

FEBRUARY 2016

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Contact Minister for Semington:

Rev. Hugh Hoskins

42 St. Mary's Close

Hilperton Marsh

Trowbridge BA14 7PW

Tel. 01225 781579

Mob. 07710 514808

The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.



FEBRUARY 2016
(in the Village Hall unless stated)

30th Jan	Food Night - Pies	8pm
2nd Tues	Sem A Ladies Skittles	7.30pm
3rd Wed	Angels Skittles	7.30pm
5th Fri	Skittles	8pm
6th Sat	Benefice Prayer Day	10-2pm St Michaels, Hilpertown
8th Mon	WI Skittles	7.30pm
9th Tue	Angels Skittles	7.30pm
11th Thu	WI Meeting	7.30pm
12th Fri	Skittles	8pm
12th Fri	NY Valentine's Concert	7.30pm St John's Parish Centre
16th Tues	Sem Ladies A Skittles	7.30pm
17th Wed	Lent - Following Jesus	8-9.15pm 31 Pound Close
19th Fri	Skittles	8pm
21st Sun	Quiz Night	7.30pm for 7.45 start
22nd Mon	Book Club	7.30pm Somerset Arms
23rd Tue	Sem Ladies B Skittles	7.30pm
24th Wed	Parish Council Meeting	8pm
26th Fri	Skittles	8pm

EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL
(unless otherwise stated)

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am - 12.30
Stompers	Tuesday	2.30 - 3.30pm
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9am - 1pm
Zumba fitness	Wednesday	6.15 - 7.05pm
	(now at St. George's School)	
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10 - 12noon
Semingtons Choir	Friday	6 - 7.30pm
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday	10-11.30am

Leadership is doing what is right when no one is watching.

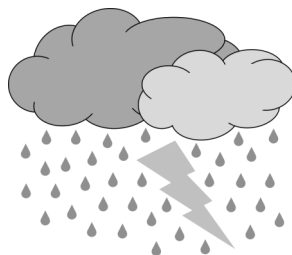


VILLAGE EVENTS & NEWS

Christians in Semington - Wednesday 3rd February, 7.45 - 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

SEMINGTON WEATHER 2015

There has certainly been lots of rain in certain parts of the UK. Especially in December leading to rivers bursting banks and properties being flooded. However, contrary to what the media would have us believe, it hasn't affected the whole country. Here in Semington, rainfall in 2015 was lower than average, 26.6 inches (675mm), with the 3 inches in December being a little above average but not exceptional. July was the wettest month and April the driest.



Temperatures for the year have been about average, the hottest being 33 degrees on 1st July. However like the rest of the country we have had an exceptionally mild December, as we can see from the unusual growth in our lawns and gardens. It is the warmest December I have ever recorded.

Jack Woodward



THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Villagers of Semington would like to thank everyone who helped to provide our Christmas tree again for the fourth consecutive year. Leigh Swinden helped us by cutting down the tree growing in Ian and Kim Rimmer's garden and then the team erected and decorated it with Robert Smyth connecting the lights up to Julia Price's power supply. If anyone has a suitably overgrown Christmas tree which may be suitable for Christmas 2016 then please let any of the parish councillors know and we will be pleased to come and remove it. (One only I am afraid). **The collection raised £142.52 for Tree aid, Check it out on "justgiving"!!**

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Expect the worst, hope for the best, and take what comes.



Semington WI Meetings

December and January

December saw us playing skittles with our partners and friends and answering a Christmas quiz. It was a lovely evening and the food prepared by Marilyn and Gerald was very much enjoyed. A big thank you to them, the sticker upper and all who came.

Our birthday party was celebrated in the Barge at Seend this January. We decided to go at lunchtime for a change and everyone had a good time. A great start to 2016. For those that couldn't make it we hope you had a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next meeting is Thursday February 11th at 7.30pm where we will be having a chocolate demonstration by a Chocolatier. All ladies welcome. Visitors pay £2.00 on the door.

Deb Hurn

Brrrr! Brrrr! WARM AND SAFE

We are running a project in Wiltshire called **Warm and Safe Wiltshire**. It is a partnership between Wiltshire Council and Bristol Charity: The Centre for Sustainable Energy. It is a health related project providing a service for people affected by cold living conditions and suffering from health conditions, helping them to save money on their energy bills and keep warm in their homes. We are currently recruiting volunteers to help us deliver the project so if you would like any further information please call **0300 003 4575**.

