

FEBRUARY 2017

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Revd John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 764365

He has the heart to criticise who has the heart to help

Semington Diary



FEBRUARY 2017 **(in the Village Hall unless stated)**

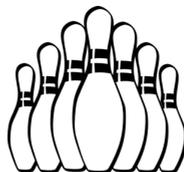
1st	Wed	Armstrongs Angels Skittles	8pm
2nd	Thu	Steeple Ashton Skittles	8pm
7th	Wed	Book Club (in the Somerset Arms)	7.15pm
8th	Wed	Parish Council meeting	7.45pm
9th	Thu	Semington WI	7pm
12th	Sun	Quiz Night	7.45pm
13th	Mon	Semington WI Skittles	7.30pm
15th	Wed	Steeple Ashton Skittles	7.30pm
16th	Thu	Steeple Ashton Skittles	8pm
20th	Mon	Steeple Ashton Skittles	7.30pm

Ladies Skittles

8pm every Tuesday in February

Men's Skittles

8pm every Friday in February.



EVERY WEEK IN THE VILLAGE HALL **(unless otherwise stated)**

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am - 12.30
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday (St. George's School Hall)	10 - 11.30am
Bridge Club	Tuesday & Friday	9am - 1pm
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday (Zumba at St' George's School)	6.30pm
Musical Theatre	Wednesday	4.45 - 6.15pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10 - 12noon
Alzheimer's Support	2nd Thursday of each month	10 - 12noon
Semingtones Choir	Friday	6 - 7.30pm

Don't ask if you are boring someone; they might agree



Christians in Semington

Wednesday 1st February, 7.45 - 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Housegroup

Wednesdays 8th & 22nd February, 7.45pm, 24 Highfield Close. Come and join us as we discover more about Jesus together. Contact Bev or Jack 870784 for more details.

SEMINGTON'S TWO PLANNING APPEALS

A warm "thank you" from the Parish Council to everyone who has written to the Planning Inspectorate to oppose the appeal by Richborough/ Savills. Keeping the pressure up is crucial. We now know that the deadline for making representations to the Inspectorate about the Framptons appeal is February 27th, and it is very important for everyone to write again. The appeal reference is **APP/Y3940/W/16/3164255**, and you can see the documentation **here: ow.ly/zzt1308bVvP**

Please remember that numbers matter. There has been a good response to the first appeal, and the more individuals who contact the Planning Inspectorate, about the Framptons one, the more notice they will take of our wishes. We now know that there is to be one appeal process covering both applications, and that this is likely to be in the late Summer. There will be more details of this in due course.

Robert Oglesby

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This month I have been reflecting.....

Well that's that then, Christmas done, the decorations back in the loft and a relieved goodbye to the year that was 2016. Gosh it took its toll on the celebrity community and more poignantly we also said sad goodbyes to lifelong residents of the village who gave the village its own unique character. And that's when you get reflective about life, the universe and everything in between....

As for my year – well my year has been a bit of a blast. What have I learnt?

- There is a sport or exercise out there for everyone – you just have to find it. Flinging myself around a swimming pool with ladies of a certain age works for me.
- I can cycle further than I thought whilst counting to 29.
- Growing your own vegetables is much harder than anyone will have you believe.
- Never take life for granted – a work colleague from my hotel days died tragically from a melanoma at 47 years old.
- You can give up your old career and move onto something else. Never in a million years did I think I could be fascinated by thermal imaging cameras and gas masks (Sorry, C, I mean respirators)
- The best style of dinner parties are the ones that only have one pot of food and several bottles of wine on the table.
- I love being at home, I really, really love being at home, not so keen on the ironing but hey ho you can't have everything.
- Think very, very carefully before gleefully offering to make curtains, to date only one curtain has been made. I'm still pulling myself together.

2017 is a landmark year I have a birthday that ends in a zero but not beginning with a 4! The bit you forget about a 50th birthday is that it marks the end of your 5th decade on this mortal coil and (whisper this) the start of your 6th decade. Well that's just plain scary not only for me but for my lovely parents whose youngest child is going to be 50!

So what am I going to be doing differently this year? For starters, beautiful eldest granddaughter Ava has asked if I will be her pen pal which I am more than happy to be. I need to take up the blog again, that has fallen woefully by the wayside and I shall make the second curtain.....

Whatever you have planned for 2017 make it fabulous!

