



Come and join us! 😊

SEMINGTON

Village Fete on the School Field



4th July 2015 - 2pm

Semington Diary



JULY 2015

3rd	Friday	Open Day	10.30am - 3pm	
				Independent Living Centre
3rd	Friday	Race Night	7pm	Village Hall
4th	Saturday	Village Fete	2pm	School Field
4th	Saturday	Concert/Picnic	5.30pm	Steeple Ashton Church
8th	Wed	Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
9th	Thursday	WI	7pm	Village Hall
11th	Saturday	Ladies Night	7.30pm	St. George's School Hall
12th	Sunday	Quiz Night	7.30pm	Village Hall
15th	Wed	Summer Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
		Every weekday except Thursdays to end of July		
16th	Thursday	Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
23rd	Thursday	Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
23rd	Thursday	Book Club	7.30pm	Semington Arms
29th	Wed	Cllr. Seed	7-8pm	Somerset Arms
29th	Wed	PC Meeting	8pm	Village Hall
30th	Thursday	Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall

AUGUST 2015

2nd	Sunday	Messy BBQ	4-6pm	Brook House
3rd	Monday	Summer Skittles	7.30pm	Village Hall
		Every weekday except Thursdays to 28th August		
13th	Thursday	WI	7pm	Village Hall
31st	Monday	GB Railway	Afternoon	Bulkington

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 - 7.45pm, Wednesdays 8th & 22nd July - 31 Pound Close. Everyone welcome - we're all learning together. More information from Jack Woodward 870784.

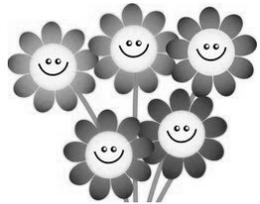
Christians in Semington - Wednesdays 1st July and 5th August, 7.45 - 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Messy BBQ - This is Church for anyone - all ages. We will be at Brook House, Sunday 2nd August, 4pm-6pm. We will have games, hopefully swim, have a celebration service and BBQ. You don't have to have a child to come...but all children must bring an adult. Please let Bev/Jack know on 870784 or 07922 105084 if you can come so that we BBQ enough food! (We ask for a donation of £1 per person.)

A THANK YOU

On my way out of the village this morning, I happened to notice the flower tubs and may I say how especially bloomin' lovely they all look this year! A big thank you to all involved in the buying, planting and care.

Esme Howard



We are moving!!

David and Valerie Stiles would like to thank everyone for their friendship and kindness over the last fifteen years; we will treasure our time here and will visit for "Coffee Mornings" whenever we can. With our love to you all.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Last month I forgot to insert an article for the Friends of St. George's School. My fault entirely and I apologise. It now appears on page 15.

We still have some space for adverts so if you want to publicise your business, please contact Jeremy on 870708.

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Semington WI May meeting

We have to say a huge thank you to one of our members this month. Muriel Gover shared her memories and photographs of Semington, having lived here all her life. We all thoroughly enjoyed listening to her and found it difficult to imagine Semington with no electricity, very few cars and a lot less houses than there are now. It was also lovely to be able to celebrate Muriel's special birthday with sandwiches and nibbles supplied by the committee, cup cakes by Emma (who also recorded the occasion on camera) and a wonderful birthday cake made by Jeannie Bailey and beautifully decorated by Sue Ludlow. Thanks to all those, and to all who came, which made it such a special evening. In July we will be trying our hands at flower arranging in a tea cup under the guidance of Jeannie and Sylvia (they've got their work cut out). All welcome. There is no meeting in August. We will instead, be enjoying Afternoon Tea at Beechfield House. We have a speaker Thursday September 10th from Dementia Friends.

Deb Hurn

Semington A Ladies Skittles

Well Done Ladies for coming 2nd in the League. (Hopefully 1st next year). It was a very Topsy Turvy season with some big wins but also some big losses although we pulled it out at the end and just managed to come 2nd. We had better luck with the Knock Out Cup matches and ended up 1st. We had Argos Vouchers for all our prizes and also a Cup to keep for a year.

Rachel Saunders had a good season with having the Highest Average of 32.25 also the highest score in one game (46) and highest spare of (16).

I would like to thank Sarah Rosling for being Vice Captain and Maureen Price for Treasurer. Also Charlie Stockley for being our sticker up.