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

Next deadline is Friday, 19th February 2016 for the March issue: email Leon, the Editor, at **semparmag1@outlook.com**. For all advertising enquiries, please contact Jeremy on 870708 or **jez_tyler@hotmail.com**

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You always pass failure on the way to success..

The Christmas 2015 Quiz was well attended, so thanks to everyone who came; it made it a fun night having more people there. Everyone got into the Christmas theme, wearing some wonderful hats, jumpers, earrings, Christmas decorations, etc! Steve Connor happily flashed (his jumper) at anyone... Joke!



Thanks to Pete, Lesley and David for setting the quiz. Terry's Turnips won the marathon and also came joint second in the main quiz with Team 5 Gold Things, both just one point behind the Christmas Puddings. There were lots of winners on the night though, as a prize was given for each round, by drawing a score and whoever got that score got the prize, which led to lots of tie breaks.

January's quiz was set by Colin, so thanks to him. There were fewer people there but we had a good time. There wasn't a Marathon round this time. Questions included What is the new musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber? What was the name of the character played by Connie Booth in Fawlty Towers? Who invented the lightning conductor? Answers below. At half time the scores ranged from 30.5 to 34 points but by the end there was a wider spread of scores. The winners by 2 points from Close Friends team, were Us 3 (Esme, Philip and me).

I would like to encourage more people to come to the Quiz. If you have any constructive observations on what would make it more appealing, apart from changing the night, do let me know. If you come alone we can always put you in a team. The next quiz will be set by a new team, Ann, David, Jill, Rob and Carol, so please come and support them. See you there!

ANSWERS: School of Rock, Polly and Benjamin Franklin.

NEXT QUIZ: Sunday 21st February, 7.30pm (7.45pm start)

Julia Wade

Editor's Stop Press:

The Book Club will meet again on Monday 22nd February at 7.30pm in the Somerset Arms and will be discussing "The Buddha of Suburbia" by Harif Kureishi. Everyone welcome. A good night out!

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**Update on Wiltshire Air
Ambulance's proposed
New Home**

Following the public consultation event held during August for Wiltshire Air Ambulance's proposed new home, the charity's Board of Trustees agreed to purchase its preferred site.

The 12.6 acre site is on land at Outmarsh Farm, Semington (immediately south of Hampton Park West Industrial Estate).

The purchase of the land is subject to planning permission being granted and we submitted an Outline Planning Application to Wiltshire Council, which was registered at the end of November. The planning application – reference number 15/10766/OUT – can be viewed online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

The target date for a decision on the planning application is the middle of February 2016.

If planning permission is granted, we plan to hold a public consultation event before submitting a Reserved Matters Planning Application to Wiltshire Council detailing the proposed layout and design of the site. We anticipate this public consultation event to be in the Spring (2016).

Jill Crooks

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

During the last 18 months as your Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I have been providing information and signposting for older people in the Melksham villages who need help to connect with local services and sources of support. Wiltshire Council has taken the decision that this provision will be delivered differently in the future. I expect to be in post until the end of March, so in the meantime please feel free to contact me on 07541 353430. I hope to be able to provide more information about future arrangements in the March magazine. **Lise Griffiths**

EDITOR: Can't fit anything else in!! Hope you like the inspirational quotations at the top of most pages. Have a great year!



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KEN CLARK'S 80TH & KEN and SYLVS

30th ANNIVERSARY - 7th Dec 2015



The party to celebrate the above was held at Semington Village Hall on 5th December. We were overflowing and Ken was shaken and stirred when 14 guests, members of the Semingtons, led by Lorraine sang 3 songs. Thanks to everyone who took part, and for keeping the secret. The buffet was appreciated by all. Many thanks to Gerald and Marilyn Taylor and helper Gill Rosling who provided such wonderful food. Also to Stuart Taylor for supplying background music and being an excellent barperson together with Gerald, Sarah Rosling and Lorraine Mahoney.

In lieu of presents donations were given and the magnificent sum of £750 was collected. Half will go to The Wessex M.S. therapy Centre towards a body support seat for wheelchair users. The rest to The Cardiac Department at RUH to help fund current projects, including purchase of nebulizers

Thank you to everyone who attended for making it such a memorable evening. We do hope you all really enjoyed it.

