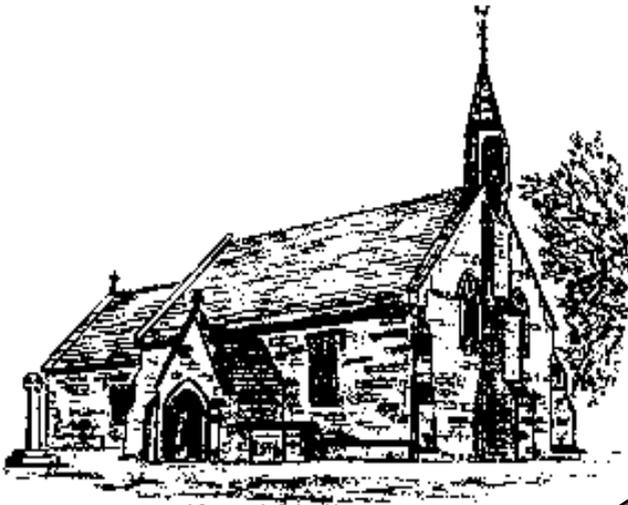


FEBRUARY 2015

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Vicar:

Revd. Stephen Ball

22 Warren Road

Staverton

Trowbridge BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 774903

sb54rev@gmail.com

Semington Diary



February 2015

31st	January	Burns Night	8pm	Village Hall
2nd	Monday	WI Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
3rd	Tuesday	SEM A Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
4th	Wednesday	Carers ILC	10am-1pm	Village Hall
6th	Friday	SEM B Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
11th	Wednesday	ANGELS Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
13th	Friday	SEM B Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
16th	Monday	WI Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
17th	Tuesday	SEM A Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
18th	Wednesday	SEM PC	8pm	Village Hall
19th	Thursday	SA Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
20th	Friday	SEM A Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
21st	Saturday	'Seend Bells' Skittles	7-11pm	Village Hall
22nd	Sunday	Quiz	7.30pm	Village Hall
24th	Tuesday	Horse Management	6pm	Village Hall
		SEM A Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
25th	Wednesday	ANGELS Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
26th	Thursday	SA Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
27th	Friday	SEM B Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
		No Semingtones Choir Practice tonight		
28th	Saturday	Pie/Pint Night	8pm	Village Hall

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 February 2015 for the March issue: email Leon at **semparmag1@outlook.com**. For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy on 870708 or email **jez_tyler@hotmail.com**



VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 4th February, 7.45 - 9pm, 10 Pound Lane. Join us to pray for our community.

Bible Study - 7.45pm, Wednesday 11th February - 10 Pound Lane. Everyone welcome - we're all learning together. More information from Jack Woodward 870784. Later in February we will have the Lent Course starting again, more details nearer the time.

Sudan Appeal

Those who attended church for any of the Christmas services will remember that all the collection money was being sent to a special appeal for the people of Sudan. The collections, and some one-off gifts, raised the amazing total of £914.67!



Semington Weather 2014

It was wet! You didn't need me to tell you that, but the figures show it was the wettest year since records began (well, my records anyway, which began in 1977). The annual total was just over 39 inches (994mm) and almost a third of that came in January and February. September also saw the wettest day I have recorded. You will remember the night of 18th September.

There was a torrential thunderstorm with spectacular lightning and power cuts. 3.2 inches - 81mm - was recorded, which all fell between 8pm and 6am. The other remarkable thing is that the rest of September was completely dry! Temperature figures show it was one of the warmest ever, with no extreme hot or cold.

Bev

'Stompers'

A group of ladies who like fun, music and line dancing.

Come along on a Tuesday at 2.30pm and give it a go.

Further information from Jenny on 871495



STOP PRESS

Semington Social Club Burns Night meal at 8pm

SATURDAY—JANUARY 31st 2015

Tickets £9 (Members) & £10 (Non-Members)

*Cleeve Cats
Boarding Cattery
...Seend Cleeve*

01380 828025

We only board cats



www.cleevecats.co.uk

**HALL
FOR HIRE**

Semington Village

Capacity 100

Phone



**Gerald 01380
870530**



Lincoln's Garden

Management



Fully Qualified Horticulturalist specialising
in Soft Landscape and Professional
Garden Maintenance. Available for all your
gardening requirements:

Lawn Care Planting Schemes

Tree Care Hedge Cutting

Pressure Washing Garden Design

and all General Maintenance.

