

# December & January 2020 Semington Parish Magazine

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



Our Christmas cover has been designed by  
Grace Neate aged 4, St George's School

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## Semington Diary What's on Where



### Village Hall

Mondays	7.30pm
Mondays & Thursdays	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesdays & Fridays	9.00am – 1.00pm
Tuesdays	8.00pm
Thursday	10.00am – 12.00pm
Fridays	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Fridays	8.00pm

Bingo  
 Post Office  
 Bridge Club  
 Semington Ladies Skittles  
 Coffee Morning  
 Semingtones  
 Mens Skittles

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	All Day
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	All Day
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	All Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm
New Year's Day	12.00pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	7.45pm
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30pm

Christmas Tree Switch On  
 Wiltshire Council Public Enquiry  
 Wiltshire Council Public Enquiry  
 OAP Party (By Invitation)  
 Parish Council Meeting  
 Polling Station (Lounge)  
 Semington WI (Hall)  
 Village Hall Christmas Quiz  
 Christmas Bingo  
 Skittles & Pâté Supper  
 Hangover Cure  
 Parish Council Meeting  
 Village Hall Quiz

### Somerset Arms

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm
New Year's Eve	7.00pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00pm

Pub Quiz  
 Party  
 Book Club  
 Poker Night  
 Gourmet Night

### St George's School

Wednesdays	6.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm
	6.00pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	11.00am

Zumba Fitness  
 Nativity Play – All Welcome!  
 Nativity Play – All Welcome!  
 Messy Church

### In and Around The Village

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am

Mobile Library - Littlemarsh  
 Mobile Library – Village Hall  
 Mobile Library - Village Hall

## Christians in Semington

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*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 7.45pm – 9.00pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

**Housegroup:** join us to drink tea and coffee, chat and find out more about prayer. In December we're meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, then January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 or Pam/David 870030.

**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, short 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 25<sup>th</sup> January, 11.00am to 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

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*Gillian Airey*

Our lovely Christmas cover this year was designed by Grace Neate, aged four, who is in the Duckling class at St George's. Thanks also to Andy and Roxy at AM Print Copy Trowbridge who sponsor our colour covers throughout the year.

As you know, this is our December/January edition so we get a month off for good behaviour. But before we know it February's edition will be knocking at our door and cut off deadline for this will be **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. A personal thanks from me too, to everyone who contributes to the magazine throughout the year, you make my role as editor so much fun and to you gorgeous, lovely villagers who take the time to read the magazine, call on the local businesses who advertise with us and go to the events we list, I'll see you on the other side. May your Christmas be filled with love and laughter!

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## This Month I've Learnt Some Things!

*Gilly Airey*

I know, I know, you've all probably been lying awake at night pondering the unponderable questions in life, no not Brexit or indeed whether the improvements on the Farmer's roundabout really are improvements, but whether I managed not to lose any of the grandchildren in Bristol Airport....

You'll be pleased to hear we managed not to lose any of them – we also managed to hand them back to their parents in one piece! But, boy oh boy, did we learn some stuff along the way. First things first when faced with a three hour delay leaving Bristol, do not dispel the belief held by the lovely Miss Bella (aged 5) that your flight is at the top of the list and in red because it's the next one to go and because it's the most important....

My second lesson came whilst we were still in Bristol, never, ever, no matter how long the delay take two little girls into Claire's Accessories to pass the time and with a modest budget for a little something. Although in fairness it did at least pass forty minutes and and of course the budget was blown, because quite frankly you can't buy anything in that shop for a fiver!

The third lesson was that it really was quite hard to lose gorgeous George, every time I called out 'where's George?' the reply would float back 'here I am Nanny G' - the only difficulty was trying to work out where 'here' was, based on the fact George can run really, really fast and walking is, in his world, for sissies!

On the entertainment front we both learnt that films do not have to be watched in order, in fact reverse order appears to be far more preferable; so not only did we watch Madagascar 3, 2, and then 1, we repeated the experience with the Despicable Me films.

The best bits we learnt? The kids just wanted to eat, swim, play and repeat. The weather was beautiful and whilst we thought we needed to have lots planned the best days were when we just went with the flow and let the kids be the water-babies they truly are. According to Miss Ava the best bits were warm towels from the tumble dryer – just like a big fat hug she said – oh and beating Nanny G every time we played Yahtzee!