Very Best Wishes, Sylv and Ken Clark

Great Bulkington Railway

The Miniature Railway (1000 feet of track) will be open for all ages on Easter Monday, March 28 from 1.30pm to 4.40pm. We are located on the corner of Mill Lane next to the Village Hall. £1 each ride. Proceeds to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. The railway and hall can be hired for children's birthday parties for £110. We are looking for a couple of volunteers (M or F) to assist in running the railway aged 15 and above. Full training given. Contact Nev Boulton, Station Master – 01380 828 101

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SEMINGTON SOCIAL CLUB



FOOD NIGHT - PIES

Saturday 30th January 2016

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Steak & Kidney

Chicken & Mushroom

Fish Pie

A Choice of 5 Desserts

Tickets £9, Start at 8 pm

Tickets available from the Social Club at the Village Hall

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St. George's C of E Primary School

Pound Lane, Semington,
Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 6LP

Telephone: 01380 870243

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



Headteacher: Mr Gordon Campbell

Happy New Year from everyone at St George's school!

We celebrated a wonderful Christmas period at school. The 'Follow That Star!' nativity performance was a great success and our younger pupils performed their roles with enthusiasm. I am sure that those of you from the village that joined us would agree they did very well.

We also enjoyed seeing some of you at the Christingle Service at St George's Church on 2nd December at 6.30pm; this was a lovely start to the Christmas season.

Many of you also attended the Christmas Fayre at school on 11th December. This was well attended and the children and staff enjoyed it very much. Many thanks to the Friends of St George's for their hard work at a busy time of year.

Just before Christmas pupils had fun with Bike it Plus. The Bike It Plus Officer works with schools in the local area, and encourages school communities to be more active on the school run by walking, cycling or scooting. She came in to oversee the Bike It Bling event, where pupils were invited to 'bling' up their bikes, scooters or shoes using Christmas decorations, and there was a fun competition for the best entrants. The project is part of the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme.

Now that the fun and festivities of the Christmas period are over we are looking ahead to another busy term.

Some advance notice: our Easter Service will take place in St George's church on Wednesday 23rd March at 2 pm, and you are very welcome to join us.

If you aim at nothing, you hit it every time.

News from the Friends of St George's



Semington Slog 10k
Saturday 7th May 2016

£12 or £10 if affiliated with a running club
Enter online at entrycentral.com/semingtonslog

Medals for all competitors and trophies for winners

For more information find us on Facebook or email Semingtonslog@gmail.com

DB:MAX Get involved!

The Semington Slog 10k is on Saturday 7th May.

Entry is now open and people can enter by going online to: **entrycentral.com/semingtonslog**

It was a fantastic event last year and we are hoping people will be keen to be involved again. If you would like to help this year by either marshalling along the course or helping at the school, please let Victoria know.

victoriareardon@hotmail.co.uk

Jumble Sale

The next Jumble Sale- Saturday 12th March.

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who helped or came along to the Christmas Fair.

We raised over £700.

Empty Ink cartridges

We still collect empty ink cartridges which can be turned into money for the school. Please drop any into the school. Many thanks. **Friends of St George's**

MMAD??!

Did you know that our Advertising Manager Jeremy is in a Panto called **ONCE UPON A TIME** in Melksham Assembly Hall between 10th and 13th February. Take your family along and enjoy!

Paws For thought



Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another.

It's in the Bible:
Ephesians 4 verse 2

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Fitzmaurice Primary School
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WEDNESDAY

7.00pm—8.00pm
Longfield Community Hall
Weavers Drive, Trowbridge, BA14 7DZ

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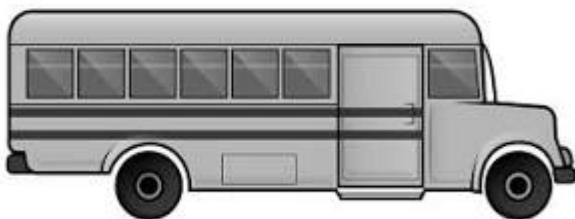
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SEMINGTON BASED



BUS SERVICES – RURAL SERVICES TO BE AXED?



Wiltshire Council is currently undertaking a consultation on Bus Services. This is a particularly important consultation that will determine the future of rural (and other) bus services. If you use/ value the local village bus services.....

Please respond to the consultation OR YOU MAY LOSE THE CURRENT SERVICES (e.g. Nos 39, 49 and X34)!

Roughly half of bus routes in Wiltshire are operated with the need for financial support from Wiltshire Council. Services with fewer passengers, weekend and evening, or remote services require more support. Many other local authorities have already made savings from reducing or withdrawing subsidised bus routes.

