

MAY 2020

Staying apart  
so that we will come  
together again

SEMINGTON  
PARISH  
MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Rev. John Rees

22 Warren Road

Staverton

BA14 8UZ

Tel. 01225 764365

## Where To Go To Stay in The Know

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### **Canalside Benefice**

The Canalside Benefice website [canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://canalsidebenefice.org.uk) has a number of useful links on it. It has resources for worship and Messy Church resources for children. In addition there is a link through to YouTube so that you may worship from your own home. Check out the Benefice website for the most up to date link.

### **Semington Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group**

The Support Group was founded as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Group has a Facebook page which is the principal source of information, updates, offers of help and requests for help. Search Semington Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group on Facebook to join.

The weekly newsletter is published via the Facebook page – but (and here is the important bit) we do print a limited number of hard copies to go to households without internet or Facebook access. The Group has been collating a list of villagers who need a hard copy for over a month but we really need your help to make sure NO ONE is missed from the list. So if you know of someone who needs the newsletter printed please e-mail [victoriabodman@gmail.com](mailto:victoriabodman@gmail.com) and don't worry if you think you're duplicating someone else's effort it really is not a worry!

### **Semington Village Website**

The village website [www.semington-village.co.uk](http://www.semington-village.co.uk) has all the latest news needed including Wiltshire Council updates, the Support Group Newsletter and the Parish Magazine. Importantly it also includes normal day to day stuff that even in the midst of these strangest times you may need to access.

### **Wiltshire Council Website**

For wider issues such as refuse collections, ancillary and community services, the Wiltshire Council website [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) should be your first port of call. There are links on the home page for service updates as well as the facility to sign up for e-mail updates.

## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - We will be praying in our own homes for our community on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Homegroup** - we are meeting every Tuesday in our own homes, via **Zoom**, at 8.30pm to look at what Jesus says in the Bible about prayer. If you'd like to join us, phone Jack/Bev on 870784.

It was very strange not meeting together in Church on Easter Sunday, but many people near our home joined us to sing two well-known Easter hymns at 10.00am that morning, whilst standing in our gardens - together with many across the nation. We will not forget Easter 2020!

## Village Fete

*Village Fete Committee*

Shock surprise..... no fete this year!! But we hope to come back bigger and better next year for our fabulous village community..... Stay safe everyone!

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

So lockdown is extended and we're here for another few weeks. I trust that you are coping well with the new normal. I do hope you enjoy this month's Parish Magazine especially the special feature that Julia Wade very kindly has written recounting memories of the VE Day celebrations from some of our very own villagers.

Remember that the whole village is invited to the Stay at Home VE Garden Party on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** see page 18 – don't forget to uphold the rules stick to your own front garden and maintain social distancing at all times, Wiltshire Police have confirmed they have no concerns as long as these two conditions are upheld.

The deadline for June's edition is **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** – you never know we may have something new to talk about! If you wish to contribute to the magazine or weekly newsletter my e-mail as always is [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com) **Stay safe – stay well**

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## This Month I'm Embracing My New Normal

*Gilly Airey*

I first started imposing myself on you all some four years ago, with the objective that each month I would have tried something new and wanted to tell the world about it (well at least the world of Semington). For the first time in those lovely four years where you have indulged me and my ramblings I have sat and looked at a blank screen and wondered what on earth I have done new or indeed interesting in these 'interesting' times.

So I have given myself a good talking to and have realised that I am doing loads of different stuff. For starters my hair is as I suspected not just going grey but is already grey and is also very, very long! So I roped in Gorgeous Hubby and last week he found his inner hairdresser, channelled his Vidal Sassoon and trimmed my hair doing a rather fine job! He wasn't a fan of the hairdressing scissors I bought from Gompels but I managed to dissuade him from using the kitchen scissors as an alternative. Needless to say as soon as the world of hairdressing reopens I shall be camped outside of Tops in Melksham like a bargain hunter at the Harrods sale, making sure I am one of the first through the doors (other hairdressers are available in Melksham).