Gillian Airey

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QUIZ NIGHT



I hope you had a very good Christmas and the New Year is going well so far!

December's Christmas Quiz was set by Sue and Steve, resplendent in

their flashing Christmas jumpers, so many thanks to them for setting a good quiz. Quite a few people were adorned with Christmas hats, etc., and it was a fun evening, with 9 teams attending. The Marathon was won by Terry's Turnips, who were first to submit their answer sheet too. This was to identify a load of Santas!

The main quiz was won by The Remaindeers team (Angela, Gaye and friends), with Terry's Turnips in 2nd place. Christmas themed questions included the name of the character played by Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany's, the name of the annual fair held in Nottingham and the name of the series in which Robbie Coltrane played a criminal psychologist? Answers below.

It was down to earth with a bump at January's quiz, as only 4 teams took part. Thanks to Vic, Samara and Allan for setting an interesting quiz. Terry's Turnips (the outstanding mother and son team, Margaret and Neil) continued their successful run, winning the Marathon and the main quiz, with Team No Idea in second place.

Thanks to Marilyn and Gerald for sorting out the nibbles, the raffle and the prizes throughout the year and thanks to all the teams who have set quizzes. We look forward to another good year of quizzing and hope more people will join us.

The next quiz is on Sunday, 12 February, **7.30 for 7.45 start**, and will be set by Terry's Turnips team (so they can't win that one!); March's quiz is on the 19th and Hilperton will be holding their quiz on Saturday 11 March). **Answers: Holly Golightly, the Goose Fair and Cracker.**

Julia Wade

SEMINGTON WEATHER 2016

I always do a review of the year from my daily recordings. However this year has been uneventful in weather terms. So here is a very brief overview of a boring year!

Semington rainfall in 2016 was a bit below average - 28.5 inches (724mm), with November being the wettest month (causing Great Lees field to flood again - who would want to buy a house there??).

July and December were unusually dry. Temperatures for the year have been about average, the hottest being 32 degrees on 19th July, and the coldest minus 7 degrees on December 1st.



Jack Woodward

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I have four wheels, padded seat and back.
Some brakes to stop me rolling down the slightest shap.
A seatbelt to stop one falling out.
I trundle along all sedate and trim
Unless I get stuck, or my wheels in the mud spin.
Maybe pushed or self propelled
Dependant on required or available willing help.

I have three wheels and a long snout
I cause a lot of people to scream and shout.
I'm long and thin and speed's my thing
I race around a big race track.
Tammy Gray once champion of the world pack
Now retried, handed over to Jack?
Or some other person whose good on the track.

I am made for the sick and lame
It gives them freedom to roam ere their game
Shops with wide aisles allow browsing again.
I come in all shapes and sizes so disabled gain.
I give freedom to those with bad knees, back or hip pain
Who would otherwise be confined to home with no trips
I am made for them a wheelchair, a chariot.

© J.A. Johnson

MAGAZINE DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

The deadline for the March 2017 edition is Monday 20 February 2017.

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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NATURE NOTES



John Clare's life was badly affected by the 19th century Enclosure Acts which meant that he was unable to roam at will over the land of his birth. His poetry was influenced by these changes, and here is a brief extract from, *The Mores*, the theme of which is sadly familiar today. As ever with John Clare, you have to put the punctuation in for yourself.

Far spread the moorey ground a level scene
Bespread with rush and one eternal green
That never felt the rage of blundering plough
Though centurys wreathed spring's blossoms on its brow
Still meeting plains that stretched them far away
In uncheckt shadows of green brown, and grey
Unbounded freedom ruled the wandering scene
Nor fence of ownership crept in between
To hide the prospect of the following eye
Its only bondage was the circling sky

...

These paths are stopt - the rude philistine's thrall
Is laid upon them and destroyed them all
Each little tyrant with his little sign
Shows where man claims earth glows no more divine
But paths to freedom and to childhood dear
A board sticks up to notice 'no road here'
And on the tree with ivy overhung
The hated sign by vulgar taste is hung
As tho' the very birds should learn to know
When they go there they must no further go
Thus, with the poor, scared freedom bade goodbye
And much they feel it in the smothered sigh
And birds and trees and flowers without a name
All sighed when lawless law's enclosure came
And dreams of plunder in such rebel schemes
Have found too truly that they were but dreams.