Wiltshire Council will now undertake a consultation to hear the views of residents. The Council has made no decisions and would like to see how far residents agree or disagree with the presented options, or alternatively suggest their own. Consultation documents (including questionnaires) can be viewed on the council's consultation portal:

<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

Hard copies of the consultation material including questionnaires will be available at local libraries and at main council offices. Questionnaires will also be available on buses operating contracted services, and can be sent out on request by contacting 0300 456 0100.

The consultation will be open from 7th January 2016 to 5pm on the 4th April 2016. If you have any queries, please contact:

passengertransport@wiltshire.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

After the Christmas break local government has to hit the ground running. Much of this is in order to produce a balanced budget before the end of January as the funding for next Financial Year has to be agreed by Wiltshire Council before the end of February. In advance of this decision there is much discussion and consultation. So why the rush in January? Well, it may surprise readers to know that the Council does not keep the Council Tax and Business rates that it collects from residents.

The majority of the £900m Wiltshire Council budget comes from central government, the remaining (£220m) comes from some Council Tax given back by government and a smaller amount from fees and charges for services. Part of the government money is called the Revenue Support Grant which has dropped like a stone over the past few years. In 2015-16 Wiltshire's grant will drop by another £16m. In recent years Treasury officials have developed a habit of sending the settlement details by e mail at 5pm on the last Friday before Christmas. This means that Council officers have to work hard over the Christmas break to look at ways of making up final and additional shortfalls. Previously we had been told that the settlement would be reduced by £13m but when the figures appeared it was £3m more. This is in addition to growth pressures mainly in supporting vulnerable residents and other factors such as increases in the national minimum wage. Somehow the budget will be balanced but it is an open secret that the era of Council tax freeze will probably have to come to an end.

More parochially, as well as ensuring that my own Council Departmental budget meets the required corporate targets there is also much to be done in Summerham and Seend. Parish Councils set their own precepts at their meetings and these will take account of local needs and pressures. I try and attend all Parish Council meetings to discuss emerging local issues and maintain regular and at least weekly (and sometimes daily) contact with the Parish and parishioners. There are varying ways of contacting me. Most people use email to ***jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk*** , some residents prefer telephone ***01380 850696*** or through the Cabinet Office ***01225 718277***. Finally I do regularly Tweet updates on ***@jonathon_seed***

So I am always available to deal with issues from residents by whatever means is available to you.

Jonathon Seed, Mob: 07770 774463

NATURE NOTES

As I walked along one of the village footpaths in early January, I came across the first blackthorn flowers of the year, and wondered what Victorian poets like **John Clare** would have made of the weather we've been having.



Here's an extract from his *Winter's Spring*.

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 Christmas rose
To come before its time;
The seasons, each as God bestows,
Are simple and sublime.
I love to see the snowstorm hing;
'Tis but the winter garb of spring.

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.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The festive season seems a distant memory; I hope you all endured - I mean enjoyed – it peacefully.

A particularly nasty scam has turned up recently – the scammer rings saying that he is from a courier company and he has a package for you that requires a signature. A little later, a uniformed delivery man turns up with a beautiful basket of flowers and a bottle of wine. You are very surprised since there is no special occasion and you certainly didn't expect anything. There is no note with the gift, just a consignment note saying the message would arrive later. The courier then goes on to explain that because the gift contains alcohol, there was a £3.50 "verification charge," providing proof that he had actually delivered the package to an adult. This sounds logical but when you offer pay cash, he says that the delivery company required payment by credit card only. He produces a mobile card machine and asks you to swipe the card and enter your PIN number, and a receipt is printed out and given to you. Spotted the scam yet? Of course you haven't - it all sounds so logical! Of course the next time you look at your bank account you find there is no money in it. Beware of accepting Surprise Gifts or unsolicited packages!

Some companies - particularly Amazon – produces copious quantities of emails to customers, so you may miss this and respond to it:

Dear Amazon Customer:

This email was sent by the Amazon server. Your order has been suspended because we are unable to verify your payment details. Please ensure that you entered your payment information correctly on your order. You have successfully used the payment method on a previous order and part of your order has already been charged and shipped successfully. Please Update Your Payment Details in order for us to Proceed with your shipment today. To verify your Payment details, click on the link below and follow the stated procedure.