We went for our end of season meal to CASA (Italian, Melksham) which I think everyone enjoyed.

Once again well done ladies, see you next season.

Marilyn Taylor (Captain)

St John's Catholic Church

Nearly New Clothes Sale & Coffee Morning

*Saturday 11th July from 10.30am
St John's Parish Centre
Wingfield Road, Trowbridge*

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There are many things that contribute towards the risk of falling either in the home or out and about, and there are a number of steps we can take to help reduce the likelihood of having a fall. Here are just a few:

Check for hazards such as a loose carpets or rugs, clutter or cables. Are the stairs well lit with suitable rails?

Much as we love our pets, they can be a trip hazard. A bell on the collar can help!

Have your eyes and hearing checked regularly.

Manage your medicines – some medication can cause dizziness or affect balance.

Tackle the fear of falling – if you have had a fall, or don't feel confident to move about, there are exercise classes available locally which can help.

Consider having a personal alarm (Lifeline) which you can use in the event of a fall to get help quickly. Some providers can now also supply fall detectors.

If you would like further information on any of the above, or any other issue affecting older people in our community, please call your Good

Neighbour Co-ordinator: **Lise Griffiths on 07541 353430 or**

Email: **melkshamgnc@communityfirst.org.uk**

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QUIZ NIGHT



Can you spot the logo? That was the question posed in the Marathon in June's quiz, which was set by Pam, David, Sue and Geoff (many thanks to them).

Each letter in the phrase was in the style and font of a particular company's logo, which we had to identify. Very frustrating, because you *knew* you recognised the letter, but where does it come from...? For example, there was the Y from EBAY and the S from Subway, etc.

The other part of the marathon was a set of tricky anagrams of film titles and actors' names.

Two teams tied for top place but, by virtue of giving in their sheet first, the Plus Twos (Brian, Colin, Helen and Julia) were the winners. That team also won the main quiz, by just one point, from Terry's Turnips.

There were rounds on 'the month of June', '4 of a kind', 'Know your Glastonbury', 'Sports Personality of the Year', 'Fathers' and 'General Knowledge' - a very mixed bag.

The Music Round was in honour of the late Bob Hughes, who loved going to Glastonbury. We had to identify the artist and when they first headlined at Glastonbury. Very tricky, as some big acts, such as The Who, didn't actually headline till quite recently.

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.

The next quiz will be set by Pete's team.

Julia Wade

NEXT QUIZ: SUNDAY 12 JULY, 7.30 for 7.45pm start. THERE WILL NOT BE A QUIZ IN AUGUST



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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

The funding of the Hopper Bus by Wiltshire Council for transport to the Royal United Hospital in Bath over the past ten years or so to the tune of a whopping £200,000 per year has attracted a great deal of attention in the press in recent weeks.

This focus was brought about by the Council reviewing its decision to spend this amount of money on a service that is not a Council responsibility and particularly on a service that is the responsibility of the NHS. This service was also being used by staff as subsidised transport to work as their charges were less than other passengers.

Whilst we all accept that this is a highly valued service by those who use it we also have to accept that costs must fall with the responsible budget holders and the Council simply does not have this scale of funding to spare.

However as a result of the Council reviewing its financing of the service very productive discussions have taken place between the Council, the RUH and the Clinical Commissioning Group and it looks like a brand new service will be created doing much the same job but being funded by the organisations who receive a budget to do so. This will be good news all round and will suit all the council tax payers in Wiltshire, whether or not they use the Hopper.

The recent General Election campaign has made me very conscious that people within the area that I represent want to talk to me as their elected local representative and discuss local issues that affect them from time to time. I also discovered in the last election that there are lots of people locally who want to be involved in the political process without necessarily joining a political party. The sort of issues that often get raised locally range from solar and wind farms to road safety to traveller planning to the canal project. Sometimes I can help and get things done immediately and at other times I can try and influence the process to make positive changes.

I would be very happy to discuss and explain any issues with any member of the community who wants to come along from 7 to 8pm at the bar of the Somerset Arms in the village on Wednesday 29th July.