I am also working from home, or as the media now like to call it WFH. Now this is odd; I have found I still need to dress like I am going to work, it's like it is an important part of being able to get my mindset right, I do wonder if it is just me or if everyone else is sat in their pyjamas? I'm not going to lie I'm not a fan of WFH, I have spent my whole working life being part of a team and I miss the immediacy of being face to face with people. Which brings me to my next point, video calls, oh my goodness, how distracting is it to looking at yourself constantly when talking to other people. I have yet to perfect the right way to hold a phone to ensure I can, at the same time, eradicate both the grey hairs and the multiple chins I am cultivating whilst WFH. Sadly a solution has not yet presented itself to me.

There are though some joyful moments, Princesses Ava and Bella FaceTiming us randomly at all times of the day. Although their phone holding leaves much to be desired with most calls involving very close up views of their noses as they hold the phones flat facing up! I am also very much looking forward to the 'End of the Lockdown Village Craft Show'..... I've already made an elephant out of a milk bottle, my Easter window twig is now growing into a tree and I've finished the sweater I was knitting.

Finally I am desperately missing being able to simply be with my girlfriends – but here is what I have learnt, absence does make the heart grow fonder. So brace yourself Semington because when everyone comes together again it's going to be a hell of a party!



# LOCKDOWN MENU

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## Nature's Notes

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This is **Christina Rossetti** writing about a first meeting that was in time to mean so much. She used the idea of May as a transition point into life itself, and not just into Summer. Robert Browning famously wrote: "Oh to be in England now that April's here" but, for me, it's long been May that's the month when the urge not to travel is strongest. So much so that it sometimes seems madness even to think of leaving the district, let alone England. This year, sadly, I'll not need to try very hard to stay at home.

### The First Day

I wish I could remember the first day,  
First hour, first moment of your meeting me;  
If bright or dim the season, it might be  
Summer or winter for aught I can say.  
So unrecorded did it slip away,  
So blind was I to see and to foresee,  
So dull to mark the budding of my tree  
That would not blossom yet for many a May.  
If only I could recollect it! Such  
A day of days! I let it come and go  
As traceless as a thaw of bygone snow.  
It seemed to mean so little, meant so much!  
If only now I could recall that touch,  
First touch of hand in hand! – Did one but know

### Paws for Thought



Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

It's in the Bible; Isaiah 40 verse 31

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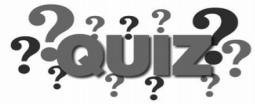
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So many of you have been enjoying Andy's quizzes on the Support Group Facebook page that we asked him if he could bring one of his quizzes to the magazine as obviously you can't get to a quiz yourself. So enjoy - answers are on page 23

1. In which TV series did Scott Bakula leap in time?
2. Which Kenny Rogers' hit starts, "On a bar in Toledo...?"
3. In which sport is there a piste other than skiing?
4. Who wrote The French Lieutenant's Woman?
5. Which Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced TESSA?
6. Which character was played by Dooley Wilson in Casablanca?
7. Who wrote the play Private Lives?
8. Which politician once played in a band called Ugly Rumours?
9. Whose hits include Waterfront and Alive and Kicking?
10. Voords, Krotons and Autons have all appeared in which TV series?
11. Which children's writer's real name was Mrs Heelis?
12. How many seconds are there in three hours?
13. What was the dog called in the Famous Five books?
14. If you were using Dutch or Diaper Bonds what would you be doing?
15. What was Herman's Hermits only No 1 UK hit?
16. In which country was Salman Rushdie born?
17. What are you doing if you are mendicanting?
18. Who wrote the novel Murder in Mesopotamia in 1936?
19. Which team from outside Glasgow won the Scottish FA Cup three times from 1982-84?
20. In Monopoly, what is the next property after Old Kent Road?
21. Whose mountain retreat was at Berchtesgaden?
22. Dorothy Brooke is the central character in which novel?
23. Which was the first British National Park?
24. Fred Perry was World Champion in 1929 in which sport?
25. Which licence was abolished in 1988 after 192 years?

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## Armstrongs Angels End of Season Skittles Report

*Rose Costello*

This year's report is a month or so too early, sadly due to the last few matches having been postponed for the foreseeable future. I'm going to start with expressing my sincere thanks to all the team for their support for both me and each other in what has been a challenging few months. Without naming names thank you for: -

- Turning up looking fetching with wet hair and on one occasion with your heart breaking.
- Playing 'swanlike' in your Piyo gear.
- Turning up to play after a four hour journey back from work, only to find that the opposition hadn't turned up!
- Bringing your marking with you, so that we didn't have to play one short.

