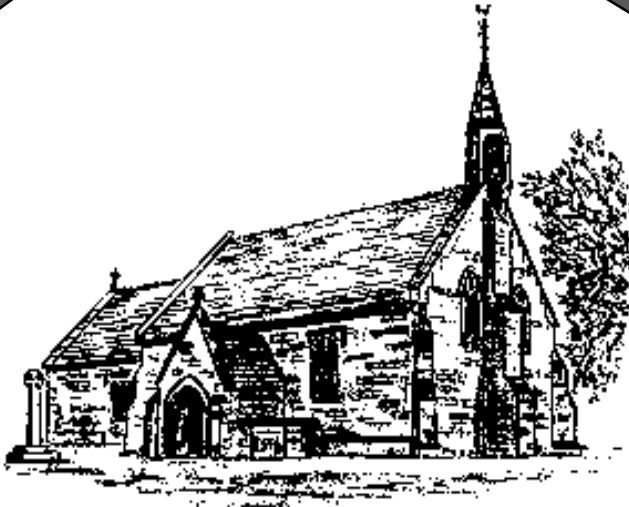


MARCH 2015

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Vicar:

Revd. Stephen Ball

22 Warren Road

Staverton

Trowbridge BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 774903

sb54rev@gmail.com

Semington Diary



March 2015

5th	Thursday	The Book Club	7.30pm	Village Pub
		SA Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
6th	Friday	SEM A Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
10th	Tuesday	SEM B Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
12th	Thursday	SEM WI Annual Mtg	7pm	Village Hall
13th	Friday	SEM B Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
14th	Saturday	Messy Church	11-1pm	School Hall
15th	Sunday	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall
17th	Tuesday	SEM A Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
18th	Wed	ANGELS Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
19th	Thursday	SA Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
20th	Friday	Semingtones Practice	6-7pm	Village Hall
		Choir Coach Departs	7pm	Swindon
		SEM A Men Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
24th	Tuesday	SEM B Ladies Skittles	8pm	Village Hall
25th	Wed	St George's School	2-3pm	Village Church
		SEM PC	8pm	Village Hall
27th	Friday	No Semingtones Choir Practice tonight		
28th	Saturday	Food 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



VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

Bible Study - Wednesday 11th March - 10 Pound Lane, 25th March - 31 Pound Close, 7.45pm. Everyone welcome - More information from Jack Woodward 870784.

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

Messy Church - Saturday 14th March 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 as soon as possible if you can come, so that we 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.*

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Next deadline is Monday 16th March 2015 for the April issue: email Leon, the Editor, at **semparmag1@outlook.com**. For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy on 870708 or email **jez_tyler@hotmail.com**

EDITOR'S NOTES:

(1) You may notice that we have added an extra A4 page to the magazine, giving 28 smaller pages in total—more space for your news and a few extra adverts.

(2) This edition includes some useful reminders, particularly the one about Internet Safety for our children. We all need to pay far more attention to protecting smartphones, tablets, laptops and PCs which they use.

(3) The Semingtones Choir seems to be taking off with their first singing competition at the Swindon Music Festival on 20th March. Good luck to all of them.

(4) And finally... If you are desperate to borrow a projector for use with your event, I have a very bright (2800 lumens) projector which may be borrowed for a small donation to the village hall funds. It does have a minor fault, but generally it should suit your purpose. Contact me –870708.

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Semington WI February Meeting.

Last Thursday 12th February was the final meeting (before our Annual meeting) at which we welcome a guest speaker to give a talk at our group. Our guest was the actor Jon Monie, who entertained us with the story of how he got into acting after

being involved in local broadcasting in Bristol for several years after graduating from drama school. We were amused at how teachers at his school insisted that he should study maths even though he preferred English, and was better at it. When after the first year his percentage mark was an abysmal 6%, his headmaster and parents agreed a change of path was in order! Does this story sound familiar?

