

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

**PARISH**



**MAGAZINE**

**Vicar:**

**Revd. Stephen Ball**

**22 Warren Road**

**Staverton**

**Trowbridge BA14 8UZ**

**Tel. 01225 774903**

## Semington Diary SEPTEMBER 2014

11th	Thursday	SEM WI	7pm	Village Hall
		SVH MC	7pm	Village Hall
14th	Sunday	QUIZ	7.30pm	Village Hall
16th	Tuesday	Sem B Ladies	8pm	Village Hall
17th	Wednesday	Sem PC	8pm	Village Hall
18th	Thursday	Steeple Ashton MEN	8pm	Village Hall
20th	Saturday	St Georges Harvest		
		Supper	7pm	Village Hall
23rd	Tuesday	Sem A Ladies	8pm	Village Hall
24th	Wednesday	ANGELS Ladies	8pm	Village Hall
25th	Thursday	Special Coffee Morning		
		Macmillan Fund Raiser	10-12noon	Village Hall
26th	Friday	Sem B MEN	8pm	Village Hall
27th	Saturday	Macmillan Family Coffee	10.30-12.30	Village Hall
30th	Tuesday	Cup Match	TBA	

### EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am - 12.30
Stompers	Tuesday	2.30 - 3.30pm
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9.15 - 1pm
Zumba fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm - 7:30pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10 - 12noon
Semingtones Choir	Friday	6 - 7:30pm

### MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Next deadline is 15th September for the October issue: email **[semparmag1@outlook.com](mailto:semparmag1@outlook.com)**. For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy Tyler on 870708 or email **[jez\\_tyler@hotmail.com](mailto:jez_tyler@hotmail.com)**.

#### **COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

A family Coffee morning on Saturday 27th September, from 10.30 until 12.30 at Semington village hall, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations of cakes to be sold and used on day, would be very much appreciated. If you would like a table to sell your home made crafts on the day, and make a donation of £5.00 towards the charity, please contact Tania on 07941 201722 or Debbie on 07703 302615 for further information. Please come along and support this very worthy cause, by simply treating yourselves to a delicious slice of cake and a drink for £2.00. All monies raised will be going towards Macmillan cancer support.



## **JULY FETE RESULTS**

Here is the list of Competition winners (it seems ages ago now!)

Programme Lucky No:	Ann Watts
Fruit & Veg competition:	Lottie Farmer
Skittle under 11:	George Elkin
Skittle under 18:	Jack Breman
Skittle Men:	Andy Watts
Skittle Women:	Angela Tedman
Guess the weight of the cake:	Angela Weston
Football:	George Elkin
Keepy-uppy:	Neil S

**Congratulations to all the winners.**

**Bob Norton**

**Kids' Klub** - We will recommence at school on Sept. 17th & 24th, 6-7 pm. You are welcome if you are in school years 3-6, the cost is 30p. We play games, have stories, make things, generally have fun! More information from Bev 870784 or Maureen 871424. Our end of year Celebration was great fun, and throughout the summer term we collected £20 which we have sent to Wycliffe Bible Translators, toward CDs for recording languages that haven't been written down before.

**31 Club** returns in September. It's for you if you're at senior school. We meet once a month, usually on a Friday evening, sometimes at our house (31 Pound Close), and other times we go elsewhere for other activities – swimming, games, ten pin bowling etc. It's a Christian club, we have fun together, find out about God and what he thinks of things that matter to us. If you're interested in coming, contact Bev & Jack Woodward, 870784.

**Harvest Supper** - Saturday 20th September, 7.30pm in the Village Hall - cold meat salad with a vegetarian option, scrumptious puds, and all for £5 adults, £2.50 under 18's. This year Katrine Musgrave is coming from Christian Aid, to let us know a bit more about what they're doing. Tickets available from Coffee Morning or Bev Woodward, 870784. The following evening there will be further harvest celebrations, 6pm, in the Church.