Many thanks to Andrea Bowland, as Vice Captain, who was only supposed to cover for a couple of matches but ended up captaining about nine (Vice Vice Captain, Gillian Airey, had to step in too, thank you). Thanks to Tyler Bowland for being our sticker up and to Sally Rigg for doing the board. It was also lovely to have Tia Dore coming along to support and help with the raffle. The team had their best season, since I've been captain, finishing 5<sup>th</sup>. We also got through to the semi-final of the Knock Out Cup, where we played, a very closely fought match against a premier league team - finally losing by just 5 pins. It was a fun, but nerve wracking, evening and thanks to all our supporters who came to cheer us on.

Mary Wiscombe (it's amazing what a new hip can do) had the highest average, 31 pins with Karen Newbrook second in the averages, with 29.57 pins. One of the team still maintains she would have made it to top of the averages had the season not been curtailed – but we will never know! Jacqui Hailey had the highest score, of 39 pins, and Sally Rigg got the most spares, two. As well as the prerequisite mother and daughter-in-law rivalry, this season we had neighbourly rivalry in Manor Close and Highfield.

We welcomed two new players, firstly Diane Walker who joined at the beginning of the season - Diane's been planning to join the team for years but had to wait for her back operation. Meg Wills joined us in March and made a good first appearance just before lockdown. Normally at this point I thank those players that keep me company at the bottom of the averages but I actually finished quite high up this year, probably because I wasn't able to play many games!

So it leaves me to say once again thank you for all the support you've shown Martin and I over the last few months and all that you ladies are doing now to help Semington villagers in the challenging times. I look forward to us all being able to get together properly when life returns to some sort of normality. Stay home and stay safe.

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## Your Wiltshire Councillor News

*Jonathon Seed*

Coronavirus or COVID-19, what an incalculable difference those words and their meaning have had to our lives. Even those of us in Wiltshire who currently live in a low risk area and with fewer tragic deaths here than in other areas have seen a total change to the way we live. I write this as we reach the fourth week of lockdown with little sign of emergence in sight. My own family are observing severe segregation due to underlying medical issues but together we share the trials and tribulations of this dreadful situation.

There is little local political news. In local government, Councillors have stepped back and supported the experienced and professional officers of Wiltshire Council in their seven day a week endeavours to deal with the effects of the crisis and keep essential local services going. This is not the time for political point scoring although social media is full of disquiet at the failure of some national journalists and some national politicians to support the national mood of stoic resolution to tackle this crisis. Critical local services such as refuse collection are continuing with little interruption and Wiltshire Council is doing its very best to efficiently facilitate the local distribution of essential government assistance to businesses through the grant system.

Much of the real local work is taking place in our towns and villages. The spirit is a typical British effort of rallying round to help the most vulnerable in our communities. In our own Melksham Community area we were one of the quickest off the mark with a Melksham Community Aid system and website active within days of the start of the crisis and our Area Board meets on line every week to help to coordinate the Area effort. Councillors are in regular touch with local efforts and trying to help to oil the wheels of bureaucracy. Locally every village and hamlet in the area has seen the emergence of a commendable system to look after those who are struggling to look after themselves by collecting shopping, prescriptions or other services that individuals cannot access themselves. Please support these herculean efforts as they continue to make a difference to people's lives especially the superb effort which Emma, Vicky, Siobhan and Laura are leading in Semington.

Lockdown is not easy for anyone, whether or not the individual is vulnerable but already there are positive signs even from lockdown and this has started with families and communities having quality time for each other and taking a step back from our busy lives. I doubt any of us will go back to precisely the lives we lived before but in the meantime best wishes and PLEASE, we all need to STAY HOME, in doing so SAVE LIVES and PROTECT THE NHS.

## Wiltshire Council Updates

*Councillor Philip Whitehead*

### **COVID-19 UPDATE – TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020**

**WILTSHIRE WELLBEING HUB** - Over the Bank Holiday weekend staff worked hard to support the most vulnerable within our communities. The wellbeing hub has now delivered over 518 food parcels, contacted over 5,063 by letter and contacted 5,679 by phone.