His theatre career has been in the Theatre Royal in Bath, where he has performed for quite a few years in Pantomime. Always playing parts such as Wishy Washy in Aladdin, and Idle Jack in Jack and The Beanstalk. As I am in my 27th Panto with Potterne Panto Group this week, I was very amused by Jon's stories, and intrigued that when theatres perform Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, they cannot often have real dwarfs, as at this time of year they are in short supply - surprise, surprise. (No pun meant here.)

Our competition was "A Theatre Programme" and three very nice ones were brought in by members, but the one that took Jon's fancy was a programme of the very last performance of My Fair Lady that Julie Andrews appeared in.

The next meeting will be our Annual meeting on Thursday 12th March at which changes and new decisions will be made, and the start of a new WI year. We will be having a new programme of fun things to do at meetings, and maybe trips out and visits. Of course as this year is the 100th anniversary of the WI, there are many days of celebration organised by WI's all round the country, and it certainly is a good year to join!

Carole Ball

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THE BOOK CLUB



The Book Club met on Thurs 29 Jan and discussed "I Am Pilgrim" by Terry Hayes. The majority of members thought it was an excellent book with an exciting plot and subplot - so much so that they couldn't put it down and several want to read it again. Not everyone had read the book and a small minority found it too wordy, too many subplots and unbelievable coincidences and felt it had been written as a film script. Good to have different opinions. The next meeting will be on Thursday 5 March at 7.30 p.m. in

the Somerset Arms and we will be discussing Arthur and George by Julian Barnes. All welcome.

Angela Grodzicka 870756

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Many apologies to anyone who turned up on 22 February as the wrong date was put in the Diary of events. Those teams who came on the right date

thoroughly enjoyed the quiz, which was set by Denise, Judy and Leigh.. There were some interesting rounds, such as 'The answer is not in the question' - for example, Where do Venetian Blinds come from? - the answer is not in the question, so we knew it wasn't Venice - the answer is Japan! Similarly, the black box on an aeroplane is orange, George VI's first name was Albert and Chinese gooseberries come from New Zealand.

It was a close finish to the main quiz, which was won by team 'Six of the best' (Sue, Steve, Esme, Philip, Colin & Julia) from 'Close Friends' by 3 points. The marathon was anagrams of different varieties of farm animals. The winning team - Tea for 3 - scored a very impressive 25/26.

We would love to see more people coming to the quiz, so do give it a go. It doesn't matter if you come on your own, we can put you in a team.

NEXT QUIZ: SUNDAY 15th MARCH, 7.30 for 7.45pm.

Julia Wade



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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

February is the month Wiltshire Council sets its budget for the Financial Year. The budget setting process involves many meetings both to work up the budget but also to present the budget to the public whose money we are spending.

There remains much good news in the midst of the dreary financial shenanigans and much of it is within my own Cabinet portfolio area. I am afraid that it is inevitable that at budget time Cabinet members become a little tribal as they fight to maintain their own service budgets and service delivery. In my own areas I am pleased that we have maintained our flood alleviation funding in excess of £1million, that we are retaining and enhancing our leisure centres, that our Campus programme continues, our Area Board grant funding continues and we have managed to protect our valued library service. All this has been achieved whilst at the same time we are maintaining all of the services to the vulnerable in our county.

However our mobile library service is being reviewed. The change being suggested is that the service frequency is likely to reduce but that no parish currently receiving a mobile library visit will have the service totally withdrawn. Those parishes receiving several different visits may see these reduced. A 12 week consultation will take place from March to June and after that it will be up to residents to further justify the value of their mobile library service by using it.

I know that these proposed mobile library service changes will cause concern but they should be seen in the context of many counties reducing their library service opening hours when Wiltshire Council is expanding ours, closing libraries when Wiltshire Council is opening new ones and completely withdrawing the mobile library service when we are proposing to continue ours albeit with a reduced frequency of visits to villages.

So I think that the message is that budgets are not all bad news if they are managed carefully!

