

NOVEMBER 2020



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 newsletter is now published to alternate with the Parish Magazine so generally in the middle of each month. Distribution is via the Support Group Facebook page, for anyone who would like a hard copy of an issue of the Support Group Newsletter, including all past issues, the spares are in the Somerset Arms and the Village Hall, which can be accessed when the Post Office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm. There is a fantastic selection of books and jigsaws available to buy when the Village Hall is open.

### **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 of 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 meeting via zoom in our own homes, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the Zoom link.

**Housegroup** - This will continue on Tuesdays, via Zoom, at 8.00pm, every other week. So if you'd like to discuss how the Bible helps us to live as God wants us to, please phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details and the Zoom link.

**Wednesday afternoons** - the Church is open every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 3.30pm for anyone who wants to take time to be quiet.

## Christmas in the Village

*Semington Support Group*

The village has been awash with seasonal window displays throughout the year and we'd love to hear how we should celebrate a socially-distanced Christmas this year. Feel free to post your thoughts on the Facebook page and lets make this Christmas one to remember for all the right reasons!

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

Who can believe we are already at the penultimate month of the year that for many is like no other year they have known. The next edition of the magazine covers both December and January so let's have lots of cheerful good news stories, village thank yous and general glad tidings in the next magazine. The cut off date to submit your very own good news story is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November**. Email me at [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com)

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## This Month I've Been Going Nuts

*Gilly Airey*

Ahhh autumn, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, or as Gorgeous Hubby likes to call it 'man vs squirrel season'. You see we have a walnut tree in our garden and I love walnuts, not least because they are reported to help with healthy brain function and I must be honest my daily sudoku does not appear to be arresting the onset of advanced Mrs Spoonerisms!

Close to the walnut tree is an oak tree which this year has outdone itself with the production of acorns, so you would think the squirrels would be more than happy to fill their boots with acorns..... This is clearly the townie in me still coming through; why have acorns when you can have beautiful brain-boosting walnuts? So how to out-manoeuvre a squirrel? I think the first place to start is don't try, just try to minimise the number of nuts he can get his paws on.

Falling just short of a full blown stake out, the walnut tree is visited morning, noon and night to collect any nuts that have fallen or to coax those about to fall out of their shells. Last year we sent Princesses Ava and Bella up the tree to shake those pesky nuts from their shells, Ava will proudly tell you that I did indeed leave her hanging from quite a high branch when I got distracted and only just remembered her in the nick of time thus avoiding a very embarrassing phone call home to her parents....

But what to do with the acorns - there are literally thousands of them this year. Well I can report that as long as you leach them properly first (no me neither – not a scooby) they are totally edible. You can grind them to make flour, roast them and eat them like peanuts or make them into coffee. I read the coffee idea with interest but then at the end it said and I quote 'Acorn coffee is naturally caffeine free, it has a unique taste and is unlike traditional coffee'. So basically nothing like coffee and it shouldn't be called coffee at all it should be called hot brown water. Alternatively we could just find a random pig, invite it into the garden and leave it to Hoover up the acorns.

As for the walnuts, besides boosting my brain function, I've got loads of things lined up for the nuts; pear and walnut chutney, walnut brittle, coffee and walnut cake as well as candied walnuts stuffed in dates.

As for man vs squirrel - I can safely say Gorgeous Hubby 1, Squirrel 0!



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## **Parish Council Matters**

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*Peter Smith, Vice Chair of Parish Council*

**A350 Melksham Bypass** – we have very recently learnt of a consultation exercise seeking the views of the public on possible routes for a full A350 bypass of Melksham. Eastern and western route options are being considered by Wiltshire Council, which has already got provisional support and funding from Central Government. The timescale for responses to the consultation is very tight: **30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**. The parish council will look at the options and share its views with parishioners via the village website, Support Group Facebook page, and village newsletter. But, as with all planning applications, it is very important that you make your views known to Wiltshire Council. At least one of the options will have a big impact on the landscape surrounding the village, where many of us walk in the countryside, and on residents living close to the route options. Initial information on the plans is already on the village website, which will be updated further when we know more.

**Wessex Close Play Area** – a working group will be meeting on **7<sup>th</sup> November** at the play area to carry out a number of maintenance and improvement jobs. All welcome: painting and clearing shrubbery will be involved, so leave the smart clothes at home.