Jonathon Seed

Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding
Member - Summerham and Seend Division

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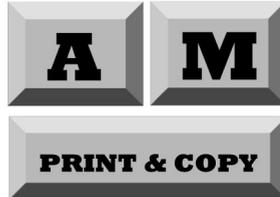
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Proverbs 3:7



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We are holding our 'Open Day' on

Friday 3rd July 2015

From 10.30am to 3pm

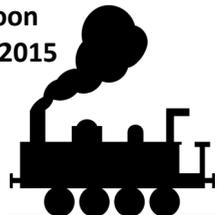
All are welcome

Great Bulkington Railway

The next 'Open Day' will be in the afternoon
on August Bank Holiday Monday 31st Aug 2015

All are welcome

Nev Boulton - Station Master





St. George's C of E Primary School

www.st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk

email: admin@st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk

Another school year is coming to an end and St George's prepares to say goodbye to our Year 6 children and welcome a new intake of Reception pupils.

A Parents' Meeting has been held for our new children, sharing information ready for the new school year. They have also been in school for a taster session to help them become familiar with school life.

Our Year 6 and Year 5 pupils have been to Melksham Oak for sessions at their future secondary school. The Year 6 parents have also attended a Parents' Evening preparing their children for the next phase of their school career. St George's is holding a Leavers Service and an event in school for parents to say goodbye.

The Year 6's have some exciting events coming up before the end of term including a Superchef Competition at Melksham Oak School, a Junior Good Citizen Day with Wiltshire Police and a Friends of St George's BBQ and Camp Out.

On Wednesday 8th July Saturn Class take part in a performance in Salisbury Cathedral. They join over 800 primary and secondary school children from across Dorset and Wiltshire to take part in one of a series of four musical performances in Salisbury Cathedral, in celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Meanwhile, our youngest pupils in Neptune Class have visited Westonbirt Arboretum, enjoying a hands on experience exploring the woodland and participating in a guided activity looking at animal habitats.

We hope all our pupils and their families have an enjoyable and relaxing summer, and look forward to the start of a new school year with our new pupils in September.

Headteacher: Mr Gordon Campbell

News from the Friends of St George's

The Semington Slog 10k and Fun Run was a huge success and raised over £1800 for the school 'Toe Path' Project. We would like to thank everyone who marshalled or helped out on the day. Also, a huge thank you to the residents surrounding the school who put up with all the additional parking. The feedback has been fantastic from runners, villagers and spectators and we hope to run this event again next year. Any feedback would be welcomed. victoriafarmer1980@icloud.com.

Thank you to Great Bear for their £500 donation to the school towards the 'Toe Path' project. Lock and Key have recently sold a house in the village and kindly donated 10% of their commission to the school. Thank you Lock and Key.

Ladies Night takes place at the school on July 11th from 7.30pm. This evening involves a range of stalls, including hair, beauty, cosmetics, candles, chocolates, stationery and photography. There will be opportunities for beauty treatments during the evening as well as a photo booth. Tickets are £5 and include a raffle ticket, glass of wine and nibbles. Everyone welcome to attend. Tickets can be booked and paid for on the night. Please contact Nicole via nnewman541@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

As the end of the academic year approaches the Friends would like to thank everyone who has helped out at events, offered Jumble or marshalled this year. With your amazing help we have raised more than ever before. The 'Toe Path' project is now off the ground and we hope the path will be installed very soon. The project will continue next year, raising money for the activities surrounding the path.

Victoria Farmer

THIS MONTH'S FRONT COVER

We would like to thank all the pupils at St. George's School who submitted their hand drawn pictures portraying our Village Fete for the front cover of this magazine. They were all good; the selected picture (see the front cover) was from Grace Kettleby in year 6. Well done to everyone, especially Grace!

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SEMINGTON BASED





SEMINGTON VILLAGE FETE 2015 - Update

Date: Saturday 4th July
Venue: St George's School Field
Time: 2.00pm

The great day is nearly here and it's still not too late to:

BAKE A CAKE!!!!

(Please bring cakes, etc. to St George's School any time after 9.30am on the day of the Fete.)

VOLUNTEER!!!!

(...if you have an hour or two to spare on the day!)

COME ALONG, HAVE FUN AND SPEND, SPEND, SPEND!!!!

Victoria Shackleton (01380 871936)

STEEPLE ASHTON'S INDEPENDENCE DAY FROLIC - 4th July

And don't forget, after our Semington fete, why not join the combined picnic and Church organ concert in the Manor gardens at Steeple Ashton in aid of their Church preservation trust. Picnic tables and chairs will be available on a first-come basis with wine for sale from 5.30pm onwards.