On a more parochial note the application for a threefold increase of the number of traveller pitches at Greenacres was heard in County Hall on 11th February and deferred for a decision on 11th March. I understand the desire of the family at Greenacres to expand their occupation of their holding. However all proposals must comply with planning policy and currently I do not believe that these proposals do that and this is why, with Parish Council support, I opposed the plans in February and will do so again in March.

Jonathon Seed - Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding. Member for Summerham and Seend. Wiltshire Council

Edited Parish Council (PC) Minutes held on 18 February 2015

Neighbourhood Policing: PCSO Helen Wilson reported no Semington incidents last month but gave details of 5 crimes in surrounding villages.

Planning:

14/10797/FUL - Greenacres Mobile Park - Change of use of agricultural land to create 7 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches with associated ancillary development. **DEFERRED.**

The Chairman said that this application had been deferred by the Wiltshire Council Strategic Planning Committee on 11 February 2015 following opposition by a number of parties. An amended application was then submitted with a request for comments no later than 27 February 2015. The PC examined this amended application and will submit the following comments (shown in italics):

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 (Ref. APP/Y3940/A/11/2156159 dated 24/2/12) clearly stated (at 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.....’. The ‘site’ is defined at Para 9 of the Appeal Decision and it is stated to be the whole site. To approve this application would overturn the Inspector’s decision. The proposed development is contrary to the formally adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

In view of the controversy surrounding the original planning application the Council resolved to advise parishioners of this new application and the view of the PC by means of a leaflet drop.

Finance: full details are available on request.

Defibrillator: Cllr. Bowyer confirmed the grant of £1100 for its acquisition.

The PC will buy a defibrillator and cabinet and inform SW Ambulance Service as well as the Village Hall Committee so that arrangements can be made to fit it to the Village Hall wall.

Highways/Environment:

(a) Cllr. Smyth met with Stuart Renfrew (Wiltshire Council) and advised him of tasks to be completed in the village; all such tasks were completed.

(b) The PC agreed that it would retain the hedge by the side of the Hall but do work in the Autumn (avoiding nesting birds) to reduce its height for easy maintenance by adjoining landowners.

Wilts & Berks Canal: Cllr. Smyth and Cllr. Robinson had attended a meeting of the re-invigorated Wilts and Berks Canal Working Group on 17

February 2015; drawings of the proposed canal/canalside development were given to all councillors (electronic copies available on request to the Editor). Cllr. Smyth gave this report:

Update on work done

- *After a year of environmental study work—no major wildlife issues although badger sets have been identified on the canal route and a Greater Horseshoe bat was discovered. Action will be taken on these.*
- *Archaeology – full survey of route using ground radar revealed evidence of possible Roman remains.*
- *Water resource – water to fill and replenish the new canal will have to come from the river and not the K&A canal.*
- *Water quality – still a bit of an issue and will require a “fish” expert to advise on the effect of water entering river from the new canal.*
- *Hydro scheme – now in the plans as “Archimedean Screw” type.*
- *New issue arisen on space behind new inn.*

Funding: *will come mainly from developments – about 600 houses to be built in 4 distinct areas shown on drawing. Current drawing is provisional and subject to change as consultation continues and design firms up.*

Programme: *Aiming for planning consent end of summer 2015, then will go to consultation; programme thereafter is vague.*

Current Proposal

4 areas of housing comprising 600 houses, Marina, possible shop to serve Berryfields/ Semington area, Holiday log cabins and glamping facility, New pub and hotel on the South side of the disused railway bank by Outmarsh Farm, Nature and rare breeds reserve, Marsh and wetlands wildlife reserve with information centre and “bike hub”, Area for an educational facility or community facility at Berryfields.

Miscellaneous

- *General feeling by the PC was that the traffic control gates currently at the Police Station should be moved southwards to the canal bridge.*
- *Recommended reading – “The Economic and Tourism Benefits of the Melksham Link” available online (actually, not just recommended but mandatory reading as it cost the project £14K to produce). Project team want to give us the presentation we didn’t see at the Melksham Area Board meeting.*

Any Other Business: *It was noted that there is a lot of litter in the village and Mr Sinden will be asked to undertake a ‘litter pick’.*

Date of Next Meeting: 25th March 2015. A date for the Annual meeting was to be confirmed.