I'm not going to lie, I spent the week after recovering, gorgeous hubby and I were pretty tired at the end of it, but you guessed it, we're planning next year already – just remind me to stay away from Claire's Accessories!



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## Down the Local

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*John, the Landlord, John*

Here we are again! The wood-burners have been going non-stop to keep the pub nice and toasty for those of you who have faced the cold to come out for a bite to eat or for a couple of drinks, but its been a bit of a quiet month. See the quiz page for the write up of what was quite possibly the best quiz to date.

Christmas is now fast approaching and who doesn't love Christmas? We look forward to welcoming all the Christmas Party diners and drinkers through December. Whether you're joining us for a Christmas party or just a few drinks on a cold winter's night, we will be sure to feed you well and keep you entertained. Why not start your Christmas festivities with a glass of mulled wine or two with us on Christmas Eve?

Once the big fella has been why not join what seems like the whole village for drinks on Christmas morning, always a jolly time. Christmas Day opening hours are 11.00am to 2.00pm. If you're bored of all that cooking over Christmas, why not come to us for a Boxing Day meal. Opening hours are 11.00am to 5.00pm with food served until 4.00pm.

The 'So good it missed Christmas' Christmas quiz is on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**, at 7.30pm. Then it's time to say hello to 2020 with our banging New Years Eve party, 'dress fancy or fancy dress' the choice is yours! Bring the kids to our 'family zone', dance the night away (literally) to all the party favourites from Mr DJ!

So November was a bit pants but we're looking forward to December being jolly. What cometh through for January? Well big news is it's another gourmet night with Mr Furby at the helm once again, serving up a feast of game based courses for your enjoyment. October's sold out early so book that table now, make a date for **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**. Then finally dust off the shades and join us on the **9<sup>th</sup> January** for a bit of poker to liven up a dark winter evening.

There'll be plenty of food offers in January so keep an eye out and don't forget there's 10% off your food bill when you bring your parish mag in with you.

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## Book Club

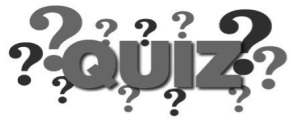
*Angela Grodzicka – 870756*

Ten members of the group met on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November to discuss *One Woman's War* by Eileen Youngusband. We were lucky to have a guest speaker - Hugh Turnbull, an ex-journalist who had been a friend of the author. Eileen had wished to publicise her top secret war work in the Filter Rooms where radar reports were triangulated to give accurate information to the RAF fighter pilots. This was mainly carried out by women and was a very little known aspect of the war work.

Hugh encouraged her to write the book, which was a fascinating read, and made suggestions for its format. He was able to tell us stories, let us listen to voice clips and fill out details of her life. We were interested to learn that a lot of her wartime work was in the Wiltshire area and also that she had been landlady of The Duke at Bratton for 10 years. An interesting and informative book and our thanks to Hugh for giving us insights into the author as a person.

Our next meeting is our Christmas dinner in December and we will meet in the New Year on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** to discuss *Reservoir 13* by Jon McGregor. All welcome.





Happy Christmas all you lovely quizzers! Dust off your tinsel, fairy lights, and wear your Christmas hat and jumper – It's almost time for the Semington Christmas Quiz at the Village Hall! Your Quizmaster, Pete Vooght, has promised to be rude and grumpy, as is traditional. There will be a prize for every round, based on a draw, rather than the score. The **Christmas Quiz is on SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm, for a 7.45pm start.** Do come and try it, it's a good laugh.

November's quiz was set by Colin and myself. The Marathon was a set of photos from British TV sitcoms and a Guess the Movie sheet, using emojis as clues. There was only half a point between the top two teams, but the winners were 'New Friends', so well done to them. The main quiz was less close. Although at half time there were only 9 points between all 6 teams, by the end Team 'Steve's Six' (Steve, Sue, Esme, Philip, Helen & Howard) were 8 points ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team. Well done to all.

A sample question was: Which animal can deliver a kick capable of killing a lion and also attacked singer Johnny Cash, leaving him addicted to painkillers? Answer below. If you want to have a go at the quiz, then why not come and join in? If you come alone, we can easily put you in a team, so please do give it a try.

Down at the Somerset Arms someone needs to stop the Orchard Pigs though as they seem to be ruling the roost. Seems to be a common denominator with Terry's Turnips though. Say no more ...!!!