Call 01380 812271 / 07921169392

Your local **acupuncturist**

Ghislaine Ingman

at

Roundstone Surgery,

Trowbridge.

Please call

07818 517785

with any questions or to
book an appointment

BACc Member
www.acupuncture.org.uk





Semington WI January Meeting.

On Thursday 8th of January, Semington WI met at The Somerset Arms to celebrate its 17th birthday party. Everyone who was able to attend seemed to have a good time, and we were looked after very well by the staff who made us feel very welcome.

I must also thank Steve Williams, our December speaker, who gave a brilliant presentation of "A Soldiers Life In The Trenches". His talk was informative and vivid, full of stories of bravery and endurance, which kept us on the edge of our seats. Steve had set up a theatre set depicting a WW1 trench, with weapons and artefacts from his own personal collection. He had examples of soldier's uniforms, and all manner of the kit they may have had to use, during the hardship of their time in the dreadful conditions of trench warfare. Alongside other members of his audience, I was horrified to hear how soldiers who had "trench foot" due to getting their feet soaked in the constant mire at the bottom of the trench, often losing the soles of their feet when their boots and socks were removed, ended up with terrible infections and often gangrene set in. We had several guests on this evening, as well as our own members and quite a few spouses, so it made a good audience for Steve who told me afterwards that he had taken his presentation all over the country and Europe in the past few years, and such is the demand for his talk, it is now his full time job. We had a few interesting mementoes brought by our members on this evening, which we enjoyed looking at. Thanks to the ladies who provided our refreshments.

On Thursday February 12th at 7.30pm in the village hall we have actor and media presenter Jon Monie telling tales from his life on the stage, I'm sure it will be an entertaining evening on a lighter note.

As always, guests are welcome.

Carole Ball



CAN YOU HELP? - LADY LOOKING FOR DOG CARER

"My name is Marian Rodgers and I work for 'Carers Support Wiltshire' in Semington. I am looking for someone who might be able to look after my dog on Mondays and Tuesdays while I'm at work at 'The Independent Living Centre' in St George's Rd , Semington. She's an elderly black Labrador and is quiet and well behaved. I have a lovely couple who have offered to look after her when they can but it would be helpful to have back up for when they're away and not able to have her. My mobile number for contact is 07824 773566. Thank you."



WILTS ELECTRICAL

Established 2004

Tel:01225 284206

YOUR LOCAL APPROVED ELECTRICIAN



EMAIL: INFO@WILTSELECTRICAL.COM

WWW.WILTSELECTRICAL.COM

WILLIAMS HOME TECH

Need help with your computer?

Call Dave for user-friendly help

For anything to do with home computers, laptops or entertainment equipment...

I can set up your wireless broadband, networking, iPad, iPhone and other smart phones. If your computer has ground to a halt, or you want 1 to 1 instruction on how to use your PC... internet security... download pictures from your camera... how to use software and much more... **call Dave.**

If I can't help I won't charge.

01380 870767 or 07799 337807

e-mail: help@williamshometech.com

www.williamshometech.com

Kieren Bourne



Garden Maintenance

Regular or one-off service

Don't let that overgrown corner get you down anymore!

Special price on your first session!

Lawn mowing, pruning, weeding, hedge trimming, planting, edging, digging.

Cottage garden & herb plants available for sale

Can also help with interior and some exterior household painting.



Tel: 01380 870 226

Email: kowhai45@hotmail.com

Parish Council (PC) Combined Summarised Minutes(17/12/14 & 14/1/15)

Neighbourhood Policing(14/1/15): written report from PC Thomas:

06/12/14 - 36 Seend Cleeve, walk in burglary, £115 cash taken from purse on kitchen table.

17/12/14 - 24 Great Hinton, frame on garage forced, no entry gained.

23/12/14 – New House Farm, Ashton Common, purse taken from insecure car.

03/01/15 – Semington Fairfield caravan Site, 2 awnings taken from secure caravan compound.

Broughton Gifford and Whitley have suffered from numerous shed burglaries. Be alert, fit audible alarms where possible and report suspicious activity.

Planning:

14/09318/ADV - Littleton R'ndabout APPROVED(17/12/14): 4 free standing non illuminated sponsorship signs

14/10176/FUL - 51 Little Marsh APPROVED(17/12/14): Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with detached single garage (Resubmission of 14/07713/FUL)

14/09817/FUL - 545 Canal Bridge APPROVED(14/1/15): Demolition of existing single storey extension, erection of a two storey extension, garage and associated works.

