

# SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

### Forthcoming Events

#### Severn Stoke & Environs

#### Friends of St Denys

**Sunday, 6th June**  
**at 7.45 p.m. in St Denys' Church**  
**Jazz in Church**

Following The Friends of St Denys Special Service at 6.30 p.m. with our favourite **Sauce City Jazz Band**

**Saturday 17th July,**  
**THE JULY EVENT!!**  
**SCALEXTRIC RACING**  
**in the Church (not the Parish Hall)**  
See inside for details

#### Kempsey

**St Mary's Parish Fete**  
**Saturday, 3rd July**  
at 2.00 p.m.

All welcome to this Traditional Fete in St Mary's House and Churchyard

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Please submit Copy by 2nd  
Monday next month

**Whilst the Rector is away on his Sabbatical, members of the Pastoral Team will take it in turns to provide this Letter.**

Dear Friends,

The General Election is over and a Coalition Government has been formed for the first time since the Second World War. Party policies have been changed for the 'Good of the Nation.' It would seem that fairness, openness and trust are now at the forefront of the Coalition thinking. Many critics say it will not work, I say, give it a chance. I feel sure that many of us were confused as to which was the best political party to vote for. In truth, I suppose all parties are like the 'Curates Egg', good in part. The country did not vote for one set of political policies, it has voted for a hung parliament and who knows, this could be the best thing that has happened for a long time in government.

God, I believe, created each one of us to have freedom of thought and speech. It is right that we should have our own ideologies and thinking, but Jesus said that there should be consensus and that together all things are possible. Often we can become so set in our own way of thinking that we become destructive rather than constructive. Often we lose sight of where we want to be and find ourselves looking the wrong way and seeking the wrong things, though at the time we are not aware of this. So, where do we look for those things that are honourable, just and fair?

I am reminded of an experience in my life in seeking an answer to this question. When my mother and father celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Bernice and I took them on holiday to the city where I was born, Plymouth. We stayed at the Grand Hotel, situated on Plymouth Hoe overlooking Plymouth Sound. On the evening we arrived, as we sat down for our evening dinner, the weather was very misty and damp. We sat over looking the Sound and I said to my father 'If it was a clear night we would be able to see the light of Eddystone Lighthouse on the horizon,' pointing to the right as I said this. My father replied: 'I didn't try shooting down German planes bombing Plymouth during the war stationed on board my ship in Plymouth Sound and not know where Eddystone Lighthouse is, as he pointed to the left. Thinking better of it, I decided to let the subject lie.

The next morning, mother and father were down to breakfast before us. As we sat down, sitting at the same table we had sat at the night before, the sun shining and the horizon very clear, my father welcomed us with these words: 'Do you know what my son; somebody has moved Eddystone Lighthouse some fifty miles across the horizon over night'. All we could do was sit back and laugh. The point of this story is this, so often in our lives we are looking in the wrong direction in our lives and become confused and lost about the very purpose of life itself

The reason Eddystone Lighthouse is there is to guide sailors and their ships around the rocks to avoid danger and death. Jesus came into the world to be the 'Light of the World' to show us the way to live our lives, that we should be concerned for one another, that we should love God and our neighbours, and to seek forgiveness for our mistakes and through the death and resurrection of Jesus to live our lives in eternity with God himself, and avoid eternal death.

If we are to achieve these, then we must change. We have to work at them; we must want them and believe. I believe that life eternal and sharing in God's love, which he freely offers to us all, is worth the effort. It is something like the Lotto slogan, 'You have to be in to achieve it.' It might not be easy, your values of life will change, your understanding of God and his Will will change you for ever, but it is well worth it and God will be there for you

So it is for the new Coalition Government. It will be difficult; the people have voted that politicians should work together for the good of the Nation and the people they seek to serve, and may they always seek to look in the right direction to achieve what is honourable and fair for all people.

Your friend in Christ, David Hassell.

**HAPPENINGS in SEVERN STOKE and environs****SEVERN STOKE WITH CROOME d'ABITOT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Please note that a copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on 21st March are available on the Table in Church, with a copy pinned to the Church Porch Notice Board for a short period.

**Thursday 17th 10.00 a.m. to Noon - Back to Church Training Day at St. Peter's Baptist Church.**  
7.30 p.m. Budget Consultation meeting St. James Church, Welland.  
This is an open meeting for all who are interested.( coffee from 7pm)

**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](http://www.stmaryskempsey.org.uk)**

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

See the 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.