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



Following last month's newsletter outlining our plans for conversion to Academy status, meetings have been held for staff, stakeholders and the community and it was pleasing to see so many at the meeting on 10th February to hear of the possibilities and talk about the options. The consultation process will have finished by the time this newsletter goes to print so keep your eyes open for news in the Press!

Whilst this process has been taking place, pupils and staff have been working hard in school as usual. During Internet Safety Week in February Saturn class was visited by the local PCSOs and pupils enjoyed a presentation and question and answer session talking about Internet Safety and how to stay safe whilst online. A Maths Curriculum Evening was also held recently where parents were given information about how maths is taught and invited to try games the children use in their learning. We also held a 'drop-in' morning for parents with Mrs Stone, our special Education Needs Co-Ordinator who was happy to answer questions on an informal level and give advice and we will be holding more of these in the future. Pupils in Neptune class (Reception and Year 1) are taking part in swimming lessons at the Blue Pool until the end of March and are really enjoying the experience!

Our class topics this term are 'Farming and Food' in Neptune, 'Stone Age to Iron Age' in Jupiter and 'Forces' in Saturn. Mrs James has organised a visitor from Wessex Archaeology to come and talk to pupils in March and the classes are looking forward to taking part in workshops based on their topics.

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers again so please ask your friends and neighbours for any vouchers they might like to donate – pupils benefit greatly from this free equipment! The scheme finishes on 5th May.

Finally we would like to invite you to our Easter Service in church on Wednesday 25th March from 2pm to 3pm when we will be thinking about the meaning of Easter.

St George's School—Parents Teachers Association

Lock and Key Estate Agents have very kindly offered the school 10% of their commission from each house sale in the village. With the schools 'grand designs' project for a new all weather path, all money is much needed.

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FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL - FUN DAY

We are busy organising a 10k race and Fun Run for Saturday May 9th. This is an exciting fundraising event which we hope will raise a lot of money for the school path project.



We can't do it alone and would therefore like to invite people to help on the day. Jobs could include marshalling or helping on the BBQ or cake stall.

If you would like to help please contact Victoria on 01380 870796 or email victoriareardon@hotmail.co.uk

If you are feeling fit and would like to take part in the event, online entry will open at the beginning of March and information on how to do this will be disseminated.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

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WWW IS 26 years old!!

2015 marks the 26th anniversary of the World Wide Web ("The Internet"), one of the greatest British inventions thanks to Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

Today, the web has 2.4 billion users worldwide. To put this incredible speed of adoption in some context, radio took 38 years to reach 50 million users, television took 13 years, the web took 4 years and Facebook took just 10 months. In 2013, 89% of young people now use a smartphone or tablet to go online, up from 43% in 2010.

The web has improved people's lives, whether through cutting household bills, finding a job, maintaining contact with distant friends and relatives, reducing isolation and improving health. However recent research has found that 21% of Britain's population lack the basic skills and capabilities required to realise the benefits of the internet.

Wiltshire Council has made a commitment to help adults across Wiltshire get confident with the basics of computers and the web. It doesn't matter whether that's a laptop, desktop, tablet or smart phone - we want to make sure that everyone who wants to take that step into the digital age can access the support they need to do so - **for FREE**. The support is provided via a team of volunteer "digital champions".

In Melksham, we are planning to start a computer club, providing one to one support on individuals own devices, but to do that we need your help. Do you have what it takes to become a "digital champion" to help attendees at this club? If so please go online to <http://www.wiltshireonline.org/index.php/volunteering/digital-champion-volunteer> or email: digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk or ring 01225 713329 for more information.

Sarah Hiscocks - Wiltshire Online Project Manager

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NATURE NOTES

The winter comes; I walk alone,
I want no bird to sing;
To those who keep their hearts their own
The winter is the spring.
No flowers to please – no bees to hum –
The coming spring's already come.



