

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2010 AND JANUARY 2011

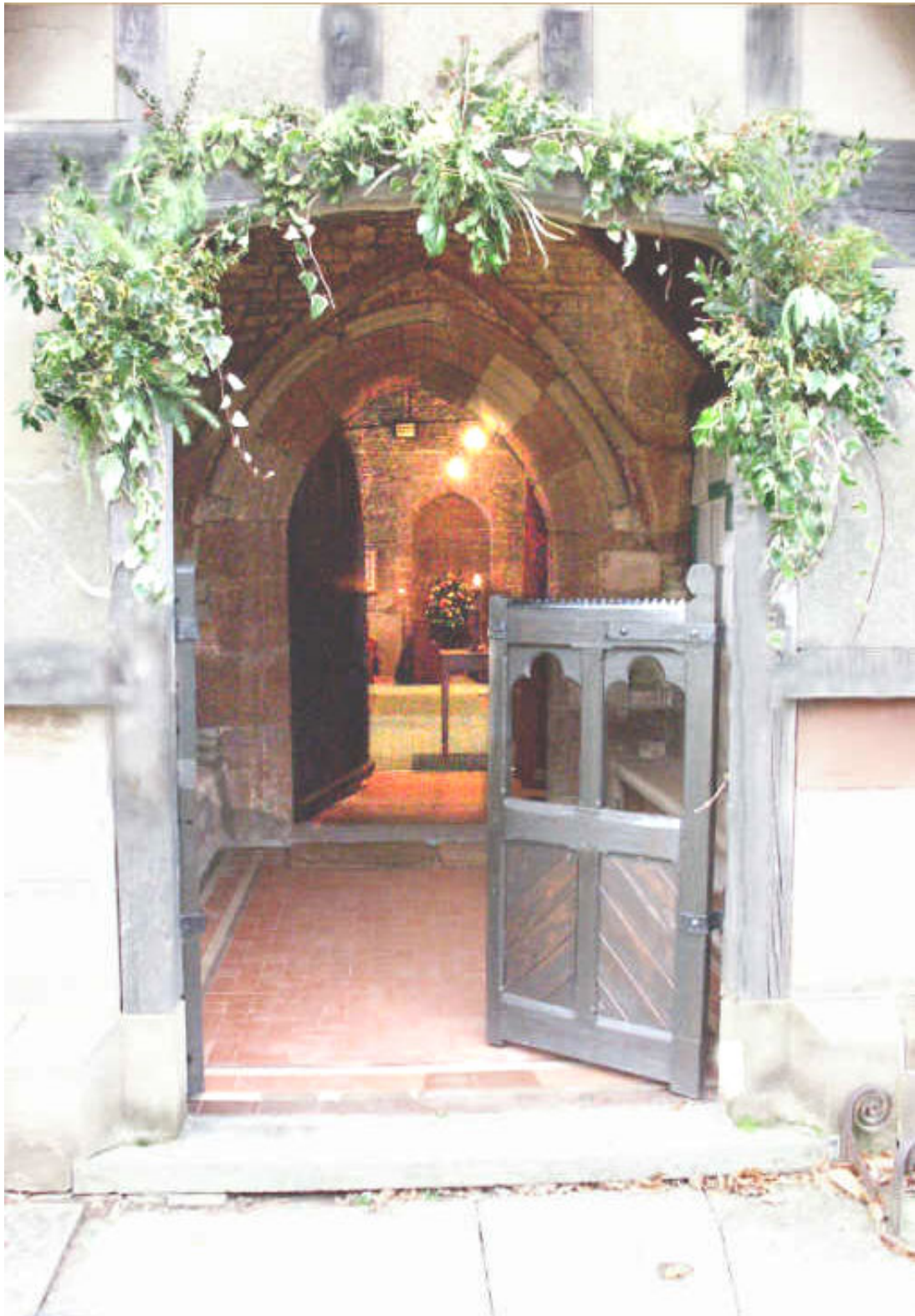


Photo by Stanley Watkins

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER and JANUARY

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzappel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Friends of St Denys

Tuesday,
14th December
CAROLS
AT THE NASH
7.30 p.m.

Sunday
19th December
St Denys' Church
CAROL SERVICE
at 6.30 p.m.
And Events for next
year

Kempsey

SAVE the CHILDREN
CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday

4th December from
10.00 a.m. to Noon at
Kempsey Parish
Hall

Saturday
18th December
Philomusica
Christmas Concert
at 7.30 p.m. at St
Mary's Church.
See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

How are you getting on with sending your cards and buying your Christmas presents? Or daren't I ask! I was speaking with someone the other day who said that she always promises herself that she'll start the preparations for Christmas early but somehow always fails to do so. This inevitably leads to a panic just before Christmas. I wonder how the three Wise Men got on and whether they were prepared? They had to grab boxes of gold, frankincense and myrrh and head off on the long hazardous journey to Bethlehem with nothing but a star to show them the way. At least they were spared the task of going out and buying wrapping paper and gift tags! But, even so, I don't suppose they were given much warning.

