

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

The Rector's Message : Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

**HARVEST
FESTIVAL
Service
at St Denys' Church
Sunday 4th October
at 10.30 a.m.**

**Kempsey and Severn
Stoke shared
Harvest Supper
Saturday
10th October
at 7.30 p.m.
Kempsey Primary
School**

**CLOTHES SALE
Saturday
17th October
10.00 a.m. to noon in
St Mary's Church,
Kempsey**

See inside for details

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

Dear Friends

We recently conducted a mini survey of 150 households in Kempsey in order to discover how people felt about the Parish Church and whether or not they would miss it if it wasn't any longer there or ceased to function as a worshipping congregation. The vast majority of people said that they valued the Church and that they thought it was a very important part of village and community life. This is very reassuring for me to hear and I thank all those who participated in the survey. Unfortunately, however, it is not an exaggeration to say that unless the Church has greater support both financially and in terms of people actively attending it, then its ultimate future is by no means certain.

In the case of St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke I would give it no longer than 5 years and in the case of St Mary's, Kempsey 10 to 15 years unless it has to be closed earlier because the building is unsafe. St Denys' has undergone a great deal of restoration work in recent years and thanks to the hard work of a number of people the building is now as sound as it has ever been in its history. It is a beautiful Church and is beautifully maintained. The weekly congregation, however, is between 12 and 15 persons most of whom are over 70 years old. This year St Denys' Church has to pay £15,000 to the Diocese of Worcester in

addition to its normal running and maintenance costs. St Denys', like all other Anglican Churches, receives no support from elsewhere and is completely dependent upon the generosity of those who attend. The sums simply do not add up and if the congregation continues to fall and costs continue to rise then something will have to give and, in the end, it will mean the closure of the Church. We say that the future is in God's hands but in fact it's very much in your hands and whether you are prepared to support it both financially and with your attendance.

St Mary's faces a different but equally challenging situation. The North Side of the Church is collapsing and in order to renovate it the current estimate is £110,000. The Church also requires a complete re-wiring of electricity as it is 60 years since the Church was last re-wired. The cost of this is £30,000. In addition St Mary's has to pay the Diocese of Worcester £45,000 per year plus all of its running and maintenance costs. The congregation last Sunday (13th September) comprised 52 people of whom 3 were small children. The average age of the congregation is over 65 years old. I cannot over emphasise that we are not a wealthy Church and get no financial backing whatsoever from either the State or from The Church of England. We stand or fall completely on our own and if the congregation does not significantly grow and/or the building is not repaired then we shall most certainly fall. The issue of whether we stand or fall is again in your hands and the value that

you put on the Church in terms of both attending it and supporting it financially.

You could say "Well, it's one of those things. It's sad but, after all, it's the way of the world and modern society has very little time for Church going or involvement with the Church. We have less need for God in our modern world." If this is the case then why do the majority of people still value and want the Church and its ministry? Why did hundreds of people come to support St Mary's Summer Fete? This week I will have conducted a funeral, performed a baptism and a wedding, taken several services, helped create the Parish Magazine, supported bereaved families, made 10 visits to people in their homes and in hospital most of whom are seriously ill, helped run a successful club for over sixties, written two sermons and made dozens of phone calls as well as hosting a meeting of the Youth Club in my home. I am certainly not redundant but people like me will be redundant if the situation regarding support of our churches does not change. Does it matter? In order to answer this question ask yourself who would do the work that I and others currently do and see if you can come up with an answer. I cannot think of any other organisation except the Church that has such a consistent or beneficial role within the community. I would even go so far as to say that without the presence of the Church there is not much community left.

Is this really something that is of such little value that we're prepared to see it go to the wall?

If not, then please consider supporting our Churches in some way before it is too late. On **SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER** there is a Gift Day planned for St Mary's Church, Kempsey. The Church will be open all day from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and I shall be there to receive any gifts that you may wish to make to the urgent restoration of our Church. There will also be Gift Aid Envelopes available at Church so that we can gain the maximum benefit from any donation made. There will be refreshments available and, as always, a very warm welcome. Our last Gift Day several years ago was a great success and we continue to be thankful for every penny and all those who gave so generously. The need, however, continues and I am asking you to help the Church if at all possible. Your gift will make a difference but it is not the only thing that will make a difference because it is your presence and involvement with the Church that is most needed. What would be the value of a solid beautiful building but with no one to fill it? The National Trust or English Heritage could take them over as museums and relics from the past but I would much rather see them as living, caring, vibrant centres of worship and community life.

The choices for St Mary's and St Denys' belong to all of us.....The choice belongs to you.

If you have any questions or need clarification about any matter concerning the life of our Churches, then please contact Peter (the Vicar) on 820202 and leave a message for him to get back to you.

With every blessing for the future and in gratitude for all those who have supported us in the past

Peter Holzappel (Revd.)

PARISH REGISTER – St Denys' Church

Baptism: 30th August: Benjamin Hayden Howard.

Wedding: 29th August: Richard Stephen Medcalf and Helen Elizabeth Le Gallais - Congratulations!
With every good wish for health and happiness.

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, 5th and 19th October and 2nd November. 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 from 11th September.

OCTOBER

Sunday 4th: 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, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.
 Sunday 11th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, **10.30 a.m. Harvest Festival Communion Service**,
 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP.
 Sunday 18th 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Praise Service,
 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion (BCP).
 Sunday 25th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion, 6.30 p.m. Evening Praise at
 The Lawns.