**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.**

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

Tuesday, 8th June—**Garden Meeting** 6.30 p.m. at Dunstall House.

**SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP**

This term's theme is 'Out and about'. Brownies visited Pershore Police Station on 5<sup>th</sup> May and are working towards their Road Safety badge, culminating in a visit to Upton to put what they have learned into practice. We are also making masks for participation in Pershore Carnival on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The list is currently full but we are taking names for entry in September 2010.

The Brownies: Contact Mrs Angela Broadhead for details on joining the Group on 01684 296 349.

**MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery**

Thursday, 24th June—**Garden Party**—Venue to be announced.

**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.

**Saturday 5th June –Elgar at Croome,**

**Sunday 20th June All Nations Picnic,**

**Monday 21st June to Sunday 27th June - Midsummer Picnic Week,**

**Saturday 26th June Croome Music Season—Rising Stars at Croome and also, 'The Wind in the Willows'. Booking in advance essential.**

For more details contact W/ 371 006 or e-mail: [croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX** Continued from previous page.

If you are a woman, the earliest age from which you can start getting your State Pension will increase from the current age of 60. The State Pension age for women is rising gradually between 2010 and 2020 to make it the same as for men, currently 65. Your own State Pension age depends on your exact date of birth.

You can get a forecast at any time telling you how much State Pension you may get when you reach state pension age from the Directgov website. You can also find out what information you'll need before you apply. Go to: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk). It is essential that anyone planning their retirement looks closely at how the new issues will affect them. It is possible (in some circumstances) if your national insurance record is incomplete, to pay backdated NI contributions. There are also ways to protect your record, for example by paying voluntary contributions (class 3), or taking action to ensure you get them credited. These issues are complex and the Directgov website has lots more information about changes to the state retirement pension and how these may affect you.

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

Malvern CAB is open:

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 10 am - 4 pm

Wed (Specialist Debt Advice - by appointment)

Tel: 01684 563611

**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.

**JUNE**

Sunday 6th First after Trinity 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

Sunday 13th 2nd after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Communion ASB  
6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP.

Sunday 20th 3rd after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: Family Worship,  
6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 27th 4th after Trinity 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30a.m.; Family Communion ASB  
6.00 p.m.: Service at The Lawns.

**JULY**

Sunday 4th 5th after Trinity 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., 9th, 23rd June and 7th July 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, 9th June at 7.30 p.m.

**Men's Group** Sunday 6th—Barbecue 12.30pm St. Mary's house.

**"Coming together"** meets on Monday 14th at 10.30 am in St. Mary's House.

**St Mary's Parish Fete**—Saturday, 3rd July at 2.00 p.m.

**United Benefice of Kempsey and Severn Stoke with Croome d'Abitot Church News****CONTACTS DURING PETER'S SABBATICAL****29th. March – 3rd. July**

David Hassell (828096) has overall responsibility for the parishes during Peter's Sabbatical as well as specific responsibility for Weddings and Funerals: For Baptisms: Libby James 353935

For Pastoral Matters please contact David or one of the Readers

Sheila Cook 831829

Peter Fitzjohn 820320

Libby James 353935

For all other enquiries please contact Church Wardens

St. Mary's: Alan Plowman 769214

Libby James 353935

St. Denys' Bryan Hadley 371383

John Henderson 371218

For bookings of St. Mary's House please phone

Julia Grant 820138

Please contact us if we can help us in any way

**United Benefice Prayer Meetings** – Welcome to our meetings (usually every other Monday) for an hour, from 8.00 p.m. on Monday, 14th and 28th June and 12th July. 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.

**St Denys' Bible Study and Fellowship Group: Thursday, 10th and 24th June and 8th and 22nd July at 2.30 p.m.**

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

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

Thank you to all those who assisted this year with the House to House Collection. The sum collected will be published in next Month's Issue.

**CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX Changes to State Retirement Age**

State Pensions are changing. If you reach State Pension age on or after that date then you will get a State Pension under the new system. For most people the changes will happen automatically, but you may need to take action to make sure you get everything you are entitled to. To get a full basic State Pension, currently around £95 per week, you will only need to build up 30 qualifying years of National Insurance contributions or credits. Under the old system, women normally needed 39 qualifying years and men 44 qualifying years.

To start getting some basic State Pension, you will only need one qualifying year of National Insurance contributions or credits. The changes will affect everyone whose State Retirement age falls on or after 6 April 2010 and will also make it easier to get a full basic State Pension for many people with caring responsibilities.

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