

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT  
**NEWSLETTER**

SEPTEMBER  
2010

LATE SUMMER  
EDITION

# SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

The Rector's Message Reverend Peter Holzapfel

40 Pence

### Forthcoming Events

#### Severn Stoke & Environs

#### Friends of St Denys

**Sunday 5th September**  
at 6.30 p.m.

**The Nash Service**  
with the Salvation  
Army Band  
and Raspberries, Ice  
Cream and Wine Cup.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday 12th September**  
12.30 p.m.

**Annual Barbecue**  
Wall Cottage, Severn  
Stoke  
\*\*\*\*\*

**COFFEE MORNING**  
Saturday 9th October  
from 10.30 a.m. at  
The Old School House.  
Earl's Croome.  
All Welcome  
See inside for details

#### Kempsey

**Saturday 11th Sep-**  
**tember, 7.30 p.m.**  
**"COLLA VOCE!"**  
Concert  
at St Mary's Church,  
Kempsey  
In aid of the Multiple  
Sclerosis Society  
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,

This is the first time that I've written for the Magazine since my return from Sabbatical at the beginning of July and I want to begin by saying a big thank you to all those who worked so hard to keep things working in the parishes during my absence. I wouldn't have been able to go away without their support and it was wonderful and reassuring to see how smoothly matters were conducted. Thank you; therefore, to The Ministry Team but also to so many others, indeed, all of you for your love and encouragement. It was a great time of refreshment from which I have undoubtedly benefitted: a time to recharge my batteries and to spend time with my family. THANKYOU.

I have served St Mary's and St Denys', as Parish Priest, for almost eleven years and, although there have been difficult and challenging periods, I have found my time here very happy and rewarding. My wife, Christine, has now been appointed as a Vicar of the parishes of Finstall & Doddford which are in the Bromsgrove Deanery and she begins her ministry there at the beginning of October. I'm sure I speak for all of you, including myself, of course when I wish and pray for Chris every blessing in this new chapter of her ministry and walk with God. For me, it has the great advantage that, because it is commutable from Kempsey, it means that we shall be able to continue living in the village with myself as Parish Priest and I am so grateful that I am able to continue to serve in this way.

As I have said, the past eleven years have been both rewarding and enjoyable. I like to feel that the Church is well regarded in our communities for the work that we try to do and for the love and care that we offer to any member of our United Benefice, whether they are regular church-goers or not. The tremendous support for St Mary's Church at this year's Summer Fete when over £5,500 was raised is hopefully evidence of the way in which people value the Church and there are many other examples that could be given both in Kempsey and Severn Stoke. It is very encouraging and yet I must admit to a good deal of disappointment at the relatively low numbers who attend our churches each week. St Denys' average Sunday congregation is only 15 whilst the average attendance at St Mary's is between 45 and 65. Although we are grateful for each person who attends, these are none-the-less poor figures given the size of our population and, in this sense, they do not bode well for the future, given the fact that the majority of our regular worshippers are elderly.

It causes me concern for the future of our churches and also a good deal of frustration, because I cannot see how we could have done more to attract people to church. Although far from perfect the churches are loving, welcoming and open places with interesting and enjoyable services for all ages. There is a good social programme of events both at St Mary's and St Denys' which include, for example, the evening at **The Nash on 5th September at 6.30pm**

Continued from Page 1

and **The Summer Barbecue on 12th September at 12.30pm onwards at Wall Cottage, Severn Stoke.** These are just two of many really relaxed and enjoyable events that are put on for the **whole community** and there are many more. In addition, the love and practical support of the Church and it's Team of Ministers is offered to everyone in our communities and if we are told of any particular need then we do our best to respond to it as soon as possible.

But, despite all this, numbers supporting our churches by attending for worship, continue to be small. Perhaps it was naive of me, but before I began here I was firmly convinced that if the churches were open to the community then the church congregations would grow. I no longer have those illusions and am at a loss as to what to do next other than carry on as we are. I am certainly not unhappy here and I continue to enjoy my ministry and all the people I count as friends. Hopefully I shall continue for a good number of years ahead but, I have to say, that it frustrates and disappoints me that we don't attract more people as regular worshippers in our churches.

On **Sunday 26th September** there are two opportunities for you to come to church even though you might not have been for years. It's called **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY** and at **10.30 a.m.** there will be a United Church Service at **St Mary's, Kempsey.** This is for absolutely everyone throughout the United Benefice and it would be so lovely to see you there. You may not have been to church since you last sung in the Church Choir as a youngster or you may not have been to Church since you fell out with Mrs so and so twenty years ago, but now's the time to make a re-appearance. Please join us and, as always, you'll be given a genuine and open-hearted welcome. The same goes for those who have had **children baptised in the last few years** and who are invited to join us at **St Mary's, Kempsey from 3.00 p.m.** on the same day for a small service and a special tea with games and activities for the children. Again it would be great to see you again and say hello. Please join us.

There are so many wonderful advantages and opportunities that being a regular member of a church can bring you, that I can truly say that you don't know what you're missing if you don't give it a try. I hope you will and I really do look forward to seeing you before too long.

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, 6th and 20th September and 4th October.** 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, 2nd and 23rd September at 2.30 p.m.** All welcome. Please contact John Henderson (W 371 218) for the next venue.