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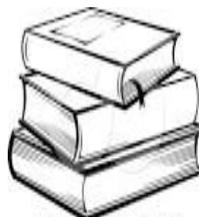
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In order to write about life, first you must live it

BOOKCLUB

The Book Club met in December and the main item on the Agenda was to enjoy a delicious Christmas Meal beautifully prepared for us by the Somerset Arms. We all had to take a book that we thought was 'a good read' so we could pick one to take us over the holiday period. The book chosen was REMEMBER ME by Lesley Pearse. It was a true tale about the first convicts to be transported to Australia and how many of them did not survive the dreadful sea voyage. Of those who survived, in particular the woman of the story, it described her first years of struggling to make a life in this strange place.



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The next meeting of the Book Club will be on the 1st February 2017 again at the Somerset Arms starting at 8pm. We hope to see some new faces there, so why not bring along the name of a book you have enjoyed reading and it may get picked as the book to be read for the following month.

Best Wishes from Joy Karas, standing in for Angela.

MELKSHAM DRAMA & MUSIC - PANTOMIME

I've finally been able to steal some of the Editor's free space to tell you about MMAD, Melksham Music and Drama. You thought I was just the Advertising Manager and worked at Leekes. Well, I'm also part of MMAD (yes, we are a bit!) and wanted to tell you about the



forthcoming Pantomime to be held in the Rachel Fowler Centre, just opposite the Melksham Town Hall. The pantomime is '**Dick Whittington and his Cat**' and it's on February 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th and 17th in the evenings starting at 7.30pm, with afternoon matinees on 11th and 18th starting at 2.30pm. You can 'purr' your way in for £8 per ticket with Concessions at £6. Hope to see many of you there, and you will recognise me as I have just one single line in the script but I do dance well!

Jeremy Tyler

Edited Minutes of the Semington Parish Council (PC) meeting 4 Jan 2017

Present: Councillors Robert Oglesby (Chairman), P Bowyer, K Lockwood, W Scott, P Smith, B Smyth, C Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council, Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There were two members of the public present initially.

Apologies for non-attendance: from Cllrs. S Rimmer, R Robinson and PCSO Simon Partington of the Community Policing Team (CPT).

Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Lockwood declared an interest in planning application 16/06564/OUT.

Community Policing: CPT provided a report of which the Local Crimes are listed below (in italics).

11/12/2016 02:38; Violence against the person in High Street Semington.

Victim has been assaulted by suspect causing injuries consistent with ABH.

11/12/2016 02:38; Violence against the person in High Street Semington.

Suspect has punched Police Officer in the face whilst being arrested.

11/12/2016 02:38; Criminal Damage in High Street Semington. Suspect has caused damage to door by unknown means.

Cllr. Oglesby reported an additional incident namely Criminal Damage on 21 December when blue spray paint was used to deface an advertising sign at the roundabout.

Wiltshire Council Report: Cllr. Seed gave a brief report.

Wiltshire Council Budget – Setting a balanced budget for FY2017/18.

The Great Leas Village Green application.

Possible safety improvements on A361 near The Turnpike to be discussed with Cllr. Robinson.

Current planning appeals by Richborough Estates and Framptons.

Local Elections to be held on 4 May 2017.

Planning:

PENDING 16/09699/FUL Land opposite Outmarsh Farm

New home for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance

PENDING 16/10848/FUL Plot 3, Lansdowne, Littleton

Erection of Day Room

NEW 16/11634/FUL Land Adjoining 14 The Knapps

Construction of a 4 Bed Bungalow with Attached Garage (Resubmission of 15/01251/FUL). Comment to be sent to WC "*The PC has no objection to this proposed development.*"

The Council noted the applications below and decided on actions shown:

16/05783/OUT – Land to the North of Pound Lane.

The PC noted that Richborough Estates had lodged an appeal (Appeal Reference: APP/Y3940/W/16/3162997) against the decision of Wiltshire Council to refuse this planning application. Cllr. Scott had prepared a written statement detailed the arguments why the appeal should be dismissed. The PC resolved that it should be sent, with a minor amendment, to the Planning Inspectorate. (Statement available on request from the Editor). **(cont'd)**

16/06564/OUT – Land North of 554 Canal Bridge.

This application is to be determined by the Western Area Planning Committee on 11 January 2016. (cont'd on Page 15)

16/06956/OUT – Land North of St George's Road.

Framptons had notified the Planning Inspectorate of an intended appeal against the decision as yet no correspondence has received.

