

SEVERN STOKE AND CROOME D'ABITOT

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

40 Pence

Severn Stoke & Environs

Friends of St Denys

**Thursday 16th
February**

**SOUP, SARNIES
& SHERRY**

**12.30 p.m. at
Severn Stoke Par-
ish Hall**

Tickets only in
advance at £6.00

**Wednesday 21st
March 7.30p.m.
Friends of St Denys'**

**AGM and Talk at
'The Rose & Crown',
Severn Stoke**

See inside for details

Kempsey

Lent lunches at

**The Firs continue
weekly from 29th
February starting
at 12.30 p.m.**

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Cara Henderson

Please submit Copy by 2nd
Monday next month

**Part of the United Benefice of Kempsey with Severn Stoke and Croome
d'Abitot**

The Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Oh dear it's February – the month with grey skies, bitterly cold and frosty mornings when the car won't start. Poor old February, it always gets the blame when things aren't just right. It's often the month in which people would like to hibernate.

In contrast in the Southern Hemisphere, February skies are often cloudless and blue and flowers are blooming in a riot of colour. Barbeques and meals can be eaten outside on the patio and the swimming pool beckons. There are advantages of February in England so let's be positive about them. Snowdrops are prolific, early daffodils are peeping through the soil, and we know that the weather can only get better and warmer. Then of course there is a certain 14th of February when young hearts flutter because of the expectation of Valentine cards that might arrive. An outward declaration of admiration and love.

There is a love though that is always present, always there, every day and every month. A love that we sometimes forget about, perhaps even take for granted because it is always there. That love of course is the love of God. There is so much written about it by all the disciples, by Paul and by Jesus himself. For instance we surely remember the account in John's Gospel of the early miracle that Jesus empowered at the wedding feast at Cana when he lovingly turned water into wine so that the bride and groom would not be embarrassed at the shortage of wine. In Mark's Gospel we read of the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany and was rebuked by many for wasting money. That woman could see that Jesus was someone special, offering a new dimension to life and instinctively she responded in love. I wonder, do we respond instinctively to God's love or do we ignore it? In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13 is a wonderful exposition about love which is well worth reading many times. Read also 1 John chapter 4 verses 7 to 21 'God's Love and Ours', and John 13 verses 31 to 35. All of these readings illustrate very clearly the love that Jesus and God have for each one of us and for eternity.

Fill your February with love. Read, believe and be inspired by these overwhelming messages of love. Then we can cast our worries aside and take in our stride everything that we meet in life.

Blessings to you all.

Peter Fitzjohn; Reader

CONTACT INFORMATION DURING THE VACANCY

Church Services at St Mary's, Kempsey, at St Denys', Severn Stoke and at St John the Baptist, Kerswell Green will continue unaltered, so far as possible.

Contact names for information:

Weddings and Funerals: Rev David Hassell, 14 Napleton Lane, Kempsey. 01905 828096

Baptisms: Libby James, 7 Battenhall Avenue, Kempsey 01905 353935

The Lawns/ Orchard House: Peter Fitzjohn W/ 820 320

Visiting, Pastoral Care: Home Communion: Libby James for Kempsey 01905 353 935

Sheila Cook 01905 831 829,

Sheila has particularly asked that should anyone in the Parishes of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot, churchgoer or not, need spiritual support in family unhappiness, illness or bereavement, please do not hesitate to contact her.

School Assemblies at Kempsey Primary School, monthly with Rev. David Hassel and the 'Open the Book' Teams will continue to visit regularly, to enact and relate Bible Stories.

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 6th and 20th February and 5th March.** 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, 9th and 23rd February and 8th March at 2.30 p.m. All welcome. Please contact John Henderson (W 371 218) for the next venue.

HAPPENINGS in SEVERN STOKE and environs

Thank you to those who clean the Church
and who arrange the Flowers so beautifully throughout the year.

St Denys' Church News

The Walkers and Hikers Christmas Carol service last December raised over **£350** for St Denys' Church and we are very grateful to the organisers, Mike and Lynn Everitt; Rosie Gove for preparing the delicious soups and for the generosity of all their friends.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The amount raised around this area from the door to door collection, the Church collection on Remembrance Sunday and a very generous donation totalled a magnificent **£1,043.66**. Congratulations to all for this record breaking total!

EARL'S CROOME WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

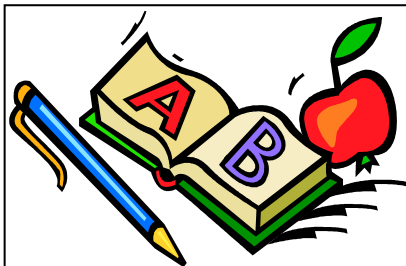
Tuesday 14th February at - A talk on 'China, the Silk Road' by Mr Delingpole and the competition is a Homemade Valentine Card.

SEVERN STOKE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Over the next few months Brownies will be working towards their Home Skills and First Aid badges. They will be preparing for Mothering Sunday, visiting a local farm and looking forward to attending a District Thinking Day event in early March when they will be making 'a journey through the Continents'!!

Anyone interested in joining the Group, please contact: Mrs Angela Broadhead on **01684 296 349**

One to One Numeracy and Literacy Tutor Available



Bachelor Of Education Honours Degree, Further Education Degree, Special Educational Needs Qualifications, Ofsted inspected
Expertise in special needs and gifted and talented pupils
Trained in dyslexia, dyspraxia, autism, ADHD and all other areas of special educational needs
Fifteen years of primary teaching experience from reception to year six.

