

MARCH 2019

SEMINGTON  
PARISH



MAGAZINE

**Minister for Semington:**

**Rev. John Rees**

**22 Warren Road**

**Staverton**

**BA14 8UZ**

**Tel. 01225 764365**

## Semington Diary

Village Hall (Unless otherwise stated)

# March

1 <sup>st</sup>	FRI	Book Club Somerset Arms	8.00pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	WEDS	Parish Council Meeting	
14 <sup>th</sup>	THURS	Semington WI Social Club	7.30pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	SAT	*** <b>Saturday</b> *** Village Hall Quiz *** <b>Saturday</b> ***	7.30pm

### SKITTLES

TUESDAYS		Ladies' Skittles
WEDS	6 <sup>th</sup>	Armstrong's Angels
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Armstrong's Angels
FRIDAYS		Mens' Skittles

### 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 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month	10.00am-12 noon
Semingtones	Fridays	6.00pm-7.30pm

### Save The Date!

# JULY

Did you spot the deliberate mistake last month?

I hope you didn't spend ages trying to work out in which year Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July occurs... we of course meant the first **Saturday in July, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**. If any villagers have any suggestions for musicians or entertainers to perform, please get in touch! Either stop one of us in the village, pop in to see John at the pub, or email me at [3milburns@gmail.com](mailto:3milburns@gmail.com) We checked and so far we don't have any clashes with football tournaments or royal weddings!

*Sheralyn, Bev, Elaine, Toby, Ian and John*

## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7.45pm – 9.00pm, 9 Somerset Way. Join us to pray for our community.

**Housegroup** - Tuesdays 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March, 7.45pm. Join us to drink tea/coffee, 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.

**Messy Church** - is on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March**, 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 £1.00). 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.

## If You Read Only One Thing This Month in Our Mag

*Gillian Airey*

We'd like you to read this..... very carefully..... and then be very kind and very generous! Everyone who contributes to the magazine gives their time freely to keep it going each month. So this month you'll find a wee envelope in the mag that we'd like you to put a little something in to go towards the running of the magazine.

Once your envelope is ready to go you can drop it into the address on the envelope or give it to John at the Somerset Arms (please not just any John, but John, the landlord, John!) Thank you for your generosity.

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

Well here we are battling through the last few days of winter. The deadline for the April/Easter edition of our little mag is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. New contributors are always welcome. Email me at **semparmag@icloud.com** As noted in our last edition of 2018 the new e-mail address for ads is **semparmagads@icloud.com** feel free to get in contact as we have new openings now coming through.

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## This month I am truly humbled

*Gilly Airey*

It's taken me some time to be able to share this month's topic with you as the emotion bubbles over each time I revisit the events of October 2018. I know there are always bad news stories in the press about the NHS, but I need and want to share with you what an absolutely blindly, amazing thing the NHS is.

Gorgeous George our 2 year old grandson had a persistent wheeze which no amount of anything could shift. A locum doctor insisted something wasn't quite right and sent him to a specialist and in a whirlwind of seven days George ended up being admitted to Alder Hey Children's hospital with a huge aneurysm on the heart which required open heart surgery to fix it.

No one asked for proof of medical insurance, no one asked for a credit card, no one charged his parents accommodation fees as they stayed with him night and day up to and after the operation. No one made the chief anaesthetist cancel their holiday plans – they chose to do it because a little boy needed their expertise, no one had to pay for the 3D model of his tiny heart – they do it as standard because it helps everyone understand the operation that needs to happen.

George's operation lasted six hours and I can honestly say that they were the longest hours of our lives, all of us Aireys. Silence is golden, but when you're waiting for news that all is well, it is also purgatory. As parents and step-parents our jobs are to make sure everything in our family is alright and if it's not then we fix it. I can claim to fix many things, broken zips, holes in jumpers..... but this was so out of my league.

I am truly humbled by the doctors and nurses both in Alder Hey and the whole of the NHS, they fixed George, they made our family alright. There will always be times when the service you get from the NHS isn't quite quick enough and you can't get a doctors appointment. But I ask you to remember that for each time you can't get a doctor's appointment, somewhere, someone's life is being saved by an Air Ambulance response or by a team in an A and E department.