The pub village quiz had been billed as one of the best ever but maybe that's because the landlord had a ten out of ten round. With a theme of reunification (as the quizmaster had been to Berlin for the 30 year anniversary of the wall coming down) it looked like being a tough one but.....with an East/West themed round who would have thought my favourite film was East of Eden, best musical West Side Story and grew up holidaying near East Grinstead, had friends living in East Riding and so on. Even with that bumper round the Orchard Pigs still prevailed and managed to win the cash. Although as a rollover (from themselves) still put £20 into the Air Ambulance pot.

**Answer: An ostrich (Cash was kicked and wounded by one he kept on his farm)**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Village Hall Quiz 7.45pm start

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December** Pub Quiz 7.30pm

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January** Village Hall Quiz 7.45pm start

## Nature's Notes

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John Clare, that great poet of nature, wrote this around 1850 while he was living in the Northampton asylum. We might be likely to choose different reading matter these days, but the temptation to stay inside, curled up with a book, remains, strong.

### *The Winter's Come*

Sweet chestnuts brown like soleing-leather turn,  
The larch trees, like the colour of the sun  
That paled sky in the Autumn seem'd to burn.  
What a strange scene before us now does run  
Red, brown, and yellow, russet, black and dun,  
Whitethorn, wild cherry, and the poplar bare,  
The sycamore all withered in the sun,  
No leaves are now upon the birch-tree there,  
All now is stript to the cold wintry air.

See, not one tree but what has lost its leaves,  
And yet the landscape wears a pleasing hue,  
The winter chill on his cold bed receives  
Foliage which once hung o'er the waters blue,  
Naked, and bare, the leafless trees repose,  
Blue-headed titmouse now seeks maggots rare,  
Sluggish and dull the leaf-strewn river flows,  
That is not green, which was so through the year,  
Dark chill November draweth to a close.

'Tis winter and I love to read in-doors,  
When the moon hangs her crescent up on high  
While on the window-shutters the wind roars  
And storms like furies pass remorseless by.  
How pleasant on a feather bed to lie,  
Or, sitting by the fire, in fancy soar  
With Dante or with Milton to regions high,  
Or read fresh volumes we've not seen before,  
Or oer old Burton's Melancholy pore.

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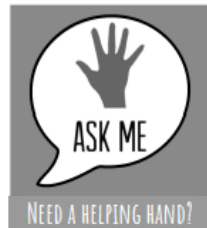
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## Semington Slog 2020

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Victoria Reardon

Entry is now open for next years Semington Slog 10k on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020**. Some of the money raised last year went towards extending the outside play equipment and the school grounds are looking really appealing and exciting for the children as a result.

The committee also wanted to recognise the involvement of many villagers who support the Semington Slog in various different ways each year but who aren't connected with the school. Therefore, a donation of £300 from the Semington Slog profits was given to the Parish Council and will be used to fund the village Christmas tree and purchase new lights for this year.

Please tell everyone about the event and we hope it continues to grow in strength and raise money for our school and community. You can enter now by going online to [entrycentral.com/SemingtonSlog](http://entrycentral.com/SemingtonSlog)

## Bin There Done That

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### Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection changes

Changes from  
23 Dec - 13 Jan

Your normal collection day	Household and recycling	Garden waste *
Mon 23 Dec	✓ no change	✗ no collection
Tues 24 Dec	✓ no change	✗ no collection
Wed 25 Dec	Fri 27 Dec	✗ no collection
Thurs 26 Dec	Sat 28 Dec	✗ no collection
Fri 27 Dec	Mon 30 Dec	✗ no collection
Mon 30 Dec	Tues 31 Dec	✗ no collection
Tues 31 Dec	Thurs 2 Jan	✗ no collection
Wed 1 Jan	Fri 3 Jan	✗ no collection
Thurs 2 Jan	Sat 4 Jan	✗ no collection
Fri 3 Jan	Mon 6 Jan	✗ no collection
Mon 6 Jan	Tues 7 Jan	Tues 7 Jan
Tues 7 Jan	Wed 8 Jan	Wed 8 Jan
Wed 8 Jan	Thur 9 Jan	Thur 9 Jan
Thurs 9 Jan	Fri 10 Jan	Fri 10 Jan
Fri 10 Jan	Sat 11 Jan	Sat 11 Jan
Mon 13 Jan	✓ back to normal	✓ back to normal

**No collections: 25 December, 26 December, 1 January**

Check your collection dates and household recycling centre opening times at [wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling)

