

FEBRUARY 2018

SEMINGTON

PARISH



MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Revd John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

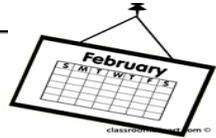
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To succeed in life you need two things: ignorance & confidence – Mark Twain

Semington Diary

Village Hall



8 th	THURS	Semington WI	7.30pm
18 th	SUN	Quiz Night	7.45pm
19 th	MON	Ladies Skittles League (WI)	7.30pm
21 st	WED	Semington Parish Council	7.45pm

SKITTLES

TUESDAYS		Semington Ladies Skittles	7.30pm
FRIDAYS		Semington Mens Skittles	7.30pm
7 th	WED	Steeple Ashton Skittles	8.00pm
14 th	WED	Armstrong Angels Skittles	8.00pm
22 nd	THURS	Armstrong Angels Skittles	8.00pm
28 th	WED	Armstrong Angels Skittles	8.00pm

Every Week in the Village Hall

Bingo	Monday	7.30pm
Post Office	Monday & Thursday	9.30am – 12.30pm
Baby/Toddler Group	Tuesday	10.00am – 11.30am
	St George's School Hall	
Bridge Club	Tuesdays & Fridays	9.00am – 1.00pm
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm
	St Georges School Hall	
Musical Theatre	Wednesday (8 – 16 years)	4.45pm – 6.15pm
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10.00am – 12 noon
Alzheimer's Support	2 nd Thursday of the month	10.00am – 12 noon
Semingtones Choir	Every Friday	6.00pm

Enjoy the little things in life – one day you'll realise they were the big things....



Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Wednesday 7th February, 7.45 - 9pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Housegroup - Tuesday's 13th & 27th February, 7.45pm. Join us to drink tea, coffee, chat and have a laugh, and find out more about the Christian faith. The evenings are suitable for anyone. For more information, including venues, phone Bev/Jack 870784, Pam/David 870030 or Victoria 871936.

Semington Book Club

Angela Grodzicka

Six members met on Thursday 30th November to discuss *Crisis* by Frank Gardner. The majority had enjoyed the book and found it well researched with good characterisation, although some thought the ending a little weak.

It was decided not to meet too close to Christmas and so ten members enjoyed a 'Christmas' meal in the pub on Tuesday 16 January and talked about books they had read recently and enjoyed. The next meeting was set for Tuesday 20 February at 8.00pm in the pub when the group will discuss *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern. All welcome.

Editor's Note

We'd love to hear from you, this is your mag for your village. I dare you to put finger to keyboard! The deadline for the March edition is Thursday 22nd February. Please e-mail me at semparmag@icloud.com.

For all advertising enquiries please contact Jeremy on 870708 or e-mail Jez_tyler@hotmail.com. Apologies to those who have asked for advertising space. Unfortunately the magazine is full, so we have added you to our waiting list. Please be patient. Rest assured we're trying to find a solution to allow more one-off adverts to be featured.

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This month I've been clearing the dec(k)s

Gilly Airey

Once upon a time when I was young I vividly remember that Christmas decorations did not get taken down until the 12th Night. 'It was tradition and it was bad luck' my fabulous mum used to say..... And yet, in this day and age the urge and itch to get those decs down and gone by New Year's Day is the norm not the exception. I will admit to subscribing to this school of thought especially after the mighty Dibble attempted to scale the Christmas tree one New Year's Eve resulting in a Tom and Jerry style scene of both cat and tree tumbling down with the merest of pauses before the tree dropped each and every needle it possessed. We now have an artificial tree.....

And how empty does everywhere look once the decs are down and normal service is resumed? It made me start to look at other parts of the house where 'improvements' could be made (Gorgeous Hubby excepted!). Kitchen cupboards was his suggestion, hubby and I don't disagree about much (neither of us has the energy) but when he 'reorganised' my Tupperware cupboard I had a full on meltdown. Ladies I would never venture to go and tidy up his garage, so how dare he have laid hands on my Tupperware..... But this time I was game.