I never want the grass to bloom:
The snowstorm's best in white.
I love to see the tempest come
And love its piercing light.
The dazzled eyes that love to cling
O'er snow-white meadows sees the spring.

I love the snow, the crumpling snow
That hangs on everything,
It covers everything below
Like white dove's brooding wing,
A landscape to the aching sight,
A vast expanse of dazzling light.

It is the foliage of the woods
That winters bring – the dress,
White Easter of the year in bud,
That makes the winter Spring.
The frost and snow his posies bring,
Nature's white spurts of the spring.

This is **John Clare** – an extract from *The Winter's Spring*. It reminds me to make the best of every season, even winter, despite aching cold and biting winds.

SOMERSET ARMS

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01380 870237**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau is the UK's reporting centre for fraud/cyber crime, run by the City of London Police. It uses information from all reported cases to create alerts about new types of crime and those which are increasing in severity. Fraudsters are targeting people to list items on their behalf on popular online auction sites. The scam involves a job offer to sell desirable items at below market value and receive money from winning buyers. The 'work from home' job will usually instruct you to retain 10% of the money received as a "salary", and fraudsters will ask for the remaining funds to be sent to them via bank/money transfer. The items for sale do not exist and are therefore not dispatched to the buyer; this may result in the buyer making a complaint concerning the seller (you) who listed the items. So your bank account may be closed for suspected fraud/money laundering and you being held accountable for reimbursing the buyer. Question job offers which seem "too good to be true". If you believe you have become the victim of a fraud or cyber crime, or have received a suspicious email, contact 0300 123 2040, or visit <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

Be especially vigilant of:

- People who call to tell you that there is a problem with your bank card and that they need to collect it from you to fix the problem;
- Fraud committed by people selling event / entertainment tickets, weight-loss / teeth whitening drugs, or vehicles online;
- Fraud committed by people who cold-call thousands of people in the UK in order to sell them an investment in shares or precious metals, or who want them to invest their pension;
- People pretending to be someone they are not in order to persuade your business to send money to a new bank account to pay for an invoice;
- The activities of cyber-criminals who want to infect your computer or smartphone in order to steal your banking details or "lock" important files to prevent you from using or viewing them;
- Fraudsters who persuade people to pay a fee in advance of receiving a loan, which never appears.

Action Fraud has seen an increase in the amount of victims signing up for free trials for unapproved or misleading pharmaceuticals or supplements. Another scam to be aware of usually involves a 'pop up' on your computer or a text message advertising a free 14-day trial. In signing up to this trial you are asked for your credit or debit card details and after the 14 days have elapsed, recurring payments are taken. Recurring payments or continuous payment authorities are similar to a direct debit, but can be much harder to cancel or identify who is debiting your account. In the last seven days in the area of Melksham and surrounding villages there have been 44 incidents reported of which incidents 19 have been classified as crimes.

Paul Bowyer 870512

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STOP PRESS!

Advance Notice!

This year's Village Fete
will be on

Saturday 4th July

Please make a note of
the date in your diaries!

MESSAGE FROM THE SEMINGTONES CHOIR MASTER

To the lovely ladies of The Semingtones - Wishing you all the very best of luck for your first singing competition at the Swindon Music Festival on 20th March. I am extremely proud of each and every one of you. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication.

Enjoy yourselves - I know you will be amazing.

Lorraine



"Stompers"

A group of ladies who like
fun, music and line dancing.
Come along on Tuesdays at 2.30pm
and give it a go.



Further information

from **Jenny on 871495**

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.

FAMILY PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR EASTER

This will be held in St John's Church Trowbridge on Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm. The priests of the Deanery will be available for Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation). This service gives all the family an opportunity to prepare for the Easter Triduum and meet Jesus in confession to receive His healing and forgiveness.

