

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

CHRISTIAN AID

10th –16th MAY

Friends of St Denys

Sunday 17th May

10.30 a.m. from

**St Denys' Church,
Severn Stoke**

**The Ponty Chatterton
Memorial Walk**

Sunday 7th June

At 7.45 p.m.

Jazz in Church

Advance Notice

Saturday 20th June

Severn Stoke

Summer Fete

Rose & Crown Green

Kempsey

Sunday 7th June at St
Mary's Church at 10.30am:

Special Family Service
followed by a Picnic Bring
& Share **Lunch for all the**
families who have had
children baptised over the
past 2 years.

See inside for details

Editor:

John Henderson
Tel & Fax: 01905 371 218

E-Mail:
johnandcara@hotmail.com

Technical Assistant :
Cara Henderson

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

Dear Friends,

Later this month we shall celebrate Pentecost and the time when the Holy Spirit came and filled those first disciples of Jesus transforming them from confused and frightened men to men who went everywhere boldly telling people about Jesus and proclaiming Him to be the Son of God. They didn't bring about this change but God did because it was part of God's plan and purpose not only for their individual lives but also the future salvation and history of the world. The Spirit that was given to them can also be given to you because, believe it or not, God has a plan for your life. It is not for us to work it out and certainly we shall never accomplish God's purposes in our strength or by our own cleverness but only by trusting in Him. And so how trusting are you? Psalm 118 verse 8 tells us that "it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Psalm 118 verse 8 is the actual centre of the Bible and you could say that its message goes to the heart about what faith is all about: trusting in God and not in ourselves or others. Have you ever wondered what the shortest chapter of the Bible is? The answer is Psalm 117 and the longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. Check it out for yourselves and in between the longest and the shortest chapters comes the central verse of the Bible: Psalm 118 verse 8. That in itself is an incredible fact but it doesn't end

there because if you add up the numbers of chapters before Psalm 118 it comes to 594 and obviously there is the same number of chapters afterwards. Now, if you add up 594 and 594 what does it come to? 1188 ie Chapter 118 verse 8! Have you ever felt that God was telling you something but you didn't know what it was? There is far far more going on in this earth, heaven and universe than we even begin to imagine and it is all in the hands of God. I don't know the reason why just like I don't understand why so many things happen in this world both good and bad but do I really need to know? Isn't it enough for me to know that somewhere, even right here and right now, there is a point and a purpose to my life that is being worked out by a person and a power whom I believe loves me beyond description and who has my life in His loving hands. I'm not talking about a trick or a coincidence of mathematics but a living Spirit and a living God who has put order and purpose into this world and who revealed it when He raised Jesus from the dead. God will raise you if you put your trust and confidence in the Lord and not in men.

This truth is at the heart of the Bible and it is a truth that the Holy Spirit can reveal to you if you invite Him into your life. It is a truth that can come to be at the centre and heart of your life and you will not regret it. You don't have to have fancy words or be a religious maniac: you don't even have to believe it all: all you have to say is "Holy Spirit, power of God, I want to believe in Jesus as My Saviour but I'm

Continued from Page 1

finding it tough. Please come into my life and fill my life so that my life can be changed and I put my trust in You.” If you say this prayer sincerely then you will not be disappointed and your life will be given a balance and a stability that you’ve never had before. You’ll have 594 chapters on one side and 594 on the other and you’ll be in the centre trusting in the Lord not having to understand it all but believing that all is possible through the power of Him who loves you and who has your life in the centre of His hand.

And so now I’m going to give you a personal invitation to come along to St Mary’s Church, Kempsey on the evening of SUNDAY 31st MAY which is Pentecost at 7.30pm in order to see something that will blow your mind one way or the other. It’s a film called “The Finger of God” about how God can do miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit. If you were sceptical before then you’ll either go away fully confirmed in your scepticism or else you’ll begin to believe. If you don’t come then you’ll never know and that would be a shame and a missed opportunity. It’s a completely free and open invitation and I promise you that you’ll be able to come and go and will not be confronted by any religious fanatics. The only thing you’ll be offered is a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a warm welcome but I promise you that it’ll touch you one way or the other, so be prepared.

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, (Not on 4th May, due to the Bank Holiday), 15th & 1st June. 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: 14th and 28th May. 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

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.

Please give generously.

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

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, with the orchestra from Kempsey Primary School,
 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.
 Evensong BCP
 Sunday 17th: Easter 6 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP with Hymns, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion,
 Rogation Sunday 6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (BCP).

Thursday 21st May: Ascension Day 10.30 a.m. Communion in The Lady Chapel, 7.30 p.m. Deanery Ascension Day Service, followed by the Deanery Synod in St Mary's House.

