

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

JULY & AUGUST 2009 The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Sunday 12th July
At 6.30 p.m.
OPEN AIR SERVICE
at the NASH with The
Band of The Salvation
Army

Sunday 26th July
11.00 a.m.
CROOME CHURCH
Service & picnic

Sunday 6th September
At 12.30 p.m.
SEVERN STOKE
ANNUAL BARBECUE
at Sheepcote Farm

See inside for details

Kempsey

Saturday 4th July
2.00 p.m.
St Mary's Summer
Fete,
Kempsey
Enjoy all the fun!
See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

I recently saw a big sign outside a church which read "2,000 years old and still under the Maker's Guarantee!" You certainly couldn't buy anything today with that kind of guarantee even with extended warranty! But what is the Christian faith a guarantee of? It's a promise that God's love for you will never change no matter how old or young you are or how many centuries pass by. God's love for those who inhabit this planet in three hundred years time will be just the same and just as great as God's love for you and me today. I said in a recent service "God will never love you any more nor will He love you any less than He does right now." Neither will the Truth of the Christian message change. Certainly people choose to worship God in different ways and even understand God in different ways, but what must unite all Christians is that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again to take away our guilt, to grant us forgiveness and to set us free and put us right with God.

The promise of God's unchanging love and the offer of complete forgiveness will never change and is open to everyone including you. **But the question never changes either and the question is "Will you take up God's offer of unconditional love and forgiveness for you?"** I read in the newspaper recently that someone had won the Lottery and was 3 million pounds

richer, but didn't know it. The person, whoever he or she was, had not claimed the prize and it was quite possible that the winning ticket had been thrown away or destroyed. This person was literally sitting on a fortune and was totally unaware of it. I don't know if that person ever came forward but if he didn't then I hope for his sake that he always remains blissfully unaware of his mistake. Just imagine having let all that wealth slip through your fingers.

The love and forgiveness that God is offering you, is a richer prize by far and there are so many people who are choosing to ignore or dismiss His offer. God has a prize waiting for you and one that no amount of money could ever purchase because the prize was bought by Jesus 2,000 years ago with His own blood, shed on the Cross. You are a millionaire in spiritual terms and, unlike the lottery winner, you can't claim ignorance because I'm telling you about it now. Don't screw up your chance of salvation, forgiveness and peace of heart, mind and soul.

You might feel inclined to say "Well, God's guarantee isn't worth very much because He doesn't prevent unfair human suffering and just look at the mess that religion has caused in the world!" Both of these accusations are correct and there is no doubt that untold suffering and cruelty have been caused in the name of religion. But whose fault is that? God's or our's? And it's certainly true that God doesn't prevent unjust suffering. He set the standard for this when He allowed His own Son to die on the Cross and millions of

Continued from Page 1

innocent people have shared in that pain since. But He didn't leave it there, for Jesus was raised from the dead and so injustice and unfairness do not claim the final victory. But, yes, it's still true that God doesn't stop innocent suffering. And yet, even within this world of injustice and unfairness, He still gives us cause for gratitude. Try making two lists of all the things that have gone wrong in your life and the things that have gone right and please try to be honest. Many of us are miserable because we choose to be miserable and no one is responsible for your happiness except yourself. The fact that you're alive, the love that you've known and shared, the sun that beams down on you, the person who asked how you were and meant it, the flowers in your garden (even counting weeds) or the flower on your windowsill and so many other things. Above all, the fact that God's love and forgiveness of you is guaranteed for all time. There are many of us who have watched our children suffer, but does that mean that we love them any less? So why don't we give God the same credit as we give ourselves? Even if the Lottery winner one day discovers the mistake he or she made, then they still haven't missed out on the ultimate prize of salvation. But it does need to be acknowledged and claimed.

So, whatever you're doing this summer don't waste time wishing you were doing something else and wherever you happen to be, don't spend time wishing you were elsewhere. Make the most of where you are, what you're doing and who you're with and add them to your list of things, people and places to be thankful for, so that when the winter comes you can be kept warm through your gratitude. Whether summer, winter, autumn or spring don't forget that God does love YOU and that's guaranteed for a lifetime and beyond no matter what!

With every blessing for a lovely Summer,

Peter Holzapfel (Rerd.)

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, 13th and 27th July and 10th and 24th August and 7th September.** 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.

Sunday 26th July: 11.00 a.m.: UNITED BENEFICE PRAISE SERVICE at St MARY MAGDALENE, CROOME followed by the ANNUAL PICNIC. Yes, everyone, it's time once again to gather at the magnificent Mary Magdalene Church at Croome and to fill the Church with God's praises and afterwards enjoy a picnic together overlooking Croome Court. What could be nicer than using this wonderful Church for that for which it was intended, to enjoy fellowship together and to delight in God's wonderful creation. I do hope you'll join us for what will be a lovely occasion.

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 July and 10th September. 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.

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.

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

JULY

Sunday 5th: 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 12th: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion,
6.30 p.m. OPEN AIR SERVICE at the NASH with the Salvation Army Band followed by
 Strawberries and Cream and Wine Cup

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

Sunday 26th: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP), **11.00 a.m. UNITED BENEFICE PRAISE SERVICE at
 St Mary Magdalene, CROOME followed by a Picnic**, 6.00 p.m. Evening Praise Service at The Firs.

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green,
 10.30a.m.: Family Service: 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 9th: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Informal Family Communion, 6.30 p.m. Songs of Praise.