I am embarrassed to say we found food that had been meticulously packed and unpacked in the last house move from High Wycombe to Wiltshire 12 years ago, who knew that tinned pineapple could last that long? We found raffle prizes from skittles games – you know the ones – the prize that goes to the very last ticket pulled out – yes - tinned haggis I'm looking at you. Skittle raffle prizes is a whole different column by itself – remind me to tell you of my theories one day.

And then you find the aspirational ingredients, the "Waitrose saw you coming" ingredients. What exactly do you do with tamarind paste, pomegranate molasses and pumpkin and sesame oil? All bought with good intent and resolve to cook new interesting yet healthy dishes 8 years ago. Then it got serious I am embarrassed to say I had ten different bags of flour (bread making phase) which including 2 open bags of rye flour and 3 different types of strong white flour! I have yet to enter my sushi making phase based on the fact that I had three packs of miso bouillon paste, 2 tubs of wasabi, four packs of seaweed and a sushi making kit all unopened...

Great news is I now have space in my cupboards to start buying the weird and wonderful stuff that I can then rediscover in 2025.....

Happy cooking!

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Quiz Night

Julia Wade



Happy New Year to you all! We are looking forward to another year of quizzing.

The Christmas Quiz, set by Pete, Lesley and Paul, was excellent, so many thanks to them. We were delighted to see 9 teams in attendance, including some new people, so welcome to them, and we hope they will return. There were lots of Christmas jumpers and hats, etc., on display too, which was fun.

The Marathon was a picture round with lots of Nicholases and Nicolas to identify. The winners, with 17/20 correct, were the Double Whammy team, Sue and Andy, so well done to them. The Christmas Quiz has slightly different rules to normal, so the team who came last in the Main Quiz, 'All on Coke' got a prize, and there was a prize for every round, determined by a draw, rather than the score. The funniest round was the last one – Pete gave us the answer and we had to guess the question! This meant getting inside Mr. Vooght's head to work out the answer... Still, no-one was permanently damaged by the process and it was good fun. Great idea, Pete!

Questions from another round included some from crackers: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? and 'Why didn't the skeleton go to the ball?' Answers below. The winners of the quiz were the Four Pies team: Gaye, Vic, Angela and Bill. Very well done.

January's Quiz nearly didn't happen, as Neil, who was setting it, was stuck in Newport when his car broke down. Fortunately he got back in time, so thanks to him for getting there in the end! The Marathon was to name the historic county towns of 39 counties (pre 1889). Two teams tied on 30 points, but the first to hand in their answer sheet were Just We 3, so well done to them. The main quiz was also closely fought but, in the end, it came down to how well you knew popular music and Trowbridge, as there was a big difference in the scores for those rounds, e.g., can you name the unusual animal that was found in the lake in Trowbridge Park in the 1980s? Answer below. The winning team, by 6 points, was Good intentions (Barbara, Sue, Geoff, Pam and David), so very well done to them.

The next quiz will be on **Sunday 18th February, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start**, at the Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

ANSWERS: A stick. Because he had no body to go with. A sea lion (it had escaped from Longleat).

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Nature's Notes

The Canadian Encyclopedia says that **Archibald Lampman** is generally considered the finest of Canada's late 19th-century poets who wrote in English. Some called him the Canadian Keats. He died in 1899, age 38. This sonnet is typical of his meditations on the natural world, emphasising the calm of country life.

The hills and leafless forests slowly yield
To the thick-driving snow. A little while
And night shall darken down. In shouting file
The woodmen's carts go by me homeward-wheeled,
Past the thin fading stubbles, half concealed,
Now golden-grey, sowed softly through with snow,
Where the last plough man follows still his row,
Turning black furrows through the whitening field.
Far off the village lamps begin to gleam,
Fast drives the snow, and no man comes this way;
The hills grow wintery white, and bleak winds moan
About the naked uplands. I alone
Am neither sad, nor shelterless, nor grey,
Wrapped round with thought, content to watch and dream.



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YOUniquely Wonderful – Ladies Breakfast

Julia Wade

We were thrilled by the wonderful response to the first Trowbridge Ladies' Breakfast, in November - 114 ladies signed up to attend!