**Wiltshire Council**

## Parish Council Minutes

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*Abridged minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November*

**Present:** Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), P Bowyer, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, S Rimmer, W Scott, P Smith, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman. PCSO Maggie Ledbury attended part-time. There were three members of the public present initially.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

**Planning:** The Council examined the following planning application and **resolved** that it is to be passed to the Conservation Officer for comment: 19/10312/LBC, 26 Church Street, replacement of timber framed windows. The Council noted the Village Green (Great Lees Field) Hearing had been held 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Semington Village Hall but that it had been necessary to allocate two further days – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December - to complete the hearing. Cllr. Scott commented that the initial days had been dedicated to the large number of witnesses giving evidence in support of the application and additional time was required to allow the objectors time to give their evidence. He added that a decision by the Inspector was unlikely before Christmas.

The Chairman stated that no date had yet been allocated for the Planning Appeal in respect of planning application 19/02147/OUT and he observed that any comments in respect of this appeal must be received by the Planning Inspectorate no later than 27<sup>th</sup> November. Following a short discussion the Parish Council resolved that comments regarding the development be sent to the Planning Inspectorate (full details available in the Parish Council Minutes). In essence Semington Parish Council opposes this development because it seeks to build too many houses in an inappropriate location. Semington Parish Council wishes the Planning Inspectorate to refuse the developer's appeal.

The Council resolved that available parish councillors will attend this Appeal Hearing and that Cllr. Scott will take the lead.

**Finance: Total balance in hand as at 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 £28,002.01**

**Highways:** There ensued a lengthy discussion on the subjects of whether or not a Community Speed Watch Scheme or lower speed limits for some roads in Semington should be introduced in Semington. Councillors generally supported the introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout Semington but considered that a Community Speed Watch scheme was not justified – primarily because of the absence of through traffic and the generally low traffic count in the village. The difficulty of recruiting volunteer members for such a team was also cited as a difficulty. The Chairman asked Cllr. Wade to raise this matter at the next CATG Meeting and to seek guidance on how best to proceed. Meanwhile, the Chairman stated that he would write an appropriate article for the Village Newsletter to seek parishioners' views.

**Environment:** Cllr. Rimmer stated that he had purchased new lights and other related sundries for the Christmas tree and that all that remained was to make the necessary connection to the electricity supply once the tree had been erected. Cllr. Wade confirmed that the tree had been ordered. Cllr. Rimmer stated that he had written to Wiltshire Council and had identified two sites that would be suitable for the creation of a 'wildflower meadow' and that Semington Parish Council was interested in participating in the scheme. He added that this correspondence had been acknowledged by Wiltshire Council but no further action had yet been taken. Councillors observed that any discussion on 'village grass cutting' was dependent on further discussions with Wiltshire Council regarding 'wildflower meadows' and the subject was deferred until a subsequent meeting.

**Footpaths:** The Chairman reported that he had now been provided with a spreadsheet by Wiltshire Council on which to record the footpath survey results and to identify where work to clear or restore a public right of way was necessary. He added that he had also been informed of an individual who on a voluntary basis would take the necessary action with Wiltshire Council when 'waymarks/finger posts' required replacing or installing. Cllr. Scott stated that he would send the Chairman a copy of his survey report that identified missing 'waymarks'.

**Semington Village Website:** Cllrs. Rimmer and Kasasian gave a report on a recent meeting with the webmaster and the proposed changes to the website to ensure that it is more relevant and informative for users. They commented that the meeting had been very useful and that the response of the webmaster was very helpful and engaging. An important point was that local organisations should be encouraged to provide content relating to its own organisation and to have the ability to control its inclusion on the website. It was noted that further meetings are planned.

**Tennis Court and Wessex Close Play Areas:** The Council noted the concern expressed by a parishioner during the adjournment regarding the state of the Wessex Close Play Area. The Clerk stated that he had explained the position regarding the maintenance of the Play Area and Play Equipment during the adjournment and the actions he had taken for a repair to be effected to the 'Tornado' equipment – to date without success. Councillors had commented that this Play Area was owned and managed by Wiltshire Council and not the Parish Council and Cllr. Oglesby had added that the cost to the Parish Council of accepting responsibility for the Play Area under the 'Transfer of Assets' scheme was prohibitive.