So far there have been 1,559 calls to the wellbeing hub and 473 emails. There is an interactive online map that allows people to see what COVID-19 community support is available in their neighbourhood and throughout the county. The map, which will be regularly updated, can be found at;  
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus>

**SCHOOLS OPENED OVER EASTER HOLIDAYS** - Our schools and early years providers stayed open over this Easter holiday to ensure our key workers can go to work and our vulnerable children have a school place. Approximately 160 schools are open – either individually or as a hub. Approximately 400 key worker children attending daily and approximately 140 vulnerable children.

At least 34 schools opened over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend to allow key workers to work over Easter. We also arranged for 1,000 Easter eggs to be delivered to those at school – thanks to Home Bargains. Morrisons kindly donated 400 eggs for children attending early years settings.

**CARERS SUPPORT** I'd like to remind carers of all ages that support and advice is still available if they need a helping hand during the current COVID-19 situation. Local charity Carer Support Wiltshire and independent organisation Wiltshire Parent Carer Council have produced the latest information and advice and are posting regular updates on social media and their websites, so people don't feel isolated and can access the right information and support.

For those who cannot access information online, they can call or email Carer Support Wiltshire 0800 181 4118 Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 4pm or the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council 01225 764647 Monday to Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm, or email: [admin@wiltspsc.co.uk](mailto:admin@wiltspsc.co.uk)

**WASTE AND RECYCLING** - Our refuse teams are doing an amazing job and we know many are receiving great feedback from residents – we ask residents to bear with them as they continue with new rounds and the challenges of Covid-19. We have delayed the renewal of the annual subscription for garden waste by two months, so people can apply for renewal from June instead of April. This means our call centres are free to deal with other urgent calls regarding Covid-19.

Although our HRCs are closed we have not had an increase in fly-tipping and we're grateful to all our residents who are acting responsibly. Fly tip numbers for March 2020 were 266 vs 262 the previous month so we are pleased there was no significant uplift given the HRC restrictions.

**BUSINESS SUPPORT AND GRANTS** - We're in this together and our teams are working seven days a week, which included the Easter weekend, to process the forms and answer queries from businesses. We understand that businesses are particularly affected by the Coronavirus outbreak. That is why we are working tirelessly to issue the grants to eligible businesses as quickly as possible.

Over 5,600 businesses have applied for a grant and of those over 3,300 have now had funds released for payment. It is vital that those businesses who have received our letter come back to us with all the information we require as quickly as possible, including their letter reference number and business rates account number. This will allow us to match their details much faster and quickly process their form. Further information can be found at:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support-covid19](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support-covid19)

Lastly please can I thank you and all residents and communities who heeded the advice and stayed home over the bank holiday weekend - helping to protect the NHS and save lives.

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## Parish Council Matters

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*Peter Smith Vice Chair of Parish Council*

**COVID – 19** – The Parish Council is operating in the virtual world...a first! We can't meet, but we are consulting upon issues that arise and taking decisions through email and, when needed, phone discussions. All planned meetings, including the annual meetings that take place in May, are postponed but if you have a village issue that you'd like us to consider, please get in touch with me on 01380 870888.

**Semington, Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group** – they are doing a magnificent job in organising and coordinating help and support to people living in the village. Parish Councillors have said (in emails or on the phone, of course) just how impressed they are by the work and commitment of the group's leaders and volunteers. We as a council will continue to work in support of this wonderful group.

**Planning** – Whilst the deadline for comments on the planning application to put 20 affordable homes on land north of St. George's (20/01306/OUT) has now passed, there were 48 responses mostly objecting and mostly from people in the village. Given the distractions of the strange world we presently occupy, that is very impressive.

**Wessex Close Play Area** – Any plans to set up a Parish Council and village group to develop and improve the play area are now on hold. However, a very constructive meeting happened shortly before lockdown between two parish councillors and St. George's School PTA, which lays the foundations for action once we're through all this.

**Footpaths** – These are getting much used as we exercise from our doorsteps. We have had one or two reports of blocked stiles or paths being obliterated by ploughing. If you come across such problems, please report them through the "my Wiltshire" online App.

Best wishes, and stay safe and well

Peter

**VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations**

# **STAY AT HOME STREET PARTY!**

**Friday 8th May 2020**

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your family & neighbours.**

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enjoy a picnic in your front garden.**



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I am indebted to Julia Wade (with help from Ray Heard) for the superb article that follows over the next three pages. The feature recounts the memories of villagers both of Semington at war and of VE Day. I hope you enjoy reading the memories and imagining what it must have been like living through that extraordinary time.