I wonder if they panicked. Somehow I don't think they did because being "wise" they were probably fully prepared. The real preparation for Christmas and for God entering our lives doesn't begin in the shops with the opening of your wallet but within your being and the opening of your heart to receive Him. Is your heart open to receiving the truth and love that God longs to give you? If not then I wish you a very Happy Christmas of being as self-indulgent as possible but, if you are open, then you'll receive so much more than a collection of presents and a superb Christmas lunch.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with having a good time and celebrating to the hilt but it's even better when you know why you're celebrating. Christmas is nothing but a word if you take the Christ out of it. Those wise men had never known Jesus but they were looking and searching for Him and, because of this, when that Star appeared they knew that this was the sign that something out of this world was happening and that they had to follow it. They searched with their hearts and, clutching their gifts, they found what they were looking for and what they received from God was far, far more than anything they could have given.

So, how prepared are you for the 25th December, the birth of Jesus? Or, to put it another way, how open are you to searching and finding the Truth and knowing, deep within your heart, that you are unconditionally loved and loving others in the same way? The message of Christmas Day is a message and a challenge for every day and one on which our peace and happiness depends.

So, don't panic if your preparations aren't going according to plan because it'll all fit in in the end: it usually does! But do prepare yourself for when Love comes down on your life, as gently as snow falling to the ground, and makes Christmas a truly life-changing experience.

May God richly bless you this Christmas and in the year ahead and beautifully remind you of His love for you.

Peter Holzappel (Revd.)

HAPPENINGS in SEVERN STOKE and environs

Wednesday, 8th December

USBORNE BOOKS SALE FOR ACORNS HOSPICE

It's nearly Christmas so why not come along to an **Usborne Books Sale in support of Acorns Hospice?**

I will have a wide range of lovely books from 0-12 years old, available to order or buy on the day.

From the sales, **I hope to donate £50 of books to Acorns Hospice in time for Christmas.**

Ellen Woodley is looking forward to seeing you between 9.30 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. at Lower Farm, 12 Kinnersley, Severn Stoke (turn down the unnamed road beside the racing stables)
Tel 01905 371495 or email funkidsbooks@hotmail.com for further info.

Saturday 11th December at 3.30pm in St Denys' Church:

The WALKERS & HIKERS CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

For the last few years this has become one of the main events of the St Denys' Calendar as we are joined by well over a hundred friends and well wishers to enjoy singing God's praises with traditional carols followed by mulled wine and refreshments. It really is a wonderful occasion and

I do hope that you will be able to join us this year on this at this very special service.

Peter Holzappel (Revd.)

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Christingle Service - Wednesday 1st December at St Denys' Church at 6.00 p.m.— jointly with Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

A Fundraising Committee has been set up to raise money for improvements to our meeting place – watch this space for details of events – any support gratefully received.

We will be concluding the year with a Party for Brownies and Carol singing for the elderly and looking forward to a pantomime visit in early January.

As always, new leaders/ volunteers are very welcome.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Wednesday, 8th December— Christmas Party and “The Man and his Music—Richard Rogers”, a talk by Tony Breedon.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Wednesday 8th December—Deanery Carol Service at Berrow Church at 2.00 p.m. Followed by tea in Berrow Hall.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The amount raised around this area will be reported in the February Issue.

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 on Friday 3rd and on 10th December, the Christmas Party with weekly meetings resuming again on 7th January.

DECEMBER

Sunday 5th Advent 2 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green, 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion (PLEASE NOTE: that this is a Communion Service because of the Christingle Service in the afternoon) **4.00 p.m.: CHRISTINGLE SERVICE.**

Sunday 12th Advent 3 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Service of Holy Communion, 6.00 p.m. St Mary's Carol Service followed by Mulled Wind, Mince Pies and Stollen Cake!

Sunday 19th Advent 4 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, **10.30 a.m.: Christmas Crib Service** with the Dance Group and Kempsey Handbell Ringers followed by Mulled Wind, Mince Pies and Stollen Cake! **6.30p.m.: Service of Lessons and Carols at St Denys', Severn Stoke.** (No evening service at St Mary's.)

Friday 24th Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m.: Midnight Communion Service

Saturday 25th Christmas Day 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP with Hymns,

10.30am: Christmas Day Family Service followed by shortened reserved sacrament Communion Service.

Sunday 26th Boxing Day 10.30am: United Benefice Service of Holy Communion (BCP) at St Mary's, Kempsey (this will be a said service).