Sunday 16th: 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Service, 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 23rd: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 6.30 p.m. Praise Service at
 Walter de Canteloupe.

Sunday 30th: 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30am: **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
 at St DENYS', SEVERN STOKE.** Please Note that there will be no Evening Service.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green,
 10.30 a.m.: Family Service including Holy Baptism, 1.30 p.m. Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

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, 8th (Trip to Minehead) and 22nd July in the Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. in Kempsey Parish Hall, then Summer break.

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

Women's Fellowship – meets on Wednesday 8th July at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's House, and 12th August (Garden Party)

SATURDAY 27th JUNE: 7.30 p.m.: PHILAMUSICA CONCERT in ST MARY'S CHURCH. Yes, our dear friends, THE PHILAMUSICA, are back with us for a wonderful Summer Concert. What a lovely way to spend a Summer's evening with a superb choir singing and sharing some of your favourite pieces of music, wine and refreshments in the interval and all in the great setting of St Mary's Church. Tickets are available on the door and all proceeds are in aid of St Mary's Church.

SATURDAY 4th JULY: 2.00 p.m.: ST MARY'S SUMMER FETE

Do please make sure that you come along and enjoy yourselves at this year's Fete which is bigger and better than ever with loads of interesting stalls, games, things to eat, cakes to buy, bottles to pull, donkeys to ride and lots, lots more.

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

With generous financial help from The Friends of St Denys, it has been necessary to erect a temporary rabbit-proof fence to part of the Churchyard, as rabbits (and Badgers) are causing damage. Please be careful, when tending graves as the surface has been made very uneven. If the fence is successful in limiting the rabbit activity, we hope to level the worst of the excavated areas with top soil.

PARISH REGISTER – St Denys' Church

Wedding: 30th May: Hugh Penne-Gould to Gemma Weeks of Severn Stoke.
With every good wish for health and happiness.

SEVERN STOKE and CROOME d'ABITOT PARISH COUNCIL

Janet Williams, our Parish Paths Warden, has carried out Stirling work over many years and is now looking to share her role.

Our two Parishes have a total length of 37kms (23miles) of Footpaths & Bridleways which need to be monitored.

The Parish Council invites anyone with an interest in walking, to become a joint Warden. A person who would like to take on any area or specific length of footpath in the Parishes should initially contact the Parish Clerk (01684-540 373) or Hugh Hanmer (W/371 327) for more information.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Pam and Tina, the present Guide Leaders, who are retiring in July after many years of service, are still hoping for a Volunteer Leader to continue their work. Could YOU fit the bill?

The Scouts and Cubs are looking forward to their camp in July.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 14th July—Garden Meeting at 6.30 p.m. At the Old School, Church Lane.

Tuesday, 11th August—"Work of St Richards Hospice" and
the Competition is "Six Homemade Sweets for a Gift".

Tuesday, 8th September—"Fairtrade and Kenya" a talk by Mrs Philippa Charlesworth and
the Competition is "Which three Food Imports would you miss the most?"

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 23rd July — 2.15 p.m. At Upton Church Room—A Report on Council's AGM, Croydon.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX

There is new help for people in debt that offers an alternative to bankruptcy. If your total debts are less than £15,000 and you're on a low income, you may be able to apply for a new debt remedy called a Debt Relief Order (DRO for short) that has just become available. You don't say whether you rent your home or have a mortgage, but you won't be able to apply for a DRO if you're a homeowner or you own things of value of over £300.

A DRO usually lasts for one year and during that time none of the people you owe money to will be able to take action against you to get their money back. At the end of the year, you'll be free of all the debts listed in the order.

To apply for a DRO, you'll need to contact an authorised adviser, for example a Citizens Advice Bureau adviser, who checks whether you meet the conditions and then applies for the order on your behalf. The order will cost you £90 but you can pay this in instalments over six months.

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

Malvern CAB is open:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.30 am – 4 pm, Fri 10 am - 4 pm
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**JULY**

Sunday 5th: Trinity 4

10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW),

Sunday 12th: Trinity 5

6.30 p.m.: The Salvation Army Band at The Nash followed by Strawberries and Cream and Wine Cup.

Sunday 19th: Trinity 6

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 26th: Trinity 7

11.00 a.m.: UNITED BENEFICE PRAISE SERVICE at St Mary Magdalene, CROOME, followed by a PICNIC. Please bring a garden chair or picnic blanket AND your

picnic.

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd: Trinity 8

10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion (CW),

Sunday 9th: Trinity 9

9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

Sunday 16th: Trinity 10

9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion.

Sunday 23rd: Trinity 11

10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise

Sunday 30th: Trinity 12 (5th Sunday) 10.30 a.m.: United Benefice Service at St Denys', Severn Stoke,

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th: Trinity 13

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion CW, followed by **the Annual Village Barbecue** at Sheepcote Farm, Severn Stoke.

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE**JULY**

3rd Mrs Bedwell and Friend

10th Mrs and Mr Henderson

17th Mrs Cox and Mr Cox

24th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey

31st Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt

AUGUST

7th Mrs Joan Price and Friend

14th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins

21st Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey

28th Mrs Bedwell and Friend

SEPTEMBER

4th Mrs and Mr Henderson

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE**JULY**

3rd

Mrs Henderson

10th and 17th

Mrs Westwood

24th and 31st

Mrs Opie (1st week Croome Church, 2nd week St Denys')

AUGUST

7th and 14th

Mrs Ewins

21st and 28th

Mrs Henderson

SEPTEMBER

4th and 11th

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.