

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Merry Christmas



Christmas Cover Designed by
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Semington Diary

Village Hall



2 nd	SUN	Christmas Lights Switch On Singing from The Semingtones and Drinks in the Village Hall	6.00pm
9 th	SUN	OAP Lunchtime party	Noon
13 th	THURS	WI Skittles Evening	7.30pm
17 th	MON	Christmas Bingo Tickets on sale now 50p each	8.00pm
20 th	THURS	Christmas Draw	11.00am
22 nd	SAT	Christmas Quiz Please remember it's SATURDAY!	7.30pm
24 th	MON	Christmas Eve Bar Open	8.30pm to 11.45pm
26 th	WEDS	Boxing Day Bar Open	12.00pm to 3.00pm
29 th	SAT	Skittles with a Pâté Supper	8.00pm
31 st	MON	New Year's Eve in the Social Club Tickets £4.00 each includes a buffet	8.30pm to 1.00am

Every Week in The Village Hall & St George's School

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	Tuesday & Friday	9.00am-1.00pm
Zumba Fitness	Wednesday	6.30pm
	St George's School Hall	
Coffee Morning	Thursday	10.00am-12 noon
Alzheimer's Support	2 nd Thursday of the month	10.00am-12 noon
Semingtones	Fridays	6.00pm-7.30pm

Everyone's Invited!

Pip Hunt – Head Teacher St George's School

The teachers and pupils at St George's would like to invite the whole village to their nativity play, 'Born in A Barn'. The play takes place on **Wednesday 12th December at 2.15pm**. We hope to see you there!

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - Wednesdays 5th December & 2nd January, both 7.45pm – 9.00pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

Housegroup - join us to drink tea/coffee, chat & have a laugh. In December we're meeting on Tuesday 11th, then January 8th and 22nd, at 7.45pm. The evenings are suitable for anyone, however much or little you know about the Christian faith. For more information, including venues, phone Bev/Jack 870784, Pam/David 870030 or Victoria 871936.

Come to Church on Christmas Eve, 2.00pm, for a very special Celebration. All ages welcome - there will be a portrayal of the Christmas story with carols and drama. This is informal and particularly appropriate for children. We'll need children, of any age, to take part in the play, and there will be a few practises in the week beforehand. If you are interested, please contact Victoria Farmer, 870796, or Bev Woodward, 870784.

Messy Church - is on **Saturday 1st December**, and **Saturday 26th January**, both 11.00am – 1.00pm in the school hall. There will be more activities, suitable for all ages, and lunch included so that you can forget about cooking for the day. (Suggested donation £1.) Please let us know if you can come so that we'll have enough food! Phone Bev/Jack on 870784 or text 07922 105084. Please note that Messy Church is for all ages, but children must bring an adult.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Well that's that for another year! Thank you to all our contributors for all your hard work and making all the deadlines over the year. Don't rest too easy – although this is a double issue the deadline for the February issue will be here before you know it, this will be **Sunday 20th January 2019**. As always email me at **semparmag@icloud.com**

After many years of sterling work Jeremy is handing over the advertising reins, may I take the opportunity to thank Jeremy for all his hard work. We will be making contact with the advertisers in the New Year but for now, please note the new e-mail address for advertising is **semparmagads@icloud.com**

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Somerset Arms

Dec18/Jan19



Dec
8th

BAND NIGHT - TRIPLE JD

Impossible to categorise as the set list is so extensive and their love of music shines through as they take hold of their favourite classics and own them no matter what style or genre they originate from...

Dec
15th

BAND NIGHT with THE 41 FORDS
FOOT TAPPING, 3 PIECE BAND, COVERING CLASSIC TUNES IN A POP-ROCKABILLY STYLE.

Dec
27th

QUIZ NIGHT!

MOVE ASIDE TURKEY - IT'S THE 'NOT ABOUT CHRISTMAS' - CHRISTMAS QUIZ!
QUIZ MASTER SIMON TYLER, 7.30PM, 6 PEOPLE MAX IN A TEAM

Dec
31st

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!