Peter King, the acclaimed Bath Abbey organist will showcase American organ music in St Mary's Church at 6.30pm. Centre aisle tickets, entry to the Manor gardens, a welcoming glass of fizz with apple pie and cream to close the evening, cost £20 each. (Concert only, side aisles are £10 each, children under 12 free, under 16, half-price.)

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NATURE NOTES

In Time of The Breaking of Nations

Only a man harrowing clods
In a slow silent walk
With an old horse that stumbles and nods
Half asleep as they stalk.

Only thin smoke without flame
From the heaps of couch-grass;
Yet this will go onward the same
Though Dynasties pass.

Yonder a maid and her wight
Come whispering by:
War's annals will cloud into night
Ere their story die.



Thomas Hardy, 1915. This picture of everyday country life, far away from battlefields, could have been drawn from life round here a hundred years ago. Though a man harrowing with a horse seems so distant now, other things endure.

THE BOOK CLUB



Bookclub met on Wednesday 10th June and discussed **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro. This book had received excellent reviews on Amazon and Ishiguro is an acclaimed writer but on the whole the group members found it weird and were relieved to finish it. It was thought to be well written and provoked a wide ranging discussion on moral issues around organ donation. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 23 July at 7.30 pm** in the Somerset Arms and we will be discussing **The Language of Flowers** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. All are welcome.

Angela Grodzicka 870756

N.B. There will be no meeting in August



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- Check your PayPal account to ensure that the money has been paid in and has cleared into your bank account before you send the item to the buyer.
- Do not be bullied or rushed into sending items before you know that the payment has cleared – a genuine purchaser will not mind waiting a day or two for you to send them their item.
- If you are selling a vehicle, think carefully when selling to overseas purchasers – especially if they tell you they will send an extra payment for shipping – check that the funds have cleared before arranging this.

We have had a couple of walk-in house burglaries in Melksham over the last two days during the daytime. Insecure addresses (i.e. unlocked doors) in Lowbourne and Lease Road, Melksham were entered on the 10th and 11th June and money and jewellery were stolen. On both occasions the occupants of the addresses burgled were home and the house was left insecure. Even with the good weather you should take suitable precautions when leaving doors unlocked and open when at home. If anyone has any information then please get in touch with the Police.

There is also news of a possible local scam. Apparently a vulnerable person living in Orchard Close was persuaded(?) to part with £50 by a couple of charity collectors, claiming to be raising money for retired services personnel, to enable them to visit France. These people were in uniform (sorry, I have no details of the type) and the victim's address was the only one called on in the Close. It sounds as though that address was deliberately targeted.

Paul Bowyer 870512

Edited Minutes of Parish Council (PC) meeting - 17/6/15

Present: Cllrs. Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, R Robinson, W Scott, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. PCSO Helen Wilson attended (Part-time).

Apologies non-attendance: Cllrs. K Lockwood, S Rimmer, J Seed.

Neighbourhood Policing: PCSO Wilson reported no incidents in Semington, but in Keevil Electric Fence energisers and fencing were stolen. She has been making enquiries whether Community Speed Watch scheme could be extended to monitor vehicles ignoring the No Through Road sign at Semington and was awaiting a reply from Devizes Wiltshire Police Headquarters.

Cllr. Bowyer stated that a bogus charity worker had been sighted in the village. Cllr. Oglesby said there is a scam being perpetrated in which parishioners have been identified as Postcode Lottery Europe winners when such a lottery does not exist.

Planning:

15/02347/CLE **PENDING** 33 Littleton Willows
Residential Use (Certificate of Lawfulness)

15/03888/FUL **PENDING** 16 Church Street

Single storey extension to front with two storey extension to the rear and detached garage.

15/04491/FUL **NEW** St Georges School

New path around Playing Field. *The PC supports this.*

15/05428/FUL **NEW** Lansdowne, Littleton

Alterations to an approved gypsy and traveller site to form 8 permanent traveller pitches and 4 transit pitches together with associated ancillary development.

The PC objects to this planning application as follows:

This application does not conform to the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

This application should not be considered by Wiltshire Council until all current planning conditions relating to previous planning approvals are met and existing enforcement orders are executed.