**Messy Church** - The 'Messy BBQ' at Brook House was great fun - and lovely sunshine for swimming! On **Saturday 27th September** we have the next Messy Church, 11-1pm in the school hall. There will be more activities, suitable for all ages, and lunch included so that you can forget about cooking for the day. (Suggested donation £1.) Please let us know if you can come so that we'll have enough food! Phone Bev/Jack on 870784 or text 07922 105084. *Please note that Messy Church is for all ages, but children must bring an adult.*

**Bible Study** - 7.45pm, 10th September - 10 Pound Lane, 24th September - 17 Highfield Close. Our topic at present is 'Rivers of Justice', and in September will be looking at what the Bible says about 'Trade and Debt' and 'Money - it makes the world go round'. Everyone welcome. Phone Jack Woodward 870784 if you'd like more details.

**Christians in Semington** - Wednesday 3rd September, 7.45 - 9pm, 10 Pound Lane. Join us to pray for our community.

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### **Semington WI July Meeting.**

Our July meeting was full of promise - eastern promise in fact, our speaker was Wafaa Powell of belly-dancing fame, who in the past had all the Semington WI ladies trying out their belly-dancing skills one evening when we used to meet in the school. So it was quite a while ago. This time her visit was much more sedate. An insight into the Lebanese life and culture, followed by a demonstration of Lebanese cookery, was the theme of our evening. Assisted by one of her friends and several of our members, all chopping away, we soon had a table full of delicious bowls of food. Of course we had to taste everything on offer, even those ladies who confessed that they had just "had their tea"! We had a great time, Wafaa is a breath of fresh air, and keeps punctuating her demonstration with funny anecdotes of other evening groups she has visited - no names mentioned of course. She was keen to point out that an evening of belly-dancing and Lebanese food goes down very well as a village fund raising event. What about that for an idea!!

As our WI does not meet in August, we had a couple of local trips, to Lacock and The Courts at Holt. Thanks to the drivers who took those who went. As I write this report we have been to Lacock, which was very nice, and we even managed to dodge the rain. I hope our visit to The Courts will be just as lucky on Saturday. It would be terrible if we had to spend the whole afternoon having cups of tea and scoffing loads of cream cakes. **Our next meeting will be on September 11<sup>th</sup>** when we will be welcoming Anji Scofield who will be talking about her Life in Uniform. Guests welcome.

**Carole Ball**

### **Breaking News-The Semingtones ladies choir record their first album.**

You would not believe what goes into the recording process!

On the weekend of 12th of July, St George's Church was transformed into a recording studio, wires everywhere, microphones all around as the sound engineer made all his checks. Does Shirley Bassey or Adele have to go through all this?!

Our lovely choir leader Lorraine running up and down the steps umpteen times switching the backing music on and off and us, the ladies of Semington, singing our hearts out. What a thrill for us, what fun we had but such hard work. It is a very joyful feeling to sing, especially if you have such an inspiring choir leader.

I wonder how many friends and family will be getting this disc for Christmas? If you too want to be inspired, come along to the village hall on Friday evenings at 6pm to join us. You will be made most welcome.

**Joy Karas, a Semingtone.**



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## Semington Cricket /Cricket Semington!

Well that's it, another season is over for Cricket Semington (the all new way to which we now refer to the team!).

CS finished the Calne Evening League in a creditable 7<sup>th</sup> place, and delivered a traditional mix of impressive and shameful performances. **This year's winners were Calne**, narrowly pipping the all-star team of Bishops Cannings. Of Semington's 18 games we won 4, tied 1, lost 7 and 6 cancelled (which reflects the damp start and finish to this year's summer). As I seem to have reported in each of the last few end of year summaries, several of the losses could have been reversed with another ounce of luck and judgement rather than them being a lack of skill and ability.

Top batting performers this year were newcomer **Steve Copland** (with 248 runs at an average of 49.6, including three not out retired half centuries) and **Fuzz Robinson** (with 184 runs at 36.8, and two not out retired 50s). Three bowlers vied for top performer role. Local hero, **Liam Snook** took most wickets (14), another newcomer, **Miles Copland** was second with 13 and the ever reliable **Josh Hamblin** third with 11. Miles was the most economical this year, going for just under 5 in his 45 overs, he also took the most catches (7).

