

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

Forthcoming Events

Severn Stoke & Environs

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th October
from 10.30 a.m. at
The Old School House.
Earl's Croome.
All Welcome

Friends of St Denys

Saturday 16th October
7.30 p.m.

Joint Benefice Harvest Supper Severn Stoke Parish Hall

See inside for details

Kempsey

Saturday 9th October
Clothes Sale
in St Mary's House,
Kempsey
starting at 10.00 a.m.
See inside for details

Editor:

John Henderson
Tel & Fax: 01905 371 218

E-Mail;
johnandcara@hotmail.com

Technical Assistant :
Cara Henderson

Please submit Copy by 2nd
Monday next month

Dear Friends,

It's good to report that in recent times I've been conducting a lot more baptism services which means that there's either been a sharp rise in the population or else baptism is becoming more popular. I think it's the latter because an increase in the number of children being baptised has increased throughout the country. Just before I baptise the child, we all gather around the Font at the back of Church and I bless the water in which the baptism will take place. It's lovely to see all the family and friends gathered together as I perform this familiar ritual. It reminds me of a baptism I took several years ago when a young boy asked me "Peter, when you say the prayer over the water does the water change?" to which I immediately replied "Yes, it does change." But he wasn't content with that because he went on to ask "Well, how does it change, because it looks just the same to me?" It's interesting and somewhat intimidating how children can so often put you on the spot! Very unusually for me a thought immediately entered my mind and I asked him "Do you love your sister? (It was his baby sister who was being baptised)" and he said "Of course I do!" "Well" said I "it's your love for your sister that makes this water change into something special and different."

When you think about it, it is because it's love that makes things change and brings about miracles. Love is at the heart of all true prayer, because when our cries of love going up meet God's abundant generous love coming down, then things do change and miracles happen. We may not see any outward change but something has changed because no word of love is ever uttered in vain and without effect.

It's good to remember this over the next few weeks when we give God thanks for the Harvest and also remember with love our dear ones who are no longer physically with us. The Harvest Festivals are on Sunday 3rd October at St Mary's and Sunday 17th October at St Denys' both at 10.30 a.m. Then The All Saints Communion Service is on Sunday 7th November at 6.00 p.m. at St Mary's, Kempsey. I believe that we're surrounded not just by a harvest of fruit and vegetables but a harvest of love and a love that we share with others both living and deceased. The Bible teaches us that we are always surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and Jesus Himself said that where two or three are gathered together in His name He would be right there in the middle of them. He also said that He would be by our side and be right there with us even to the end of time. It was love that took Jesus to the Cross and it was the power of Love that raised Him from the dead. And it is the love that we shared with our loved ones that not only keeps their memory alive for us but ensures that they are with us. I was recently asked by someone "how can you say that my wife will always be with me when she's now in heaven?" The answer to that is that love forms an unbreakable cord that stretches from earth to heaven and that through this cord our loved ones, like Jesus Himself, are always with us.

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The top and bottom of it is that Love never dies and it ensures that we reap a bountiful harvest of souls both in heaven and earth. In my view, earth is much closer to heaven than we often think, only ever but a single prayer or loving thought away.

My own parents died many years ago but I still speak to them every day as if they were still with me which, of course, in a real sense they still are because the bond of love is never broken and cannot die. Yes, I've often longed and prayed for a glimpse of my parents which has never been granted to me, but that doesn't stop me believing in the enduring power of love because, for me, without that faith life would be empty and meaningless. I need to believe and I need faith in order to survive and to make any sense of the world I inhabit and the life I lead.

So, yes, this Harvest time I will be thanking God for all his wonderful provision but I will also be thanking Him for the all conquering power of love so clearly demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. And then at our All Saints Communion Service I shall be lighting a candle and saying thank you for all those whose love has touched my life and who still, albeit unseen, walk with me on this path through life, for it's when our love meets God's love that miracles continue to happen and when we receive blessing and strength for our journeys.

With every blessing

God Bless you *Peter Holzappel (Revd.)*

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, 4th and 18th October and 1st and 15th 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.