We are excited to announce the next breakfast for women in the Trowbridge area, where, once again, ladies of all ages, of all denominations and none, will be welcomed to a breakfast, with guest speaker, Ayshka Sené. We will not be providing a crèche, however. Our aim is to give these ladies a treat and to provide a special time of fellowship, where they can hear God's word, and discover, or rediscover, His love for them.

The next breakfast is on Saturday 24 February at 9.00 am at Southwick Village Hall (Frome Road, Southwick, BA14 9QG) – please note the change of venue from last time. Donations are invited on the day (the cost of the Breakfast is £3). To sign up please fill in the sign up sheet on the table just inside St. George's Church or contact Julia Wade on 07546 247355, no later than Sunday 18 February.

Ladies of Semington – Your Choir Needs You!

Lorraine Mahoney

The Semingtones Ladies choir has been running for nearly 5 years now which is a great achievement for a small village. We sing a variety of songs, including classical, folk, popular music and show songs. We aim to perform throughout the year at various venues, and have sung in many places over the years, including around the village green for the lighting of the Christmas tree, the village hall, Spencers sports and social club, various nursing homes, St George's Church, The Rachel Fowler Centre and The Cloisters at Lacock Abbey.

We are now looking to take on new members to join this vibrant group – if you're new to the village and would like an easy way to get to know other women, then the village choir is for you. We have a mix of school mums, WI ladies, Church ladies etc who wouldn't necessarily cross paths. The choir is led by professional singer & teacher Lorraine Mahoney. Join us for 2018 and have fun singing with The Semingtones.

The Semingtones Ladies Choir, Fridays 6pm-7.30pm @ £3pw Semington Village Hall
Email: Lorraine@theatresense.co.uk tel: 07730 254122 www.WWSPA.co.uk

Edited Parish Council Minutes

Meeting held Wednesday 24th January 2018

Council Tax for FY2018/2019. Cllr. Seed stated that the Wiltshire Council budget for FY2018/2019 is to be published next week and is likely to show a shortfall of some £20m. He commented that the Council Tax is likely to rise by 5.9% - the maximum permitted by Central Government and that the Police Budget would also rise and this would represent a £12 per year increase for a Band D property.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance – Bus Gate. The Chairman stated that he and Cllr. Smith had recently attended a meeting with Cllr. Seed to discuss the matter concerning the relocation of the Bus Gate on the (old) A350 road through Semington following the construction of the new Headquarters for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust. Cllr. Seed stated that in his view it is necessary to go back and look at the problem that gave rise to the bus gate initially. He commented that a metrocount survey of the vehicles using that part of the road should be undertaken in order to gather current data in order to inform any decisions regarding the Bus Gate relocation. Cllr. Smith commented that it is important that an accurate figure is obtained and that it would be necessary for the Air Ambulance Trust sub-contractors to be alerted as to the existing prohibitions otherwise unrealistic figures will be obtained. Cllrs. Oglesby and Scott emphasized that the Air Ambulance Trust had confirmed in its original planning application that details to relocate the existing Bus Gate would be included in the full planning application and that there was a clear intention stated that alterations would be made to the existing bus gate facilities so that access can instead be gained only from the business park to the north. Councillors commented that this assurance was instrumental in the Parish Council supporting the original planning application and that it was inexcusable that the Air Ambulance Trust had now reneged on that agreement. They argued that Air Ambulance had been willing to relocate the Bus Gate but had been persuaded otherwise by Wiltshire Council.

Planning. Cllr. Scott stated that with other councillors he had attended a Village Green Public Enquiry at Marlborough to learn of the processes and procedures that are likely to obtain when the Semington Village Green Enquiry is held later in the year. He added that the visit had been very worthwhile and the Semington Enquiry is likely to last two or three days, although no Inspector had yet been appointed.

Finance Balance as at 24th January 2018 is £26,121.06

The Clerk presented a case for becoming a Member of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and following a brief discussion the Council **resolved** that the Clerk to Semington Council should become a member of the SLCC and further **resolved** that the sum of £53 be paid to the SLCC for this membership.