Sunday 24th: Sunday after Ascension 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP), 10.30 a.m. Family Communion,
 6.00 p.m. **EVENING PRAISE at The Firs.**

Sunday 31st: Pentecost (5th Sunday) 8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (BCP), 10.30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion. (This will be an informal Communion Service to celebrate Pentecost and as part of this we welcome children from Kempsey School who will be taking part in the service)
6.00 p.m.: Pentecost Praise Evening (Do come and join us to round off and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on this the official Birthday of the Church)

JUNE

Sunday 7th: Trinity Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP: Kerswell Green,
 10.30am: Family Service: This is a special Family Service today to which all the families who have had children baptised over the past 2 years will be invited as well, of course, as all regular members of our congregation. It will be a great opportunity to join together as a Church Family and the service will be followed by a Picnic Bring & Share Lunch to which I hope you will join us.

6.30pm: Thanksgiving Service AT St DENYS' CHURCH, Severn Stoke followed by the Annual Jazz Evening with THE SAUCE CITY JAZZ BAND.

. Please note that there will be no Morning Service at St Denys' and no Evening Service at St Mary's.

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, 13th and 27th May and 10th June 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 13th May at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's House, Kempsey.

SEVERN STOKE and CROOME d'ABITOT PARISH COUNCIL

For Information: Concessionary bus passes will not be valid on buses **leaving** Worcester before 9:30 am. They are valid for journeys going into Worcester, however.

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

Wednesday 3rd: 7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Michael and All Angels, Broadway. This is our annual service in the Archdeaconry when the Archdeacon addresses us and our new Church Wardens are sworn in for another year. Please do come along and give our Church Wardens, Bryan & Gail, all your support and encouragement by your presence and your prayers. We especially welcome Gail who is being sworn in as Church warden of St Denys' for the first time but also, of course, our thanks as ever go to Bryan for all his many years of caring for our beautiful Church and the worship that takes place there. If you require help with transport please mention this to Peter or our Church Wardens.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

May—Coffee Evening for Charity—time & venue to be advised.

Pam and Tina, the present Guide Leaders are delighted to welcome Jane Cook to take over from them when they retire. New recruits welcome to join the Guides and the Brownies.

A Brownie volunteer Leader is still desperately needed. Please contact Pam Gerrard on W/ 820955, if you can help.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 12th May— Resolutions, Scrapbooks! and the competition is "A small arrangement of Spring Flowers".

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 28th May at 2.15 p.m.—Upton Church Room—A talk by Mrs Rosemary Moss on "No Beginning", Baby Gown Project" followed by a Bring and Buy.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX—For free impartial advice on debt, bankruptcy and redundancy:

My husband left me two years ago and I am bringing up our three young children on my own. Since my marriage ended I have been getting income support but I have heard that parents in my position will now have to look for work or face benefit cuts. I'm worried what this will mean for my family. Can you explain what's happening?

It's true that the rules are changing for lone parents claiming benefits, but these will not affect you immediately. Before 24 November 2008, you were part of the group who did not need to be available for work as long as your youngest child was under 16. This meant you could claim Income Support.

Now, and **for new claims only**, this applies only if your youngest child is under 12. In future if your youngest child is 12 or over, you won't be able to claim Income Support just because you're a single parent. You will have to claim Jobseeker's Allowance and you have to be available for work. However you may still be able to claim Income Support for another reason, for example if your child is disabled or if you're a foster parent.

The rules are going to be changing over the next year or so for lone parents like you who are already on Income Support. You should be told well in advance about the change.

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

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.

Sunday 17th Easter 6: (Rogation Sunday) 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion (BCP) , followed at
 10.30 a.m. by **The Ponty Chatterton Memorial Walk.**

Thursday 21st Ascension Day 7.30 p.m. Deanery Ascension Day Service at St Mary's, Kempsey.

Sunday 24th Sunday after Ascension: 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

Sunday 31st Pentecost (5th Sunday): 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

JUNE

Wednesday 3rd: 7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Michael and All Angels, Broadway. Please see the entry on Page 4 under Parochial Church Council for more information.

Sunday 7th Easter 8: 6.30 p.m. Evening Praise followed at **7.45 p.m. by**

***JAZZ IN CHURCH* with SAUCE CITY JAZZ**

Sunday 14th Easter 8 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

MAY

1st Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey

8th Mrs Bedwell and Friend

15th Mrs and Mr Henderson

22nd Mrs Cox and Mr Cox

29th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey

JUNE

5th Mrs Joan Price and Friend

12th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

MAY

1st and 8th Mrs Henderson

15th and 22nd Mrs Faulds and Mrs Derrett

29th May and **5th June** Mrs Opie

JUNE

12th and 19th 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.