**Draft Framework for Parish Council activities** – many thanks to those of you who sent in responses and suggestions, much appreciated. As a result, a bit of updating and redrafting is needed, after which small working groups will be looking at priorities for 2021 and putting together a work programme.

**Land North of St. George's Planning Appeal** – the appeal hearing took place on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and Councillor Dr Bill Scott attended on our behalf both to put the council's views and to observe proceedings. We probably won't hear the decision of the Planning Inspector for a few weeks but, once known, we will publish the outcome to you all.

**Village Planters and Daffodils** – you may have spotted some of our planters have been refreshed to give a bit of colour over winter. Weather permitting, when you read this, lots of daffodil bulbs will have been buried ready to cheer us up in the spring. Thanks go to the planters group and other volunteers who showed up to do the work.

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## Odd Job James

*James Hale*

My name is James Hale. I live on Pound Close and I am 13. I am keen to earn some money and am willing to wash cars, cut grass or tidy gardens and any other things like that. You can contact me via email:  
**james.hale2007@gmail.com**

## Keeping Semington Sparkling



A polite notice to all dog owners but particularly those using the grass area next to the path leading to the school gate between Pound Lane and Highfield Close. Due to an irresponsible dog owner my daughter had her school trainers ruined (not to mention her school day) after stepping in dog mess whilst waiting to go into school in early October.

Not only was this a nasty experience for her but it was also very unpleasant and messy for the teachers who had to deal with it! If you have a dog then please be responsible enough to clear up after them! Thank you.

## Calling All Bookworms

Don't forget the Village Hall would love to have all of those lovely fiction books you've finished with. Books and jigsaws are available to buy on Monday and Thursday mornings when the Village Hall is open for the Post Office from 9.30am to 12.30pm



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## Natures Notes

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The haiku is a traditional Japanese three-line verse form with a 5 – 7 – 5 syllable structure. It's a favoured way to write about the natural world with the last line providing a contrast (sometimes a sharp one) to the first two. The first two haiku are about a barn owl in the fields to the west of the village. The third reminds us that viruses are highly selective in who and what they attack.



### **Owl haikus for November**

Winter sun setting  
Clear sky opens up the west  
Barn owl skims the field

Glowing yellow eyes  
Quarter the uneasy ground  
Bird, day, slip away

### **Covid haiku for the Summer**

People hide away  
Held hostage by a virus  
Butterflies blossom



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From Pat & Les Hiscocks:

Pat and Les celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in September and would like to thank all their friends and neighbours in Semington for the many cards, flowers and presents they received. They were also especially pleased to receive a congratulatory card from HM The Queen.

From Sylvia & Ken Clark:

We felt that the wonderful man who cut the hedges alongside the 'village hall' footpath deserved a VERY BIG THANKYOU from the village. He did a brilliant job and cleared everything away to leave a wonderfully wide and suitably socially distanced path for us all.

It was a surprise, when, a day later the privet hedge to the side of the hall was removed completely but this obviously means that no further hedge cutting will be necessary in that area and will be a terrific advantage.

Thanks to everyone involved for clearing the way for us.

Editor's Note; I am loving all the great thank yous we are getting through to the magazine as it makes a world of difference when appreciation and love is shown. So if you want to share a thank you please send it over to **semparmag@icloud.com** and we'll spread the love and gratitude together!

## **Parish Council Meeting**

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*Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held via Zoom Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October*

**Present.** Councillors P Smith (Vice -Chairman and Acting Chairman for the meeting), R Blake, V Bodman, R Oglesby, W Scott, C Wade, R Bruges, S Chown and the Clerk Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended. There were three members of the public present.

**Apologies.** Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllr. Kasasian and accepted.

**Declaration of Interests.** No interests were declared by councillors.

**Wiltshire Council Report.** Cllr. J Seed gave a report on the subject of the proposed new A350 Melksham Bypass. Cllr. Seed explained that Wiltshire Council was presently engaged in the preliminary work associated with the construction of a new A350 Melksham Bypass that was likely to be east of the present A350. Cllr. Seed stated that no decisions had yet been taken regarding the intended route of the new A350 Melksham bypass road but funding circa £140m had been secured for its construction. (Further details are in Peter's report page 7) Cllr. Scott enquired whether the Parish Council would have the opportunity to comment on the Wiltshire Council Gypsy and Travellers Plan and, if so, when. The Chairman invited Cllr. Seed to reply and Cllr. Seed stated that he would make enquiries and would advise the Parish Council.