Don't. It's another scam – quite a clever one too, since the fake email is festooned with genuine looking Amazon headers and footers. In particular don't click on any link unless you are absolutely sure it is valid. **Happy shopping!**

Paul Bowyer 870 512

Edited Minutes of Parish Council (PC) meeting - 13 January 2016

Present: Councillors Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, K Lockwood, S Rimmer, R Robinson, W Scott, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Apologies for non-attendance: Cllr. P Smith, Cllr. J Seed and PCSO Helen Wilson.

Neighbourhood Policing: Cllr. Smyth reported:

The 'No Entry Watch' scheme was working well and in the last four weeks some sixty-nine vehicles had been turned around and fourteen warning letters issued. The times and days of operating the scheme are to be varied. The PC thanked the 'No Entry Watch' scheme volunteers for operating in the scheme.

Adjournment: Conor Lee (Hannick Homes) presented the latest proposals for residential development along St Georges Road. A parishioner made representations regarding a planning application.

Planning:

15/09725/FUL The Old Pig Barn, High Street Demolition of existing barn and replacing with two storey office and store **REVISED PLANS**. *The PC supports this application subject to the use of the proposed development being restricted to employment use only.*

15/12704/FUL 29 High Street Conversion of outbuilding to create ancillary (annexe) accommodation **NEW**. Also **16/00054/LBC**. *The PC objects to this application for the following reasons:*

- *There is a serious loss of amenity for 27A High Street – existing daylight to the south facing windows of 27A High Street would be significantly and unacceptably reduced.*
- *The existing wall that the proposed development shows as an integral structural component of the development is a very old wall and in a state of disrepair that is totally unsuited for this development.*
- *The proposed development is termed an 'annexe'. It is not an annexe. It is a separate detached building located some distance from the main residence and this application should identify it as such.*
- *The Site and Locations Plans are incorrect and fail to show the present configuration e.g. an existing, adjacent property – 27A High Street – is not shown. The proposed development would have a significant and immediate detrimental effect on 27A High Street.*

The Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust had written to the Chairman inviting the PC to visit the Operations Centre at Devizes.

Finance: full details available on request. Key items are:

The Council noted that there is to be significant extra expenditure in FY2016/17 following the decision by Wiltshire Councilcont'd

to concentrate on providing only statutory services – thereby requiring PCs to meet the cost of many traditional, non-statutory services - the requirement to provide funding for the new Information Boards and additional expenditure for the maintenance of the Tennis Court. The Council also noted that the Council Tax grant this year was only £43.55 compared to £241.95 last year.

It was noted that the resulting increase in the Council Tax for a Band D parishioner by increasing the precept from £9,500 to £12,000 amounted to £7.11 for the year. The Council resolved to adopt the proposed Budget (as above) subject to a resolution to request an amount of £12,000 from Wiltshire Council for FY2016/17.

The Council resolved to request a Precept of £11956.45 noting that when added to the Wiltshire Council 'Top Up' Grant of £43.55 it will ensure that Semington PC receives a total sum of £12,000 from Wiltshire Council for FY2016/17.

Highways/Environment:

Cllr. Robinson tabled revised A3/A2 size paper prints of the proposed Information Board for comment. It was agreed that Councillors would provide further comments to Cllr. Robinson outside the meeting. Cllr. Robinson later reported that the cost of an A2 signboard is £530 (ex VAT) and A1 is £640 (ex VAT). Delivery was free to most areas.

Cllr. Lockwood stated that he intended taking photographs of Wessex Close Play Area to show its poor condition and requested that this item is deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr. Smyth asked councillors to propose 'environmental projects' to be undertaken in the village as he understood that there were charitable funds available.

The PC resolved that a further batch of saplings be obtained for planting locally.

Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport

Group Meetings: The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council is undertaking a public consultation on Bus Services in Wiltshire and that it was important that the public responded to this consultation if it wished to retain such services. He added that rural services, especially those that attract the highest subsidies from Wiltshire Council, are particularly under threat and this may include the weekly service from Semington to Bath.

AOB:

Cllr. Lockwood reported that he had read in the Wiltshire Times that the Fire Service had attended a significant fire at the travellers' site a week or so ago. The Clerk was asked to inform Cllr. Seed and, if the report of the fire was true, to request that Wiltshire Council investigates whether there was a breach of a planning condition by the occupants of that site.

Date of Next Meeting: 24 February 2016 at 8pm.

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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.