IT'S THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR! MUSIC AND LATE NIGHT BAR. RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH US - PRIZE FOR BEST FANCY DRESS - THEME - 'DEAD FAMOUS'

Jan

JANUARY SALE!!!!

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This year's Christmas tree switch-on will take place on Sunday 2nd December at 6.00 pm followed by carol singing by the Semingtones choir. We will all then retire to the village hall where mince pies and mulled wine will be served by some local elves.

Please try and come along, the more the merrier and don't forget to bring your singing voices!

Cantamus Chamber Choir

Alison Pratt

Cantamus Chamber Choir's Christmas concert will take place in the beautiful setting of Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon. Directed by Michael Daniels, the concert offers a confection of choral music.

From the swinging rhythms of a jazz carol by Will Todd to the gentle strains of "What Sweeter Music" by John Rutter, it has many delights. Two versions of "Magnum Mysterium" contrast the music of the 16th century to that of present day composer, Morten Lauridson. Enriched with readings, mince pies and wine, what sweeter music could there be than this?

Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm, tickets available from Wiltshire Music Centre, wiltshiremusiccentre.org.uk £10.00 per person, concessions £5.00.

'Melksham Remembers' - WW1 Centenary Exhibition

St George's Church will be hosting the "Melksham Remembers' exhibition on **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December**. This presents a depiction of what it was like during World War 1 in Melksham and the surrounding districts, including Semington. It makes use of a fascinating array of photographs and stories of the people within the area during those bleak and dangerous years. **Saturday 8th from 10.00am to 4.00pm** (refreshments will be available at times during the day) and **Sunday 9th from 10.30am to 4.00pm**.

This is a highly recommended event which has shown to be very well received wherever it has displayed. All are welcome.

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Village Quiz Night

Julia Wade



Firstly, thank you to Pam Wildsmith for writing last month's Quiz Report in my absence. November's Quiz was set by Angela and Gaye – many thanks to them for an excellent quiz. Our best wishes go to team member, Bill, who is recovering from an operation.

The Marathon was a list of the initial letters of the states in the USA. Terry's Turnips team won with a maximum of all 50 correct, so very well done to them. At half time in the main quiz there was just 1 point between the Faithful Four and the Universally Challenged teams. However, team Heads and Tails had a stronger second half and gained second place, with Universally Challenged (Sue, Steve, Esme, Philip, Colin and myself) winning by 5½ points in the end.

Your esteemed Editor suggested I include a compilation of the best(?) of the Quiz questions from the past year, so here goes! (You know who to blame, now.)

- What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?
- Why didn't the skeleton go to the ball?
- Which Anthony Gormley statue celebrates its 20th anniversary this year?
- Which new item of clothing in the 60s was designed by Mr Fish?
- What happens to the caffeine extracted from decaffeinated coffee?
- Which company only follows 11 people on Twitter – all 5 Spice Girls and 6 men named Herb?
- On a clear day, what is the most distant thing you can see from the top of Ben Nevis?

And finally (probably the best of the lot):

- Which company makes the most wheels in the world?

The incredible answers are on page 13

We welcome everyone to the **CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT**, which, please note, this year, will be on a **SATURDAY, 22nd DECEMBER**, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start, at the Village Hall. Do come dressed in your Christmas hats, jumpers, even tinsel – it is usually a lot of fun and very light-hearted, with Pete Vooght as your quizmaster. The rules for the Christmas Quiz are a bit different: there is a prize for every round, and the winner is decided by a draw, not the score, so everyone has a chance. January's quiz reverts to a Sunday - Sunday 13th January.

If you haven't been before, why not give it a try? If you go on your own, we can easily put you in a team. Everyone is very welcome.