TETLOW KING - Held an open evening at Melksham Town Hall in December to explain their proposed development at Melksham.

16/07683/CLE. Comment to be sent to WC "No Comment".

Finance: (details available from the Editor on request)

The Clerk presented a Proposed Budget for FY2017/18 which was approved by the PC subject to maintaining the Precept at £12,000, the same as for FY2016/17.

Highways/Environment: Councillors requested that photographs are taken of traffic problems, including accidents, at Pound Lane to add to the portfolio of evidence showing the unsuitability of that road to support further residential development. Cllr. Robinson provided a written report of his meeting with Wiltshire Council (Mark Stansby) regarding possible safety improvements on the A361 near to The Turnpike. (Report available from the Editor on request.) These improvements will be introduced at the next CATG mtg on 18/1/17 but no formal proposals can be made as the technical information and pricings will not have been formulated. This project will be considered as one of the top five for attention. The usual one third price passed over to the PC will have to be reconsidered as the cost is way above the amount that the Council can afford. CATG will consider other avenues to acquire the money needed. And the next Area Board meeting will be held on 8/2/17.

Tennis Court: Healthcare 2000 Chiropractor Surgery at the Independent Living Centre can have permission to erect an advertising sign on the Tennis Court fence until 31/3/17. Cllrs. Smyth, Lockwood and Robinson would investigate possible solutions to address the overgrown hedge at the Court.

Any Other Business: Cllr. Lockwood was keen to organise volunteer support to improve and maintain the Play Area at Wessex Close. He would table proposals at the next meeting and WC needed to be informed as it owned and managed this area. Cllr. Scott commented that Pound Lane was in a filthy state with mud and other debris. He added that the footpath next to the church field was impassable because of the brambles. The PC would contact the tenant and request that action is taken. Cllr. Smith stated that parishioners must be encouraged to write to the Planning Inspectorate restating their objections to the proposed development by Richborough Estates.

Date of Next Meetings: 8 February, 8 March, and 12 April 2017.

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TUESDAYS
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 Fitzmaurice Primary School
 Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 1LE

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

THURSDAYS
 6.45pm-7.45pm
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SEMINGTON WI
December & January Meetings

First I have to thank all those who made the cakes as well as helped and supported on the day, at the 'Village Hall Table Top Sale'. Special thanks goes to Val Swaine who made and decorated the 'Guess the Weight of The Christmas Cake'. It looked beautiful and tasted excellent. It weighed 8lbs 9oz and was won by Julia Wade who very kindly shared some at coffee morning.

We had a very enjoyable Skittles Evening on Thursday 8th December. Once again thanks go to Gerald, Marilyn and Sarah for organising the food. To Andy Lewis who organised the Christmas Quiz, and to George Evans who did an excellent job sticking up for us. Finally thanks to all who came and supported the evening. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our January meeting was replaced by lunch at the Barge Inn Seend on Thursday 12th January. It was great to see so many ladies there and a great time was had by all.

Our February meeting will be back in the village hall on Thursday 9th at 7.30pm. We will be having a talk on the making of cider and be having samples to try.

Deb Hurn

ARE YOU A BUDDING AUTHOR?



Are you competent at using a publishing package? Do you have good IT skills? Do you have a flair for writing? Do you have some spare time every month? Are you committed to helping Semington? Then you sound just like the person I am looking for to replace me as Editor. I can teach you all the ropes needed and hand over the role gradually. Interested? Call me - Leon 01380 870708 for a chat.

AIR AMBULANCE—GOOD NEWS!

I am delighted to inform you that our detailed plans for our new home on land at Outmarsh Farm, Semington, have been granted by Wiltshire Council. Since we announced back in August 2015 that Outmarsh Farm was our preferred site, the response we have received has been overwhelmingly supportive.



The custom-built airbase will bring together our helicopter, aircrew and charity team and it will enable us to have full control over our future. The site at Outmarsh Farm is perfect as it will allow our state-of-the-art helicopter to reach all parts of Wiltshire within 11 minutes, as it currently does now from its base in Devizes. We anticipate that construction work will begin in the Spring 2017.

We are looking forward to becoming part of the community in Semington and Melksham Without. We have launched an Airbase Appeal to raise the remaining £1.25 million of the £5.1 million cost of our new airbase. We hope individuals, community groups, schools and businesses will get on board and enable us to secure the future of our lifesaving service.