**Highways and Environment.** There were no matters raised.

**Planning.** The Council noted the status of extant planning applications:  
20/05482/FUL Paxcroft Farm, conversion of agricultural building to General B Use – Approved  
20/05710/FUL 17 Pound Close, 4m single storey rear extension- Approved  
20/06902/TPO Old Coach House, repollarding of 2 lime trees – Approved  
20/07304/FUL Entrance Hall St George's Court, conversion to dwelling – Pending  
20/07850/LBC Entrance Hall St George's Court, conversion to dwelling – Pending

Cllr. Scott confirmed that he had attended the Appeal Hearing (a virtual hearing) in respect of the following planning application: 20/1306/OUT Land north of St George's for 26 entry level affordable dwellings. Appeal pending APP/Y3940/W/20/3253180. Cllr. Scott stated that he had sent all councillors a written report on the conduct of the Appeal Hearing and that the decision of the Inspector is now awaited.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council comments on the 'Planning for the Future' Government White Paper Consultation had been sent to Government and to other parties, including the local MP, Michelle Donelan. He added that the latter had responded but had failed to address any of the issues raised in the comments and a 'follow-up' letter had been sent to her seeking a considered response to the original comments. He stated that a reply from her was awaited. The Chairman added that following comments and support from Melksham Without Parish Council (Teresa Strange) in respect of the Semington Parish Council comments, the Melksham News was likely to contain an article based on the comments from Semington Parish Council.

**Construction of new A350 road.** The Parish Council noted reference in the plans for the new road to a 'Growth Corridor' planned for the east of Melksham and contained within the space between the existing and proposed A350 roads. Councillors commented that this was the first they had heard of a 'Growth Corridor'. The Chairman stated that following the Melksham Area Board Meeting on 4 November and the 'launch' of the Melksham A350 Bypass project the Parish Council would summarise its agreed views and comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council and would send these to the parishioners of Semington for information. Parishioners would be invited to send their own comments regarding this project to Wiltshire Council. The decision regarding the exact comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council by the Parish Council would be made at the Parish Council meeting to be held on **25<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

Cllr. Wade stated that he would be attending the Area Board meeting and the Parish Council **resolved** that Cllr. Wade had the authority of the Parish Council to speak on its behalf at that meeting.

#### **Finance. Final balance as at 21 October 2020 - £40,995.40**

The Council noted the comments from a parishioner that there may be a suitable tree available for the village Christmas tree in the village but concluded that it may not be large enough to display once mounted in the ground and the Council **resolved** that should the village tree be too small to authorise Cllr. Wade to purchase a Christmas Tree at a cost not exceeding £250 and it requested Cllr. Wade to make the necessary enquiries.

*Minutes continued on page 16*

**Strategic Framework Guiding Semington Parish Council Activities (16<sup>th</sup> September 2020).** The Chairman reported that this document had been published in the Village Newsletter and that there had been a response from some parishioners, although the number responding was quite small. He added that the framework had support from those responding. Cllr. Wade stated in response to the comments received regarding measuring progress against the plan that the Annual Parish Meeting would be the best forum for reporting back to the village. Cllrs. Scott, Smith and Bruges agreed to edit the document for final approval by the Parish Council. Cllr. Bruges stated that it would be necessary to decide how to take the document forward.

**Chairman/Parish Council Roles.** The Chairman explained that following the resignation of Brian Smyth, he had, as Vice-Chairman, taken over the chairmanship. He added that he was conscious that Semington enjoyed a full Council now and that it may be opportune to elect a new Chairman, although he was willing to remain as Chairman until the elections next May. After some discussions, the Council resolved not to elect a new Chairman and to invite Cllr. Smith to remain in post. The Council agreed to postpone the allocation of specific roles to councillors until the next meeting and following the agreement of the 'Framework' document.

**Semington Website.** Councillors noted the discussions that had occurred during the public participation with the West Lavington webmaster following the invitation by Semington Parish Council for him to submit details of a possible, similar, website for Semington Parish Council. There ensued a lengthy discussion regarding the required nature of a website for Semington and whether it should include village or community information as well as Parish Council information. The Council resolved that the Parish Council would acquire a new website that served Parish Council needs and that an appropriate domain name needed to be chosen. Cllr. Scott invited councillors to share their ideas for the new website with him and he would draft a list of requirements.

**Village Hall Management Committee Representatives.** This item was deferred until the next meeting and it was suggested that it should be combined with the Agenda item addressing Parish Council roles.

**Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom**



## From Westminster

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*Michelle Donelan*

Several residents have written to me about the most recent COVID-fighting measures that the Prime Minister has introduced, so I want to go into some more detail about what the measures are, how they will help and what specifically this means for Semington's residents and businesses. The main changes residents should be aware of is that face coverings must now be worn in private hire vehicles, hospitality venues (except when seated at a table to eat or drink) and by retail staff. Office workers who are able to work effectively from home over the Winter are encouraged to do so. Hospitality venues need to serve at tables and will be closed after 10.00pm. Support groups must be limited to a maximum of 15 people and conferences, exhibitions and large sporting events will not be able to take place.

The main effect of these measures over the winter for Semington will be more residents working from home rather than travelling into nearby towns to work. In some ways this could have a positive effect on the local economy and on the roads, but equally we must remain vigilant to the fact that more residents may be in the village during the daytime than usual and so we need to take extra care when using local services to keep a 2 metre distance from one another. One point that a resident in the village raised with me is enforcement in village. The Police will be supported in their enforcement efforts by an initial £60 million boost across the country, which will help Wiltshire Police. However, my personal experience is that almost everyone in our area sticks to the rules and understands why they are necessary without the need for the Police to enforce them.

This is an incredibly challenging and stressful time for the whole country, so I want to take this opportunity to thank Semington residents for all their hard work and their dedication to keeping the most vulnerable around us safe. If we stay alert and stick to the rules this coming winter, we will give ourselves an excellent chance of limiting the negative effects of the virus on our community. If you would like to speak to me about this issue or any other, please do not hesitate to email me at [michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk) or call me on 01249 704465.

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## Quiet Garden at Great Chalfield Reopens

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*Julia Wade*

The Quiet Garden Days at the National Trust's Great Chalfield Manor Gardens, near Melksham (SN12 8NH), have been running for around 20 years without a break. Like so many things, these have not been able to happen since March, but I am pleased to announce that the Quiet Garden Days resumed in October.

There are around 300 Quiet Gardens around the world. Each one is different, but they are all a place and a time for prayer, silence, reflection, the opportunity to listen to God and appreciate the beauty of creation in the beautiful gardens. As a visitor notes in the 2020-2021 programme, it is "a safe place, a little oasis amidst life's storms, where a re-balancing helps deal with life differently". Something we could all do with in this particular year. Although the Quiet Garden is a Christian organisation, we welcome everyone. There is no charge, but a donation to cover our expenses is greatly appreciated.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month, except in January and August, at 9.30am for a 10.00am start. Normally we have a lending library of books for visitors to use, but we cannot have those out at the moment, and refreshments would normally be available in All Saints Church, next to the Manor House, but we must ask visitors to bring their own at the moment. After a morning spent in silence, we meet to have our packed lunches at 12 noon (please bring your own) and then a visiting speaker will lead a short service/meditation at 1.00pm, then silence resumes until we close at 3.00pm.

However, people can come and go as they please. We do ask that you sign in, in the church on your arrival, for track and trace purposes and for our own records. A mask must also be worn in the church and hand gel is available. We now also need visitors to book, if they are coming, by emailing Anthony Matthew or ringing 01225 782082.

Our next Quiet Garden dates are **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> December and 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. If you would like to know more please contact Julia Wade, tel. 870137.

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part of the Travis Perkins Group

Many, many thanks from all the volunteers for your continued support for the Melksham Foodbank. I am incredibly proud of our village and the way you have responded to the increased need for help from Foodbanks.

The Foodbank is really in need of items for Christmas at the moment. We can help make someone's Christmas a little bit special by donating the following: Christmas puddings, custard, Christmas cake, mince pies, nice biscuits, chocolates, selection boxes and tinned ham. Please make sure the best before date is into January. Of course there is always a need for the usual items too – tinned meat, stews, etc., tinned fruit, rice pudding... No fresh food at all, please.

Please take to either the Somerset Arms pub between 12.00pm and 6.00pm on Wednesdays or put in the box in the church porch, any time. Please see the Support Group's Newsletter on the village website for any changes to these arrangements. (Hard copy can be delivered to those without the internet).

For the full list of what items to donate, please see the notice in the church porch or contact me on 01380 870137. Check also their Facebook page or website; [melkshamfoodbank.org.uk](http://melkshamfoodbank.org.uk)

## At The School Gates

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Emma Groom – Acting Head St George's

I wanted to share with you how well the students have settled into the new routines and following the new rules in these strange times. Despite all the changes and challenges, we have had a great first term back and the support from the new Principal, Candida Hutchinson has enabled the school to flourish.