Next Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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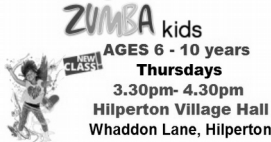
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**TUESDAYS**  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
7.00pm—8.00pm  
Longfield Community Hall  
Weavers Drive, Trowbridge, BA14 7DZ

**THURSDAYS**  
6.45pm-7.45pm  
Walwayne Court School  
Brook Road, Trowbridge, BA14 9DU

**SATURDAYS**  
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# The Semingtones! Ladies Choir



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## Christmas at The Village Hall

*Gerald Taylor*

There's lots of festive fun at the village hall this December. It kicks off with the Christmas tree switch on on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** at 6.00pm, come over to the village hall afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies. On **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** we are hosting the OAP lunch which is by invitation only. The Christmas Quiz is on **SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December**, remember to wear your finest Christmas outfits!

Christmas bingo night is **Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** with tickets at 50p each. That's followed hot on its heels by the Christmas Draw taking place at the coffee morning on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**, tickets for the draw are already on sale at the social club. After Christmas on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** we're hosting a skittles and pâté supper, tickets for this are £3.00 per person. Then we round off the festive season with our traditional hangover cure of hot meat rolls (cheese rolls available too) from 12.00pm to 2.00pm on **New Year's Day**.

## Secretary Needed!

*Gerald Taylor*

The village hall is looking for a bookings secretary to join the Hall Committee. For more details contact Gerald Taylor Chairman on 01380 870530, mobile 0773 2169387 or e-mail [gerald\\_taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:gerald_taylor@btinternet.com)

## Crafternoon

*Pam Wildsmith*



Come along and join us at Crafternoon, regardless of how crafty you are - knitting, tapestry, crocheting or sewing – all crafts, levels, ages welcome. If you're stuck there's sure to be someone to help or give advice! Please let Christine know if you're intending to come along. 29, Highfield Close, Tel: 871979; email: [whites1966@btinternet.com](mailto:whites1966@btinternet.com)

## Santa Train Rides

*Colin Wade*

West Wilts Society of Model Engineers are offering Santa Train rides on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at the White Horse Country Park near Westbury. Price is £5.00 to include a ride on the train and meet Santa in his grotto with gift (under threes £2).

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Many thanks to all villagers who regularly donate items to the Melksham Foodbank I am sure everyone involved with the Foodbank really appreciates your continued support. However, newer villagers may be unaware that there is a collection box for food donations for the Melksham Foodbank at the back of St George's Church. All in date tinned and packet food will be welcome. No fresh food at all, please. Some toiletries, toilet rolls, nappies, etc., would also be welcome.

Melksham Foodbank began in 2007 and has seen an increase in the need for the Foodbank since then. Some of the supermarkets in Melksham have collection points for the Foodbank too, if that is more convenient. If you are in Trowbridge, some supermarkets there collect for Trowbridge Storehouse, which is another Foodbank.

If you know of someone who needs a safe place to relax and chat with a cuppa, come to Lifeline, Melksham, which is open every Monday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm., and on Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 12.00pm, except on Bank Holidays, at Melksham Baptist Church on the Old Broughton Road, SN12 8BX (opposite entrance to Lidl's car park). This is a Drop-In Centre for tea, coffee, a friendly chat and advice, if required.

If you have any queries or want to see what items to donate, then please look at the notice in the church porch or contact me on 01380 870137. There is also a Facebook page and website [www.melkshamfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.melkshamfoodbank.org.uk)

## Paws for Thought



We have seen with our own eyes  
and now tell all the world that  
God sent his  
Son to be their Saviour.

It's in the Bible; 1 John, 4, Verse 14

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## Parish Council Matters

*Brian Smyth – Chair of the Parish Council*

**20 mph Village Speed Limit** – There has been a suggestion that Semington would benefit from a 20mph speed limit on all roads within the village. Many of the roads are quite narrow, particularly where there are parked cars and some drivers tend to travel quite fast. We would be keen to hear your views on this and these should be passed to the Parish Council Clerk via email:  
roger.p.coleman@btinternet.com

**Bus Gate** – Melksham Police have been monitoring the traffic through the bus gate on a regular basis. A number of drivers have been stopped and issued with advice but one individual, who regrettably was a Semington resident, was issued with a Fixed Penalty notice. It's worth reminding everyone that driving through the bus gate can incur 3 licence points and £100 fine.