JANUARY

Sunday 2nd Epiphany Sunday 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green, **10.45 a.m. FAMILY SERVICE:**

As from the beginning of this year our Family Service **on the first Sunday of the month** is going to be quite different. We're going to **gather in Church from 10.00 a.m. onwards for refreshments:** yes, not afterwards but before the service and then **at 10.45am we shall have a Family Service lasting no longer than 30 minutes.** These times will be for all the family and will be lively, enjoyable and interactive times of worship and fellowship. This is a new way of approaching worship and hopefully you will join us and come along on this new venture. Also please see article in this Magazine.

6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP PLEASE NOTE that because attendances have been decreasing in the evening it is very likely that, for the duration of the winter months (up to and including April) there will only be one evening service per month on the first Sunday at 6.00 p.m. This will not affect the service at The Firs on the fourth Sunday every other month. This decision is yet to be finalised by the PCC but they do not meet until after the printing of this Magazine and so I thought it best to let you know of this possible decision in advance.

Sunday 9th Epiphany 1: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Communion.

Sunday 16th Epiphany 2: 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Service.

Sunday 23rd Epiphany 3: 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30am: Family Communion.

Sunday 30th Epiphany 4 (5th Sunday): 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30am: **United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Denys,** 6.00 p.m.: Evening Praise Service at The Firs.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 6th : 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green, 10.00 a.m. onwards: Family Service (see article in this Magazine), 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

FRIENDS OF ST. DENYS

“**Sabbatical Revelations**”, the Vicar’s Talk on his visits to France and Spain as part of his Sabbatical earlier this year showed his talent for taking beautiful photographs with a meaningful narrative. Thanks to those who attended; the event raised about £130 towards funds. Thank you, Peter!

The Friends’ Christmas Cards

The good quality Cards measuring 7”x5” picture **St Denys’ Church, in the snow**, from the Rose & Crown Green. **ONLY 50p each. FANTASTIC VALUE!**

Available from St Denys’ Church at service times, at The Rose & Crown and from John Henderson (W/ 371 218). Please be sure to buy early to avoid disappointment!

Thursday 9th December—6.30 p.m. Carols at Orchard House, Kinnersley.

Come and join us to sing Carols to the Residents for just half an hour.

Let John Henderson (W/371 218) know if you would like to join us.

Tuesday 14th December at 7.30p.m.

CAROLS AT THE NASH

with the Chase Brass Band led by Rev. Peter Holzapfel

followed by sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine

Tickets at £6.00 each with children under 16 free,

available IN ADVANCE ONLY due to limited numbers

from John Henderson (W/371 218) and from the Kempsey Churchwardens.

Sunday 19th December at 6.30 p.m. St Denys’ Church Carol Service
followed by mulled wine, mince pies and Stollen Cake provided by The Friends

Friday 21st January—COFFEE MORNING & BRING & BUY

10.30 a.m. To Noon at Pippins, Kinnersley with Merab and Brian Opie

Come and be cheered up on this winter morning. Everyone Welcome!

Please park up the hill on Kinnersley Bank, if you are able to.

Wednesday 16th February—SOUP, SAMBOS & SHERRY

12.30 p.m. at Severn Stoke Parish Hall

Come along to a warming little lunch in good company with music from Sally on her Piano and **bring a friend from outside the Parish.**

Tickets available only in advance at £5.00 from Merab Opie (W/ 371 100)

or John Henderson (W/ 371 218)

Please support The Friends of St Denys and enjoy yourselves!

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club usually meets every other Wednesday at 2.30 p.m., but in December on the 8th, they will meet for Christmas lunch at The Malbre and then will resume on 19th January and then 2nd February in Kempsey Parish Hall.

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

Women's Fellowship meets in St Mary's House at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th December and 12th January.

Men's Group meets at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 6th December and 3rd January in St Mary's House, Kempsey.

"Coming Together" - Monday 13th December and 10th January at 10.30 a.m. in St Mary's House, Kempsey.

SAVE the CHILDREN CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 4th December from 10.00 a.m. to Noon at Kemspey Parish Hall

Come and see Father Christmas, tombola, cakes and all sorts of stalls, refreshments and join in singing Carols.

Thursday 16th December at 6.00 p.m.—Carols at The Lawns Nursing Home.

Saturday 18th December: Philomusica Christmas Concert

at 7.30 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Kempsey. Tickets available on the door.

Come and join this always happy occasion.



Learn Italian!



Thinking of a holiday in Italy or just fancy learning something new?

Kempsey-based Italian tutor

small groups, private or family lessons
beginners welcome: no prior knowledge necessary
a fun and friendly atmosphere guaranteed!
now enrolling new students for 2011

Contact Louise Lilly for more information

Tel: (01905) 821007

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