To a poet a thousand years hence

*I who am dead a thousand years,
And wrote this sweet archaic song,
Send you my words for messengers
The way I shall not pass along.*

*I care not if you bridge the seas,
Or ride secure the cruel sky,
Or build consummate palaces
Of metal or of masonry.*

*But have you wine and music still,
And statues and a bright-eyed love,
And foolish thoughts of good and ill,
And prayers to them who sit above?*

*How shall we conquer? Like a wind
That falls at eve our fancies blow,
And old Mæonides the blind
Said it three thousand years ago.*

*O friend unseen, unborn, unknown,
Student of our sweet English tongue,
Read out my words at night, alone:
I was a poet, I was young.*

*Since I can never see your face,
And never shake you by the hand,
I send my soul through time and space
To greet you. You will understand.*

James Elroy Flecker

Steeple Ashton Films

Alison Wilson

Thank you to all of you who made our 2018 season of films such a success. I have provisional dates and titles for the Winter/Spring 2019 season of films and will confirm dates as soon as possible.

These are our choices for 2019. Please look out for the posters!

January 19 th	Mamma Mia Here We Go Again!
February 23 rd	Christopher Robin
March 23 rd	The Children Act
April 27 th	The Little Stranger

Wishing you all a very happy festive season and another great year of Steeple Ashton Films!

Alison Wilson, Marcus Wilson and Deborah Fox

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018

Sean Moore – Village Organiser 870672

We are pleased to report that the village collection raised a total of £598.68 for this year's Poppy Appeal. The total for the district is £48,000. Our thanks to everyone who generously donated to such a worthy cause and to our volunteers who gave their time helping with this year's collection. Volunteers spending a couple of hours once a year are always welcome, do please contact us if you would like help.

Church Announcement

Victoria Shackleton

The funeral of Air Marshal Sir Alec Morris KBE CB FREng took place at St George's Church on Thursday 22nd November 2018. We pray that Piers, Susan, their families and friends will know God's love and peace at this sad time.



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Down The Local

John Adams – Somerset Arms

Firstly can we say a massive thanks for the positive feedback received from The Four in a Bed programme - seems so long ago now that we did that! We had another great quiz this month with the Orchard Pigs (Sally T, Sally R , Brian, Lyn C, and Neil Stockley) having another blinding quiz (despite a tricky UK Government Leaders round) and swept up the triple Rollover Cash pot after picking the golden envelope!

So, whats happening in the village pub in the run up to Christmas and into the New Year?

We'll have mulled wine and cider available pre and post Christmas Tree lights switch on, on **Sunday 2nd December**. We have two Christmas party nights the **8th and 15th December** with Triple JD and 41 Fords providing the music respectively.

On **Christmas Eve** join us for a drink and a meal as Santa makes his way to the all the village chimney pots.

Christmas Day Village Drinks 12.00pm to 3.00pm Join friends and family for a drink before the biggest meal of the year. On Boxing Day we'll be open for lunches and drinks after a traditional boxing day walk then closed for the evening.

In January we're going to have our **January Sale** with 10% off weekday lunches throughout January for Semington villagers and finally look out for details of Steak Nights and Gourmet Night. See our advert on page 6 for full details.

Finally may I thank everyone in the village who has supported the pub throughout the year, we love you all!

Christmas Quiz Answers

A stick.

Because he had NO BODY to go with!!

The Angel of the North (otherwise known as Rusty Rita!).

The Kipper Tie.

It is used as an additive in Coca Cola.

KFC (they use 11 Herbs and Spices in their secret recipe!)

The sun!

Lego!!

Parish Council Minutes

Abridged minutes from meeting held on 14th November 2018

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

Apologies: Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillor S Rimmer and from PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

Wiltshire Council Report. Cllr. Seed gave a report on the following: Bus gate enforcement and the possible means of deterring errant motorists. The likely Wiltshire Council precept for FY2019/20 – a personal view.

Planning: The Council noted the following status of extant planning applications: 18/08128/OUT Land West of 5A High Street – proposed new dwelling – Approved. 18/08168 Bay Tree Cottage 5A High Street proposed single storey extension and outbuilding – Approved. There were no planning applications received after 7 November 2018.