St PATRICK'S NIGHT DANCE

St John's Primary School, Winfield Road, Trowbridge on Saturday 19th March. Further information in the next issue

AUCTION

Auction of Promises & Small Goods will be held in St John's Parish Centre in late May. Further information in the next issue.

NEW YEAR VALENTINE'S CONCERT

St John's Parish Centre, Wingfield Road Trowbridge

Friday 12th February 7.30pm. Featuring The Newly Acclaimed Wiltshire Council singers. Admission £5 on the door (to include a complimentary glass of wine).

For information on all of the above contact:

Francis Geraghty 01380 871083, f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

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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 Readers, Ash Wednesday, 10 February is when the church marks the beginning of Lent this year. This is the time when Christians remember the forty days and nights that Jesus spent alone in the desert without food and was being tempted by the devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for his work by fasting and praying. Luke's Gospel tells us 'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.' Luke 4:1-2. Jesus was preparing himself for what was to come.

Lent isn't a sad or dreary time but a time to reflect upon our lives. How do we live our lives, how do we celebrate God's love and forgiveness, how do we show God's love in the world? It is a time for having a sort out, a time set aside for new things: such as joining a home group, reading a book especially written for Lent such as; *Leaning Towards Easter* by Chris Leonard or *Pilgrims & Peacemakers* by Garth Hewitt. Or you may like to consider returning to church or coming to church for the first time where a warm welcome awaits. (Please contact me for home group details 01225 753118)

In a world where there seems to be so much noise it is good to have the opportunity at Lent to 'centre down'. I recently read a poem by the American writer Howard Thurman, who puts it like this:

How good it is to centre down

It sits quietly and sees one's self pass by!

The streets of our minds seethe with endless traffic;

Our spirits resound with clashing, with noisy silences, while something deep within hungers and thirsts for the still moment and the resting lull.

With full intensity we seek, ere the quiet passes, a fresh sense of order in our living;

A direction, a strong sure purpose that will structure our confusion and bring meaning in our chaos.

We look at ourselves in this waiting moment - the kinds of people we are.

The questions persist: what are we doing with our lives?

What are the motives that order our days?

What is the end of our doings?

Where are we trying to go?

Where do we put the emphasis and where are our values focussed?

For what end do we make sacrifices?

Where is my treasure and what do I love the most in life?

Over & over the questions beat in upon the waiting moment.cont'd

As we listen, floating up through all the jangling echoes of our turbulence, there is a sound of another kind - a deeper note which only the stillness of the heart makes clear.

It moves directly to the core of our being. Our questions are answered, our spirits refreshed, and we move back into the traffic of our daily round.

With the peace of the Eternal in our step.

Every blessing this Lent.

Marilyn Stubbs, Local Licensed Minister

Benefice Prayer Day
Saturday 6th February at St Michael's Church
Hilperton. 10am - 2pm

We are warmly invited to come and pray for the forthcoming interviews for the next Incumbent of the Canalside Benefice which will take place later in the month.

St Michael's church will be open from 10a.m. until 2p.m. for personal and corporate prayers for all who will be taking part in the shortlisting of candidates, the interview process and for the candidates. There will be 'stations' around the church for people to engage with. Coffee & teas will be available during the day. Do come for as long as you are able and be a part of this as we seek God's guidance, will and blessing.

Marilyn Stubbs, Local Licensed Minister

BAPTISM



Axel Sleeman on Sunday 22nd November 2015 was welcomed into the church family at his baptism. We pray God will bless him and his family, and as he grows, he will experience God's love for himself.

Lent

We are meeting during Lent, to look together at 'Following Jesus', using some of Luke's gospel. The first one will be on Wednesday 17th February, 8.00 - 9.15pm, at 24 Highfield Close . Everyone is welcome, no Bible knowledge needed. Venue may change for subsequent weeks. More information from Jack or Bev Woodward, 870784.

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 2016 SERVICES

St. George's Semington

7th	9.15am	Parish Communion
14th	9.15am	Morning Worship
21st	6pm	Evening Worship
28th	9.15am	Together in Worship & Baptisms

St. Michael's Hilperton

7th	8am	Holy Communion
7th	11am	Together in Worship & Baptisms
7th	2pm	Baptism
14th	9.15am	Parish Communion
21st	10am	Together in Worship
28th	9.15am	Parish Communion
28th	11am	Methodist Service

St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh

7th	11am	Parish Communion
14th	6pm	Evening Worship
28th	11am	Parish Communion

St. Mary's Whaddon

14th	8am	BCP Communion
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