For more information about the Airbase Appeal and how to get involved and donate go to www.wiltshireairbaseappeal.co.uk
David Philpott, Chief Executive of Wiltshire Air Ambulance.
Registered Charity Number: 1144097



When assembling flat pack, the safest four letter word is "Help"

News from the Friends of St George's **Semington Slog 10k and Fun Run Saturday 6th May**



We are in the process of organising the third Semington Slog and hope it will be as successful as last years. If you would like to get involved, we are looking for marshals along the route. Please email John Adams if you would like to help at fosgchair@st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk. For entry to the Semington Slog, please visit [entrycentral.com/Semington Slog](http://entrycentral.com/SemingtonSlog).

Next Jumble Sale - Saturday 3rd March

The next Jumble Sale will be at the beginning of March, so get ready for a Spring sort out.



A huge thank you to Kingstons Estate Agents for supporting St George's School. Every property they sell in the local area they are giving £100 to the school.

VILLAGE HALL KITCHEN

We have now completed the second stage of the modernisation of the Village Hall. We have enlarged and modernised the kitchen consisting of new built in Oven, Hob unit, Microwave and Dishwasher which were all put through there paces over the Christmas period. It cost a total of £13,000 to do this, of which we had a Melksham Area Board Grant of £1,500. Due to this work being carried out we have our first Corporate Booking in January.



Gerald Taylor, Chairman Semington Village Hall

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

February is the month when we in Wiltshire Council have to set the budget for the forthcoming year. This culminates in a full meeting of the whole of Wiltshire Council's 98 councillors and sadly can sometimes be overshadowed by individual political views and point scoring. Accepting this, as your local Wiltshire Council member, I have endeavoured to keep out of party politics locally per se since representing the interests of communities is the most important issue.

But returning to the budget, we know that the grant from central Government is going down all the time and savings have to be continually made. We also know that recently Government has advised Councils that they can raise an additional 1% from council tax payers to pay for the increasing demands of looking after our older residents needing social care. So what this means is that Council tax bills are likely to go up but the reality is that our costs, based on an above average number of older residents in the county and the fact they we live longer, means that when a health crisis occurs it is usually more complex, all adds up to needing resources greater than is being offered by Government. Consequently, in my cabinet area of Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding we are having to find new ways of doing things for less money. Therefore, despite all of our irritation at paying more in council tax, I need to assure you that our promise, in Wiltshire Council, is to look after the vulnerable in our communities and we will live up to this. However, we will continue to be faced with making difficult decisions.

Recently I saw that someone had discarded furniture and other rubbish on a grass verge. I despair at the selfishness of some people but you can immediately both photograph and then report these issues to Wiltshire Council, via the My Wiltshire App. This reporting process is cost effective and enables the council to respond directly to the person reporting the matter. Significantly, it costs only pennies whereas a telephone call, due to the cost of an operator, costs many pounds. In saying this, those not technically minded can still report matters on 0300 456 0105 but how about having a go at using the app or via Wiltshire Council's website? <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/mywiltshirereport.htm>

Finally there are issues specific to Semington that take time and effort to resolve. I am currently working with Parish Councillors on plans to improve the pedestrian access across from Littlemarsh across the A361 and we are making progress. We are also progressing the village green application along Pound Lane as well as preparing for the joint Public Appeal hearing for the rejected and predatory housing development applications that have been submitted in the village. *I will keep you updated on these.*



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STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

Saturday 11 February 2017 at Steeple Ashton Village Hall - 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm for refreshments).

This most British film with the impressive cast we have come to know and love - Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Celia Imrie, Jim Broadbent and plenty of other familiar faces - are all back. After twelve years, the long awaited third in the series of the Bridget Jones story has arrived and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring it to Steeple Ashton. It has been the top box office best seller of 2016 in the United Kingdom and received five star reviews, almost without exception, from those who have seen the film. It is witty, funny and everything we expect from Bridget Jones. Briefly...after breaking up with Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), life hasn't quite gone according to plan for Bridget Jones (Renee Zellweger). She finds herself in

her 40s and single again. She decides to focus on her career as a top news producer and surround herself with old friends and new. For once, Bridget has her life completely under control, putting her love life on hold. What could possibly go wrong?

When she meets a handsome American, Jack (Patrick Dempsey) life takes an interesting turn. He couldn't be more different from Mark Darcy and a breath of fresh air for Bridget. It comes as a surprise that she finds she is pregnant. However, she cannot be sure of the identity of her baby's father. It could be Jack, or Mark Darcy!