The 'approved' plan submitted with the application does not show the current position because extant planning permissions and conditions have been ignored.

Significant highway problems will be caused because existing passing places are to be made into site entrances. Additionally, the land proposed for these entrances is owned by Wiltshire Council and not the applicant.

This proposed development represents overdevelopment of the site. The drawing scales on the drawings are different which give the appearance that there is more space on the site than actually exists. A bund was a requirement of the previous planning permission. This

is not shown in the current planning application. It must be reinstated and built as required.

The proposal for additional pitches represents a disproportionate increase in the number of pitches locally and, if the application is approved, the total number of gypsies/travellers living locally will change the character of Semington village.

If this application is approved the total number of pitches in Semington would be twenty-two. This represents 20% of the allocation for the whole of Wiltshire in one small village. This is not sustainable and is inconsistent with the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The PC noted that Cllr. Scott had written to Wiltshire Council regarding existing developments at Greenacres and Lansdowne and that he was awaiting definitive replies to those enquiries.

Finance: details available on request. The PC would make a donation (value yet to be decided) to the Cloth Road Arts Week in 2016.

Defibrillator: The Clerk stated that the defibrillator cabinet had been received but found defective; replacement awaited.

Highways/Environment: Cllr. Smyth had sent to PC councillors all the latest correspondence on the proposed Information Board – now correctly named ‘The Countryside Interpretation Board. Once a decision on the design of the Board had been agreed then the PC would apply for a grant from the Area Board.

Cllr. Smyth presented a tree planting plan for the wide verge opposite to the crematorium. It would provide an impressive visual spectacle. The PC agreed that ten trees should be purchased and Cllrs. Scott and Smyth would give further consideration to species, maturity and cost of the trees. It was agreed that any tree planting should take place in the Autumn and that Wiltshire Council needed to be consulted prior to any decision being made regarding the planting.

Wilts & Berks Canal:

Cllr. Smyth presented a proposed letter from the PC to Paul Laenarts, the W&B Canal Trust (Melksham Link Project Manager) and to Jock MacKenzie, the Marlix International BV Consultant, that offered comments in respect of the proposed Melksham Link and associated developments.

The PC agreed that the letter be sent as drafted. The PC said that parishioners are to be advised that any correspondence on this subject should be addressed to Paul Laenarts and Jock MacKenzie with a copy sent to Wiltshire Council and the PC.

Any Other Business: Cllr. Wade asked that the Village Hall Management Committee be requested to provide a Wifi internet connection at the Village Hall.

END OF EDITED MINUTES



CLOTH ROAD ARTS TRAIL

2016

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The 7th CLOTH ROAD ARTS TRAIL is due to take place next year – 30th April to 8th May 2016 and I shall be exhibiting my hand-painted glassware from home at 13 High Street once again with textile/card artists Sylvia Bell and Ann Haber.

I am wondering if there are any other artists in or around Semington (and I'm sure there are!) who would like to get involved and join the next trail as now is the time. Check out the website www.clothroadartists.com for full details, information and brochure entry form (closing 30 November 2015).

For those of you unfamiliar with Cloth Road Arts, it is a 9-day event of visual arts and crafts in West Wiltshire, specifically Trowbridge, Melksham, Bradford and surrounding villages, giving the public the opportunity to meet individual artists and makers and takes place every other year. The free brochure with details of all participating artists will be available from March 2016, plus watch this space!

As it happens, I am looking for another artist to share our venue in Semington, maybe a jeweller or another art form that can be displayed on a table, also I have hanging space for paintings for anyone would like to participate but does not have a venue. Do give me a call on 01380 870934 if you're interested or would like further info. I'd love to hear from you.

Esme Howard

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 11am

Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass and any time on request.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

This will be led by Bishop Declan from 21st to 28th August. Booking and information from Deacon Dave Wakefield - 07775 895814

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.

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

GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE. Sunday 12th July. Coach leaves Westbury (Station Road) at 9.45am & Trowbridge (St. John's Primary School) at 10am returning 6pm. Adults £7 - Family£12.

For information on any of the above contact:

Francis Geraghty 01380 871083

or email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com



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**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends.

The FIFA scandal marches on, one more in a long line of scandals stretching back into history. I find that I am rarely surprised by what emerges in the press now, though I am frequently saddened. The simple fact is that where there are human beings living and working in relationship with each other, there will be problems, challenges and sometimes scandal.