*Gillian, Editor*

## Remembering VE Day and Semington at War

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*Julia Wade with assistance from Ray Heard*

In 1945 after Germany surrendered, a national holiday was declared in Britain and Churchill had gained the assurance of the Ministry of Food that the capital had enough beer stored to withstand demand. The Board of Trade declared that people could buy red, white and blue bunting without using ration coupons. There were even some hastily produced commemorative items such as VE Day mugs. Various events were arranged including parades, thanksgiving services and street parties.

While the King and Queen were waving to the enormous crowd from the balcony of Buckingham Palace, their daughters went out and mingled anonymously with the crowd. Princess Elizabeth later recalled, 'We stood outside and shouted, "We want the King"... I think it was one of the most memorable nights of my life.' An estimated 50,000 people were gathered around Piccadilly Circus, in London, by midnight. Social norms were abandoned and strangers embraced strangers. Licensing hours were extended, music was everywhere and dancehalls stayed open till midnight.

So, what of Wiltshire's celebrations? Closer to home, Stanley Jones of Trowbridge recalls; 'The victory celebrations in Trowbridge had already been planned. Posters were going up in shop windows amid red, white and blue rosettes. Only the date of VE Day had been left out. As we left school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May the teachers told us that if there was an announcement during the evening that Germany had surrendered there would be a holiday for the next two days. The announcement came - and no way were we going to school... in the afternoon a large crowd had gathered outside the Town Hall - loudspeakers had been erected and at three o'clock Winston Churchill made a broadcast to the nation, and in his wonderful and dramatic way told us that war was over - Hitler had been defeated. Churchill also reminded us that there was still much to do - Japan was still at war with us - but this was the great day.

On down to the People's Park, and sure enough Albert Taylor, the organiser of the pre-war carnivals and manager of Fosters menswear, was there, almost as if he had been waiting in the wings. Soon the children were enjoying sports. A procession had been arranged for the late evening, led of course by the Trowbridge British Legion Boys Band. Behind the band came Sammy Paradise and his horse and cart - and there, strung up in Guy Fawkes fashion, were effigies of Hitler and Mussolini en route to a large bonfire that had been built in the lower part of the park. You can guess the rest. Back home, coloured lights had been placed in the trees at the top of Union Street. There all the folk, joined by us children, danced the night away. This area is now a mini-roundabout but I still think of this when I am driving through the rush hour traffic.'

And Semington? How did our village celebrate? I have asked a number of people from our village and, unfortunately, people could not remember a great deal about VE Day. The theory is that rationing would have made a big street party with food, understandably very difficult for villagers to manage.

However, **Peggy Wise** thinks there might have been a tea party in the village hall, with lots of flags everywhere, and recalls mugs being given out – though this could have been for the Queen’s Coronation in 1953. However, the Imperial War Museum site does say some mugs were produced for VE Day so Peggy may have recalled correctly. Peggy had vivid memories of seeing Bath burning during the war, her aunt lived there. **Ken Clark’s** and Peggy’s dad was an ARP Warden and his job was to put out any fires caused by bombs.

The canal was a fairly frequent target for bombs, including an incendiary bomb which was dropped by the swing bridge. Whether this was intended or accidental is not clear. She remembers a bomb being dropped in the fields near Littleton Farm and one by the river in Trowbridge. Their brother, Stan, helped to organise a bonfire at the top of Church Street, to celebrate VE Day, and Ken recalls that, later, there was a day trip to Weymouth, which was arranged by a local bus company. They all sat on wooden seats but it was all good fun on the ‘utility’ bus.

**Margaret Walker** also thought she remembered a tea party at the village hall and bonfires being lit in the village. She remembered a lot of people gathering outside The Bell pub in the village (beyond the garage on the right, going towards the canal) – standing outside, drinking and celebrating.

**Pat Hiscocks**, was living in Coronation Road, Melksham at the time of VE Day. She would have been about 5 or 6 years old but remembers being wheeled in a pram, with her sister, up to the Market Place, to The Crown pub, where her parents enjoyed a celebratory drink. She remembers lots of people celebrating in a big crowd in the Market Place.