We are in the process of developing our new wildlife area, so our outdoor learning space can be utilised and used more frequently and all pupils have painted a gratitude heart, which will go on display at the front of the school shortly.



## Your Wiltshire Councillor News

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*Jonathon Seed*

As the autumn progresses into winter local politics seems to match the burning autumnal colours of tree leaves. Covid has dominated national and local policies in recent months and there has been a good deal of political consensus on the response to the pandemic. However as response gives way to recovery this consensus is fracturing as quickly as the money is running out. This makes for harsh choices and even harsher political exchanges. This has been clearly seen both in the chamber of the House of Commons and the virtual chamber of Wiltshire Council. Sad though this is, it is also a sign of a return to normality.

One issue that is not going away but is being taken forward is the matter of the Melksham bypass. Wiltshire Council has successfully applied for Government funding for the project and this means that the Council Cabinet must research and consult on a route. This consultation must consider all options. These include the most likely route to the east from Beanacre around Forest Lane and cutting above Bowerhill and north of the canal to the current A350 joining the current route which has been previously prepared for dual carriage way, including a canal bridge.

The possible routes also include a very unlikely, very controversial and very much more expensive option to the east crossing the canal below Seend, crossing a flood plain and joining the A350 at the Semington roundabout. Government requires that all possible routes must be looked at, surveyed and costed. The consultation will be launched at the virtual Melksham Area Board on **4<sup>th</sup> November** and will last for around six weeks. Please do attend the virtual Area Board and listen to the options and then have your say in the consultation being run by Wiltshire Council. Whatever your views, make them heard before a decision is made.

## Semington Little Marsh and Littleton Support Group

Sometimes it's a little hard to keep up to date with everything that goes on on Facebook, so here's some highlights from the Support Group Facebook page over the past few weeks:

**Sarah Hall** – Sarah has set herself up as an Avon Rep and will be coming around the village once a month with the brochures, don't worry if you're only an occasional shopper Sarah will be happy to help you out with all your beauty needs.

**Lauren Beth at The Conifers** - we sell the eggs from our free range chickens and ducks as well as nets of logs and kindling. Local honey is also available and we hope to have more local produce on offer soon. We offer free delivery around the village daily. We have already met some of the locals when they have visited us to buy our goods, it would be lovely to meet more of you.

**Melksham Foodbank** – Julia updates us every week with the current needs of the Foodbank. Right now they are getting ready for Christmas.

**Andrew Paul MacRimmer** – Steve shared his son's 'Zoom Blues', lyrics and music which are all Andrew's own work.

**St George's Church** – You will find the links through to all the services for St George's posted on the Facebook page.

**Cassandra Reynolds** – Posted a timely reminder of a scam that comes round at this time of year It's from a company purporting to be 'Parcel Delivery Service' unable to deliver a parcel and involves calling a premium rate telephone number that could cost you hundreds of pounds.

## Down The Local

*John, the Landlord, John*

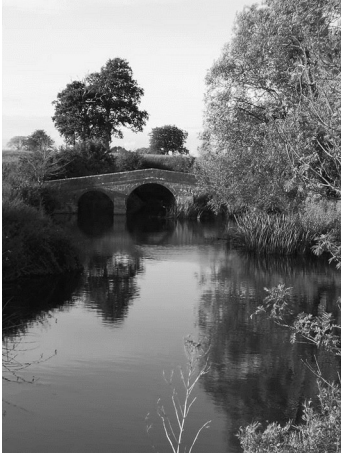
Just a short one this month. As you may have seen in the local rag apparently I'm frustrated ...!! Too right I am. We are doing our best to go onwards and upwards and are thankful we can still welcome you guys through the door.

Our outside space is proving popular and even with social distancing now the fire is lit the pub is getting its old ambience back. Don't be strangers. Come for a drink or a meal. Book ahead even for drinks and we will make sure you have a table ready for you. Don't forget your mask and remember you can't order at the bar. Relax at your table and we will bring the drinks to you. In a way it's perfect, table service and no one else in close proximity.

# Semington Camera Club

*Roy McDine – Founder*

Each month we will print some of the fabulous photos that the Camera Club members have taken. Search Semington Camera Club on Facebook to join the group.