Advice from our PCSO for this time of year:

**Cycling Safety** - We've been asked to stress the need for cyclists to ensure they are visible on the road now the winter evenings are here. Apparently, local police officers have been instructed to be extra vigilant for cyclists without lights or riding on the footpaths.

**Christmas Presents** – When out shopping please ensure these are not left visible in your car and that you keep them out of sight in the boot. Once home, keep them upstairs out of view.

## Living Nativity

*Julia Wade*

Churches in Trowbridge will be dressing up and walking around the town centre, accompanied by a real donkey and the Salvation Army Band. Starts from The Civic at around 11.00am on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**, going past the Albany Palace (no room at the inn!), ending at the Christmas tree near St James' Church, for refreshments, singing and telling the nativity story on the way.





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## Semington WI Meeting

*Deb Hurn*



Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November found us making very attractive and useful gift bags, under the watchful eyes of Val, Teresa and Julie, (big thanks to them). They were able to make something which actually looked complicated into something that was reasonably simple!!! Everyone went home with a bag each one completely different. We can't have done too bad a job as they've offered to return and show us how to do some more crafting.

Hopefully when you read this we will have had our Cream Tea and Concert by the Semingtones in the Village Hall. A donation from the proceeds will go to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm This will be our Christmas Skittles for Wi Members, partners and friends. Our WI birthday meal in January will be at the Westbrook Inn. Semington WI would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a very happy and peaceful 2020.

## At The School Gates

*Pip Hunt – Head of School*

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time of year at St George's and this year is proving to be no exception! Rehearsals are underway for our Nativity 'The Landlord's Cat' and all villagers are very welcome to come along to see the performances on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** either at 2.00pm or 6.00pm. I'm sure it will be a great way to get into the festive spirit!

As we did last year, the children will be bringing in food items for the Melksham Food Bank on the last day of term and wearing festive non-school uniform. By collecting at this time of year, we help to keep them going with items in January when they sometimes struggle to meet demand. If anyone in the village would like to donate any items, then please feel free to drop them at Reception.

I would like also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Steeple Ashton Films

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*Alison Wilson 01380 871345*

Thank you to all of those who have supported our films during this past year. I think you will agree we have seen some great films and enjoyed some lovely evenings. This is the provisional schedule for our films in Spring 2020:

18<sup>th</sup> January – Judy                      15<sup>th</sup> February - Downton Abbey  
21<sup>st</sup> March - The Good Liar      18<sup>th</sup> April - Mrs Lowry & Son

We hope you agree that this is an exciting and varied programme and we look forward to seeing you in the new year. We are aware that having the Odeon cinema so close by has had the dramatic affect of reducing our audience numbers, but hope you will continue to support us in 2020 and enjoy drinks and snacks from the bar and a wide variety of film choices in a friendly atmosphere. Please introduce us to your friends and family and encourage them to join us and help us to ensure we will survive another year!

It is just left for us to wish you a very Happy Christmas! With very best wishes, Alison Wilson, Marcus Wilson and Deborah Fox.

## Semington Sports Club

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*Kevin Lockwood and Martin Bray*

Semington Sports Club would like to say a massive big thank you to everyone who attended their Race Night at Semington Village Hall, we are pleased and delighted to say we raised £1200 on the night. A big thanks also to everyone who helped on the night and for making it a worth while success and thank you for the kind raffle donations. Also we would like to thank Semington football teams and The Somerset Arms for raising over £300 at their Summer BBQ.

Again we would like to say how much we appreciate West Wilts Crematorium, Westerleigh Group, for their generosity, that allows us the use of their field, for our football teams.

## Holy Baptism

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*Linda Hillman*

Milo Reuben Bailey on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 was welcomed into the church family at his baptism. We pray God will bless him and his family and as he grows, he will experience God's love for himself.



## Catholic News

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

**Weekly Timings: Check newsletter for changes**

### **St John the Baptist - Trowbridge**

**Sunday Masses:** Saturday: (Vigil) 6.00pm; Sunday: 10.30am & 6.00pm

**Holy Day of Obligation:** See newsletter online at [www.stjohnthebaptist.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.co.uk)

**Weekday Masses** Monday: 9.00am, Tuesday: 6.00pm, Wednesday: 12.10pm, Friday: 6.00pm, Saturday: 6.00pm (Vigil);

**Rosary:** Weekdays before Mass.

**Confessions:** Sat: 10.30 - 11.00am; 5.00 - 5.45pm and anytime on request.

### **St Bernadette's - Westbury**

**Sunday Mass:** 9.00am

**Holy Day of Obligation:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Weekday Mass:** Thursday 10.00am

**Confessions:** Before Masses and any time on request.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

### **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 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 CHURCH WESTBURY:**

**Christmas Day:** Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

**CHRISTMAS SONGS & CAROLS:** St John's & St Bernadette's Social Group warmly invite you to a Sing-Along evening of Christmas Songs and Carols, **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December** from 7.00pm. Admission is £5.00 on the door and there will be a grand raffle draw as well as mince pies and mulled wine. Donations of mince pies would be greatly appreciated!