Cllr. Scott explained that the Village Green application for Great Lees Field is progressing and to promote this initiative a 'Friends of Great Lees Field' has been established with an agreed constitution. He stated that a date for the enquiry has yet to be set and an Inspector has yet to be appointed. Cllr. Scott commented that the Friends of Great Lees Field have been working with villagers to obtain witness statements, to identify those willing to give oral evidence and to begin the preparation of the case to present to the Inspector taking advice from those organisations and individuals with experience of such matters. He added that it may be necessary to seek legal advice in order to mount a successful case. The Clerk stated that noting that the Friends of Great Lees Field were seeking to protect and to provide a community asset for the benefit of the parishioners of Semington and others it would appear that the Parish Council could, if it wished, receive a donation from the Council to assist it in its task provided such donation was commensurate with the nature of the cause and not excessive.

Finance: Parish Council Balance as at 14th November 2018 £18,314.56

Highways/Environment: Cllr. Robinson reported that the overgrown hedge at The Turnpike that was obstructing a footpath has now been cut back. Cllrs. Scott and Smith stated that the hedge at Great Lees Field was very overgrown and needed pruning. The Council resolved that it would request Wiltshire Council to provide an enforcement camera at the Bus Gate in order to deter and detect those motorists ignoring the No Entry sign. The Chair stated that he would speak to Cllr. Seed who had offered to assist and to Melksham Without in whose parish the camera was likely to be located.

Cllr. Smith reported that recently the CATG had been requested to provide additional signage for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance (WAA) site. The Council resolved that on the basis of the results of the recent metrocount that it had no objection because the number of vehicles actually going to the WAA site was small.

Cllr. Robinson reported that the large Gun Emplacement/Pill Box nearby that had been constructed as part of a WW2 defensive line had significant historical importance but was in a poor state of repair and needed attention.

Councillors commented that it may be appropriate to install a bench by the newly planted oaks to allow visitors to enjoy quiet meditation. It was agreed that Cllr. Rimmer is to speak to Wiltshire Council regarding the location of any such bench and, meanwhile, the design and cost of such a bench would be investigated.

Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had arranged for a 16ft Christmas tree to be delivered on 22nd November and that he intended to erect and decorate the tree on Saturday 24th November commencing at 10.00am with the assistance of a working party. He added that the tree had cost £157 leaving a balance from the allocated £250 to purchase additional lights if required.

The Council **resolved** to consider commissioning a ‘footpath map’ for the village to be located in the telephone box at a later meeting. Meanwhile, the Clerk agreed to contact Wiltshire Council for a footpath map – preferably in digital form – that could be used.

Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas. Councillors reported that one of the play equipments in the Play Area – the spinning disk - was defective and needed either repairing or removing. The Council resolved that it would be prepared to meet the cost of its repair – subject to it not being excessive – if Wiltshire Council, who owned that area and the Play equipment was prepared to accept this approach. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council to seek their agreement. Councillors commented that Wiltshire Council had previously stated that it would not repair such defective equipment and that any defective equipment would be removed. The Parish Council wished to preserve the current Play Area.

Any Other Business.

Cllr. Robinson stated that he had heard that there had been a family from Semington that had boarded the Titanic ocean liner and perished. He asked if any councillors knew who they were. There was a negative response.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th December 2018

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November seems to have become a month of autumn rather than winter as our climate seems to adjust or change its seasons. This produces inevitable change to the way local government does business. Leaves fall well into December whereas in bygone years the “fall” was associated with earlier months. The combination of leaves and heavy rain often produce very local flooding as smaller drains struggle to cope with newly running water through drains that have been inactive for months and leaves join other detritus to cause a blockage and local flooding. The local solution to this very local problem is being adopted throughout Wiltshire and this is for locals to identify these critical and potentially difficult drains and quietly pull back the leaves on a morning walk. Many towns and villages have Flood Wardens as well as public spirited locals who have “adopted” specific drains and this makes a huge difference to flood alleviation and saves countless properties from flooding. These local initiatives are British public spirit at its best and are growing.