'Scandals' exist at every level in our social structure; but are there more today than there used to be? I suspect not. So why does it feel as if there are? Obviously I am not an expert, rather a keen observer and what I am observing is that we are treating these incidents in a totally different way. Once only the high profile wrongdoings were played out in public but now a vast array of them are. The proliferation of social media and the huge increase in the public appetite for knowing other people's affairs has spawned a plethora of, for instance, TV programmes such as Kilroy, Jerry Springer, Rogue Traders, Saints and Scroungers, not to mention police patrol, rescue and disaster programs, to name a very few. Some of these broadcasts are well worth watching, some are very informative, some are borderline morbid and some are, arguably, not in the public interest at all.

Look, I am not trying to be a killjoy here; I am genuinely worried about the mental health of our nation. Again an observation is that people seem to be more fearful these days. If you couple the above observations with the reality of increased coverage of world threats and the reality of many of those being global threats then it seems more likely that you have a recipe for fear based living. The fact is that today's media allows us to be intimately involved in situations that can have the potential to stimulate anxiety, if we are so inclined. I know people who feed off this material to such an extent that they get emotionally involved and become paranoid even though they are not suffering or involved directly; the fears of others become theirs. Even if we are not inclined towards such a deep assimilation of these fears then we might still at least ask, "How do I keep my family safe and who can I trust?"

Scandals in the Church, government, business and banking etc. always have the potential to undermine public confidence but, with a

healthy amount of weariness, that appears to have always bounced back. Perhaps this because there is enough good going on to balance the scales. I am not convinced that happens to the same extent anymore. Good deeds do not sell papers on the whole and good news is not media celebrated as much as it should be. Some attempt is made to balance the deficit but not nearly enough. Public trust seems to me to have become significantly eroded.

After visiting someone in his parish, a fellow minister discovered that those visited were surprised that he really was a vicar, having previously thought that he was in disguise and 'casing the joint' with a view to robbery. I wonder what campaigning candidates encountered during the last election campaign.

Without my faith in God I would probably be submerged in these fears. Without a doubt we need to be wise but we also need to be more trusting. There is, I believe, far more good in this world than we imagine. We need to seek it out, celebrate it, encourage it, allow it to lift our spirits and inspire us. We need to turn the tide, read and watch things that bring life to balance the inevitable barrage of sadness that appears before us. We need to use our reactions to negative things to inspire us to seek change and raise our voices against injustice. Most of all we need to choose to engage with and love those around us to create arenas of positivity and growth. *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.* ⁹ *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4).*

Every blessing

Stephen (Rector)

01225 774903

sb54rev@gmail.com

A message from Ray Guymer

A big thank you to all those who joined me on Trinity Sunday at St Michael's to celebrate 50 years since I was first ordained. You made it a day to remember in so many different ways. The service was very much a joyous celebration and the warmth of your affection and love was felt and appreciated.



**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

July/August 2015 Sunday Services

St. George's Semington

5th	July	9.15am	Parish Communion
19th	July	6pm	Evening Prayer
26th	July	9.15am	Together in Worship
2nd	Aug	4pm	Messy Church BBQ
9th	Aug	9.15am	Join with Hilperton
16th	Aug	6pm	Evening Prayer
23rd	Aug	9.15am	Together in Worship

St. Michael's Hilperton

5th	July	8am	Holy Communion / 11am Together in Worship
12th	July	11am	Methodist Service
19th	July	10am	Together in Worship (Note the new time!)
26th	July	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service
2nd	Aug	8am	Holy Communion / 11am Together in Worship
9th	Aug	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service
16th	Aug	10am	Together in Worship (Note the new time!)
23rd	Aug	9.15am	Parish Communion / 11am Methodist Service

St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh

5th	July	11pm	Parish Communion
12th	July	11am	Benefice Service
26th	July	11am	Parish Communion Patronal Festival
2nd	Aug	11pm	Parish Communion
9th	Aug	6pm	Evening Worship
16th	Aug	4pm	Songs of Praise
23rd	Aug	11pm	Parish Communion

St. Mary's Whaddon

None in July			
9th	Aug	8am	BCP Communion
30th	Aug	10am	Benefice Communion