The Council **resolved** that a payment of £28 be made to Cllr. Robinson in respect of donations he had made on behalf of the Parish Council to the parishioners who assisted in the erection etc of the Christmas Tree and the Council resolved that £117.34 be paid to Cllr. Smith for expenses incurred in refurbishing the telephone kiosk and for photocopying of Carol Sheets for the Village Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree. The Council **resolved** to make all the payments under 'Payments to be authorised' above.

Highways/Environment The Chairman stated that he would report the following to the Parish Steward: The need to clear moss etc from the footpath at St Georges Road and to clear the path near to the Bus Stop on the A361 road (Littlemarsh side).

Cllr. Smith stated that there had been no further progress on the refurbishment of the telephone box because of the cold and the adverse weather. Cllr. Oglesby suggested a future use for the telephone box could be for an ATM money dispenser. Cllr. Smith commented that he had written to the head teacher, George's School inviting suggestions for possible uses for the kiosk.

Cllr. Robinson reported that the safety improvement work to be undertaken on the A361 by Wiltshire Council is now due to commence in late March.

Cllr. Robinson stated that he had informed Wiltshire Council of a number of instances of fly-tipping in the layby (south side of A361 by Bartletts Farm) and this refuse had been promptly removed. He added that it was a continuing problem and that there was overwhelming evidence of rats infesting that area. He commented that he would contact Wiltshire Council Environmental Health. Cllr. Robinson commented that he also undertook a 'litter pick' recently with a parishioner and that the village and its environs were now much tidier. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Robinson for his efforts.

Cllr. Wade invited other councillors to join him this Saturday at 10am to remove the roots of cleared vegetation at the Tennis Court. This was noted by councillors.

Cllr. Scott reported that the bramble hedge at the church field needed cutting back as it is now overhanging the Pound Lane footpath.

Cllr. Rimmer reminded councillors of the decision made some time ago to purchase specimen trees – ideally ten trees – and to plant them as a feature opposite to the crematorium. Possible candidates were oak trees, each costing £45.95. He added that a cheaper but far less attractive possibility was purchasing small saplings that would cost £5 to £6 each. He stated that he would send details of these options to all councillors. He added that a decision would not be required until later in the year.

Next meeting Wednesday 21st February

Imagination is more important than knowledge – Albert Einstein

Update on Parish Council Issues

Bryan Smyth – Chairman

The Parish Council would like to invite applications for the current Councillor vacancy. If you are interested in becoming involved you are invited to contact the Clerk to Council via e-mail : roger.p.colman@btinternet.com

It would be useful also if you could provide a brief statement on who you are and what attributes you could bring to the Council.

Whatever the Weather - Semington Weather 2017 Review

Jack Woodward

Having been an amateur weather recorder for a long time, I now have 40 years of records for Semington. Although the media like to dramatise things, and try to convince us that extremes of weather are now the norm, the evidence locally is that our weather does not vary that much. For example, take rainfall in Semington - we get on average about 30 inches annually, but in the 40 years the highest recorded was 39 inches (2014) and the lowest 23 inches (2003). I am of course aware that different parts of the UK are much more susceptible to extremes of weather.

So to 2017 - Total rainfall was 27.24 inches (692mm) with April being particularly dry, July and December were the wettest. We didn't have any extreme temperatures. However the average temperature over the whole year was the highest since 2011.

Great Bulkington Railway

Nev Boulton – Station Master



We will be opening for public running on Easter Sunday 1 April from 1.00pm until 4.30pm

Light refreshments will be served by the ladies from Christ Church Bulkington and toilets will be available in the village hall.

We take no expenses – all profits go to Wiltshire Air Ambulance whom we sent £2000 last year. We operate private birthday parties with 2 hours of train rides from the village hall for up to 20 children (BYO party food) for £140.

Contact Nev - 01380 828101

The big local government story this month is council tax and residents may not be aware of the different strands that make up the council tax bill that goes out in March. By far the largest proportion of this bill is for Wiltshire Council which provides our local government services including social services, children's services and highways amongst others; this is likely to increase by 5.99% this year. The next strand is the Parish precept and this goes to fund local parish services and this level is set by the Parish Council which is likely to increase as parishes take on more local responsibilities. There is also the police and fire precept which is again likely to increase (by 12%) in order to provide the services people tell these services that they want.

