

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzappel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

Wednesday 17th March
7.30 p.m.

**Friends of St Denys
AGM followed by a
Talk on
Croome Court and
Park,**

**by
Michael Smith,
National Trust**

All welcome

**St Denys' PCC AGM
Sunday 21st March
at 10.30 a.m.
See inside for details**

Kempsey

**Monday 8th March
7.30 p.m. at
The Walter de Cantaloupe
Kempsey**

**Discussion
and light refreshments**

**LENT LUNCHESES at
The Firs from
12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Each Wednesday
through March.
Mary's Church.**

See inside for details

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Please submit Copy by 2nd
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

This will be my last Pastoral Letter for a while as I am about to go on a three month period of Sabbatical leave. Every ten years in the Church of England a minister is allowed three months paid leave to do something different from his usual work and hopefully to recharge his/her batteries. It is, in fact, thirteen years since I last had a sabbatical and therefore I'm a little overdue and thought that, having served here now for over 10 years, this year would be a good opportunity to take one. I shall be away from Monday 29th March to Saturday 3rd July and will hopefully make my reappearance at The St Mary's Summer Fete on The Bottle Stall! As you probably know I'm a very keen photographer and I hope to spend a good deal of my time away taking photographs and putting together an exhibition that will hopefully be thought provoking and stimulating and which will be on display later this year.

I am very fortunate here in having the support of a wonderful, very able and supportive team and, therefore, will be leaving the life and work of the United Benefice in very good and capable hands during my absence. The Rev David Hassell (828096) will be the resident minister ably supported by our three experienced Lay Readers: Peter Fitzjohn (820320), Sheila Cook (831829) and Libby James (353935) I know, therefore, that the life and work of our Churches will not only continue but bloom in my absence and rest assured that both pastorally and spiritually everyone will be catered for.

It is, of course, good to know that during any time of change there is One who does not change and that is Jesus Christ our Lord and our Saviour. We are ultimately not in the hands of any human being but are in His totally powerful and loving hands. It is we who plant the seeds but it is God who gives the growth and brings things through to completion and fruitfulness. This is the wonderful message of Easter which lies at the heart of our faith. The disciples had pinned their hopes on Jesus and yet, on Good Friday, all those hopes appeared to be dashed as they saw Him betrayed, crucified and killed on the Cross at Calvary. The road, however, did not end at Calvary but continued to the empty tomb and Jesus Raised From The Dead on Easter Day! Alleluia! God proved beyond doubt and for all time that, despite all the broken dreams and shattered hopes of this life, He is still in control and that ultimately nothing can prevent the purposes of Love from being fulfilled. This is the God whom we praise and thank and this is the God to whom we offer our lives in faithfulness and trust knowing that in all the changing scenes of this life, He is in charge and has the power to bring to completion the work that He has begun.

And so I leave you for the next few months in the hands of our Heavenly Father praying that He will bless you and keep you safe and secure in the knowledge of His purpose and love for you. I am so grateful for all your love and support as well as that of my colleagues and friends but I'm especially grateful for the love of Him who will never let us go.

May God bless and keep you all this Easter and in the months that lie ahead and I very much look forward to seeing you again on my return.

THANK YOU & GOD BLESS

Peter Holzappel (Revd.)

HAPPENINGS in SEVERN STOKE and environs**Your Church needs You!**

Thank you to all who attended the Open Meeting in the Parish Hall on 3rd February, some 56 people in all. The Church Council (PCC) is collecting together ideas, which were put at the Meeting and a group is helping with further consideration of matters financial.

We welcome your involvement and your willingness to help. We really need you to join us both for our services and in the life of the Church including supporting Friends of St Denys events, in our Prayer and Bible Study Groups and in offering to clean the Church or arrange flowers.

You will find with this Issue of the Newsletter, a Gift Aid and Banker's Order Form.

We do hope that you will consider making a regular donation in aid of the running of St Denys'; for if many people are prepared to help, it spreads the load as well as making our Accounts balance against ever increasing costs.

Here is another way to make your donations:

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).

This new on-line facility is very easy to use and will let you donate as a one-off contribution or on a regular basis – monthly, quarterly or annually. A few simple clicks of the mouse and a short on-line form are all that is needed. They will even claim the tax back for the Church under Gift Aid. All you need to provide are your card details (debit or credit) and CharityGiving will debit that card to make your donation – so just like buying an item on-line.

So could you spare just £2.30 a week to help? Doesn't seem like a lot does it - one drink in a pub perhaps? This small weekly amount equates to a £10 per month donation which would make a real, much needed difference to Church funds. Any donation, no matter what the size, is helpful to your Church in continuing its work so please do consider donating. Thank you so much for any donation you can make.

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.

