Malvern CAB is open:

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 10 am - 4 pm

Wed (Specialist Debt Advice - by appointment)

Tel: 01684 563611

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Sound and Loop system has now been permanently installed, funded by the generous donations in memory of Ponty Chatterton.

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: 12th and 26th February. 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

Watch this space for news of a possible website for the Parish Council.

SEVERN STOKE PARISH HALL**SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP**

22nd February—District Thinking Day for guides and Brownies all over the World.

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.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 26th February at 12.45 p.m. – Upton Church Room

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 10th February. A talk by Mrs Christine Gledhill on “Jam as a Craft”. The Competition is “An Original Jam or Preserve Recipe”.

The National Trust - Croome Park

The Park is open on Saturdays and Sundays and daily during Half Term during February from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

From 4th March to 29th March, the Park will be open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Next Event: Saturday 28th March – Walk around the World – Discover the worldwide origins of Croome's plants and trees. Booking recommended.

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

RECTOR: Reverend Peter Holzapfel

Office Address; St. Mary's Church House
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 Kempsey.

Cherry Tree Rectory
 3, Oakfield Drive,
 Kempsey, WR5 3PP
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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

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st Epiphany 4: 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW).

Sunday 8th 3rd before Lent: 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

Sunday 15th 2nd before Lent: 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 22nd Sunday before Lent: 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

Wednesday 25th ASH WEDNESDAY—7.30 p.m.:

United Benefice Service to mark Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent at St Mary's, Kempsey. Do come and join us at the start of this special season for a truly special occasion.

MARCH

Sunday 1st Lent 1: 10.30am: Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 8th Lent 2: 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

FEBRUARY

6th Mrs Cox and Mr Cox
 13th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
 20th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt
 27th Mrs Joan Price and Friend

MARCH

6th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

FEBRUARY

7th and 14th Mrs Opie
 21st and 28th Mrs Foulds and Mrs Derrett

MARCH

7th and 14th Mrs Ewins

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.