So why all these local tax increases? The reason for increases in charges made by local government through council tax and non domestic rates is simply that central government takes most of the Council Tax revenue and has at the same time progressively cut the funding it redistributes to local government for service delivery. Therefore local government has to increase its charges in order to grow the portion of the tax it keeps to pay for the services it is required to deliver.

Local government at all levels has its ups and downs but I am becoming increasingly concerned at the difficulties that are being experienced at parish level. These most local of councils do a great job and exist to provide the most local of support to the small number of people that live in our parishes. They are not a parliament and sometimes it would be helpful if all involved took a step back and recognised that parishes do what they can which may not be a precisely what everyone wants or in the way that vociferous individuals demand. However Parish Councils and their volunteer Councillors are elected to do their best and should be afforded the support to do what they can for their residents. Increasingly unnecessary hectoring from a minority of self-appointed, unrepresentative locals pops up from time to time and causes great difficulty for our locally elected representatives who are after all volunteers doing their best. When this happens perhaps everyone should take that step back and take a long hard look at what everyone is there to achieve. Currently there is not this issue in Semington and we have a pretty good record of working together but we do need to maintain this.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open

Friends of St George's

Rachel Saunders – St George's PTA

Christmas Fair - Thank you to everyone who helped or came along to the Christmas Fair - it was a great event for the children and got everyone in the festive spirit!

Jumble Sale -The next jumble sale will take place on Saturday 10th March at 2pm. Please drop Jumble at the school hall on Friday 9th 3.15pm-5.00pm or Saturday 10th 10am-12 noon. We are always looking for new helpers "more hands make light work". If you can spare some time to help either on the day or before then please contact Andrea Webb at alexwebb@sky.com - thank you.

Semington Slog - Watch this space for more information on this years "Semington Slog" 10k run and fun run which will be held on Saturday 28th April.

Thank you!

With the funds we have been raising the school have recently purchased 6 new iPads for the children's use and visualisers for the classrooms. Without your support these things would not be possible so a huge thank you goes to everyone who has helped or supported at any event we do and we look forward to raising more funds throughout 2018!

Paws for Thought



The Lord is my Shepherd;
I have everything I need.

It's in the Bible -

Psalm 23 Verse 1

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WI - December and January Meetings

Deb Hurn



We had our Christmas Skittle Evening on December 14th. An enjoyable evening was had by all. There was also a Christmas Quiz which kept people busy when they weren't playing skittles. We had a Ploughman's Supper provided by Gerald and Marilyn Taylor which was once again excellent and our thanks go to them. Thanks also to Steve Connor for setting the quiz and George Evans who was our "Sticker Upper" for the evening. It was lovely to see so many people there, both regulars and new faces.

On January 11th, our meeting was our Birthday Party which we held at the Royal Oak in Hawkeridge. Unfortunately the numbers were down slightly due to illness and holidays. However the lesser numbers didn't seem to keep us any quieter and as usual, we were all able to enjoy ourselves.

I hope all those that were poorly are much improved and we hope to see you on Thursday February 8th at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dawn Lawrence who will be giving a talk on the "Born Free" foundation.

Taking Time to Say Thank You for My 90th Birthday Party

Peggy Wise

November 23rd 2017 seems a long time ago but it is etched in my mind as a VERY Special day and I hope those who came along agree with me!

Very many thanks to my family who helped to arrange the party and for the lovely birthday cake. Thanks also to Gerald, Marilyn and Gill who supplied the wonderful buffet food and looked after the bar.

It was lovely to hear The Semingtones, led by Lorraine Mahoney. Lots of people joined in with the singing and it was quite emotional when they all sang Happy Birthday for my 90th celebration.

We raised £200 for The Wiltshire Air Ambulance and my sincere thanks go to you all for your generosity.