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**

This is an opportunity to remember and to give thanks for loved ones who are now with the Lord. Every person who has lost a loved one in the previous year will be invited personally but the service is open to everyone who wants to remember their loved one. This year individual names will not be read out but the congregation will be invited as part of the service to light a votive candle in their memory.

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club meets in The Parish Hall on Wednesday 14th with a trip to "Ye Olde Hob Nails Inn", Little Washbourne, near Tewkesbury for lunch followed by a visit to Evesham Countryside Centre and **28th October at Kempsey Parish Hall at 2.30pm:** 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.

Men's Group - Monday 5th October: 7.30pm: Communion Service in St Mary's House.

CLOTHES SALE— SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER: 10.00 a.m. to noon in St Mary's Church:

This will be a great opportunity to swap and buy various items of clothing for the whole family. Please also note that by this time there should be a collection point for old clothes in the Car Park of The Talbot and all clothes donated and placed there will earn the Church much-needed extra finance. So, do please help if you can.

The National Trust - Croome Park

The Park is open Wednesdays through to Sundays inclusive between 10.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m..
CROOME COURT - As from 26th September, the Court will be welcoming visitors. Please enquire as to the days and hours of opening on 01905 371 006.

4th October—Autumn Walk with the Head Gardener, Katherine Alker.

31st October and 1st November—Spooky Spirits—Dancing, music, story telling and more

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

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.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Mrs Angela Broadhead has kindly volunteered to continue the Brownie Group—wonderful news! Brownies, aged 7 to 10 years old, meet every Wednesday, during term time between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m.. New Brownies, contact Mrs Broadhead on 01684 296 349.

As it is the Centenary of Guiding this year, the Theme will be—"Working on Brownie Traditions."

Another regular helper volunteer and a uniformed leader are also desperately needed

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 13th October —"Worcestershire Remembered", a talk by Mr Roy Sturdy and the Competition is "An old photograph of Town or Country."

Tuesday, 10th November— **Annual Meeting**— and a talk "Detox your house" by Janet Clemas.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday 22nd October — 12.45 p.m. at Upton Church Room— A Bring and Share Lunch and a talk by Mrs Sue Giles entitled" The Hats we Wear."

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CARERS

Do you have a relative or friend relying on your help to live at home?

Join a Carer's Group for informal and friendly meetings with expert information and advice available as well.

Would you like to find out more about how to take care of yourself and the person you care for in relation to moving and handling or for advice on Wills, trusts and Powers of Attorney? **If the answer is YES,**

Ring Mary of the Worcestershire Association of Carers on Worcester 26500.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX

A bank that I do not normally deal with has contacted me to chase an outstanding debt. I think I may be a victim of identity theft. What should I do?

Identity theft is a type of fraud which takes place when someone you don't know gets hold of your personal details and uses them to apply for credit or to open an account in your name.

If you have been a victim of identity theft you will usually not have to pay for any money you have lost, unless it can be shown that you have acted fraudulently or without reasonable care, for example by keeping your PIN number written down with your card. You must act quickly:

1. Contact the bank straight away, keep a record of all conversations you have with them, and copies of any letters sent or received .
2. Report the matter to the police, and get a crime reference number.
3. Check with the credit reference agencies (details below) whether any applications for credit have been made in your name. If they have, you can ask to have the information removed from your file.
4. If you suspect that someone has got hold of your details by stealing your mail, or has fraudulently applied to get mail redirected from your address, you should contact the Royal Mail Customer Enquiry Number on: 08457 740740

For more information and advice about identity theft, go to www.cardwatch.org.uk, or to the Home Office website at www.identitytheft.org.uk or contact your nearest CAB.

Malvern CAB is open:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.30 am – 4 pm

Fri 10 am - 4 pm

Tel: 01684 563611

Wed (Specialist Debt Advice - by appointment)

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

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

OCTOBER

Sunday 4th: Trinity 17 10.30 a.m.: **HARVEST FESTIVAL Communion Service (CW)**,
 3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptism and Marriage Blessing.
Sunday 11th: Trinity 18 9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise.
Sunday 18th: Trinity 19 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion.
Sunday 25th: Bible Sunday 10.30 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise

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 our annual service when we
remember and give thanks to God for loved ones who are now with the Lord. This is a United Benefice Service and everyone who has lost a loved one in the past year will be personally invited. The service is, however, for all of us who have lost someone we love. This year names will not be read out but everyone in the congregation will be invited to light a votive candle in loving memory. Do join us for this most moving service.

Sunday 8th: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10.45 a.m. At both St Denys' and St Mary's.

For St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

Church Cleaning: We desperately need more volunteers, who would be able to give a couple of hours, every two or three months, to help clean the Church on a Friday or Saturday, vacuuming, dusting and mopping. If you can, or would like more information, contact John Henderson.

Flower Arrangers: Please will you show your talent, by joining the Rota – Every help will be given to new volunteers. Please contact John Henderson (W/371 218)

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

OCTOBER

2nd Mrs Joan Price and Friend
 9th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins
 16th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey
 23rd Mrs Bedwell and Friend
 30th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson

NOVEMBER

6th Mrs Cox and Mr Cox
 13th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

OCTOBER

2nd and 9th Mrs Henderson
Harvest Festival—Church Decoration on
Saturday 3rd October from 10.00 a.m.
All welcome to help.
 16th and 23rd Mrs Westwood
 30th Mrs Opie

NOVEMBER

6th November Mrs Opie
 13th and 20th 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.