Local recognition of the need to take on local issues and services is also gaining national recognition. Wiltshire Council has been at the forefront of organising its finances in such a way that we can both live within our means and deliver local services. This is an increasing challenge in a period where central government is continuing to cut local funding and the demands of the vulnerable on the remaining funds increase. Councils are having to spend well over 70% of their budgets on adult social care and children’s services for the vulnerable leaving less and less for the services that are used by the vast majority of the population. Our Council has encouraged the next and very local tier of local government, i.e. towns and parishes, to take on services that it cannot hope to continue to deliver in the current financial climate. That is why services such as public toilets, local grass cutting, local parks etc. are being passed to towns and parishes by Wiltshire Council. Sure this often means a small increase in local precept to pay for these services, but it does at least mean that those local services that local people want, will continue to be delivered. This process has recently achieved national recognition with the Local Government Minister singling out Wiltshire as an exemplar for finding new ways of delivering important local services in partnership with local councils.

On 11th November we stood still to remember the fallen who gave their lives so that we may enjoy our freedoms. This Remembrance Sunday happened to coincide with the silence that fell over the Western Front exactly one hundred years ago and all of our local communities were able to spend time focussing on just what that meant to our towns and villages on this very poignant day.

Finally, as you read this, our thoughts will be turning to Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all local residents of Semington a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Planning a month in the sunshine this Christmas? Make sure you have informed your home insurance provider!

Did you know that a long holiday, or even a stint in hospital, could void your home insurance? Pretty much all of us fork out for home insurance each year, but what many people fail to realise is that leaving your house empty for as little as 30 days can mean insurers won't pay out.

There could be many reasons why a property is left empty: Gone away on holiday, spending time in a care home/hospital, between tenants or splitting time between multiple homes. Any one of these reasons could put you or your loved ones at risk if the worst happens and the house is damaged while unoccupied. Headed into winter, homes are most at risk of water damage from burst pipes and flooding, so be sure to check the T&Cs of your home insurance contract if you plan to be away for a prolonged period. Sometimes the house being empty is not planned – for example if an elderly relative goes into a care home. It may not be the first thing you think of if your loved one is ill, but make sure you consider the implications of their house being unoccupied.

What can you do?

Be aware of the terms of your individual policy. Generally, so long as you contact your provider there are ways around the issue. Many insurance providers will cover the property if it is visited once a week, or allow you to pay a top up to continue cover.

Paws for Thought



They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

It's in the bible; Matthew 2 Verse 11

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Semington WI

Deb Hurn



We had another craft evening in November. This time we were making Christmas Roses in sugar icing. Sounds easy? It wasn't. Val Swaine and Sue Ludlow were excellent teachers and were very patient with us. We actually ended up with roses but it wasn't without all of us looking as though we'd been covered in snow. We had to use cornflour to roll the icing out on and most of it was on us. Sue and Val obviously have a talent for sugar craft, their Christmas Roses were beautiful. I and many others are still learning. We all really enjoyed having a go and there was a lot of laughter around the table. Many thanks to Sue and Val.

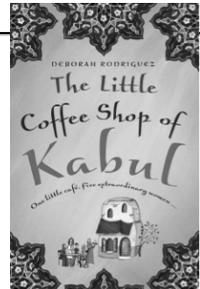
Thursday 13th December will be our Skittles Evening starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members and a Guest only. Then on Thursday 10th January 2019 will be our birthday party in the Somerset Arms 12.30pm for 1.00pm.

Semington W.I. wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The Book Club

Angela Grodzicka – 870756

Eight members of the club met on Thursday 8th November to discuss *The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul* by Deborah Rodriguez. Not everyone liked it but some really enjoyed it so it covered the whole range. Some, who had already read quite a lot about Afghanistan, felt it did not add greatly to their knowledge but others felt they had learned a lot.



It was agreed that the treatment of women there is horrifying and has regressed two hundred years since the Taliban became a force to be reckoned with. Most felt that although it was a happy ending some of the scenes were contrived to fit the idea. The next meeting is Tuesday 4th December when we will have our Christmas meal in the pub.

The January meeting will be on Thursday 10th January, in the pub at 8.00pm, to discuss either *Throne of Glass* by Sarah Maas or *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik. All welcome to our meetings in the New Year.