Steeple Ashton Films

Alison Wilson



Victoria & Abdul (12A)

Saturday 24 February 2018 - 7.00pm

Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments, at the village hall, Steeple Ashton

Directed by Stephen Frears (*The Queen*, *Florence Foster Jenkins*, *Philomena*), *Victoria and Abdul* is a film based on Shrabani Basu's book of the same name about the real-life relationship between Queen Victoria (Judy Dench) and her Indian servant, Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal). Arguably, an unofficial sequel to the very successful 1997 film, *Mrs. Brown*, it boasts a cast of many other stars including Eddie Izzard, Michael Gambon and Tim Piggott-Smith.

Abdul Karim, a young clerk from India, is sent to England to participate in Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. The Queen, who is ageing and lonely, develops a friendship with Abdul. She spends time with him alone, and promotes him within the Royal household. She asks him to teach her his own language and when Victoria discovers that he is married, she invites his wife and mother-in-law to join him in England.

While Victoria treats Abdul as a son, his elevated status is resented by members of her household, her son, Bertie and the Prime Minister causing the Royal Household to plot to undermine their relationship. Set in the final years of Queen Victoria's life and reign, this fascinating and charming film is a must-see!

Tickets £6 available from Steeple Ashton Village Shop or can be reserved by ringing Alison Wilson on 01380 871345

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At The School Gates

Head Teacher – Jackie Chalk



A new term has started and so too has the next phase of the plan to improve our village school. The monitoring visit has recognised all of the hard work that has already taken place and given us renewed energy and reaffirmed what our next steps are. The report is available on our website. A further parent forum was held on Tuesday 30th January.

St George's was selected as one of the three charities for Waitrose's January Community Matters. We're hoping to have got a good share of the £1,000 that is put forward each month and I do hope that when you popped into Waitrose you voted for the school.

Our Duckling Class have a very special request this month. Do you have any unwanted dressing up clothes that can be donated to them. They are looking for type of dressing up clothes (except Halloween) including handbags, hats, old blouses, shirts, jackets etc. Any donations you may have including uniforms can be dropped at the school office during school hours – on behalf of the Ducklings thank you!

On our next training day in February, Mrs Lane and Mrs Crossman will be working together on the Early Years' outdoor environment, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Sinclair-Ross along with Mrs Barson will be looking at literacy planning for the remainder of the year and as a team we will be looking at some strategies for impact in the classroom.

The Friends of St George's continue to work hard to raise funds for the school as you can see from their article, but they need more help! Currently a games and pizza evening has been booked in for Friday 2nd February but more help is needed. There is also a need for help with refreshments for the Semington Slog on Saturday 28th April. We need a BBQ for the summer fete on Saturday 7th July so if anyone has a BBQ they are happy to donate for the event please contact the school office.

Melksham Remembers

Ray Heard

Melksham Remembers is a community project funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Melksham Area Board and Melksham Town Council. The aim of the project is to explore Melksham and the surrounding parishes' roles in the First World War. It is not just about the fallen and celebrated heroes but also the work of the community on the 'home front'.

An exhibition is to be held at the Town Hall, Melksham on Friday and Saturday 9th and 10th November 2018 over the Armistice Weekend. The exhibition is to cover the parishes of Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Bulkington, Great Hinton, Keevil, Melksham Without, Poulshot, Seend, Semington, Steeple Ashton and Melksham.

Following conversations with our parish council and in particular Brian Smith and Bill Scott I have joined the group to represent Semington. The next meeting will be held on Saturday 10th February.

I would love to hear from the villagers of Semington to record and recount memories of how the people at home contributed to the war effort and the change in work roles. I would especially like to understand how farms coped with the workforce gone and fighting on the front.

We are also looking to share photographs of World War One at home, parish records, school log books, army medals certificate

I will be delighted to call in the parish and with help we can make sure Semington is represented at the Exhibition.

Please feel free to contact me by phone 01380 870746 or email rayheard1937@btinternet.com

Catholic News

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

St John's Sunday Masses :

Saturday (Vigil) 6pm; Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9.00am. Tuesday: 6.00pm; Wednesday: 12.10pm; Friday 6.00pm

Saturday: 10.00am & 6.00pm (Vigil)

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass. SVP Friday: 6.45pm

Confessions: Saturday: 10.30-11.15am and 5.15 - 5.45pm

St Bernadette's Sunday Mass - 9am

Weekday Mass -Thursday 11.00am (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30 – 10.50am)

Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass on Sundays. 10.15 -10.25 Thursdays

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2018 - 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 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

SHARING OUR FAITH - The Group meets in the Parish Centre, Trowbridge on Wednesdays from 8-9pm. This is open to anyone wishing to learn more about the Catholic Church.