14/10293/FUL - Aidan's Field Devizes Road APPROVED(14/1/15): Extend existing large barn and construction of a new detached barn. Improvements to existing vehicular access.

The PC examined the following planning application:

14/10797/FUL - Greenacres Mobile Park NEW(17/12/14): Change of use of agricultural land to create 7 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches with associated ancillary development.

The PC resolved to send these comments to Wiltshire Council (in italics):

The PC objects to this planning application for the following reasons:

The proposed development will compromise highway safety – there will be significantly increased traffic moving on/off site and there will be disruption to the flow of existing traffic along the busy A361. It is inappropriate development immediately next to the western boundary of the West Wiltshire Crematorium and will result in a loss of privacy, peace for quiet reflection and dignity. It represents overdevelopment and will result in a loss of open countryside. The Appeal Decision in relation to the existing site dated 24/2/12 clearly stated (Para 17) that no development should take place on the site proposed in this application and Condition 5 stated “Pitches shall not be formed, nor caravan sited on land other than the eastern part of the site identified for this purpose..” To approve this application would overturn the Inspector’s decision.

Continued on page 9

Chris Walker

*Plumbing services & Home
Improvements*

**For a Friendly, reliable & local
service**

Bathroom & Kitchen Installations •
Showers • Toilet repairs • Tiling •

Radiators • Burst Pipes • Leaking Taps
& Ball Valves • Cold water tanks
replacement • Fascias & Guttering.

**For a free quotation please call Chris
on: 07837 589919 or 01380 870537**

J.D. PRICE BUILDING SERVICES EST. 1987

- Extensions
- Garages
- Renovations
- Patios, Drives, etc.
- General Building Works

**Phone for expert advice
and a free quotation**

Tel. 01225 344624

Mobile 07970 737321

City & Guilds Accredited

KAVANAGHS

**With a wealth of experience
contact us for free advice on**

**Sales, Lettings and
Commercial Property**

**Our Chartered Surveyors can also help with
Professional advice**

Contact our local offices at

13 High Street Melksham Wiltshire SN12 6JY 01225 341001	63 Fore Street Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 8ET 01225 341504
---	---

**info@kavanaghs.co.uk
of find us on rightmove.co.uk**

YOUR LOCAL DECORATOR

30 Yrs experience

- Residential
- Commercial
- Quality Work
- All local towns covered.

JOHN E GREEN

For a free estimate call

01380 871225 or

07801 073800

PC summarised minutes continued from page 7:

Littleton/Landsdowne site(17/12/14): Councillors were concerned at this continuing, apparently unapproved, development. It was reported that (potentially toxic) material is being burned, a new entrance has been opened on to the metalled track and bunding has been installed adjacent to the A361 road. Councillors will express their concerns to Wiltshire Council.

Large scale development around the Wilts and Berks Canal(17/12/14): Cllr. Seed had been advised and Cllr. Scott would follow this up. Due to its likely impact on Semington, Semington PC must be invited to any further meetings.

Littleton Mill(17/12/14): Wiltshire Council Enforcement Officer, Joe Richardson, had taken action in respect of the 'school' and the occupiers had agreed to cease their activities.

Appeal Decisions(14/1/15): The PC had not been informed by either Wiltshire Council or the Planning Inspectorate of Appeal decisions relating to contentious Semington planning applications. This shortcoming needed to be corrected. Cllr. Scott said he had requested and received information from Wiltshire Council under the Freedom of Information Act. He invited councillors to study this and to forward him any comments.

Finance: account details available on request.

The PC resolved (17/12/14) that the Clerk is to be remunerated according to the recently revised salary scale for SCP24.

The PC resolved (14/1/15) to adopt its proposed Budget subject to a resolution to request an amount of £9,500 from Wiltshire Council for FY2015/16.

Defibrillator(17/12/14): Cllr. Bowyer had submitted a grant application to the Melksham Area Board for half the cost (£1000)of the Defibrillator project.

Highways/Environment:

(17/12/14) Councillors had been sent the Community Day programme for the Wiltshire Council Highways and Streetscene Focal Point.

(17/12/14) Cllr. Wade explained that the cost of installing a street light on the path next to the Village Hall was prohibitive. He questioned whether it would have a beneficial effect on safety. It was resolved not to proceed with this matter but revisited once the hedge had been removed.