**Brian Watts** also remembered the incendiary and other bombs. At Bordham, towards Seend, a bomb fell and blew the tiles off the mill opposite. He was at the old village school in Church Street, when a dog fight between a German plane and 2 British aircraft was going on overhead. One plane was brought down near the swing bridge and the children swarmed all over it. He also recalled in 1944, two gliders, on two separate occasions, coming off their tow lines, crashing through the hedge and coming to rest in the same field, near the swing bridge. Keevil was, of course, famously used as a base for aircraft setting off on the ill-fated Operation Market Garden.

Brian also recalled hearing and seeing the bombing of Bath and seeing the barrage balloons going up. His family had an air raid shelter at the bottom of the garden but, it flooded, like so many did, so wasn't much use. His father was in the Home Guard and he recalled how a big trench was dug around the whole of Semington, to slow down the progress of any enemy tanks, linking the Canal, the Brook and an existing ditch. He too remembers bonfires being lit at the end of Church Walk, off Church Street, to celebrate VE Day and, later, VJ Day.

**Muriel Gover** was almost 20 when the war ended. She married Ken Gover later that year. She was born in a cottage in Littlemarsh, since demolished. In 1945 she was living in the then Post Office – the red brick house opposite the village hall. She worked in the physical testing laboratory at Avon Rubber, where they made tyres, gas masks and sundry small rubber items for the Admiralty. She too remembers the bombs dropped around the village and in Trowbridge. She remembers going to an Animal Auction in aid of the Red Cross with animals donated by local farmers, and a dog fight between two aircraft was going on up above. She said they, “didn't sort of worry about it”.

One day she and her sister (I believe) were stopped by an Air Raid Warden on their way to school in Trowbridge, as the siren was going off. There was nowhere to shelter so they just stood there until the 'all clear' was sounded. There were tales of German pilots machine-gunning pedestrians if they could. If this had happened they would have been sitting ducks.

Her husband's family home in Bath was bombed and the rear of the house was destroyed. His family had to go and live with other family in Melksham. It was very overcrowded but they didn't grumble. People made the most of what they had, and swapped things they didn't want with others. (Not dissimilar to this Lockdown?) Muriel recalled that a lot of evacuees came to Semington. One boy came from London to live at Highfield House – and loved it. He came back twice to visit – just to see the village again.

*From Julia*

*I hope you have enjoyed reading these accounts as much as I enjoyed gathering them. I would like to thank all the people who gave me their time and I apologise profusely to those residents, past and present, whom I did not manage to contact for their accounts. If you have a tale you would like to tell, please let me know and we will run some further features.*

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## Semington WI Meeting

*Deb Hurn*



It's certainly a difficult time at the moment. What's wonderful is the way the village has pulled together.

WI Ladies are staying in touch with the help of WhatsApp, email and texts etc. We've been sending messages, funny pictures and videos, many of which show how people are looking after one another.

We understand that one of the village skittles teams had a challenge to make an elephant out of a milk carton and one of our members has issued the challenge for us to do the same. We should be able to use some of those bits and pieces we all hold on too just in case!!!

I'm not sure when the next WI meeting will be, but it will be great for us all to get back to normal, whatever normal is going to look like. I hope everyone is staying well and keeping safe.

Take care, Deb Hurn

## Action for Children

*Eric Clifford*



The magnificent sum of £500 has been forwarded to Action for Children as a result of home box collections. Thank you most sincerely to all who have contributed to this excellent amount, this and your continuing prayers are really helping the UK's most vulnerable children.

## Andy's Answers

1. Quantum Leap 2. Lucille 3. Fencing 4. John Fowles 5. John Major 6. Sam the piano player 7. Noel Coward 8. Tony Blair 9. Simple Minds 10. Dr Who 11. Beatrix Potter 12. 10,800 13. Timmy 14. Bricklaying 15. I'm Into Something Good 16. India 17. Begging 18. Agatha Christie 19. Aberdeen 20. Whitechapel 21. Hitler 22. Middlemarch 23. Peak District 24. Table Tennis 25. Dog licence

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## Catholic News

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

St John's (Trowbridge) & St Bernadette's (Westbury) Catholic Churches are physically closed.

Further information is available on these websites:

[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk) and [www.cliftondiocese.co.uk](http://www.cliftondiocese.co.uk)

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

*Sunday & Weekday Masses:*

For the duration of the Corona Virus lockdown Mass will be celebrated in St John's Church Trowbridge and uploaded to YouTube. Search 'Mass in Trowbridge'

Fr Tom will occasionally upload a Children & Young Person's Exercise Prayer service.