**Scripture Weekend:** Wiltshire Council's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme is looking for volunteers to support refugee families in Trowbridge from the end of October. If this is something you are interested in finding out more about please contact [refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk) or call Laura Salter on 01225 756197 (Mon-Wed). Further information from: Jenny Sturrock 07974 713 768 or Mary Martin 01373 830170

**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.

## Thought From The Rectory

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*John Rees*

“Away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head....”

Many of you will have wonderful memories of school and/or church nativities, some very recent and perhaps some from long ago. My favourites include one year when we had three Marys and a different year when the animals at the crib included Scooby Doo. Memories of past nativities and carols can make us smile, but there is a risk that their familiarity can make us forget that the Christmas story includes both difficult events and some difficult people. Some of these circumstances can seem painfully familiar today.

**Mary and Joseph** were forced, by the Roman occupying forces, to travel over 80 miles on difficult tracks and while she was heavily pregnant in order to be counted at a census. Apparently ordinary people were at the mercy of those more powerful.

**The Wise Men** in some ways were not so wise. It was good that they persisted in following the star to find God’s promised Messiah/Saviour, but less good that they asked the ruthless King Herod for directions. He was to resort to murder in his unsuccessful attempt to get rid of what he saw as a possible rival.

**The Shepherds** were outcasts, shunned as unclean by those of higher status. It is no co-incidence that God sent the Angels to the Shepherds to announce that Jesus, his son, had been born. This was a sign – a sign that God loves and cares for everyone, whether rich or poor, powerful or vulnerable. Jesus’ birth in a stable was a sign that his power was very different from that of a typical ruler. Jesus came to earth to show us how to love and care for others. Through him we are offered forgiveness by God for our wrongdoing when we say sorry and seek to make a new start. Through him we are offered hope; for we do not have to face life’s challenges alone – and we are promised that our souls live on when we die. This is the Good News the world has celebrated at Christmas for over 2000 years. God offers us far more than a time of partying, films and food, enjoyable though they are. Do come to our Christmas services (or at any other time) to find out more - you will be given a warm welcome. Details can be found opposite and overleaf.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020 to you all. **John Rees**

# **St George's Church Semington**



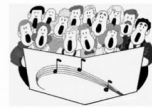
## **Services December 2019**

**Advent Sunday 1st December - Holy Communion 9.30am  
Rev Hugh Hoskins**

**Thursday 5th December - School Christingle 6.00pm**

**Sunday 8th December - Morning Worship 9.30am  
Rev Joy Albone, Stuart Raymond**

**Sunday 15th December - 3.00pm  
Carol Service  
Rev John Rees & Rev Joy Albone**



**Sunday 22nd December - 9.30am  
Holy Communion Rev John Rees**



**Tuesday 24th December - 2.00pm  
Christmas Eve Celebration**

**Wednesday 25th December - 10.00am  
Christmas Day Communion - Rev Ray Guymer &  
Rev Joy Albone**

**Sunday 29th December - Benefice Communion - 11.00am  
St Mary Magdalen's, Hilperton Marsh**

**Morning prayer - Thurs 9.00am - 5th, 12th, 19th**

### **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: **canalsideoffice@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.

Curate: Revd. Joy Albone **07931 638524** email **canalsidecurate@gmail.com**

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

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

# St George's Church Semington



## Services January 2020



Sunday 5th January - Epiphany  
9.30am - Holy Communion  
*Rev Hugh Hoskins*

Sunday 12th January - 9.30am  
Methodist Service  
*Eric Clifford and Stuart Raymond*

Sunday 19th January - 9.30am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev John Rees*

Saturday 25th January  
St George's School  
11.00am - 1.00pm  
Messy Church



Sunday 26th January  
No Service at St George's Church, Semington

Morning Prayer 9.00am Thursday  
9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January