(17/12/14) The PC noted that the property occupiers close to the overgrown hedge did not accept responsibility for this hedge; ownership of the hedge could not be established.

(14/1/15) The PC resolved that it would seek additional quotations for the hedge removal. The cost may be prohibitive if undertaken by a contractor; it may be necessary to establish a volunteer Working Party to undertake the work.

Continued on page 11



Donna
WILLIAMS

ADI 318571

Registered Approved Driving Instructor

STRUCTURED TRAINING
PATIENT FRIENDLY INSTRUCTOR
COMPETITIVE RATES
ASK ABOUT DISCOUNTS

Tel: 01380 870767
Mob: 07855 708045



Have you always wanted to learn the piano, or do you need a few lessons to get you back in the swing?

If so, Linda is ready to help whether you are a beginner, improver or returner. All ages are welcome and it is never too late to learn something new or do something different.



Linda Winstock,
DipMus(Open)
Telephone: 01380 870804
Public Liability Insured
CRB Cleared

Can't tune in your new TV?

P.F. HARRIS & SON

**T.V. Video & Audio
Services**

Repairs, Sales & Tuneins

Call 01225 752197

Mobile 07925 474711

www.tvrepairstrowbridge.co.uk
**Unit 24 Meadows Works, Court
St**

Trowbridge BA14 8BR

SHOP LOCAL

**Let us help you with your TV
requirements**

TOM STEEL



Oil Boiler Engineer
(oftec Reg No C10107)



COMMISSIONING

SERVICE

MAINTENANCE

Any problems give me a ring on
01380 727603
07746 063 147

PC summarised minutes continued from page 9:

(14/1/15) Cllr. Smyth stated that he had spoken to Stuart Renfrew (Wiltshire Council Highways & Streetscene Focal Point) about matters previously raised by Cllr. Robinson. Mr Renfrew had informed him that the footpath was not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council so that it had no responsibility to install a gate. The state of the fence, although possibly the responsibility of Wiltshire Council, did not justify any repair.

Wilts & Berks Canal(14/1/15): Councillors expressed concern that the development of the canal and wharf as a leisure facility at Semington may have an adverse effect on local traffic flows. The Highway Authority may seek to allow construction and leisure facility traffic to access the site through Semington village. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr. Seed expressing these concerns and requesting that the PC is fully consulted on any proposed change to the existing traffic flows or signage.

Any Other Business(17/12/14):

Cllr. Scott – Fibre to the Cabinet (Broadband up to 40MBps) is now available in Semington.

Cllr. Lockwood – Dog fouling is a serious problem in the village.

Cllrs. Rimmer and Wade – Thanks were expressed to all those who helped to collect and to erect the Christmas tree.

Cllr. Robinson – A self-closing gate should be installed on the footpath close to The Turnpike to prevent stray dogs from entering private properties.

Cllr. Robinson – The installation of a wooden barrier between the new/old roads near to the roundabout would be a useful safety measure to prevent children from running into the road.

Any Other Business(14/1/15):

Cllr. Wade – He had received correspondence confirming that Leyland Magistrates' Court has listed a case relating to the Jubilee Mug fraud that resulted in Semington Parish Council becoming a victim.

Date of Next Meeting: 18th February 2015, then 25th March 2015

R Oglesby Chairman, Semington Parish Council

Editor's Notes:

1. Since the last issue, we have had two sets of minutes from the Parish Council so I have combined them together, indicating the meeting date, where relevant. I hope this is not confusing.
2. Over December and January Fibre Broadband, up to 40MBps, is now available to Semington and Steeple Ashton residents so make sure you sign up to it as it will greatly enhance your communication experience.
3. I would urge you all to read the summary of Head's letter which has gone out to all parents & stakeholders about the plans to convert the school to Academy status.

Leon



St. George's C of E Primary School
www.st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk
email: admin@st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk



Summary of a letter sent to all Parents & Stakeholders

Following agreement by the Governors, our school is now actively pursuing conversion to Academy status having concluded that conversion will be a positive move for our school. We have received approval from the Department for Education (DfE) to progress towards academy status. We are aiming to become an Academy by April 2015.