**Credits clockwise from top left:**

Jacqui Hailey

Jill Bradbury

Richard Blake

Roy McDine



**Please check weekly newsletter for any changes to timings**

**St John the Baptist - Trowbridge**

*Sunday & Weekday Masses:*

For the duration of the Corona Virus Mass times are:

Saturdays 12noon & 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

Sundays 10.30am & 12noon

Monday/Weds/Friday 9.00am

Tuesday 6.00pm

**St Bernadette's - Westbury**

Mass times are:

Sunday 9.00am

Thursday 10.00am

For social distancing & safety protocols the one meter+ distancing will be followed, and face masks are required to be worn whilst in church.

**Live streaming:** All masses are streamed live on [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) or on YouTube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

**Parish Newsletter:** This is available on the Parish website. Should you wish to have an emailed copy please contact [f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

**Beatification:** On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Carlo Acutis (picture below) was beatified by the Church (the step below being made a saint) in Assisi, Italy. Carlo was born in London in 1991. He and his family returned to their native Milan soon after. At the age of seven he came home from school asking his non-religious parents if he could make his holy communion. This started his beautiful relationship with the Church and the Eucharist. Carlo saw the Eucharist as his 'pathway to heaven'. This pathway was made even more clear when Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia in 2004. He died two years later at the tender age of 15. Soon after many thousands of people were praying to heaven for his intercession in their lives. It is thought that Carlo will become the first Millennial Saint.

**THE NEW 300 CLUB 2020:** The monthly draws 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 on any of the above contact Francis Geraghty 01380 871083 [f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)**

## Thought From The Rectory

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Anne Rees

I have recently read a book by Caroline Scott entitled “The Photographer of the Lost”. It is a novel, but draws on real stories from ordinary people in the years following the end of World War 1. It tells of desperate people, mainly women, whose loved ones had been declared “missing presumed dead” in the war. In the book, the main character, Harry, is commissioned to take photographs in France of the grave or last known place visited by a loved one who didn’t return from the war. Harry and his sister-in-law are also on a personal quest to discover whether Francis, Harry’s brother, is really dead or has survived and living in France. It is a poignant story which brought home to me the reality for so many that everything wasn’t suddenly alright on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, as it wouldn’t have been on VE Day and VJ Day in 1945 either. I have seen an estimate that there are over 7 million people in total from both sides in World War 1 whose bodies were never found and identified.

100 years ago, in November 1920, the body of an unknown warrior brought back from the battlefields of France was buried in Westminster Abbey to represent all those whose bodies had never been found and properly buried. The place of burial, amongst royalty, symbolises its significance. This is part of the inscription on the black marble tombstone:

*“Beneath this stone rests the body of a British warrior unknown by name or rank brought from France to lie among the most illustrious of the land and buried here on Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920. Thus are commemorated the many multitudes who during the great war of 1914-1918 gave the most that man can give - life itself.”*

This year we probably won’t be able to mark Remembrance Sunday as we usually do with parades, crowded Church services and other gatherings, but we can still pause to remember those who sacrificed so much, many making the ultimate sacrifice, for our freedom. In May our communities marked the 75th Anniversary of VE Day during lockdown, demonstrating how much these important milestones do matter as opportunities to reflect on how much we owe to so many. We are hoping to have outdoor Remembrance services in our villages on **November 8<sup>th</sup>** if Government guidance allows.

On the back of The Photographer of the Lost it says, “If someone you loved went missing, would you ever stop searching for them?” I suspect we would all reply, “No, of course not!” In the Bible, Jesus tells the story of the Lost Sheep – a farmer searched and searched until he found the lost sheep, even though he had 99 others safely in the fold. God cares for all of us and wants us to find Him – and wants us to find and care for others too.

# **St George's Church Semington**



## **Services November 2020**

**1st November 10.00am**  
**Morning Worship**  
Eric Clifford and Stuart Raymond



St Michael's, Hilperton  
**3.00pm - In Loving Memory Service**



**8th November 10.50am**  
**Remembrance Day Service**  
Outside at the War Memorial  
Rev Joy Albone

**Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th Morning prayer**  
**9.15 am by Zoom**

**Contact Jack Woodward for link**

**Church open Wednesdays 2.00-3.00pm**

### Paws for Thought



Trust in the Lord forever,  
for the Lord, the Lord himself,  
is the Rock eternal.

It's in the Bible; Isaiah 26 Verse 4



Please visit our [Canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:canalsidecurate@gmail.com)

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

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