Other sterling performances came from a few others in the team, most notably Semington's most promising youngster, **Steve James**, who picked up 6 wickets in his first full season.

The last game of the season was another wash out, but most of the squad met anyway at The Somerset Arms for the light hearted end of season awards. Thanks to **Mick and Alison** who hosted us after every home game with hearty food to celebrate and commiserate.

Thanks to all the players for playing this year and yet again making it a roaring laugh all the way. Huge thanks to club Chairman and President **Jack Woodward** who remains the foundation stone on which all Semington cricket has been built over the years. Stay fit over the winter and I look forward to welcome more newcomers to the squad for 2015. Nets in the winter at Devizes Leisure Centre and the new season will begin at the end of April. All the best.

**Simon Tyler**

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July's Quiz was held on the Football World Cup Final night, but we still had a reasonable turnout with 6 teams attending, although some teams only had 2 or 3 people. Tony,

Lyn, Stuart and Lorraine were our quizmasters for the evening, so our thanks to them for a very good quiz. We did struggle with a couple of rounds, in particular, the Fictional Bars & Pubs round. If you knew that Rose's Bar was in MASH, that Home and Away featured Noah's Bar, that Buffy the Vampire Slayer featured The Bronze and that The Spouter Inn was in Moby Dick, then this was the round for you!

The Marathon was a picture round from various films. Four teams scored 13 out of 15 so there was a tie breaker question to decide the winner of the cash prize. The question was: What was the number of spectators at the British Grand Prix this year? Neighbours team was the nearest to the answer, which was 70,065.

Neighbours team also came second in the main quiz, with 57 points, but the winners were the Infamous 5 with  $60\frac{1}{2}$  points. Congratulations to Bob, David, Pam, Sue and Geoff. Special congratulations also to Bob Hughes, who was celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, so the evening ended with us all singing Happy Birthday to him. Some then went to the bar to watch the remainder of the World Cup Final.

The Oldies team will set the next quiz, which will be in September, as we missed out August.

**THE NEXT DATES FOR THE SEMINGTON QUIZ ARE SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 12 OCTOBER, 16 NOVEMBER AND 14 DECEMBER. You would be very welcome and, if you haven't anyone to come with, then we can easily put you in a team. Teams are of up to 6 people. It costs just £1 for each player and an extra £1 per team for the Marathon, which includes a bowl of nibbles for each team. There are prizes for at least the first 2 teams in the main quiz and for the winners of the marathon and there is a raffle draw too.**

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Beware of "rip-off" gardening tradesmen

Please be aware that there are members of a mobile community currently working in the Chippenham (Wiltshire) area. They are "offering" gardening services to the elderly/vulnerable. They are aggressive, forceful and rude in their dealings with residents – and they appear to be using the NW trademark on leaflets to appear to be a legitimate business. They have no connection whatsoever with Neighbourhood Watch. An elderly lady was told "Your garden needs sorting out and we can do it for £380" (She has a front garden only – approx 8ft by 10ft – containing one small shrub and one slow-growing ornamental conifer.) When she told him she didn't have £380 in the house – ever – the male informed her that he could give her a lift to the bank. He was surly and bad-mannered when she declined and shut the door – he knocked on the door and shouted "I'm coming back tomorrow – make sure you're ready"! If you get such a visit don't enter into conversation with them - just close the door, then go and make sure that the back door is locked, and ring the police on 101.



### Bat-Spotting!

There will be 2 ecologists wandering around at dawn & dusk bat-spotting over the next 3 months in the area of the proposed canal. Let's hope they spot the bats before the bats 'spot' them! (Ugh, sorry). They plan to be near Boundary Farm, Berryfield on Tuesday & Wednesday evening (9pm to 11.30 pm). But if the weather is bad, they may postpone.

### Police and Crime Commissioner(PCC) - Mr Macpherson

From April 2015 the PCC – you may remember we voted him in, or not! - will be responsible for providing services locally to help people cope with, and recover from, crime. They want to hear from people who have been victims of crime, and from people who have not, but who feel they have helpful points to make, such as what sort of services and support for victims should be planned for the future?