After six hours of open heart surgery, George spent only one night in intensive care and three days later was home – saying thank you does not seem enough..... Alder Hey and the NHS I am truly humbled by you.



## The Somerset Arms Free House

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## At The School Gates

*Pip Hunt – Head of School*

### **Making New Friends...**

Kingfisher Class have set up a link with the Village Coffee Morning Group and once a term we go and chat and play games together over cups of tea and biscuits.



It is great to make new friends with members of our community and integrate the children with those that live in and around the school. The range of conversations taking place has been incredible from talking about ancient pre-history in the deserts of Saudi Arabia, to working for the Army as well as what was on the television last night!

## Semington FC



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## Semington – Quiz Central

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### *Julia Wade and John Adams*

The next Village Quiz will be on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. So, we hope to see those there that find having it on a Sunday night difficult. If you are not in a team, we can easily put you with others – you are very welcome. It costs just £1 per player to take part, plus £1 per team for the Marathon. Prizes are bottles of wine, plus there is a raffle and complimentary nibbles.

Thanks to Neil from Terry's Turnips team, who had set the quiz in February, but couldn't be there, so I had the job of reading out the questions, which gave me the chance to be strict about the answers with anyone who argued (especially my husband!). I would have loved to have done the Marathon round, though, which was on stars of the silver screen – so you needed to know your James Stewart from your Stewart Granger (in fact, the latter's real name was James Stewart too, but he couldn't use it as it was already taken – to quote Michael Caine, not a lot of people know that!). The New Four team won the Marathon with 33 points out of 40.

Team 'Without Angela' led from start to finish in the main quiz, beating The New Four by 6 points, so well done to them. The question that caused the most contention was: How many lions are depicted on the Royal Standard of the United Kingdom? Answers below.

So how was the "All you need is love" quiz down at the pub? Well you needed love and some clever team mates. It was quite a tricky quiz. Being the 12<sup>th</sup> quiz there was a round about the number 12, a round on The Beatles, picture round on films and a match the celebrity couple round. After those, there was a very controversial round on love and marriage! Aside of 2 teams struggling with the questions it was nip and tuck all the way though but the Orchard Pigs although consisting of just Neil Stockley, Brian Gibson and Sally Tyler finally prevailed and to a chorus of boos from the other 8 teams took away the rollover cash pot.

Quizmaster Simon Tyler's Question of the night was what half ton of merchandise did the Beatles ship to the States on this day (19<sup>th</sup> February).

Don't think anyone has completed the double yet but the Somerset Army and the Orchard Pigs are planning a raid to the village hall to sample the next village quiz.

Answers: 3 or possibly 7 and wigs.

## 'Barf' is Persian for Snow - Q1 Fact

### Snow Days

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Without tempting fate it would appear that winter has a pattern of one big snow event..... thanks to Ray and Vicky for the photos. The snowy signposts is from 2018's 'Beast from The East' and The Church from this year's snow.



## Nature's Notes

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This sonnet by **Gerald Manley Hopkins** looks forward (as we all surely do) to spring, even though it's always wise to remember that winter's grip can be tenacious.

Spring



Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy pear tree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.



What is all this juice and all this joy?  
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

## Great Bulkington Railway

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*Nev Boulton – Station Master*



The Great Bulkington Railway will be open to the public on Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 1.00pm to 4.30pm when we will be pleased to offer rides to children and adults of all ages. Light refreshments will be served by the ladies from Christ Church Bulkington. Google 'The Great Bulkington Railway' for a video ride around the track.

**We take no expenses whatsoever and all profits from the railway will be sent to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.**

The railway and village hall may be hired for private birthday parties with BYO Party Food for £140.

Contact Station Master Nev Boulton; [nev.boulton@outlook.com](mailto:nev.boulton@outlook.com)

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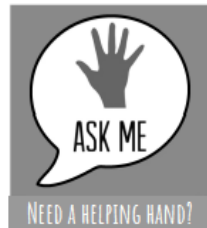
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## Steeple Ashton Films

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### **THE CHILDREN ACT (12A)**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2019 – 7.30 PM**  
**(DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM FOR REFRESHMENTS)**  
**AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STEEPLE ASHTON**



Based on the novel by Ian McEwan (you may remember Atonement) and directed by Richard Eyre, The Children Act is a compelling and powerful drama telling the story of Fiona Maye.

