

# SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

## Forthcoming Events

### Severn Stoke & Environs

Saturday 14th November  
7.30 p.m.

### **Barn Dance with Dampier's Round**

At Severn Stoke Parish  
Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

21st November 10.00 a.m.  
to Noon

### **Churchyard Clean Up All welcome!**

Details of Christmas Ser-  
vices and Events.

### Kempsey

Saturday 21st November

### **St Mary's Parish Gift Day**

9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in  
St Mary's Church.  
Kempsey

Thursday 26th November  
7.30 p.m.

### **Deanery Social Event**

See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd  
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

You may have read recently of how some of our wounded and disabled soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have been verbally abused as they attempt to regain a "normal" life in society. It's really beyond belief that some people can act in such a cowardly, callous and wicked way because no matter what your personal view on the armed conflict you surely have to acknowledge the courage and conviction of those young men and women who are out there. It's no wonder that we're earning a reputation of being "broken Britain." There is no doubt that the war is being waged against an evil enemy with a medieval mentality, fired up by religious and political extremism, who would seek to subjugate and enslave not only their own people but the rest of the world given half a chance and all in the cause of doing "God's Will." I wonder if it's God's Will that hundreds of thousands in our Western societies are hooked on heroin that has its origin in the poppy fields of Afghanistan? It's a strange God that would seek to enslave and destroy the lives of people in this way! It's a strange God who would seek to blow to bits the lives of innocent people caught on the 100<sup>th</sup> floor of a skyscraper or the upper deck of a London bus! And our young men and women fighting in Afghanistan are making a valiant stand against the spread, indeed the existence, of such evil and they should be honoured not

condemned or insulted. It is such as these that we shall be remembering and paying tribute to during our Remembrance Day services.

In all probability the conflict in Afghanistan is a lost cause for there is little likelihood of any civilised nation being able to effectively control that part of the world. Its rugged and desolate terrain has successfully defied many armies and in its remote mountain caves and valleys there is always space for evil to breed. And even if we successfully administered the country how on earth is anyone ever going to introduce western style democracy to a people for whom it is not only incomprehensible but also alien? Indeed, is it morally right to try and do so because nations should have the right to forge their own futures in their own way as long as they then don't seek to inflict it on others. The days of Imperialism, whether western or eastern, should well and truly be confined to history.

So, does this make the conflict invalid? Certainly not! **You don't make a stand against evil or wage war against wickedness because you're assured of success but because it's the right thing to do.** Jesus died on a Cross because He stood up for what was right and not because He was promised success in rising again after three days. It's my personal view that Jesus didn't know that He would rise again for otherwise His suffering and sacrifice would have been a sham and a pretence. He did it because it was the right thing to do even though it broke the hearts of those who loved Him on earth. Failure in the eyes of the world is

seen as success in the eyes of God.

I believe in worldly failure even though I seek strenuously to avoid it and hate it when it happens. It's happened recently at St Mary's because when ten of our friends recently left the church, we lost an opportunity to become a modern evangelical church that would hopefully in the course of time have attracted more young families. I personally had staked a lot on such a development and so it is a blow for me and could be seen as a failure. But earthly failure often provides the key to spiritual success and there is so much happening at St Mary's that is positive and good and that we can build on for the future. God's perspective is not ours and certainly not often mine on a personal basis. So, let's thank God for all the good things in the past but let's put it behind us and seek the new thing that He wants to do. Do not be frightened of your failures because the only true failure is to have done nothing at all; embrace failure and use it as the gateway to success.

We may ultimately fail in Afghanistan but the conflict is still worth fighting because we're standing up for truth and freedom. We may experience failures and lack of visible success in our Churches but at least we tried and there is always tomorrow and God's new day with all the opportunities it provides.

May God bless you in your quest as long as it is a quest and not a standing still.

*Peter Holzappel (Revd.)*

## **SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER: PARISH GIFT DAY**

### **9.30am to 6.0pm at ST MARY'S CHURCH**

As detailed in last month's Magazine, St Mary's Church will be open for anyone to bring their contribution to the funding appeal for the much needed restoration work at St Mary's. The current project to restore and repair the North Side of the Church requires us raising £110,000 before work can commence. This work is necessary for the ultimate preservation of the Church and any and every financial contribution is most gratefully received. I am hoping that this Appeal and our Gift Day will be highlighted in the Worcester News so that more people will be aware of it, but please let your own friends and neighbours know about it. I know that many of you value St Mary's Church and the pastoral work and witness that it seeks to provide within our community and I thank you for your love, support and encouragement in the past. I would ask you, please, to support St Mary's at this time for your contribution, however large or small, is highly valued and will help ensure the life of our village Church of St Mary's, Kempsey into the future.