### Melksham CCTV

Some months ago we sent out a request for volunteers to help monitor the CCTV system being proposed for Melksham Town Centre. The response was good and they have asked us to re-issue the request as the system is being installed within the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in giving a couple of hours per week voluntarily to this scheme, please contact them on:

[colin@melksham.communityarea.org.uk](mailto:colin@melksham.communityarea.org.uk).

**Paul Bowyer 870 512**



### **Something New in Melksham!**

The inaugural **Melksham River Festival** is being staged by the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust on the King George V Park in the centre of town on the weekend of **6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of September**. The aim of the festival is to publicise the proposed building of the Melksham Link canal from the Kennet & Avon at Semington to the River Avon and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the closure of the canal. When built, this new waterway will enable boats to reach the centre of Melksham and will revitalize the river front. The event will feature boats on the river, public boat trips, canoe and sub-aqua diving demonstrations, Fire & Rescue service demonstrations, fairground rides for children and refreshment & food stalls. On the Saturday evening there will be illuminated boats on the river and a folk night at the Activity Centre.

**The Festival will be open to the public, free of charge, on both days from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday.**

Visiting trailboats, steamboats & electric boats will be arriving on the Friday & launching into the river from the new slipway in the park. The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust's 37ft passenger-carrying narrowboat will arrive the previous week and will be running public trips from the Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

Further details: [www.wbct.org.uk](http://www.wbct.org.uk)

**It is the aim of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust to eventually reopen the waterway from the Kennet & Avon at Semington through Abingdon on the River Thames.**

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### **An appeal for information or stories from Wiltshire People 1<sup>st</sup>**

Do you have any memories of the old hospital at St George's Road in Semington? Have you lived or worked with people with learning difficulties? Do you have any old photographs, historical records or local knowledge of Semington and surrounding area? Are you interested in history and have time to help us look through archives, speak to people or help out at meetings or events?

**Our Lives, Our History** is a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and aims to record the life stories of people with learning difficulties, their families, and carers. The project will explore the hidden history of people with learning difficulties/disabilities over the last 100 years and will also look at the Semington workhouse. Contributors can tell us of their experiences of learning difficulties and how changes in care provision have helped people to achieve independence and have more choice and control in their lives. The material collected will be made available to the public with a written record, a public exhibition and a DVD of people's experiences. We want lots of people to hear about what we are doing and to get involved – either by sharing their stories or offering their services as volunteers.

If you have said **YES** to any of these questions we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us by calling **01380 871900** or email

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***Rosary***: Weekdays before Mass. SVP Fri 6.45pm

***Confessions***: Sat: 10.30-11.15am and 5-5.45pm

***St Bernadette's Sunday Mass*** - 9am ***Weekday Mass*** - Thursday 11 am

***Confessions/Reconciliation*** before Mass and any time on request.

### **THE NEW 300 CLUB 2014**

Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10 -£5 monthly. Information and application form from Francis Geraghty – details below

**SHARING OUR FAITH.** The Group meets in the Parish Centre Trowbridge on Wednesdays from 8-9pm. This is open to anyone wishing to learn more about the Catholic Church.

**SICK AND/OR HOUSEBOUND.** Any catholic who is sick or housebound should let Canon Liam (01225 752152) know as he would be pleased to arrange a visit and bring Holy Communion, if desired.

**SPONSORED WALK.** A 10km. sponsored walk is a circular route starting from Gulliver's Lane in Steeple Ashton Village on Sunday afternoon 14th September, via Rood Ashton, West Ashton and east Town. **A pleasant afternoon event for folk of all ages to enjoy!!**

**For information on any of the above contact**

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### **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED**

August is a relatively quiet month in general Council terms but it can be busy in some areas of business and particularly in Libraries and Leisure services, both of which are part of my Cabinet portfolio. I therefore take the opportunity to get out and about and visit some of the 31 Libraries and 23 Leisure centres in Wiltshire. This is a great opportunity to talk to people as they use the facilities and to chat to staff about what is going well and perhaps not so well in their services. I always come back with a list which is not universally popular with senior managers but that is life and one of the purposes of my getting out on the ground is to see how things are and what we can do better. I always also come back with renewed and great admiration for our hardworking Council staff who really want to deliver the very best service that they can to the residents of Wiltshire and that is why being able to have a straightforward conversation with their Cabinet Member is so important.