We are looking to join the Academy Trust of Melksham (ATOM), a new Multi-Academy Trust that we are helping to create, comprising of Bowerhill Primary School, Melksham Oak Community School, Seend CofE VA Primary School, Shaw CEVC Primary School, St George's CofE Primary School Semington, St Mary's Broughton Gifford VC Primary School, and The Manor CofE VC Primary School. Post conversion to Academy status, each school within the new Multi-Academy Trust will retain its current name and respective ethos and values.

At the heart of the new partnership is a determination by all the schools to deliver great education through a commitment to collaboration to benefit young people from age 4-19 years in Melksham and its surrounding areas. The partnership aims to enhance the learning experience for all children by providing opportunities for each academy within the Trust to celebrate what they already do well and to develop and improve the practice of all academies within the Trust.

As part of the process to convert, we want to hear your views and would like to provide you with as much information as possible, so that you may better understand the importance in becoming an academy. We have therefore arranged to hold an information evening at each school to share our plans with you, listen to your thoughts and answer your questions. [Editor's note: details of these events have been provided to all Parents.]

What are academies? Academies are publicly funded schools, which are not controlled by the Local Authority or Diocese and therefore have additional independence in a number of important areas. This greater independence brings increased responsibilities and opportunities to build upon our current success and ensure that we continue to improve our service to families in our local community. Find further detail on academies including the 'Model Funding Agreements' at the Department for Education website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>

What is a multi-academy trust? A multi-academy trust builds on these principles

and is where two or more schools convert to academy status together. A single academy board (a charitable company limited by guarantee) is formed to provide the strategic leadership and oversight of all the schools in the Trust. Each school will retain a Local Governing Body which will operate in much the same way as it does at present. The composition of the new board will be decided upon by a Steering Group which is made up of representatives from each school.

Why convert to Academy status? Firstly, becoming an academy would allow us to strengthen cohesion between all 7 schools in order to support continuity of education within our community. Secondly, there would be greater flexibility in how we spend our funding. At present the Local Authority allocates funds in a particular way and retains a significant percentage of our budget to provide centralised services. As an academy, we would be able to determine for ourselves which, if any, of those services we want the Local Authority to provide. Any funding saved would then be available for redistribution to pupils where the need is greatest. Finally, academies are becoming a reality across the country and many of our neighbouring schools have either recently converted or are in the process of converting. Many of the traditional services provided by the Local Authority are being withdrawn as a result of enduring funding pressures and this situation is only likely to worsen. In the years ahead, the education system faces a significant number of changes which may be of concern to some. These changes will affect us whether we become an academy or not. However, the ATOM Schools believe that we will manage change well, and that, in joining together as a multi-academy, we will be able to strengthen our ability to meet future challenges with a single stronger voice.

It is the Steering Groups' considered view that the time is now right for our schools to seize the initiative, take control of our own destiny and develop a local solution for local schools.

What happens next? We are now entering a consultation period running from 19th January 2015 to 27th February 2015. During this period we will be consulting with parents/carers, students, staff, unions, the Local Authority, the local community, including churches where appropriate and local schools. We will be holding a series of presentations, one based at each school, to provide more information and the opportunity to ask questions. At these events we will explain more about our plans, the benefits and the future as a Multi-Academy Trust and the potential risks and how we are managing these.

For comments or further queries, please e-mail ATOMfeedback@yahoo.co.uk by 27th Feb 2015 or write to your school's Chair of Governors, C/O the School office. We will update a Frequently Asked Questions section online with any questions or concerns that might emerge during the consultation phase.

G. G. Campbell
Headteacher

Lynn Cook
Chair of Governors

Need to get to the RUH?
Live in west Wiltshire?

CONNECT
2
Wiltshire



**Book Connect2 for work,
appointments or visiting.**

To book call **08456 525255** option **2**

For information **01380 860100**

To contact us from the hospital dial **1444**
from any hospital extension.

Connect2 RUH – a door-to-door service.



Funded by

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Peace of Mind Funeral Plans

Buy at today's prices

With a *Peace of Mind Funeral Plan*
you benefit from

- ✓ Protection against rising funeral costs
- ✓ No more to pay for your funeral director's services
- ✓ Complete flexibility to choose the funeral you want
- ✓ Guaranteed acceptance.