Many Thanks,

*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, 2nd, 16th and 30th November and 14th December. 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.

**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.

**NOVEMBER**

Sunday 1st 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.: All Souls Service:** : During this service, loved ones who have died will be remembered in prayer. This year names will not be read out as in previous years but members of the congregation will be invited to light candles in memory of those they love.

**Everyone is most welcome to attend and this is a United Benefice Service.**

Sunday 8th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.45 a.m. **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE,**  
 3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP.

Sunday 15th 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 22th 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 at The Firs.

Sunday 29th 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: United benefice Communion Service,  
 3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism, 6.30 p.m.: **EVENING SERVICE of ADVENT CAROLS at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke.**

**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:** A very popular Christmas Service for the whole family in which children receive a lighted candle and an orange to remind them of Jesus The Light of The World. All proceeds will go to support The Children's Society. Thank you in advance to the Women's Fellowship for producing our beautiful Christingles. Please note that there will be no Evening Service at St Mary's.

**HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY**

**The Cornflower Club** meets in The Parish Hall on Wednesday 11th and 25th November at Kempsey Parish Hall at 2.30pm. On Wednesday 9th December from Noon; Christmas dinner at the Nash. If you want to find out more or need help with transport to the club, then please leave a message for Peter on 820202.

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

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

**Women's Fellowship** meets in St Mary's House on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30 p.m.

**The National Trust - Croome Park**

**The Park and Cafe** is open from 7th November to 20th December, only on Saturdays and Sundays.

**CROOME COURT** - As from 7th November to 20th December, the Court will be open from 11.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from Fridays to Mondays inclusive. Access is only through the main Visitor Reception and Car Park.

**4th November—Croome Court—What lies beneath—Lecture lunch.**

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

**PARISH REGISTER – St Denys' Church**

**Baptism:** 4th October: Archie Benjamin Boyd Henderson.

**Marriage Blessing:** 4th October—Charles and Alexandra Henderson

**St Denys' Church**—Could the short aluminium step ladder borrowed from the Vestry please be returned.

**UPTON DEANERY SOCIAL EVENT**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER: 7.30pm at KEMPSEY SCHOOL: This is definitely not one to miss and is open to everyone in our parishes throughout our Deanery. It will be a great evening of light entertainment and delicious food hosted by our United Benefice.**

**All proceeds will go towards our Deanery Appeal to raise funds for educating children in the Third World.** During November there will be a **list at the back of church** for you to sign if you'd like to attend.

**CHRISTMAS AT A GLANCE**

To help you plan for the Christmas Season here is a brief resume of all the events and celebrations that are happening over Christmas:

**DECEMBER**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> :** 6.00 p.m.: **Brownie & Guide Christingle Service at St Denys', Severn Stoke.**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>: 4.00 p.m.: Christingle Service at St Mary's, Kempsey

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>: 12.00 noon onwards: Cornflower Club Christmas Dinner at The Nash

7.30 p.m.: Women's Fellowship Christmas Fun Evening with the Vicar

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>: 7.30 p.m.: "Light Up A Life" Service at Upton Parish Church in support of the local Hospice Movement. This service is for our Deanery and is open to everyone.

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

7.30 p.m.: Philamusica Christmas Concert at St Mary's, Kempsey.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>: 6.00 p.m.: St Mary's Carol Service including Kempsey Hand Bell Ringers

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> :** 7.30 p.m.: **Carols and Christmas Entertainment at The Nash with The Chase High School Brass Band.** This will include seasonal fare arranged by The Friends of St Denys. This is a ticket event only because of limited space. Tickets available from Wardens and John Henderson.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> :** 6.30pm: **Christmas Carol Singing at Orchard House Rest Home, Kinnersley by The Friends of St Denys.**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>: 9.30 a.m.: Kempsey School Christmas Service at St Mary's Church.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m.: St Mary's "Crib Service" for all the family.

