

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Saturday, 24th April at
7.30 p.m. in Severn Stoke
Parish Hall

All welcome to a Talk by

**CHRIS PAUL,
THE INVETERATE
ADVENTURER**

on his latest escapade in Greece
reliving daring exploits
**DURING THE 2ND
WORLD WAR !**

See inside for details

County Young Farmers give it some wellie!

Quad-bikers from the
County will be riding from
John O'Groats to Land's
End, to Torquay for the
Young Farmers' National
Convention, in aid of

Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester and Diabetes UK.

Please contact:

01905 621 616

to pledge a donation

See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

This will definitely be my last Pastoral Letter for some time for, as you know, I am due to go on a period of Sabbatical leave and will return to work on July 3rd. But, before I go, I wanted to share with you the results of a Survey that we conducted last summer of nearly 150 households in Kempsey.

The aim of the survey was to find out how people view the Church and how important it is for the life of our community. I would like to thank all those who participated and apologise that it has taken so long to report back on the findings. The majority of those surveyed were not regular church attendees and yet well over half commented that the presence and life of the church was essential to the identity of the village and our quality of life. A similar percentage also said that in the event of loss and difficulties in their lives they would consider seeking the support and help of the church and its Ministry Team. Finally, over 60 per cent would like the church to be kept open generally so that they could use it either for prayer or simply to be quiet and still. These results are very encouraging and I'm convinced, following our recent open meeting to discuss the future of our sister church, St Denys', that they represent the views of many people throughout the country especially in rural or semi-rural areas. The majority of people may not feel the need to join the church for worship and fellowship on a regular basis nor, with families working hard throughout the week may they even have opportunity or energy, but this does not mean that they are uninterested in spiritual matters. This is reflected in the many contacts we have with people not only at times of sadness and loss but also at times of thanksgiving and celebrations such as weddings and baptisms.

People do feel the need to relate to something or someone bigger and greater in their lives and to seek such stability especially in an ever-changing world. I would repeat, what I have often said in the past, that we are there not only for the regular church attendees but for everyone who lives within our parish boundaries and this includes you. The Vicar or Ministry Team may not be able to visit every home within the parishes due to their ever increasing size but this does not mean that we are not there for you should a need arise. We do, inevitably, need you to contact us but assure you that if you do then we will always do our best to serve you accordingly. I am certainly not claiming perfection nor that some people don't fall through the net but we most certainly, with God's help, do our best. It is very encouraging for us to know that people would feel free and able to contact us and seek our assistance should the need arise.

On the subject of keeping the churches locked I have always thought it a wrong thing and a contradiction of what we're about to have our church buildings closed for most of the time. I deeply regret it. There are, of course, security

Continued from the previous page:

issues involved and insurance considerations but the general consensus of opinion among insurance companies seems to be that churches are now actually safer if they are left open. This is certainly an on-going debate and one that we shall be having again hopefully in the not too distant future, for personally I would like our churches to be left open much more if this were possible.

Finally, just to remind you that during my absence, Rev. David Hassell will have general responsibility for the parishes, working closely as ever, with our Ministry Team, Church Wardens and PCC's. Enquiries about Baptisms and Thanksgiving Services should be directed towards Libby James (W/353 935) who is one of our Readers. All phone numbers and contact details are in the Parish Magazine and Newsletter.

May I thank you all again for your love, support and encouragement and I look forward to once more serving you as your Parish Minister when I return in July.

With every blessing

Peter Holzappel (Revd.)

HAPPENINGS in SEVERN STOKE and environs

Your Church needs You!

New On-line Donation Facility for St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke and for St Mary's Church, Kempsey, now available via the Church website: www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk

It can be found on the Donations page where the "Donate Online Now" link will take you to the CharityGiving website (who help us with the on-line donations process).

See the 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.

**If you would like to help, have a word with Bryan Hadley, Churchwarden on W/ 371 383,
John Henderson W/ 371 218 or any member of the PCC.**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The House to House Collection starts on 9th to 15th May. Please look out for the red envelopes delivered to your door and please give generously for Famine and Disaster Relief.

THE ROSE & CROWN, Severn Stoke

It is sad news that the Rose & Crown has closed. We hope that it will be only for a short while. We are very grateful to Sylvia, as Publican for her support of fund raising events for St Denys and other charities during her time as Publican and we wish her and David well in the future.

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 (Except Good Friday).

APRIL

Maundy Thursday, 1st 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel,
 7.30 p.m.: United Benefice Communion Service.
Good Friday, 2nd 10.30 a.m.: Good Friday Praise Service at St Denys' Church
 2.00 p.m.-3.00 p.m.: Good Friday Meditation in St Mary's Church
EASTER DAY, 4th 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion (with hymns),
 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP
 (Please note that there will be no service at Kerswell Green today.)