In August I attended the rededication of the newly refurbished Semington War Memorial. Ray Heard and his team did a wonderful job in raising the funds and driving the project forward. The work took place over many months and the end result was quite outstanding. Not only do we now have a pristine War memorial as a fitting tribute to those who gave their todays for our tomorrows but it also bears all the names of the fallen in both two World Wars and the Korean War. This in itself is unusual in Wiltshire. The dedication service was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August in lovely summer sunshine and attended by standard bearers from the Royal British Legion as well as Parish Councillors and many villagers who simply wanted to attend and remember. Ray Heard deserves great credit for leading this project and we look forward to the book he is writing on the subject.

Summer is also a great time to catch up with locals at local events. I attend any local political events that I can and really enjoyed the Summerham Conservative lunch attended by 90 people in Keevil and at which I joined in a question and answer session with the local MP and a local Peer as well as having a jolly lunch and raising funds for the local Branch. I also make an effort to attend fetes and local events whenever I can and they are always a great opportunity to pick up news and views. Each event is different but they all seem to get through the pocketful of change that I bring along to spend on the local produce and car boot type stalls, not forgetting other essentials like food, beer, cider and ice cream! Over the summer I also produce my annual summer In Touch leaflet letting people know what I have been doing as their local Councillor. I do this through a network of local helpers many of whom are not at all political but are happy to help deliver a few leaflets in their village for an hour a year. I am always on the lookout for more helpers so if you can help then please do let me know on either [jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01380 850696.

**Jonathon Seed**



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## NATURE NOTES

### The Treasure

When colour goes home into the eyes,  
And lights that shine are shut again,  
With dancing girls and sweet birds' cries  
Behind the gateways of the brain;  
And that no-place which gave them birth, shall close  
The rainbow and the rose: -  
Still may Time hold some golden space  
Where I'll unpack that scented store  
Of song and flower and sky and face,  
And count, and touch, and turn them o'er,  
Musing upon them; as a mother, who  
Has watched her children all the rich day through,  
Sits, quiet-handed, in the fading light,  
When children sleep, ere night.



Rupert Brooke wrote this immediately after the outbreak of the First World War. It is a preface to five further sonnets, the last of which is the well-known 'The Soldier' – *If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field That is for ever England.* ...

## THE BOOK CLUB



Eight members attended on 31 July and discussed *Go Swift and Far* by Douglas Westcott. Research on the author showed that he is a Bath businessman; Mr. Gordon Bloor of Bloor Homes. The book is semi-autobiographical and is intended to be the first part of a trilogy. The group felt that the book was bland and might have been better if the characters had been given separate chapters written in the first person. The ending was also thought to be unsatisfactory although it gives the author a good start for the next book. It was interesting to read about Bath and the air raids which were ordered by Hitler in retaliation for the British bombing of Leipzig. The next meeting of the group is on Thursday 18 September, 7.30 p.m. in The Somerset Arms when we will be discussing *You're Next* by Gregg Hurwitz, a psychological thriller. All welcome.

**Angela Grodzicka (870756)**

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR BOOK CLUB  
JUST ATTEND AND ENJOY A LIVELY DEBATE**



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### St. George's Church

The church is usually open and available for quiet thought and prayer. You are always welcome to come and sit for a few minutes inside or enjoy the peace on the seats on the south side of the building. If lonely or in need of a friendly chat, the folk from the village offer a listening ear. Phone Bev on 870784 or pop into the regular Thursday coffee mornings in the Village Hall.

**Church Bookings** - to be made through PCC Secretary, Jack Woodward, 31 Pound Close or telephone 870784. If you require the heating to be put on, please ask at time of booking.



**The Village Bible Study Group** meets regularly for prayer and study—it all sounds very boring but actually we have lively, wide ranging discussions and never an evening passes without laughter between us all. Why not try us out? Ring 871424 for more information.