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*'Emma Thompson at her best. An amazing and very touching story of just how difficult life can be and the choices some High Court Judges have to make every day. Stanley Tucci puts in an amazing performance in the film as her husband. A must see film.'* (An Audience Review)

**Tickets £6 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop. Reservations can be made, please ring Alison Wilson on 01380 871345**

## Play Your Cards Right

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Eric Clifford 870922

A Whist Drive has been organised to support NCH Action For Children. It will be held on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April in Shaw Village Hall near Melksham SN12 8EW at 7.30pm.**

Entry is £3.00 per person to include refreshments, there will be a raffle (please contact Eric or Helen as above if you have prizes to donate). Full details from Helen and Eric please call on 870922.

## **Parish Council Minutes**

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*Abridged minutes from meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019*

**Present:** Councillors B Smyth (Chairman), P Bowyer, M Kasasian, R Oglesby, R Robinson, S Rimmer, W Scott and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There were three members of the public present initially.

**Apologies.** Apologies for non-attendance were received from Parish Councillors P Smith and C Wade and from PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

**Wiltshire Council Report.** In the absence of Cllr. Seed there was no report. Cllr. Oglesby asked the Clerk to request Cllr. Seed to give a report on the proposed Local Government Boundary changes recently promulgated by Wiltshire Council at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Planning:** 29 High Street, Re-roofing of existing summer house – no objections. There were no planning applications received after 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Cllr. Scott reported that in respect of the Village Green application, Wiltshire Council legal officers had informed him that they would be appointing an Inspector to lead the enquiry, although no timescale had been given. He added that all references to the Great Lees Field had been removed from the latest Richborough Development List.

**Finance: Total balance in hand at 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 £24,121.91**

**Highways/Environment.** Cllr. Oglesby commented that it appeared that some work was being undertaken at the Salt Tip related to providing better weather protection for the salt.

Cllr. Rimmer stated that following a request to Wiltshire Council the grit bins in the village had been refilled. The Clerk was asked to include this as a regular item on the agenda for the October Parish Council meetings. Cllrs. Smyth and Robinson stated that they would survey the pathways in the village, following related correspondence from Wiltshire Council, and identify any that required attention that Wiltshire Council had failed to identify. In particular, the pathway from the roundabout to The Knapps was suggested as a possible candidate. Cllrs. Smyth and Scott agreed to survey the village for possible Parish Steward tasks.

The Chairman stated that he had attempted to contact the Operations Manager, Wiltshire Air Ambulance several times, without success in order to discuss the proposal to install an enforcement camera. The Clerk was requested to write to the Operations Manager explaining the intention to install an enforcement camera and to seek a financial contribution from the Air Ambulance. The Chairman stated that the proposal for a Memorial Plaque explaining the Commemorative tree planting had still to be put to the Village Hall Management Committee for approval.

Cllr. Rimmer explained that he had undertaken considerable research on bench seats and that there were various designs that may prove suitable. He added that he had sent these details to all councillors commenting that an oak bench would cost in the order of £350 to £500 plus any delivery charges. There ensued a lengthy discussion on the subject and it was agreed that a small working party comprising Cllrs. Robinson, Scott, Kasasian and Rimmer should examine the various designs and make recommendations regarding the bench at the next Parish Council meeting. Meanwhile, the Council resolved that oak was the preferred material. Cllr. Rimmer confirmed that following discussions with a parishioner, the parishioner had offered to construct the base for the bench seat as a gesture of goodwill. Cllr. Rimmer added that he had written to Wiltshire Council regarding this project to ensure that Wiltshire Council had no objections to the installation of the bench and that he was awaiting a reply.

**Semington Village Website.** Councillors stated that the Parish Council information was up to date on the website but other information was grossly out of date and often irrelevant. Cllr. Scott observed that the only photo on the website showed historical fly-tipping and the photo and the associated commentary gave a very distorted view of the village.