St Denys' Bible Study and Fellowship Group: Thursday, 7th and 28th October and 11th November at 2.30 p.m. All welcome. Please contact John Henderson (W 371 218) for the next venue.

REMEMBER—Remembrance Sunday 14th November—Please give generously to your local British Legion Poppy Collection for the Earl Hague Fund to help soldiers' families.

SPONSORED WALK

A big thank you to everyone involved in kindly sponsoring me for the **St Denys' Boundary Walk** round Severn Stoke and Croome in August. I raised a staggering **£625.00** towards the maintenance of the Church and Churchyard. God bless you all for your generosity—**Sally Linsey**

UPTON COMMUNITY CARE

Your **Community** needs **YOU!**

Upton Community Care urgently needs **VOLUNTEERS DRIVERS** (mileage paid) to take local elderly and disabled people to medical appointments.

For further details, please contact **Sue Spackman on 01684 593 633 or 01684 311 170.** Thank you.

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 begin again each Friday from 3rd September.

OCTOBER

Sunday 3rd 18th after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 9.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP at Kerswell Green, **10.30 a.m.: HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE**, 1.00 and 2.30 p.m. Holy Baptisms, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 10th 19th after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Communion ASB, 1.00 p.m. Holy Baptism, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP.

Sunday 17th 20th after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: Family Service, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 24th Last after Trinity 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m. Family Communion CW, 6.00 p.m.: Service at The Lawns.

Sunday 31st Fourth before Advent **10.30 a.m.; UNITED BENEFICE** Holy Communion Service at **St Denys', Severn Stoke**

NOVEMBER

Sunday 7th 3rd before Advent 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 Saints.

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

The Cornflower Club meets every other Wednesday at 2.30 p.m., 13th and 27th September 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.

Women's Fellowship meets in St Mary's House on Wednesday, 13th October.

Men's Group meets at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 4th October and 1st November in St Mary's House for Holy Communion, followed by an illustrated talk by the Vicar.

"Coming Together" - Monday 11th October at 10.30 a.m. in St Mary's House, Kempsey.

Fit-Box!

Every Monday, 7.00 p.m. At the Church Room, Old Street, Upton-upon-Severn (opposite Backfields Lane) * All abilities welcome * Wear loose clothing & trainers * Equipment provided * 45 minute class * £4 per session

Come and join us in Upton for **an all round workout with a difference**. Fit box uses a combination of gentle stretching, self-paced fat burning workouts with punches and kicks to pads and is aimed at men and women who want to improve their general fitness level. It's completely non-contact and great all round exercise!

Come along and have a go! Contact Laura: 07768 670 311 Email: uptontaekwondo@aol.com

FRIENDS OF ST. DENYS

The **Service at The Nash** accompanied by the Salvation Army Band, with Raspberries, ice cream and wine cup after, raised over £150 towards funds.

The **Village Barbecue** at Penny Paul's was a great success due to the record numbers who attended, to the weather which was very kind and to the cooks, chefs and helpers who excelled themselves. We raised over £750 towards Church Funds.

Saturday 16th October at 7.30 p.m.—

Joint Benefice Harvest Supper

in Severn Stoke Parish Hall hosted by The Friends of St Denys for everyone in the Parishes of Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abiotot.

Come with your friends to a delicious two course meal with home grown entertainment in celebration of harvest home.#

Tickets at **£6.00 for adults**, with children under 12 Free,

Bring your own Drinks

Tickets available from Kempsey Churchwardens
(Arthur Kelly W/ 820 824 or Alan Plowman W/ 769 214)
and John Henderson (W/ 371 218)

Advance Notice:

Saturday 13th November,

Severn Stoke Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

“Peter’s Talk”

on his travels in France and Spain.

The Rector will tell of some of his adventures,
accompanied by light refreshments!

Bring your own Drinks! **ALL WELCOME**

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.

All October—Vanley Burke's photographic exhibition—Noon to 4.00 p.m. at the Court.

Sunday 3rd October—Autumn Walk with the Gardener—11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., booking advisable.

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