**Saturday 11th September**— St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke and St Mary's, Kempsey will be open all day to welcome visitors who are taking part in the **Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride** to raise funds for Church Restoration in our Diocese.

**Saturday 11th September at 7.30 p.m. in St Mary's Church - "COLLA VOCE" Concert** organised by the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This will be a great evening of performance and singing. Tickets are £7.50p and will include a glass of wine or juice. Tickets are available from Bev Smith on 01905 350138 or can be obtained at the door on the evening itself.

**Sunday 12th September—12.30 p.m. onwards The Friends of St Denys Annual Barbecue (please see under The Friends of St Denys on Page 3).**



**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.

**SEPTEMBER**

Sunday 5th 14th 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, 3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism, **6.30 p.m.: Open Air Service at The Nash with The Band of the Salvation Army followed** by Raspberries, Ice Cream and Wine Cup provided by The Friends of St Denys for donations of £5.00.

Sunday 12th 15th after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Communion ASB, 1.00 and 2.00 p.m. Holy Baptisms, 6.00 p.m.: Evensong BCP.

Sunday 19th 16th after Trinity 8.00 a.m.: Morning Prayer BCP, 10.30am: Family Service, 12.30 and 2.30 p.m. Holy Baptisms, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP.

Sunday 26th Back to Church Sunday 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP,  
**10.30 a.m.; UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE,**  
**3.30 p.m. Baptism Tea,** 6.00 p.m.: Service at The Firs.

**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.

**HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY**

**The Cornflower Club** meets every other Wednesday at 2.30 p.m., 15th and 29th 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, 8th September.

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

## **FRIENDS OF ST. DENYS**

The Scalextric Racing Event in St Denys' in July was enjoyed by all who attended, but sadly, many families who might have joined in had started their holidays away and it only raised about £75.00.

**Sunday 5th September, 6.30 p.m.—The Open Air Service at The Nash** with the Salvation Army Band, followed by Raspberries, Ice Cream and Wine Cup provided by The Friends of St Denys, for a kind donation of **£5.00** in aid of St Denys'.

**Bring garden chairs and friends!**

## **THE ANNUAL BARBECUE**

**Sunday 12th September at 12.30 p.m.—**

In the lovely garden of **Wall Cottage, Severn Stoke** at the kind invitation of Penny Paul.

**Come and join this sumptuous feast including delicious home made puddings.**

**Entry by ticket only in advance** from Reverend Peter Holzapfel, John Henderson (W 371 218) and Suzy Paddock (W 821 700), **Adults £7.50 each, £3.00 for under 15's and under 5's free.**

**Parking in the Parish Hall Car Park.**

**Remember to bring a garden chair and your own Wine or Beers  
And , of course, some sunshine!**

### **Advance Notice**

**Saturday 16th October at 7.30 p.m.—Joint Benefice Harvest Supper**  
in Severn Stoke Parish Hall hosted by The Friends of St Denys.

### **Thought for the Day**

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and two beers. A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and filled it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. The pebbles rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'Yes'.

The professor then produced two beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. 'Now' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things— your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions—and if everything else is lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else—the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first', he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit the grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and empty the rubbish. Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.' One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked. The beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend.' Anon.



## **Toy Library out and about across Worcestershire.**

**The Toy Library** is a registered charity: 1129697, based in **Barnards Green, Malvern**. We have just received funding to deliver our Outreach service to rural villages across Worcestershire.

The Toy Library has a store cupboard full of new play experiences for your child.

We would like to offer you and your friends the opportunity for the Toy Library to come to your village. We will come along once a month at an arranged site, time and day. You will be able to access toys from our stock of 1.000's. Memberships start at £14.00 for 6 months, with free loan of 4 toys per month for the period of your membership.

We also visit lots of settings (please see the information below.)

If you would like a visit from The Toy Library Outreach service, then please contact:

The Toy Library Tel No: 01684 891081

Or Shirley the Outreach worker mobile: 07903857025

Or by Email: [borrowers@tiscail.co.uk](mailto:borrowers@tiscail.co.uk)

### **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.

### **PANORAMA VANDALISM in July—Note from the Operations Manager**

*If you live in sight of the Panorama or other Croome Follies and see anything suspicious in the evening or during the night, please contact:  
SPS the National Trust's security patrol on 01905 821000.*

**During the day, contact the Duty Manager—07920 751 589 or NT Estate Office—01905 371 006 or call the POLICE on 999 if you think a criminal act is occurring.**

**Please report suspicious behaviour on—0300 333 3000 (West Mercia Police).**

### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

Saturday 4th September—Concert at Croome Court—Booking essential.

Saturday 11th September—Heritage Open Day—Free entry all day!

Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th September—Harvest Celebrations Noon to 4.00 p.m.

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](mailto:croomepark@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Friends or Relatives to stay, but no room?**

Try our delightful **Self Catering Unit at**

**The Studio, Meadow Hill House, Severn Bank Lane, Severn Stoke.**

Suitable for two Adults only, week-end and weekly rates – Contact Mrs Cara Henderson W/371 218 or see the advertisement with further details and availability at [www.cottagenet.co.uk/the\\_studio.htm](http://www.cottagenet.co.uk/the_studio.htm)