There were many positive messages regarding the village that could, and should, be posted on the website. The general view expressed by councillors was that as it was a village website – not a Parish Council one – village organisations should be encouraged to send copy to the webmaster on a regular basis .....something that was not done at present. It was agreed that a website working party be formed – comprising the same members as for the bench working party with a view to identifying the possible content of the village website and the means of encouraging local organisations to participate. It was agreed that their findings would be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Melksham Community Area Board/Community Area Transport Group Meetings.** Cllr. Robinson confirmed that he had raised the subject of the Bus Gate Enforcement Camera at the CATG meeting and although the CATG confirmed support for the project it stated that it would not be able to make a financial contribution. He added that Cllr. Seed had indicated that there may be alternative sources of financial support. Councillors commented that at previous Parish Council meetings Cllr. Seed had indicated that Wiltshire Council would have ownership of this project and not the Parish Council as it now appeared that the Parish Council had sole responsibility. Cllr. Robinson agreed to discuss this matter with Cllr. Seed.

**Next Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

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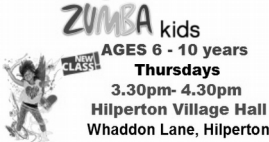
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March heralds spring and looking forward to Easter and by now the daffodils will have emerged and be in full bloom. However, there is also some emerging progress in the local and hopefully national political scene. Budget and Brexit have been looming large on our political horizon and by now both ought to have been put to bed. The Wiltshire Council budget has emerged as a balanced budget with virtually no opposition after several months of hard work by Councillors and their officer teams. The almost total cross party support for this process means that Wiltshire Council has managed to make progress on its delivery of front line services at a time when other Councils are having very serious difficulty. This is largely because of the care with which finance has been managed by the Council over many years. So successful have the Council been in managing these finances that in the forthcoming financial year significant extra funding has been made available for road highways maintenance.

We have also had the first decisions from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on their electoral review of the Wiltshire Council area. The good news is that they have accepted the all-party recommendation of Wiltshire Council to keep the number of Council seats the same at 98, albeit with more electors, and to keep most of the Area Board boundaries intact. The bad news is that there are some areas that the Commission have come up with ideas for change that are not entirely logical. So it is worthwhile having a look at these plans and seeing whether they affect you and if so make a comment on the consultation to [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:committee@wiltshire.gov.uk) by 19<sup>th</sup> April when the consultation closes. Unconnected to this is the opening of a review of polling stations and polling districts. This review may well affect where you vote and whether your town or village retains its current polling station(s) so it is important to look at this and register your views in the consultation which closes on 25<sup>th</sup> May. All the detail on this electoral stuff and how to comment in the consultations is easily accessed through the Wiltshire Council Website.

The Police and Crime Panel for Swindon and Wiltshire is there to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account but in particular to approve (or decline to approve) any proposed police precept increase. Recently the panel was able to effect a change on the use of the proposed increase in precept. The panel agreed that there were valid reasons for the increase, including an extra £2.25 million being passed on by central government for our local police area to pay in local police pensions. However as a member of the panel I urged the Commissioner to provide more local police officers and the Commissioner agreed to the lobbying and is to provide 26 additional community police officers. This is local democracy at work and was achieved with strong representation by your Wiltshire Councillor and cross Party support.

With all this cross party cooperation in Wiltshire perhaps Parliament could learn a thing or two from the way our councillors work together to deliver solutions for the community we represent!

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*Courtesy of Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitors*

### **Lasting Power of Attorney**

Many of us know that it is important to write a will, but fewer of us have considered making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). It is estimated by the Alzheimer's Society, that by 2025 more than 1 million people in the UK will have dementia, and currently 1 in 5 people over the age of 85 already suffer from it. For those people who do not have an LPA, handling their financial affairs and making medical or care decisions on their behalf can become virtually impossible. An LPA is a legal document in which you can appoint trusted individuals to make decisions on your behalf, known as your 'Attorneys'. There are two different types of LPA:

**Property and Affairs** - This LPA will allow your Attorneys to help you manage your money, property and finances, for example. They can pay your bills, and transfer or invest your money for you. You can tailor the LPA to give as much, or as little, power as you would like to.

**Health and Welfare** - This LPA will allow your Attorneys to make decisions about your health and care; which may include what medical treatment you receive and where you live. If you are capable of making those decisions yourself then your wishes will be paramount, and your Attorneys will be permitted to liaise with medical professionals etc. in relation to your needs. Nowadays, care homes and medical professionals are asking whether residents and patients have these types of LPAs in place, as many now believe that Health and Welfare LPAs are equally as important as the Property and Affairs LPAs.