**6.30 p.m.: St Denys' Christmas Carol Service.**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup>: 6.00 p.m.: Carol Singing at The Lawns Nursing Home in Kempsey followed by Carol Singing at the home of Robert and Maureen Pioli.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> :** **Christmas Eve:** 11.30 p.m.: Midnight Communion Service at St Mary's,  
**11.30 p.m.: Midnight Communion Service at St Denys', Severn Stoke.**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> : Christmas Day: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP (with hymns)

**9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion at St Denys', Severn Stoke.**

10.30 a.m.: Family Worship with shortened Reserved Sacrament Communion at St Mary's, Kempsey.

**EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Tuesday, 10th November — **Annual Meeting** — "Detox your house", a talk by Mrs Janet Clemas and the Competition is "Grandmother's Best Cleaning Tip."

**MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery**

Thursday 26th November — 2.15 p.m.. at Upton Church Room— Write Cards for Schools.



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**01905 371 383**

**Mrs Gail Brookes**  
**01905 821 823**

## CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

### NOVEMBER

**Sunday 1st: All Saints** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion CW,

6.00 p.m.: **ALL SOULS SERVICE** at St MARY'S, KEMPSEY; *This is a very special annual service when we particularly remember loved ones who have died. It is a United Benefice Service and open to everyone. This year names will not be read out but the congregation will be invited to light a candle to remember those they love.*

**Sunday 8th: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** 10.45 a.m. At St Denys', followed by wreath laying at the War Memorial and the same time at St Mary's, Kempsey.

**Sunday 15th: 2nd before Advent** 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise, 1.00 p.m. Holy Baptism..

**Sunday 22nd: Christ the King** 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.

**Sunday 29th: ADVENT SUNDAY (5th Sunday)**

**10.30 a.m.: United Benefice Communion Service at St Mary's Kempsey.**  
**(Please note that there will be no morning service at St Denys.)**

**6.30 p.m.: Advent Carol Service at ST DENYS':** This will be a lovely opportunity to sing some of the delightful Advent Carols with appropriate readings for the season. It will be something different that we haven't tried before and I do encourage as many of you as possible to come along and enjoy a time of worshipping God in a wonderful way.

### DECEMBER

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

For details of all Christmas Events and Services, please see the Item on Page 4, Christmas at a Glance.

## CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

### NOVEMBER

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

### 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

## CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

### NOVEMBER

6th Mrs Opie  
 13th and 20th Mrs Ewins  
 27th Mrs Henderson

### DECEMBER

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

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

[www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk](http://www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk) and click on **Home Page** for St Denys' news and events.

## **SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP**

Brownies, aged 7 to 10 years old, meet every Wednesday, during term time between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m.. New Brownies, please contact Mrs Broadhead on 01684 296 349.

### **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.

The Autumn Theme is "Dark things", like cooking with chocolate, investigating nocturnal animals and being seen in the dark for road safety.

Good news too that a volunteer is now helping the Group.

## **CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX**

**I work freelance, and have been self-employed for the last five years. Recently work has completely dried up, leaving me without a main income. What benefits can I claim while I look for another job?**

You may be eligible for income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), provided you do not have savings of more than £16,000. The amount you could claim would depend on your circumstances, such as savings over £6,000, any other income you may have, your age, as well as other aspects of your situation. If your partner works more than 24 hours a week you will not be able to claim this type of JSA.

You may also be entitled to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, which would be processed by your local authority. When you make your claim for income-based JSA, the Jobcentre should provide you with forms for these benefits as well. Some local authorities only accept their own forms, so it is advisable to obtain copies from them and return them as soon as possible. If you have children you may also be able to claim Child Tax Credit.

Self employed, sole traders who are struggling with their businesses, perhaps due to the recent recession, may be able to make a claim for Working Tax Credit if for example their income is expected to fall over the full year of trading. This would include families with an employed partner.

For guidance on these and any other benefits you may be entitled to, as well as help with making your claim, speak to an experienced adviser at your local CAB. You can also find more information on benefits at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) or [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk). To make a claim for JSA in England and Wales, you can ring Jobcentre Plus on freephone 0800 055 6688 (textphone 0800 023 4888), or 0800 012 1888 for Welsh language.

Malvern CAB is open: Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Friday

10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Tel: 01684 563611

For further information and advice, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or see [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).