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Bin There – Done That!

Wiltshire County Council

Don't get caught out with the changes to bin collections over the Christmas holidays – here's your very own cut out and keep timetable!

There will be no waste or recycling collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and on New Year's Day.

There will be catch up collections on Saturday 29 December, 5 January and 12 January.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from Monday 24 December for two weeks and restart on Tuesday 8 January. Collections will be one day later than normal during this week.

 Normal collection day	Revised household waste, black box, plastic and cardboard collection day	Revised garden waste collection day 
Mon 24 December	No change	No collections
Tue 25 December	Thur 27 December	No collections
Wed 26 December	Fri 28 December	No collections
Thur 27 December	Sat 29 December	No collections
Fri 28 December	Mon 31 December	No collections
Mon 31 December	Wed 2 January	No collections
Tue 1 January	Thur 3 January	No collections
Wed 2 January	Fri 4 January	No collections
Thur 3 January	Sat 5 January	No collections
Fri 4 January	Mon 7 January	No collections
Mon 7 January	Tue 8 January	Tue 8 January
Tue 8 January	Wed 9 January	Wed 9 January
Wed 9 January	Thur 10 January	Thur 10 January
Thur 10 January	Fri 11 January	Fri 11 January
Fri 11 January	Sat 12 January	Sat 12 January
Mon 14 January	Back to normal	Back to normal

All collections, including garden waste, will return to normal from Monday 14 January 2019.

All household recycling centres will be closed from 1pm on 24 December and all day on 25 and 26 December and 1 January. The centres will be open as normal on all other days.

For information about your local recycling centre or how to recycle your Christmas tree, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

Catholic News

St. John The Baptist Trowbridge & St Bernadette's Westbury (inc villages)

St John the Baptist Trowbridge :

Sunday Masses: Sat:(Vigil) 6pm; Sun:10.30am & 6pm

Holy Day of Obligation: See Newsletter

Weekday Masses: Mon: 9am; Tue: 6pm; Wed: 12.00 noon Fri: 6pm; Sat: 9.00am

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass.

Confessions: Sat: 9.30-10.15am; 5.15-5.30pm and on request.

St Bernadette's Westbury

Sunday Mass – 9.00am

Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Weekday Mass: Thursday 10.00am

Confessions: Thursday 9.15am – 9.30am and on request

Christmas Services:

St. John's The Baptist Trowbridge:

Christmas Eve: First Mass of Christmas (Children's Mass) 6.00pm.

Midnight Mass 12.00 midnight. Carols 11.30pm.

Christmas Day: Mass of Christmas Morning 10.30am. (Note: No Evening Mass).

St. Bernadette's Westbury:

Christmas Day: Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

RUH Bath: Anyone who has a friend or relative in hospital, please contact Mandy Baker (a member of the hospital Chaplaincy team) text/phone 07775 895 814 or email : mandybaker@live.co.uk.

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2018 SUPER CHRISTMAS DRAW 9th December Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. **Christmas Prizes are: £400-£200-£100-£50.** For information and application form contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: f.geraghty303@btinternet.com

Sick and or Housebound: Any catholic who is sick or housebound should let Fr. Tom Finnegan (01225 752152) know as he would be pleased to arrange a visit and bring Holy Communion, if desired.

Mass Times At Nearby Catholic Churches

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

Bradford on Avon (01225 862739) Mass on Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 10.30am

Knit and Natter

Barbara Wooliscroft John



Would anyone be interested in forming a knit and natter group? We aim to meet monthly and share patterns and tips on knitting or any other handicraft you are involved in. Added bonus cake and coffee to be provided by the hostess!

Please contact **Barbara 01380 871343** or **Pam 01380 870030**.

I hope we have some takers !

Your Parish Mag Needs You!

Julia Wade

After many years, faithfully delivering parish magazines to the **Littlemarsh area** of the village, come rain or shine, Mrs Sue McDine has decided to stand down from this task. We are very grateful to her for her long service in this invaluable job and wish her all the best for her 'retirement'. She has kindly volunteered to deliver this edition of the magazine before stopping.