### Births

Eli Henry George Hambly on Sunday 27th July 2014 was welcomed into the church family at his Baptism. We pray God will bless him and his family, and as he grows, he will experience God's love for himself.



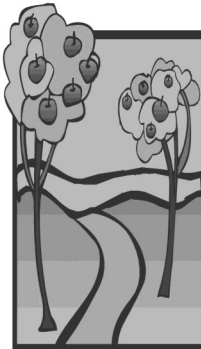
### Paws

For thought



God said, "Those who hope in me will not be disappointed."

It's in the Bible:  
Isaiah 49: 23



***A Family Event for  
Everyone Young & Not So  
Young***

**Date: Sunday 14th September**

**Time: From 2.00pm**

Steeple Ashton —Rood Ashton—  
West Ashton—East Town—Steeple  
Ashton. Refreshments on route

***Annual Sponsored Walk  
(10km circular route) For  
All the Family on Scenic  
Country Lanes and  
Byways. Fresh Air and  
Gentle Exercise***



Contact: Frank Geraghty 01380 871083 email  
f.geraghty303@btinternet.com Collect a  
Sponsor Form after all Masses or from the  
Presbytery

Organised by:  
Parish Social Group



## FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

### Funeral: BETTY JEAN BENNETT



A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Betty Bennett was held at St George's Church on Thursday 26th June 2014. This service was followed by a private family service of committal at West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington. We pray that Betty's family and friends will know God's love, peace, comfort and strength at this sad time.

~

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

War Memorial: We wanted to include a follow-on article (including a photograph) to Ray Heard's information on the Semington War Memorial. Unfortunately, the photographs have not arrived from the newspaper so we have decided to include the article next month. Apologies.

Somerset Arms: Did you know that our village pub is now showing all live sporting events on Sky and BT sports? They are also taking Xmas bookings, but advise that Xmas day is already fully booked.

Happy Shopping?

My wife, Joy, a keen shopper, spotted this and wanted to share it with you. It might just prick your conscience, too. It's called "**I only wanted an onion**":

I only wanted an onion to put in tomorrow's stew.  
I was determined to resist the urge to be seduced by bargains new!  
As I went into the supermarket I knew I must be strong.  
To be side-tracked by marketing would be completely wrong!  
But there were piles of yummy muffins stacked up inside the door,  
And I simply had to have some—they were only £1 for four.  
Then just around the corner were some cut price DVDs,  
Just the thing for a winter's night, so I thought I should have three.  
I picked up some strange sounding cheese that I doubt I'll ever use,  
But at such a silly price, how could I refuse?  
I know I always fall for "Buy one, get one free".  
But those 2 packs of crumbly ham will do perfectly for tea.  
So with my basket weighing heavy I thought I'd got the lot,  
So I paid up and headed home, **but guess what I forgot?**

Thanks to the unknown author!

## **The Canalside Benefice**

**St. Michael and All Angels, Hilperton with St. Mary the Virgin, Whaddon;  
St. George's, Semington;**

**St Paul's, Staverton with St. Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh;  
near the Kennet and Avon Canal, within the Dioceses of Salisbury**

Dear friends. What's in a greeting? Whether it is a greeting as we meet another or say goodbye to them we will all have our own habits and preferences. But what is our intention as we do that, if indeed we have one at all? Are our ways of saying hello and goodbye just dyed-in-the-wool fragments of tradition passed to us, along with 'please' and 'thank you', by those who sought to prepare us for polite society? Have we even thought about what we say as we greet others?

It's funny how one day you just wake up and find yourself listening to and watching the way people communicate and asking why do we do what we do and say what we say and what does it all mean? Whilst in the USA my wife, Lorna, entered a large department store and was treated to "Hi there, how are you?" Being both polite and British (*is there a difference between the two*) she replied, "I am well thank you. How are you?" The 'Meeter and Greeter' on the door was stunned to silence. She had not expected any kind of response to her robotic greeting and was totally flustered as Lorna was surprised that the greeting had been so hollow. Of course when we greet someone we know and love the outcome is completely different.