To discuss your choices contact

Jack Woodward

01380 870784

All plans registered with the Funeral Planning Authority

Beautiful, stylish flowers



Wedding flowers
Hand-tied bouquets
Arrangements
Funeral tributes

To order by phone or to arrange to visit the
Stems Studio in Semington please contact
Emma Payne on

01225 700020

www.stemsfloristwiltshire.co.uk

Local delivery available

**Bridge House, Semington, Trowbridge
BA14 6JT**

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

Firstly a Happy New Year to all the residents of Summerham & Seend. 2015 has started easier than 2014 without the sustained rainfall/flooding that heralded 2014. But Council flood alleviation work very definitely does not stop and is active all year round. In 2014 we also had flash flooding due to unprecedented rainfall on 18th September when houses, previously untouched by earlier flooding, suffered water in their living rooms. Sadly the effects are felt for many months after the water subsides. In Steeple Ashton the cause of the unusual flooding in September was 75mm rain in one hour combined with tree roots growing into the main drains as well as a few critical smaller drains blocked with debris. Wiltshire Council has now cleared the main blockages but unfortunately funding shortages mean it can't all be done and we have to rely on local help to solve local problems. So if you pass a storm drain or gully that may be blocked with leaves or rubbish then a little public spirited clearance would be most helpful.

January is the month for Council budget planning. This can become a little tribal as there is a natural instinct to fight for my own portfolio areas. But the greater good of the Council and Wiltshire residents has to come to the fore. First priority is make sure that the vulnerable in our communities are protected from the worst of the central government funding reductions even if that means that we will have to do a little more to help. Councillors will find it difficult to produce a balanced budget by mid-February taking what is becoming a year on year 10% cut in government funding with no prospect of increase in future years - whoever wins the General Election. Somehow we keep the County going; our roads do get repaired, libraries remain open, leisure centres continue to run, campus building programmes continue and most importantly our most vulnerable residents continue to receive the help they need. Difficult times ahead but your Council will continue to do its best for our County.

I am spending a great deal of time addressing local planning issues, especially the proposed expansion of the Greenacres Traveller site in Semington. The proposal for an extra seven pitches will almost triple the size of the current site and is causing local residents concern. The Parish Council has objected to the application and I have exercised my right as your Councillor for the application to be decided by a Planning Committee. There I will listen to the arguments of others but also put the case against site expansion because I feel that it may upset the community balance, clearly being an over-development. The result is uncertain as it is more difficult to oppose site development once the principle of development has already been approved by a Government Planning Inspector as has happened with Greenacres three years ago. Still we will do our best to achieve a favourable result.

Jonathan Seed

Fuelcare

YOUR **NEW LOCAL** SUPPLIER OF

**HOME HEATING OIL,
COMMERCIAL &
FARM FUELS**



TOP UP SCHEME & BUDGET PAYMENT

AVAILABLE

Melksham Depot.

01225 704455

Anthony Lovatt

Furniture
Restoration

Tables, chairs, bureaux
Chests, long case clocks
Mirrors, etc.
Veneer repair
Polishing and Waxing

Tel. 01225 764 206

Mob. 07709 687 137

**Collection &
Delivery service**

DUNCAN ELLIOTT

07814 189822



GARDEN MACHINERY REPAIRS & SERVICING

PETROL LAWNMOWER HEDGE CUTTER
CHAINSAW BLADE SHARPENING STRIMMER

WELDING FABRICATION

SECURITY WINDOW BALUSTRADES FENCING
BARS
GATES WROUGHT IRON RAILINGS
HANDRAILS WORK BRACKETS

COLLECTION AND RETURN SERVICE AVAILABLE

WORTON, DEVIZES

DUNK7@HOTMAIL.CO.UK



 [Duncan Elliott Garden Machinery
Repairs and Welding Fabrication](#)

T.A.P SERVICES

Gas & Oil

Rangecooker Servicing

Oil Boiler Servicing

GASSAFE & OFTEC

Registered

Tel: 01373 463106

tapservices@btinternet.com

NATURE NOTES

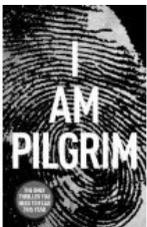
In William Morris's room at Kelmscott Manor, the early 17th century carved oak bed has an embroidered valance and bed-hangings that were designed in 1891 by his daughter, May. This poem, written by Morris, is part of the embroidery:



For the Bed at Kelmscott

The wind's on the wold and the night is a-cold,
And Thames runs chill twixt mead and hill,
But kind and dear is the old house here,
And my heart is warm midst winter's harm.
Rest then and rest, and think of the best
Twixt summer and spring when all birds sing
In the town of the tree, as ye lie in me
And scarce dare move lest earth and its love
Should fade away ere the full of the day.
I am old and have seen many things that have been,
Both grief and peace, and wane and increase.
No tale I tell of ill or well,
But this I say, night treadeth on day,
And for worst and best, right good is rest.