Monday, 8th March at 7.30pm: OPEN DISCUSSION in

THE WALTER DE CANTELUPE, Kempsey

DOES EASTER HAVE ANY REAL MEANING IN OUR MODERN SOCIETY?

This meeting is open to everyone throughout our parishes and we'd love you to join us, have a drink, and an enjoyable time sharing your views. You don't have to be a church member or a believer to come along and you'll be given a very genuine and warm welcome.

PLEASE NOTE that there will not be a United Benefice Prayer Meeting on this evening.

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).

MARCH

Sunday 7th 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 14th Mothering Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Family
 Communion, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 21st 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: Family Service, 3.00 p.m.: Holy Baptism,
 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 28th Palm Sunday 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Family Communion,
 6.00 p.m. Evening Praise at The Firs.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 29th to 30th March 6.00 p.m. Compline in the Lady Chapel.

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.: Songs of Praise Service

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

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club meets every other Wednesday at 2.30 p.m., 3rd and 17th and 31st March and 14th April 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. (No Meeting on Good Friday, 2nd April).

Women's Fellowship meets in St Mary's House on Wednesday, 10th March at 7.30 p.m.

Men's Group meets at St Mary's House on Monday 1st March and 5th April at 7.30 p.m.

LENT LUNCHESES at The Firs from 12.30p.m. to 2.00p.m. Each Wednesday through March.

Please do support these lovely Lenten lunches, enjoy fellowship together and raise funds for those in far greater need than ourselves.

"Coming Together" meets in St Mary's House on Monday 8th March at 10.30 a.m.

Monday 8th March: 7.30p.m.: 7.30pm: OPEN DISCUSSION in WALTER DE CANTELUPE: The subject will be whether Easter has any real meaning in today's society. This is open to everyone in the parishes and you certainly don't have to be a church attendee or believer to come and join in. We would value your views and contribution, so do come along, have a drink and enjoy the discussion. (PLEASE NOTE that there will not be a Prayer Meeting tonight)

Saturday 20th March: SAVE THE CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION & EXHIBITION in St Mary's Church. This is always a very popular and enjoyable event so do please come along, enjoy looking at some great photos and sample some yummy light refreshments all in support of Save The Children.

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, 22nd March.** We meet each fortnight at the homes of those taking part. No Meeting on Monday 8th March due to the gathering in the Walter de Cantaloupe to discuss “Does Easter have any significance in our Society today?”

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.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

World Thinking Day Badges were gained following the celebrations in Worcester Cathedral and Pershore Abbey.

17th March –Mothers Day Tea Party hosted by the Brownies.

There is also a Farm visit planned to see the lambing.

A little more space is available for Brownies to join.

Contact Mrs Angela Broadhead on 01684 296 349.

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 9th March — ‘How to survive an English Vicarage when You are Not the Vicar’, a talk by Mrs Jill Fraser and the Competition is “ Small Easter Flower Arrangements”.

MOTHERS UNION – Upton Deanery

Thursday, 25th March at 12.15 p.m. at Upton Church Rooms— A shared Lunch followed by *Quiet Time* led by Eleanor Grigson. This is a Deanery meeting.

Malvern Opera Society....for those who don't sing!

Well you can sing if you want ... But not at our meetings, because Malvern Opera Society (MOS) is about **going to the Opera**—not singing in them. Last year we went to Cardiff, Cheltenham and Birmingham. The Coach tickets are discounted and there is good company.

Membership costs £10.00 for one or two people at the same address.

For further details, visit www.malvernoperasociety.org.uk

For membership, contact Martin Addison on W/ 458 537 or e-mail mail@malvernoperasociety.org.uk

The National Trust - Croome Park

Croome Court and Park are open at week-ends only up to 14th February. From 15th February, the beginning of half term, to the end of October, the Park is open each day and the Court is open daily **except Tuesdays.**

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

For more details contact W/ 371 006 or e-mail: croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk

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CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

MARCH

Sunday 7th: Lent 3 10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.

Sunday 14th: Mothering Sunday 10.30 a.m.: Morning Praise Service.

Sunday 21st: Lent 5 9.15 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP followed by
St Denys' Annual General Meeting at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 28th: Palm Sunday 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Praise

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

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

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE

MARCH

5th Mrs Joan Price and Friend
 12th Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins
 19th Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Linsey
 26th Mrs Henderson and Mr Henderson

APRIL

2nd Mrs Cox and Mr Cox
 9th Mrs Humphrey and Mr Humphrey
 16th Mrs Everitt and Mr Everitt

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE

**No flowers during March until
 Saturday 3rd April.—Mrs Doreen Ewins and
 Decorations for Easter Day—All welcome!**

APRIL

9th Mrs Doreen Ewins (2nd week)
 16th and 23rd Mrs Daphne Derrett

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..