EASTER TRIDUUM SERVICES: St. John The Baptist, Trowbridge:

Maundy Thursday	<i>Mass of The Last Supper</i>	7.30pm
Good Friday	Stations of The Cross	10.30am
	Solemn Passion of Our Lord	3.00pm
Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil & Mass of The Resurrection		8.00pm
Easter Sunday Masses: Morning	10.30am	Evening 6.00pm

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation):

Maundy Thursday: 8.30 - 9.00pm

Good Friday: 11.00 - 11.30am & 4.30 - 5.00pm

Holy Saturday: 11.00 - 11.30am & 3.00 - 4.00pm

St John's RC Social Group - St Patrick's Dance

Friday 13th March from 8 to 11pm in the Polish Club, Waterworks Road, Trowbridge. Tickets £5.

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

Paws

For thought



"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."

It's in the Bible:

Proverbs 29: 25



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,

Continuing my theme, 'Choosing to Love' from my last letter. Whilst here on earth Jesus presented us with some very challenging concepts and 'commands'. In Matthew's Gospel we read that he said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you". Remember what God's version of love means: "the (*agape*) love that 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". *But can this really apply to my enemies?* Well, yes! Jesus pointed out that anyone can love their friend. What does it say about the power of love if we only love those who love us back?

Where this sacrificial way of love comes into its own is when we face those who hurt us and those who even hate us. How is it possible to carry this command out? A normal human reaction, we might imagine, when someone hurts us is to hurt them back, to retaliate in some way. We all have moments when we are tempted to lash out or, indeed, when we actually do. Fortunately this is mostly with words but there are times when it escalates. In some cases, as in the Ukraine, it goes much further. The further it goes the harder it is to come back. So I ask again, 'When I am hurt or feel threatened, how is it possible to carry out this command?

Let me make one thing clear first. Choosing to love in return for hurt is not about running up to that person and giving them a big hug and a sloppy kiss, so to speak. That could be inappropriate, unwise or possibly dangerous. The *agape* word for love is sometimes translated as 'charity', or being charitable - *benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity - lenient judgment of others*. This is an act of the will, an act of choice. To pray for or to try to do good to those who hurt you can be a really tough call. So, let's just say that this strategy *might* work; what difference will it really make?

I will give you an example. Twenty years ago I had to declare bankruptcy because a company that I was sub-contracting for went into liquidation. They owed us thousands and we were forced to declare. It was a humiliating business swearing that you are a bankrupt in the public waiting room of the county court. Still we were very philosophical about it and though it was frustrating we were able to let it go and get on with our lives. The problem was that we owed one gentleman a couple of thousand and he was angry that we had declared his debt too. He proceeded to issue threats of physical harm to our family and we had no reason to doubt that he would carry them out. There was talk of big men with baseball bats etc. I was shocked to find out what hatred really meant. I found myself concocting plans of what to do to him in return. I was fiercely angry that he threatened my loved ones. I was consumed with it all. Now this took a few months but, I was so horrified with my response that I decided to pray prayers of blessing on him. I realised that it was the only way. My hatred had no absolutely impact on him but, combined with my fear it was having a devastating impact on us. Every day I prayed a blessing. I don't know what effect that had on him but it completely freed me from both fear and hatred. We are the ones hurt by our anger and Jesus' command is for our benefit as well as others.

Every blessing as you choose to bless each other.

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

Funeral: Gracie Mae Rawlings

Born and Gathered to God on 22nd January 2015.

A service of Celebration of and Thanksgiving for the life of Gracie Mae Rawlings was held at St George's Church on Friday 6th February 2015, followed by a service of Committal at the graveside.



We pray that Jed, Cheryl, Tyler and Preston, their family and friends will know the loving, peaceful, comforting presence of God at this very sad time.

**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

March 2015 Sunday Services

St. George's Semington

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

St. Michael's Hilperton

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

St. Mary Mag Hilperton Marsh

1st Mar 11am Parish Communion
8th Mar 6pm Evening Worship
15th Mar 4pm Tea Time Service
22nd Mar 11am Parish Communion
29th Mar 11am Benefice Service

St. Mary Whaddon

8th Mar 8am BCP Communion