BOOKCLUB - Next Meeting on 29th January 2015



Don't forget this one! It was agreed to discuss "I am Pilgrim" by Terry Hayes at this next meeting at 7.30pm in the Somerset Arms.

Angela Grodzicka 870756



mot@kingautoservices.co.uk

MOT £39.99 FOR ALL SEMINGTON RESIDENTS

GIVE US A CALL OR BOOK ONLINE
USING OUR NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

Unit 14 Turnpike Ind. Est, Semington
TEL: 01380 870999 KINGSAUTOSERVICES.CO.UK

LAWN HOUSE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

Lawn House, 29 High Street
Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire BA14 6BU
Tel.01380 871555

*Treatment of Back & Neck Pain,
Shoulder, Arm, Hand, Hip, Leg & Foot Pain,
Arthritis, Spondylitis, Tennis Elbow, Slipped
Disc, Pins & Needles,
Headache & Migraine, Sports Injuries.
Children Treated*

S. J. PRIOR, B.Sc., D.C.
DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC
Registered Member of the
British Chiropractic Association

GOOD QUALITY

HARDWOOD LOGS

FOR SALE

CALL BILL ON 01380 870237

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Christmas came and went in a flash. I hope you all enjoyed it - now all we have to do is pay for it! This is the time of year when many worthy charities come around fundraising - but only engage with them if you are sure you want to be involved in giving regular monthly donations; otherwise a polite no thank you, or, better still, just don't answer the door. They will be looking for a permanent monthly subscription. I don't have anything further to report this month, but we are still getting told that our computer is faulty but they can fix it etc...!



Paul Bowyer 870 512



The Christmas Quiz was well-attended; many people came in their best Christmas outfits, with a bit of tinsel or the odd (!) reindeer antler, which was

fun. It was set by Pam, David, Geoff & Sue and every single question was on Christmas. You wouldn't think was possible, but they did it! Good fun, so well done to them. The winners of the main quiz were Stuart, Tony and Lyn.

The Quiz in the Lounge, held between Christmas and New Year, was set by Colin Wade and, unfortunately, wasn't well attended. Pam, David, Sue and Geoff won the quiz.

January's Quiz had 5 teams attending and was set by Pete, Lesley, David and Tony. Pete Vooght paid tribute and raised a toast to Bob Hughes, who died in January. He will be greatly missed by his friends in the village and by all the Semington Quizzers, especially the Infamous Five, who are now four. He loved setting music rounds on the 1970s, which were quite a challenge for everyone, but it was great going back down memory lane.

The Marathon Quiz was 20 questions on TV in 2014. The winners were Close Friends team, Pam, David, Sue and Geoff with an impressive 16 out of 20. At half time Terry's Turnips were in the lead, but the rest were in a bunch behind them. They extended their lead to $4\frac{1}{2}$ points over the Four Tops by the end of the quiz.

Thanks to everyone who has set or attended quizzes in 2014. We look forward to another year and hope a more people will come along. So, if you know that Bob Geldof co-wrote 'Do they know it's Christmas?' or that Sputnik was the first artificial satellite, why not give it a try?

NEXT QUIZ: 15th FEBRUARY

Julia and Colin Wade

CATHOLIC NEWS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY

PARISH PRIEST CANON LIAM O'DRISCOLL

TELEPHONE 01225 752152 www.stjohnthebaptist.co.uk

St John's Sunday Masses : Saturday (Vigil) 6pm; Sunday 10.30am & 6pm

Weekday Masses: Mon: 9am; Tues: 6pm; Wed: 12.10pm; Fri 6pm Sat:
10am; 6pm (Vigil)

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 2015

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.

For information on any of the above contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 or email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

A bit of extra help...

Wiltshire Good Neighbours is a service that provides information and directs older people to sources of support to enable them to remain independent at home for longer. I can provide information on any issue affecting older people in our rural communities.

At the moment we are working in partnership with the Wiltshire Community Foundation on their 'Surviving Winter' campaign. This provides grants of £200 to help those who are spending on average 10% of their income on fuel during the cold winter months. In addition, you need to be receiving means-tested benefits including Pension Credit, and be a resident of Wiltshire or Swindon Borough. As your Good Neighbour Co-ordinator, I can submit a grant application on your behalf, so please contact me for more details (see below).