If you do not have an LPA in place, and later become mentally incapable, your relatives must apply to the Court of Protection to obtain a Deputyship Order. This would allow them to take control of your assets and finances. However, the application for Deputyship is a very lengthy and stressful process and involves obtaining a medical report confirming loss of mental capacity, and few medical professionals nowadays are prepared to produce such reports.

Do not leave it until it is too late. As with writing a will, you need to have sufficient mental capacity to make an LPA. Writing a LPA does not mean you give up all of your rights. Your Attorneys must allow you to make your own decisions for as long as you are able to do so, and whenever they make a decision for you, it must always be in your best interests. There are strict rules to prevent Attorneys mishandling your money, or making gifts to themselves and others. Careful consideration must be paid to whoever you appoint as your Attorneys and whether they are actually capable of assisting you.

If you have more questions, please get in touch with Jane Healey, at Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitors 01985 217464.

## **Elliots Home Improvements**

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## Semington WI Meeting

*Deb Hurn*



Valentine's Day saw us once again using our crafting skills under the watchful eye of the Wiltshire Scrap Store. We made baskets, flowers, hearts, bunting and little books from scraps of paper & cardboard from the scrap store. It's amazing what you can do with bits & pieces that no one else wants. It was a fun evening with us all mastering a craft.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. This meeting will be held in the Social Club in the back of the Village Hall and not the hall itself. Start time is as usual 7.30pm.

## Parish News

*Brian Smyth*

**Semington Village Website** - This is just a reminder that the minutes of the Parish Council meetings are available on the website at **[www.semington-village.co.uk](http://www.semington-village.co.uk)**

This is a website for the village and its success depends upon the amount of useful and up to date information it contains. With this in mind the Parish Council would encourage all village organisations and clubs to make use of this resource in publicising their activities, including upcoming events.

Email **[webmaster@semington-village.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@semington-village.co.uk)** to get content uploaded.

## Paws For Thought



Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

It's in the bible: Psalms 23 V 4



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To 'dringle' is to waste time in a lazy manner – QI Fact

## Down The Local

*John Adams – Somerset Arms Landlord*

It's been a busy start to the year at the Somerset Arms.

We kicked off with Burns night which was a good night of fun had by all. The Scottish themed food went down a treat and a great night of entertainment was provided by musician Stuart Saye.

Burns night was closely followed by the much anticipated gourmet night. With a delicious seven course menu and a fully booked restaurant the night was a huge success. Jon Furby's menu as per usual was exceptional and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food. Keep an eye out for details of the next one as booking is essential.

Valentines night was next to come. Again we had a fully booked restaurant and a special Valentines menu. Everyone seemed to appreciate the food and the atmosphere was suitably romantic whilst chilled.

Many villagers and visitors have taken advantage of our kids eat free in February deal. It's nice to see some regulars as well as some new faces in the pub.

Coming up we have the last few 6 Nations Rugby games on the big screen. At the time of going to press everything is still on play for! Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March is St Patrick's day, with Irish themed food and plenty of Guinness promotions.

Quiz night is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March "It's Not a St Patrick's Day Quiz" Karaoke should be back in March with dates just to be confirmed.

Then last but not least on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March we invite all you Mums to enjoy being treated to Sunday Lunch by your loved ones for Mother's Day.

Keep an eye out for further details on all the above and don't forget if you run out of those grocery essentials we have the Somerset Arms Pantry and never be 'carded' by a courier again and use the Pub for your parcel drop offs but simply using their address as your 'safe place' or alternate drop off.

## Challenge Yourself with Wiltshire Air Ambulance

*Jill Crooks*



Wiltshire  
Air Ambulance  
funded by you, flying for you

If you or someone you know would like to take on new or exciting challenges in 2019, then Wiltshire Air Ambulance has a choice of events.

Our bumper events calendar includes an abseil, skydive and a Snowdon challenge. As well as a personal challenge, by taking part you will be helping us to keep saving lives.



If an abseil appeals to you, experience the thrill of a controlled descent down Avon Gorge, Bristol, on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April.**

You can explore the stunning landscape of Snowdonia National Park by tackling our triple challenge of cycling, climbing and kayaking on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

If you want to see Wiltshire from a great height take part in our skydive at Old Sarum Airfield, near Salisbury, on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.** Jumping in tandem with a professional instructor from either 10,000 or 15,000 feet, you can see the sights of Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge.