Please call or e-mail me, **Michelle Dix**, for further information:

Home number: **01905 820616** Mobile: **07533989937**

E-mail: kdpes@aol.com

MALVERN HILL CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU**Take care with rogue traders**

My pensioner father recently had someone knock on his door saying they'd been doing work in the area and had spotted his roof needed repairing. This got Dad worried as he can't afford any major work, but I'm suspicious about the whole thing. What would you advise?

You're right to be wary. The approach you describe is a classic con. Rogue traders often call unannounced offering help with roofing, paving, or general building work they say needs doing, or offering to do insulation or install burglar alarms. They often end up running off with your money without ever doing the work, doing a very poor job, or doing work that never actually needed doing.

Follow these top tips to avoid getting involved with a dodgy trader:

Don't ever agree to work or sign anything on the spot – take their full details and say you'll get back to them

Check their details – they should give you their business name and address and not just a mobile phone number. Check these to see if they are genuine

Check if they are a member of a professional trade body, belong to a local authority assured trader scheme, or to the TrustMark scheme, which can help you find trustworthy tradesmen in your area.

For more details about these schemes, go to www.direct.gov.uk

Ask them for details of other customers they did work for and contact them to check this out

Don't get taken in by their sales banter – they might claim there is a special offer on only for that day, or that they'll get sacked if you don't employ them. This kind of talk is likely to be a sales pitch and you shouldn't take it seriously.

Continued overpage

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Always get more than one quote before employing someone – it's usually best to contact other traders your friends or family have recommended

Don't ever make a cash payment upfront – a reliable trader won't ask for money before doing the job – not even if they need materials. If they run a business, they should have enough money to cover these costs themselves and only ask for payment once they've completed the job, or done a reasonable amount of work

If you think a trader is trying to con you – speak to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506. They can report anything suspicious to your local Trading Standards Department

If the trader becomes aggressive or threatens you, this is criminal behaviour and you should call the police straight away.

For further information and advice, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or see www.adviceguide.org.uk, for information about your rights when getting work done, see the section on Buying services - your rights

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.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th 3rd before Lent 8.00 a.m.: Mattins, 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Kerswell Green,
10.45 a.m.: Family Service (Breakfast from 10.15am)
Sunday 12th 2nd before Lent 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Holy
Communion CW.
Sunday 19th Next before Lent 8.00 a.m.: Mattins, 10.30 a.m.: Informal Family Worship/ Children's
Church, 6.00 p.m.: Holy Communion BCP
Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday 7.30 p.m.: Holy Communion
Sunday 26th Lent 1 8.00 a.m.: Holy Communion BCP, 10.30am Holy Communion CW

MARCH

Sunday 4th Lent 2 8.00 a.m.: Mattins, 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Kerswell Green,
10.45a.m.: Family Service (Breakfast from 10.15am)

HAPPENINGS at KEMPSEY

Men's Group meets on Monday 6th February in St Mary's House at 7.30 p.m.

The Cornflower Club meets every other Wednesday, 1st February at 2.30 p.m. 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 on Wednesday 8th February at 7.30 p.m. in St Mary's House, Kempsey.

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

Healing Prayer Group – Monday 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. - home of Gill Warfield.

Lent lunches — Wednesday 22nd and 29th February at 12.30 p.m. at The Firs.

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.

DURING THE VACANCY:

For any enquiries, please contact The Ministry Team noted on Page 2 or one of the Churchwardens:

CHURCHWARDENS: Jim Spence 01905 371 351 John Henderson 01905 371 218
Assistant to Churchwardens Mrs Gail Brookes W/ 821 823

CHURCH SERVICES at St Denys' Church, Severn Stoke**FEBRUARY 2012**

Sunday 5th Third before Lent **10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.**
Sunday 12th Second before Lent **9.15 a.m.: Morning Prayer and Praise**
Sunday 19th Next before Lent **9.15 a.m.: Parish Communion BCP**
Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday **7.30 p.m.: Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Kempsey**
Sunday 26th Lent 1 **10.30 a.m.: Informal Family Worship**

MARCH

Sunday 4th Lent 2 **10.30 a.m.: Holy Communion CW.**

CHURCH CLEANING – SEVERN STOKE**FEBRUARY**

3rd Mrs and Mr Everitt
17th Mrs Joan Price and Friend

MARCH

2nd Mrs Hanmer and Mrs Ewins

CHURCH FLOWERS – SEVERN STOKE**FEBRUARY**

3rd February Merab Opie
10th and 17th Merab Opie
24th Doreen Ewins

MARCH

2nd Lent—No Flowers
9th and 16th Lent—no Flowers

PARISH REGISTER St Denys' Church

Wedding: Friday 30th December 2011: David Lilley and Heather Gittins

Congratulations and we wish you every happiness.

Rest in Peace: As this Newsletter is going to Press, the death of Mrs Nora Skeys MBE at the age of 87 was announced. Nora devoted herself to local organisations ever since she was a teen-ager during the War; in the Church Choir and active in the WVS, Civil Defence and the British Red Cross. She was a long standing and enthusiastic member of the W.I.

Her greatest gift was to encourage, teach and give confidence to successive generations of children in the Parish and locality through her association with local Scouting and Guiding over some sixty years. She retired as District Commissioner with the coveted Silver Acorn award in 1994.

Nora has raised funds tirelessly for the Church, serving on the Parochial Church Council for many years. The Parish Hall has survived and prospered solely due to her enthusiasm and that of a small band of like-minded supporters. Announced in the Millennium Honours List, Nora proudly received her well deserved MBE from HM The Queen in recognition of all her service to the community.

After leaving Clifton, where she had lived for many years, bringing up her three children on her own, after the untimely death of her husband, she 'retired' to live at Holly Green. She died peacefully at Norton Hall Nursing Home.

We send our sympathy to her children and their families. Nora set a wonderful example of dedication and service to others throughout her life and she will be sadly missed by her many friends.