We are, therefore, in need of someone to take over delivery in the Littlemarsh area from the end of January. Ideally it should be someone who lives there, but it could be someone from elsewhere in the village. The person will need to deliver the magazines towards the end of every month, for 10 months of the year (there are 2 double issues). Please contact me if you are able to help. Thank you.

Julia Wade Tel 01380 870137

Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes

Administrator – Michael Gamble, please contact Michael for initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings and general matters on **07795 400262**

E-mail - **canalsidebenefice@gmail.com**

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward **01380 870784**

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

Lay Pastoral Assistants are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on **01225 753118** or John if you would like a visit.

Rev John Rees, Rector, Canalside Benefice **01225 764365**

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

Thoughts From The Rectory

John Rees

Last March I was delighted to announce the arrival of Luke, our first grandchild. We are already enjoying seeing him grow and develop and we look forward, with anticipation and hope, to sharing in his life. Many years ago Isaiah, a prophet, announced that a new, special, baby boy would be born. He did so 700 years before that child, Jesus, arrived in that Bethlehem stable.

Isaiah's prophesy is full of hope. The child to be born would be a "wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace" (Isaiah Chapter 9: verse 6). This message of hope was in marked contrast to the difficult conditions faced by his listeners, for they were enduring persecution from the despotic king, King Nebuchadnezzar.

Those people needed a message of hope. They needed to know that God still cared for them and was ultimately in control. Jesus was the ultimate fulfilment of that hope. He still is, for all who will listen, today. Jesus, wonderful counsellor, wants us to bring all our hopes and concerns to him in prayer; for our own lives, for our friends and neighbours, and to seek his guidance and direction for ourselves and for a world in which wisdom and good guidance are really needed. Jesus, Mighty God yet fully human, is also our Everlasting Father. Through him we are accepted by God as we are, with our faults and failings, and forgiven for our mistakes.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, calls us to live in harmony both with God and one another. He can give us inner peace in the struggles of life and enable us to bring peace to others. The Good News of Christmas is that God is with us and that chaos and uncertainty, although real, does not have the final answer.

Everyone is welcome at our Christmas services; you will find details on the opposite page. If you would like to know more about what Jesus said and did and how he can bring you hope and peace today do consider coming on our "Alpha" Christian exploration course which will begin in January. Do look at our website or contact me for details.

With best wishes for Christmas and 2019 to you all,

John Rees

December 2018 Services

You are welcome to join any of our services. Please see website for January services

St George's Semington

Thursday 6 th	9.45am	Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Christingle Service
Thursday 13 th	9.45am	Morning Prayer

Full details on back page for December services

St Michael and All Angels, Hilperton

Sunday 2 nd	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	All Age Worship
	6.00pm	Evening Service for Advent Sunday
Wednesday 5 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
Sunday 9 th	10.00am	Holy Communion w/ Junior Church
Wednesday 12 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
Sunday 16 th	10.00am	All Age Communion
Wednesday 19 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
Thursday 20 th	9.30am	Hilperton Sch. Christmas Service
Sunday 23 rd	10.00am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib Service & Christingle
	11.30pm	Christmas Night Communion
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Day Communion

St Mary Magdalen, Hilperton Marsh

Sunday 2 nd	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 4 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 11 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16 th	6.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 18 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Crib Service
	8.00pm	Christmas Night Communion
Sunday 30 th	11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion

St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon

Sunday 9 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	6.00pm	Carol Service

St George's Church Semington



Services December 2018

1st December - Messy Church at school.

2nd December - NO SERVICE at Semington



9th December 9.30am

Holy Communion - Jacqui Clark

16h December - 3.00pm

Carol Service

Rev John Rees & Dawn Farmer



23rd December - 9.30am

Morning Worship - Anne Rees



Christmas Eve Celebration - 2pm

25th December - 9.30am

Christmas Communion - Rev John Rees

30th December - 10.00am

Benefice Service - Rev John Rees

St Mary Magdalen's

Hilperton Marsh