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

NEW YEAR CONCERT Friday February 9th at 7.30pm St John's Parish Centre Wingfield Road, Trowbridge on Friday February 9th from 7.30pm Films, musicals and community singing led by the acclaimed Wiltshire Council Singers. Admission £5 on the door.

MASS TIMES at NEARBY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

- St Joseph's, West Lavington (01380 723572) Mass on Sunday at 9.00am
- Immaculate Conception, Devizes (01380 723572) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm
- St Anthony Melksham (01225 702128) Mass on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30am
- St George's Warminster (01985 212329) Mass on Saturday evening 6.00pm and Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am



Website www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

Fairtrade Fortnight

26th February to 11th March

Fairtrade Fortnight aims to put a spotlight on trade. When trade is fair it has the potential to improve the lives of the farmers and workers who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. Together we have that power, so get involved and be part of the difference. It's a shocking fact that millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. It's time for this injustice to end. Through Fairtrade, millions of poor farmers and workers are already coming together to demand a change. They are working hard to close the door on exploitation and transform their communities, supported by Fairtrade.

There are loads of ways that you can get involved in what we hope will be our biggest Fairtrade Fortnight yet. Visit fairtrade.org.uk for more details

Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes

Administrator – Emma Holt 07707 648890 or 01225 764365

E-mail - canalsidebenefice@gmail.com (Tue, Wed, Fri 10.00am -1.00pm)

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward 01380 870784

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

We have a team of Lay Pastoral Assistants who take on many roles within the benefice and are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on 01225 753118 or John if you would like a visit.

Thoughts From The Rectory

Rev. John Rees

Ash Wednesday, 14th February, marks the beginning of Lent; this is a period of 6 weeks leading up to Easter. It is a time when many people, not only those who attend church regularly, give something up. In days past it was often alcohol or chocolate. Nowadays it might equally be using Facebook or Twitter. These aims can be worthwhile (albeit challenging) in themselves - physical health is important and social media can be informative and enjoyable but can be over used.

In the early Church, people who wanted to be baptised were expected to undertake an intense period of Christian training during Lent, including a programme of regular prayer and fasting, to prepare them for an Easter baptism. Eventually most Christians became involved in this time of prayer, giving and fasting every year.

The day before the Lent Fast began, all surplus luxury foods such as meat, eggs and dairy products had to be consumed so that they wouldn't be wasted. This festival became known in Britain as "Shrove Tuesday" – named after the private confessions that took place before Lent began. It was (and is) more popularly called Pancake Day. It was the last day to indulge in rich food.

On the next day, Ash Wednesday, worshippers received ashes on their forehead as a sign of repentance. The ashes reminded them that their earthly lives were only temporary, that they should count their blessings and live as God intended them to. This tradition continues today.

In the busy-ness of today's world, it is still good to spend time reflecting on our lives, both on the good things and the things we would to change. The Bible teaches that God loves and cares for everyone. Because of this we can all bring our concerns and needs (whether for ourselves, others or our world) before him in prayer. Many of us have found that to be truly helpful as we take stock of our lives. I hope that this will be true for you too.

Best wishes, John

Rev John Rees, Rector, Canalside Benefice 01225 764365

Email: canalsidebeneficerector@gmail.com www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk



February 2018 Services

You are welcome to join any of our services

St George's Semington

Sunday 4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 18 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Morning Worship

St Michael and All Angels Hilpertion

Sunday 4 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 4 th	10.00am	Together in Worship
Sunday 11 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 14 th	10.00am	Ash Wednesday
	7.00pm	Communion (both services)
Sunday 18 th	10.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 25 th	10.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary Magdalen Hilpertion Marsh

Sunday 4 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	11.00am	Holy Communion