This is where we begin to see the story unfold in its' own style. Hilarious scenes with her doctor (Emma Thompson) and between Jack and Mark Darcy. I'm certain you will enjoy your evening with Bridget Jones and love this film just as much as the first two. Bridget is an engaging, and entertaining character throughout and will not let you down!!!

Tickets £6 available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop, or contact Alison Wilson on 01380 871345 for further information or if you would like to reserve tickets.



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CATHOLIC NEWS

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY (including VILLAGES).

**Parish Priest Canon Liam O'Driscoll, Telephone 01225 752 152
www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.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

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.

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2017

Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. **Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10.**

For information and application form contact Francis Geraghty.

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.

NEW YEAR CONCERT

St. John's Parish Centre, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge on Friday 10th February featuring the acclaimed Wiltshire Council Singers. Admission £5 on the door (to include complimentary glass of wine). To book contact Francis Geraghty.

Francis Geraghty 01380 871 083

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**

Thought from the Rectory:

Have you ever had that feeling that life keeps going round in the same old pattern and that you're stuck in it? That's the Groundhog Day feeling. The name became popular after the 1993 film of the same name set in Pennsylvania, USA, where there is a real festival of Groundhog Day, which is on 2nd February. The day is marked by a crowd gathering to see whether the groundhog will emerge from its winter hole heralding the coming of spring or retreat back into it, heralding the continuation of winter for another six weeks. In the film, the main character, Phil Connors, finds himself in a continuous cycle where Groundhog Day is repeated over and over again. He begins to realise that he needs to do things that will help others in order to escape this nightmare. As he does, he becomes a more rounded and less selfish person.

This date also marks the Christian festival of Candlemas. The Bible story of Candlemas tells of the witness of two older people, Simeon and Anna. They had waited in the Temple for many years to see the promised Messiah. They were there on the day when Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus for the ceremony of purification and recognised who Jesus was. They both gave thanks that they had lived to see such a day; their patience and persistence were rewarded.

In these dark days of winter, life can seem dull and mundane. The news is full of tragic and worrying stories. The future is uncertain for many – what will the new era in the USA bring? How will Brexit affect us? But when we open ourselves to the capacity to see beyond our own needs and desires and begin to see ourselves in relation to others and to creation as a whole, then the everyday takes on a different complexion. It did for Simeon and Anna. It did for Phil Connors. And it can do for us too.

***John Rees
Rector of the Canalside Benefice***

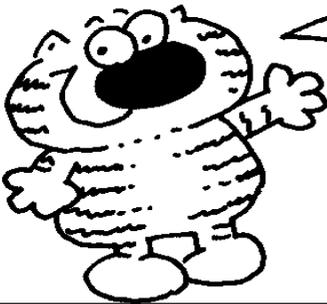
The competition may only take a few minutes but the practice can take many days

THANKS TO MARILYN AND GERALD

There are a large number of people who work hard in our village to put on events, support other people, run clubs, the Village Fete, serve on the Parish Council, putting on Messy Church, producing this Magazine, etc., but we would like to pay tribute to a couple who do more than most: Marilyn and Gerald Taylor. They are involved in so many things within the Social Club and the Village Hall: serving on Committees, running the bingo, food nights, lunches in the Hall, the OAPs' Christmas Party, running the bar, etc., and are so supportive of the groups that use the Village Hall, just to mention a few of the things they do. We are lucky to have such a dedicated couple who really help make Semington such a nice place to live.

Thank you.

Paws For Thought



Jesus said, "If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest."

**It's in the Bible:
Matthew 11 verse 28**

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 2017 SERVICES

St. George's Semington

5th	9.15am	Parish Communion
12th	9.15am	Morning Prayer
19th	6pm	Evening Worship
26th	9.15am	Together in Worship

St. Michael's Hilperton

5th	8am	Holy Communion
5th	11am	Together in Worship with Hilperton School
12th	9.15am	Parish Communion
19th	10am	Together in Worship
26th	11am	Joint Anglican & Methodist Communion

St. Mary Magdalen Hilperton Marsh

5th	11am	Parish Communion
12th	6pm	Evening Worship
26th	11am	Worship at Hilperton (see above)

St. Mary's Whaddon

12th	8am	BCP Communion
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