**St Bernadette's – Westbury** - All services are suspended

### **Coronavirus Prayer**

*Dear God*

*I pray for healing to all affected by this deadly virus  
Only you can move in a mighty way and do the impossible for them.*

*We pray for all the negative outcomes to be resolved*

*by Your healing hands*

*Bless and cover each and every single person and bring whole  
healing to their bodies, from the top of their head to the soles of their feet.*

*Amen*

**THE NEW 300 CLUB 2020** The monthly draws are suspended but will take place weekly when the churches reopen. 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 info contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 [f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

## Thought From The Rectory

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*Rev. Hugh Hoskins Retired Parish Priest & Rural Dean*

We are still in the Easter Period so I send you my greetings in the Name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you forget the names of people or places or maybe not recognise the voice of someone? Don't worry it happens to all of us at some time. On Easter Day we heard the moving account of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene (John 20 v 15.) she did not recognise Him or the voice but thought it was the gardener. Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." I wonder how Mary felt when Jesus called her by name? She recognised the voice.

Then the event when the disciples were on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appeared with them but they did not recognise Him. But Jesus stayed with them for a meal and He took bread and gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised Him. Just imagine the feelings of those disciples. (Luke 24 v 13.)

How do we recognise the voice of God through Jesus today and what is He saying to us? We are moving through terrible times with the worldwide effect of the Coronavirus in these unprecedented circumstances has resulted in unprecedented changes and we all know what they are. But can we recognise the Presence of God in these moments as we see nations working together, politicians working together, all areas of the medical professions on the front line of keeping us alive. We see the Presence of God in all religions of our nation working together. We see in practical ways of the instruction Jesus gave to love one another as He loves us.

We can recognise the love of God working through the many people on the front line serving humanity in many ways putting their lives at risk for us. We can recognise the love of God working in our villages of Semington, Whaddon, Hilperton and Staverton in many loving, caring and sharing ways. In these moments we pray for our doctors, nurses, hospitals, carers, care homes, undertakers, paramedics, and all who assist them, plus many others.

We can recognise in these moments how St. Francis heard God calling him to build His church, he built one church of bricks but built the church of God in the lives of people by the care and love of the practical Gospel in ways of serving the needs of people. We are in these moments learning to see the church without walls, and being the Church with people. May all of us continue to see God in all people regardless of their religion (or none) or culture.

## What is it like being Rector of Staverton, Hilperton, Whaddon and Semington in a Covid -19 World?

For all of us our everyday lives have changed beyond recognition. We are having to discover new rhythms for everything - school, work, and leisure time – and the life of the Church is no different. The Church buildings are sadly but rightly shut, but our ministry continues in different ways. My role now involves:-

- Ensuring we can provide support and encouragement (and where needed practical help) to others. Joy, me or other members of our pastoral team are phoning people to chat and to check they are ok and offer help if needed. If you would like to be included in our contact list do phone or email me.
- Although we can't have baptisms or offer weddings at the moment, our support to those who sadly have lost loved ones continues. Even though the numbers who can attend funerals is limited we will offer memorial services later when we can. If you have been bereaved and we can help please get in touch.
- Providing online resources for both adults and children on our website: [canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://canalsidebenefice.org.uk) These range from prayers to craft activities and worship for young people; there are even instructions for making an origami tank.
- Preparing services. We are uploading an online service to YouTube every weekend and providing links to it on our website. We are also linking it to the church and village Facebook pages. We are also offering live midweek worship at 10.00am every Wednesday via Zoom. The link may be found on our website or by contacting me.

I am so encouraged by the wonderful community support being provided by so many in all our villages; it will be good to celebrate with a service and party when this is all over!

Rev John Rees [canalsiderector@gmail.com](mailto:canalsiderector@gmail.com) 01225 764365



We have been developing our **Canalsidebenefice.org.uk** website page and the 'canalsideparishes' Facebook page to include prayer and worship resources and activities for both adults and children.

Check the website for the most up to date link to YouTube for the online services. We will upload a new service every week until St George's is open for worship again.

If anyone wishes to have a friendly chat at this time of physical isolation I would be pleased to talk to them on 01225 764365 John Rees

### **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**