Sunday 11th Easter 2 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Communion CW
 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP

Sunday 18th Easter 3 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: Family Service,
 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 25th Easter 4 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30a.m.; Family Communion,
6.00 p.m. YOUTH SERVICE led by Vision 33.

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Sunday 2nd Easter 5 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.

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club meets every other Wednesday at 2.30 p.m., 31st March, 14th and 28th April and 12th May in The Parish Hall. Everyone most welcome to come and join this very active and enjoyable club that meets every other week. A warm welcome assured and a good time promised.

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, 14th April at 7.30 p.m.

Men's Group meets at St Mary's House on Monday 5th April and 3rd May at 7.30 p.m.

County Young Farmers give it some wellie!

WORCESTERSHIRE'S Young Farmers will be giving it some wellie when they embark on a quad bike journey of over 1,000 miles for charity. A team of bikers from the County will be riding from John O'Groats to Land's End, then back to Torquay for the Young Farmers' National Convention, **in aid of**

Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester and Diabetes UK.

Two quad bikes have been donated for the marathon by No Mark Equipment of Tenbury Wells, so all money raised through sponsorship can go directly to the charities. The Young Farmers, all aged 26 or under, will be leaving John O'Groats on April 17 and aim to have completed their marathon by 23rd April.

Tom Goodwin, the Worcestershire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs County Chairman, said: "It will be a difficult challenge, it's hardly travelling in style and we will be at the mercy of the elements, but it's nothing compared to the challenges faced by the two charities we are supporting and those who benefit from their work. **Young Farmers always rise to a challenge and we're hoping businesses and individuals in Worcestershire will support our efforts with donations.**"

Anyone wishing to pledge a donation to "Tom's Top to Bottom Challenge"

should please contact: 01905 621 616

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 April and 3rd May.** 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.

EASTER REMEMBRANCE—There will be a **Branch of Remembrance** in the North Window to be hung with cards, available in Church, on which you can write the name of a loved one.

St Denys' Bible Study and Fellowship Group: Thursday, 8th and 22nd April at 2.30 p.m.

All welcome. Please contact John Henderson (W 371 218) for the next venue.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 13th April — 'The Australian Outback—Darwin to Perth', a talk by Mr. Bob Price and the Competition is "a holiday souvenir".

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

The Brownies will be celebrating Easter on a local Farm learning about lambing.

Sunday 25th April—St Georges Day Service and Parade, Pershore Abbey.

With the better weather, the brownies will be working towards gaining their Road Safety Badge.

Contact Mrs Angela Broadhead on 01684 296 349.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday, 22nd April, 12.15 p.m. at Upton Church Rooms— A bring and Buy and a Talk by Mrs Wendy Pettit on 'Relationships'.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**Dealing with Disrepair in Private Rented Accommodation**

If your landlord threatens to make you leave, or if you receive a notice to leave, get free, independent advice straight away from a Citizens Advice Bureau, or see www.adviceguide.org.uk, your nearest housing aid centre, or the Shelter helpline on 0808 800 4444 (see www.shelter.org.uk for more information on tenants' rights and eviction). The sooner you seek advice, the easier it will be to help you.

Malvern Bureau open: Tel: 01684 563611

Mon, Tues & Thurs

9.30am–4pm

Telephone advice: Fri 10 am - 4pm, Wed 10 am – 4 pm

The National Trust - Croome Park

Until 31st October, the Park, tea-room and shop are open every day from 10.00a.m. to 5.30p.m. Croome Court is open every day, except Tuesdays from 11.00a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Access to the Park and Court is only through the main Visitor Reception and Car Park.

May event—Evening Bird Walk on Wednesday, 12th from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Booking in advance essential.

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
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

APRIL

Maundy Thursday, 1st	7.30 p.m. United Benefice Service at St Mary's, Kempsey
Friday 2nd GOOD FRIDAY	10.30 a.m. Good Friday Praise Service at St Denys' Church 2.00 p.m. Good Friday Meditation at St Mary's Church, Kempsey
Sunday 4th EASTER SUNDAY	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Easter Day Celebration (CW)
Sunday 11th Easter 2	9.15 a.m. Morning Praise Service
Sunday 18th: Easter 3	9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 25th: Easter 4	10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Praise

MAY

Sunday 2nd: Easter 5	10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.
Sunday 9th: Easter 6	10.30 a.m.: Morning Praise Service. Christian Aid Week starts

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

APRIL

2nd	Mrs Cox and Mr Cox
9th	Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
16th	Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt
23rd	Mrs Joan Price and Friend
30th	Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins

MAY

7th	Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey
14th	Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

APRIL

9th	Mrs Doreen Ewins (2nd week)
16th and 23rd	Mrs Daphne Derrett
30th April and 7th May	Mrs Cara Henderson

Further copies of this Newsletter can be obtained on-line: www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk and click on **Home Page** for St Denys' news, events and donation giving..