Wiltshire Good Neighbours is a free and confidential service for older people in our rural communities.

Lise Griffiths, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator, Melksham Rural Community Area.

Telephone: 07541 353430E: melkshamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk

Paws

For thought



"Turn away from evil
and go good. Search for
peace, and work to
maintain it."

It's in the Bible:

Psalm 34: 14



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,

This is time of year when all the wedding couples who are marrying in our churches are being visited and lots of planning is underway. Last year, in my wedding talks, I spoke about choices. There are lots of choices to be made when planning a wedding, from how much will be spent to what the colour of the flowers will be. Underneath those minor choices there are much bigger life changing ones. At the very beginning of the relationship there was the choice to *be* together in the first place. Our 40th anniversary is this year so it has been fun thinking about how we got together. We were so in love that it has become difficult to identify moments of actual choice; we just know that we chose each other and here we are. For others there is a more precise plan.

Unsurprisingly, following the choice to *be* together, what many couples have rarely thought about is what will *keep* them together. It seems a bit of a surprise when I talk about choosing to love, though not for the parents and older members of the congregation. Most reading this will be familiar with all the ups and downs of life, especially married life, whether observed or lived out. I really haven't met the perfect couple yet and if I did I would be quite suspicious. There are periods in the lives of many, if not most couples (or other relationships generally) when the twists and turns of life lead to a place where circumstances feel so difficult that it is hard to know how to go on. These are times when such a test is put on a relationship that the initial choice to be together simply isn't enough. Something more is required.

The 'more' is the choice to love - a very easy thing to say but much harder to do. In our experience the rather frothy but lovely kind of love that brought us together is vastly different from the deep sustaining love that we share now. In English we only have one word to describe these different 'loves' but in the New Testament of the Bible there are more words and the differentiation is very clear. The most difficult of these words (*agapé*) has little to do with emotions and feelings and everything to do with choice. *This* love choice is sacrificial, self-giving; loving the other without measure and expecting nothing in

return. In the best and worst of times it is the choice to listen to the other, weep with them, walk with them and hold them. It is sometimes easy and sometimes the hardest of choices especially when we feel hurt or not understood; or helpless to do anything or unable to understand.

The journey towards the *agapé* way of loving is best started from the very beginning of a relationship. As I suggest sometimes, “I love you until the end of time, I would give my life for you, I want the very best for you. I want all your gifts to grow, I want you to flourish and be everything that you are meant to be and I don’t ask for anything else in return.” If both partners are intent on this way of life then both are giving away the total gift of themselves but both are receiving the total gift of the other. In reality this is the journey of a lifetime and, because we are not perfect, takes a lifetime; but it is so worth it.

As Christians we understand this to be God’s love for us. Read 1 Corinthians 13 to see what else it says about *agapé* love. If you need a listening ear do call us.

Every blessing as you choose to love each other.

***Stephen* (Rector) 01225 774903 sb54rev@gmail.com**

BAPTISMS



Oliver Alexander Harry Farmer and Lewis Jacob Saunders were welcomed into the church family at their Baptism. We pray God will bless them and their families, and as they grow, they will experience God’s love for themselves.

THANK YOU

Muriel, Colleen and Patrick Gover would like to thank everyone for their great kindness, messages of sympathy and support at the funeral, during their recent bereavement.

**St.Michael's Hilperton with St. Mary's Whaddon
St. George's, Semington
St. Paul's Staverton with St. Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh**

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ANY SERVICE IN THE BENEFICE

February 2015 Sunday Services

St. George's Semington

1st Feb 9.15am Parish Communion
8th Feb 9.15am Morning Worship
15th Feb 6pm Evening Prayer
22nd Feb 9.15am Together in Worship

St. Michael's Hilperton

1st Feb 8am Holy Communion / 11am Together in Worship
8th Feb 9.15am Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service
15th Feb 11am Together in Worship
22nd Feb 9.15am Holy Communion / 11am Methodist Service

St. Mary Mag Hilperton Marsh

1st Feb 11am Parish Communion
8th Feb 6pm Evening Worship
15th Feb 4pm Tea Time Service
22nd Feb 11am Parish Communion

St. Mary Whaddon

8th Feb 8am BCP Communion