What got me thinking was the way in which different cultures meet each other. I was particularly impressed by the Zulu greeting '**sawobona**'. It means a great deal more than a simple hello. Sawobona broadly means 'I see you'. According to a reliable source, the response, 'Ngikhona' means '*I am here*'. As always when translating from one language to another, crucial subtleties are lost. Inherent in the Zulu greeting and our grateful response, is the sense that until you saw me, I didn't exist. By recognizing me, you brought me into existence. A Zulu folk saying clarifies this, "*Umntu ngumuntu nagabantu*", meaning, "*A person is a person because of other people*".

I like the idea that the greeting expresses our interdependence and connectedness; that we are not isolated as we sometimes think we are and behave as if we are. Imagine being greeted by someone who says, "I see you", I see you as a person of value and worth and as someone who has needs as well as gifts to give. The underlying sentiment is that we are here to walk with each other, listen to each other, make room for each other, weep with each other and comfort and build up each other. If you really believed that then you could reply, "Then I am alive".

Well just imagine that, Christians are meant to greet each other and others

with the same passion and conviction. The Bible indicates that to be fully human we must be fully connected. Jesus' humanity demonstrates this. In the Bible read Philippians 2 and you will see this. Jesus came among us and saw us in the deepest sense. He identified with us, loved us, walked with us, wept with us, in fact he still does by his Spirit in each other and now calls us to do the same. Even without a faith we couldn't do worse than thinking about the way we greet and connect with each other. Even if we still only say 'hello' let us say it as if we meant, "I see you". May God bless you all

Stephen (Rector) 01225 774903 [sb54rev@gmail.com](mailto:sb54rev@gmail.com)

~

Lise Griffiths – 07541 353430

Email [melk-](mailto:melk-shamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk)

[shamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:shamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk)

I would like to introduce myself as the new **Good Neighbour Co-ordinator** for the villages of the Melksham Community Area.



**Wiltshire Good Neighbours** is a free and confidential service which puts older residents in touch with the services and people that can help them to live more independent lives. As your Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I can provide information on a wide range of topics of importance to older people, including Benefits, healthcare, transport, befriending services and social activities. We can make home visits or take queries via telephone or email. **No question is too big or too small!**

I am looking forward to getting out and about and making contact with local groups over the next few months to meet people and find out more about their needs and concerns. In the meantime, if you think you or a friend or relative might benefit from our service please call me in confidence.

**Wiltshire Good Neighbours is funded by Wiltshire Council and provided by Com-**

#### **Message from the Parish Council**

Wiltshire Council is proposing to make changes to the 'settlement boundaries' of towns and villages. These are the dividing lines between built areas and the countryside. You will find a map showing the proposed changes in Semington at: [www.tinyurl.com/k3kux8](http://www.tinyurl.com/k3kux8) If there are issues you want to raise about any of these, please talk to a parish councillor before the next PC meeting on September 17th. **Ray Heard**

**St. Michael's Hilperton with St. Mary's Whaddon:**

**St. George's, Semington;**

**St. Paul's Staverton with St. Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh;**

*near the Kennet and Avon Canal, within the diocese of Salisbury*

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN ANY OF THE SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

There are pew sheets in the churches which give details of all events in the Benefice.

<b>Church Services</b>  <b>SEPT 2014</b>	<b>St. George's Semington</b>	St Michael's Hilperton	St. Mary Magdalen's Horse Rd Hilperton Marsh	St. Mary the Virgin Whaddon
Sunday 7th Sept	<b>9.15am Parish Communion</b>	8am Holy Communion 11am Together in Worship With Shoebox launch	11am Parish Communion	
Sunday 14th Sept	<b>9.15am Methodist Service</b>	9.15am Parish Communion 11am Methodist Service	6pm Evening Worship	8am BCP Communion
Sunday 21st Sept	<b>6.00pm Harvest Festival</b>	11am Together in Worship	4pm Tea Time Service	
Sunday 28th Sept	<b>9.15am Together in Worship</b>	9.15am Parish Communion 11am Methodist Service	11am Harvest Celebration	