We are a charity and rely on donations to keep saving lives. It costs £3.75 million a year to keep the air ambulance flying and we are not funded directly by the Government and receive no National Lottery grants.

For more information about our events go to our website or call the charity team on **01225 300536.**



## Catholic News

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

#### **St John the Baptist Trowbridge :**

**Sunday Masses:** Sat: (Vigil) 6pm; Sun: 10.30am & 6.00pm

**Holy Day of Obligation:** See Newsletter

**Weekday Masses:** Mon: 9.00am; Tue: 6.00pm; Wed: 12.00 noon Fri: 6.00pm; 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

**New Year Concert** - St John's Parish Centre, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March featuring the acclaimed Wiltshire Council Singers. Admission £5.00 on the door (to include a complimentary glass of wine). To book contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email [f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

**St Patrick's Night Dance** - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 8.00pm to 11.00pm at The Polish Social Club, Waterworks Road, Trowbridge. Music by 'Morning Glory' playing all the old favourites including 'Siege of Ennis' There will be an 'Open Mike' during the interval to discover local talent. Licensed Bar plus a 'Super Raffle of Quality Prizes'. Admission £7.50. Contact Francis Geraghty

**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](mailto:mandybaker@live.co.uk)

**THE NEW 300 CLUB 2019** - Subscriptions: £50 annually - £13 quarterly - £4.33 monthly. New members are most welcome to join at any time. **Monthly Prizes are: £200-£70-£50-£10.** For information and application form contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 email: [f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

#### **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

## March 2019 Church Services

*You are welcome to join any of our services*

### **St George's Semington**

Please see back page of magazine

### **St Michael's and All Angels, Hilperton**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Together in Worship
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Ash Wednesday Communion
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion with Junior Church
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
	11.00am	Lent Course 1
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
	11.00am	Lent Course 2
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Messy Church Hilperton School
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Communion & Coffee
	11.00am	Lent Course 3
	12.00pm	Lent Lunch
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Family Communion for Mothering Sunday

### **St Mary's Magdalen's, Hilperton Marsh**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	12.00pm	Lent Lunch
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Family service for Mothering Sunday

### **St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon**

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
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## Thought From The Rectory

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Anne Rees

In March there are a lot of Christian Festivals – most of which are celebrated widely by those of faith or not. There are two national Saints Days – the Welsh celebrate St David's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March and the Irish mark the feast day of their patron Saint, Patrick on 17<sup>th</sup>. These men played important roles in spreading Christianity in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.



For Christians, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 6<sup>th</sup> March, but preceding this is Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven' meaning to say sorry for the wrong things you've done. Pancake Day comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. Milk and eggs were mixed with flour to make pancakes.

The name Ash Wednesday comes from the tradition of putting a small cross of ash on people's forehead at Ash Wednesday church services. This is a sign of confession and helps people to remember that they rely on God for forgiveness from their sins. Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. For Christians, Lent is a time to prepare for Easter and to think about their relationship with God. Some people give up things for Lent as a mark of self-discipline. Others take up something positive for Lent – in our churches we are collecting food for the Foodbank this year.

March 31<sup>st</sup> is Mothering Sunday - a day when we remember our mothers and those who care or who have cared for us. So there are a lot of festivals and events in March, on days that are significant in different ways. Whether you are a proud Welsh or Irish person celebrating your nation, a Christian beginning the journey towards Easter (after a feast of pancakes) or a son or daughter remembering a special figure in your life or a Mum enjoying breakfast in bed, make the most of March.

God wants to bless us with good things, but it also important to sometimes stop and reflect on those good things and be thankful.



# St George's Church Semington



## Services March 2019



3rd March - 9.30am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev Hugh Hoskins*



10th March - 9.30 am  
Methodist Service  
*Eric Clifford*

17th March - 9.30am  
Holy Communion  
*Rev John Rees*

24th March - 9.30am  
All Age Worship - *Marilyn Stubbs*



**Saturday 30th March**  
11.00 am - Messy Church  
St George's School  
**Sunday 31st March—10.00am**  
St Michael's, Hilperton

Morning Prayer 9.45 am on Thursday  
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:canalsidebeneficerector@gmail.com) [www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk)