

JUNE 2021



SEMINGTON
PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:

Rev. John Rees

22 Warren Road

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Wednesday 16th June 10.30am Littlemarsh
Wednesday 30th June 10.30am Village Hall

Semington WI

Thursday 10th June 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 16th June 7.30pm Village Hall

Village Hall AGM

Thursday 24th June 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Council Website www.semington.org.uk - Full Parish Council minutes are available on this website as well as listings for village clubs and societies. If you need to get something listed please use the contact form on the website. Back issues of both the Parish Magazine and the Community Group Newsletter are available here.

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Coffee mornings have now resumed in the Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.00pm on a Thursday morning. As I write, I've just come back from the first one - it was wonderful to all be back together again, to see smiling faces and hear the general chatter! Things have to be a bit different for now, but it was great to be back!

Christians in Semington - We will be meeting via zoom in our own homes, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 2nd June at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link, or if there are things you'd like us to pray about.

Housegroup - This continues on alternate Tuesdays via zoom, at 7.45pm. 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.

Village Hall – Post Office Service

Should you wish to contact Seend Post Office manager, Mr McCormack, about the failure to open our Post Office, please feel free to use the contact form on the website **postandprovisions.com**

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Woo – hoo, after a very long fifteen months we have some diary dates in the magazine! Sadly my wardrobe is not getting back to normal and at time of writing my summer clothes are still very firmly tucked away at the back of the cupboards – we can but hope that June sees some warmer, sunnier days,

Next month is our summer double issue so if you have something you'd like to share the deadline for submissions is **Friday 19th June**. My email is **semparmag@icloud.com** I look forward to hearing from you.

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This Month I'm Trying To Keep Up

Gilly Airey

Keep up with what? I hear you cry – well I can tell you it's not which country is red, amber or green on the list or the entry and return requirements when travelling. It's not even how many people I'm allowed to socialise with at any given time in any given location. Nor indeed is it which of the 'Lego Friends' is the best according to Princess Bella, or if there has been a new release in the Harry Potter series of Lego sets (that's very important to Princess Ava) and don't even get me started on dinosaurs, I gave up keeping up with Gorgeous George ages ago.

No it's far scarier than that. You see just ten short weeks ago I joined a 'Knit Along' (KAL) organised by my most favourite of shops Black Sheep Wools. It looked so simple to begin with, each week a new pattern was issued and you needed to knit the prescribed number of squares in the week before the next weeks pattern was issued. I must confess I am not the quickest of knitters but I thought I can do this - four squares a week didn't seem such a big ask.

Oh how wrong I was on so many levels. Firstly, some weeks required 8 squares, now even with my most basic of maths that is more than one a day and I had paced myself on two thirds of a square a day. Secondly, some squares required me to knit in ways I had never knitted before, my record for getting one particular square right was to have to start it five times. Thirdly, I only seem able to knit at night whilst watching the TV, which is fine if I'm watching Gogglebox, Location, Location, Location or Our Yorkshire Farm, not so fine if it's Line of Duty or bingeing on seasons one to three of Fargo on Netflix.

It all started to unravel (pardon the pun) by week six, the curve balls of eight squares to be completed in a week and a cat who suddenly decided knitting looked really interesting and something he would like to 'help' with meant that week seven didn't start on time and weeks eight and nine have yet to even to be cast on. I had hoped my blanket might appear in Siobhan's 'Here's One I Made Earlier' exhibition but I'm not even sure July is doable.

And then of course there's the inevitable KAL Facebook page that went with the making of the blanket. I couldn't help but doom-scroll through all of the posts of people doing fabulously well in their KAL feeling ever so slightly inadequate, but hey you can't be great at everything and if all else fails I shall ask Siobhan to organise a special exhibition just for my blanket and we shall call it 'Here's one I made eventually'!

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Down The Local

John, The Landlord, John

Hello Semington!

Here we are again, and it only seems like a month ago – what a difference though. We have opened our doors inside and can't tell you how pleased we are to welcome customers back inside, especially being as at the time of going to press it's been chucking it down for the last few days.

There has been a great vibe in the pub with plenty of people enjoying a few pints and our extended menu now that we are open. We have been busy since opening and much as it hurts have even had to turn a few people away as we have been fully booked. So current advice is to book your table well ahead especially at weekends. Please feel free to come down on spec though as we really do appreciate the support from the village, it's been really great to see some familiar faces as well as new customers.

We are continuing to offer our takeaway service and look out for mid week madness offers. Don't forget Fishy Friday – best fish and chips in town at bargain prices.

It really does seem that we are, albeit slowly, coming out of this – it's certainly been a tough year but we are still here which is the main thing. Hopefully soon we can get some live music back and it almost feels like time for a bit of a quiz so dust of those brain cells in preparation.

We have had positive feedback on our carpet, a much welcome improvement and we also have some new staff for you guys to get to know.

We're also very much looking forward to the prospect of the village fete being back this year and hopefully that it will involve the pub. It will be a great boost for all.

Thank you to those who have supported the opening, we could not continue without your loyalty.

As always stay safe and don't be strangers.

Much love John and Team

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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Parish Council Elections — there was no election for Semington Parish Council on 6th May, as fewer than 9 people stood. The membership is: Vicky Bodman, Richard Bruges, Siobhan Chown, Mike Kasasian, Bill Scott, Peter Smith and Colin Wade. Two vacancies remain, although one parishioner has stepped forward for possible co-option at the June council meeting. If you would like to be considered for the council, please contact Roger Coleman, Clerk to the council, through the Semington Parish Council website: semington.org.uk

Land south of St. George's Road — you may have spotted diggers in the field recently. Archaeologists are carrying out work for Newland Homes prior to the commencement of building work which is expected to start sometime in July.

Village Litter Pick 15th May — 13 villagers attended to pick litter around Semington and Little Marsh. The streets, towpath and some rights of way were cleared and the weather was kind. Many thanks to all who gave up their Saturday morning to help.

Neighbourhood Plan — The Parish Council thinks that there are good arguments for a neighbourhood plan to be developed for Semington. Such a plan focuses not only on future housing needs, but also on needs in relation to green space, leisure, well-being, climate change, transport and communications. It would be a guide to the council and other groups about the direction of future investment, and would allow us to state preferences about such matters that would carry weight in planning decisions, and so provide a measure of protection against speculative development. Although the council would be an important part of the plan development, the process needs to be done through a whole village partnership, led by a working group of people from across the community. It is likely that there will be an open community meeting, soon but yet to be arranged, to explore neighbourhood planning for Semington.

Housing Needs Survey — the last survey was in 2014. Given the plans for 45 homes already approved within the village, the Parish Council thinks it is time to conduct another survey to get an up-to-date picture. More on this after the next Parish Council meeting on **16th June**.

Books in the Phone Kiosk — when swapping books, please don't park across the entrance to the long drive just north of the kiosk, because that's the only access to the home at the end.

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Mare Blobs, Water Boots, Soldier's Buttons and Cow Lilies

It's been a good year so far for these plants. More accurately, of course, for *this* plant, for these are some of the common names of the marsh marigold. Or should that be the kingcup? I grew up knowing it as the marsh marigold but have taken to calling these cheerful flowers kingcups these days. Perhaps that the difference between the Eden Valley and the wetter bits of Wiltshire.

But I could also call them all sorts of names: brave bassinet, publicans-and-sinners, drunkards, meadow-bright, bullflower, publican's cloak, water buttercup, marybuds, golds, and more.

The flower is a close relation of the buttercup and is found in ditches, marshes, wet woodlands and around ponds. It is an easily recognised native plant and its bright yellow flowers are popular with insects. It's been with us for ever and a day; so much so that it's better to say that we have been with it for as long as we have lived on these islands.

Inevitably, John Clare wrote about it brilliantly:

*I love to see the wild flowers come again
And mare blobs stain with gold the meadow drain
And water lillies whiten on the floods
Where reed clumps rustle like a wind shook wood ...*



Truly, the idea of a plant being able to stain a drain with gold is an image to stick tight in the mind.

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Village Hall Annual General Meeting

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**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held
on 24th June 2021 at 7.30 pm in Semington Village Hall**

Agenda

- 1) Minutes of the last AGM
- 2) Matters arising
- 3) Secretary's report
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- 5) Chairman's Report
- 6) Election of officers

*Church Reps, Social Club Rep, Parish Council Rep, Co-opted by Committee,
Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary, Treasurer and Booking Agent.*

Melksham Food Bank

Julia Wade – 01380 870137



It was super busy when I arrived at the Foodbank this morning (20th May) - clients were queueing outside the door. The demand for this crucial service is clearly still there. You are doing a wonderful thing by continuing to donate food and other goods to this cause, you can be sure of that.

As I write they are short of tinned meat, tinned pies, adult sweets (everyone deserves a treat), jam, squash, toilet rolls, tinned peas and tinned carrots, but any item with a really long best before date is welcome. No fresh food please.

As usual please leave your donations in St George's Church porch or at the Somerset Arms and they will be collected around Wednesday teatime. Thank you!

Parish Council Meeting

Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Tuesday 18th May 2021

Present: Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, M Kasasian, W Scott, C Wade (from Agenda item 3), R Bruges (from Agenda item 3), S Chown and the Clerk Roger Coleman. There were five members of the public present initially.

Apologies: Wiltshire Council Cllr. Seed.

Co-option of a New Member: The Council **resolved** to co-opt two new members – namely Messrs. Bruges and Wade. The Clerk explained to Cllrs Bruges and Wade that as they had both recently been Semington Parish Councillors immediately before the 6th May 2021 elections their record of any interests that had previously been advised to Wiltshire Council remained valid and that it was only necessary to register any new interests or changes to existing ones.

Planning and Development:

Greystoke Appeal. The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the latest agreed comments and the original comments from the Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate that related to the new appeal by Greystoke (24 houses on land north of St George’s Road) that is to be held following the recent decision of the High Court regarding the original appeal. He added that the appeal is to be held by way of written submissions. Neither the Clerk nor Cllr. Scott had been informed of the date(s) of the Appeal.

Ashford Homes (Church Street). In respect of the proposed Ashford Homes development at Church Street there was a consensus for a community meeting to be held when the relaxation of the existing COVID-19 restrictions permit larger public meetings to be held. The purpose of such a community meeting would be for the community to be briefed on proposals by Ashford Homes to develop the field at Church Lane for housing and for their views to be sought. Cllr. Bruges was less sanguine about the benefit of such a meeting arguing that the recent Ordinary PC Meeting held in April had already provided the community that opportunity. Cllr. Chown stated that more information regarding the proposed development was required and councillors expressed their views that more evidence of biodiversity issues needed to be seen as having been addressed in revisions to the proposed development plans and whether the views of the Parish Council had been reflected in any revised plans. It was noted that there had been an earlier planning application, dated 1988, for the development of that field. The Council **resolved** that the developer/owners of the field be requested to provide details of any earlier related planning applications, including details of the 1988 one.

Neighbourhood Plans: The Chairman reported that he and Cllrs. Scott and Bodman had met recently to discuss the merits or otherwise of developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Semington village and had decided, that on balance, that there was some merit in developing such a plan but that it had to be a Parish Council decision whether or not to proceed. Cllr. Wade questioned whether it would have any relevance bearing in mind the proposed changes to the planning system enshrined in a recent Government White Paper and the introduction of 'zoning' for housing developments.

The Chairman explained that the development of such a NP must have Parish Council and Community support and that he would be seeking a team of some eight to ten parishioners (including one or two parish councillors) to take the lead in producing a NP. He proposed holding a community meeting to gauge village interest and at the meeting it would be proposed that presentations are given by a village or villages that have produced such NPs and by Wiltshire Council to explain the development and approval process and their relevance to extant planning policy. Cllr. Bodman emphasised that it was important to exploit existing skill sets within the village to contribute towards the NP team. Cllr. Bruges commented that it may be helpful to seek professional advice and support when developing such a plan and that he was aware that there are grants available for the development of such plans. Cllr. Bodman stated that it is necessary to define the proposed NP Designated Area and for that to be agreed by Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Scott stated that he considered that a NP would be a good thing for the village and utilitarian. He proposed that the Parish Council agrees that the immediate way forward is to consult villagers and village organisations on the desirability of producing a NP for Semington. The Parish Council **resolved** to adopt this proposal.

The Council **resolved** to request Wiltshire Council to undertake a Housing Needs Survey. Cllr. Bodman stated that she would take the necessary action to initiate a Housing Needs Survey for Semington.

Finance. Total Balance as at Tuesday 18th May £42,021.33

Environment and Streetscene. Prior to the commencement of this Agenda item, appointments of councillors to the vacant positions for the Parish Council Themes was agreed. The full list is shown below:

- Planning & Development – Cllr. Scott/Cllr. Bodman.
- Environment & Streetscene – Cllr. Bruges/Cllr. Smith.
- Transport & Traffic – Cllr. Wade/Cllr. Bruges.
- Recreation & Wellbeing – Cllr. Chown/Cllr. Bodman.
- Community & Communication – Cllr. Bodman/Cllr. Chown.
- Village Hall Management Committee Representative(s) – Cllr. Wade.
The second representative will be appointed at the next PC meeting.

The following 'street' names were proposed by the Parish Council for the Newland Home development. *Union Lane* – The original name of the road leading to the Trowbridge and Melksham Union Workhouse (now redeveloped as St Georges Court). *Ragged Smock Lane* – The name of a Public House (Long since demolished) close to the proposed development. *Dragon Lane* – As in St George and the Dragon.

The Chairman confirmed that Wiltshire Council had granted s96 Licences for the installation of two 'planters' at the entrance of the village. The Council resolved that a maximum of £300 be allocated to the construction of the planters. Cllr. Smith added that villagers had already indicated their generosity by donating plants for the planters. He added that the existing nine 'planters' are also to be refreshed.

The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council had indicated that newer, more modern, signs indicating the village could be erected in place of the existing signs. He added that Wiltshire Council would pay for the supply and erection of the supporting posts but the Parish Council would have to procure the signs at a cost to the Parish Council. Also a further s96 Licence would be required. Cllrs. Smith and Bruges agreed to investigate possible signs further and to report back to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Scott stated that a small Working Party had undertaken the clearance of some local Rights of Way and that a conversation is to be had with some landowners where there were blocked paths and stiles on their land – East of the A350 road. Cllr. Scott added that the oak trees that had been planted opposite to the Crematorium were thriving and there was also an impressive display of wildflowers there also.

Transport and Traffic. Cllr. Wade reported that he and Cllr. Smith went to Littlemarsh to meet with the parishioners there to learn of their concerns – primarily related to anti-social behaviour – such as speeding and loud gatherings of youths and that there are some proposals that he will put to the CATG at its next meeting.

Recreation and Wellbeing. Cllr. Chown stated that Catherine McGarvey had offered to be the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. She also commented that the Village Fete is to be held at the end of July. Cllr. Bruges commented that it is intended that the Fete involves the whole village and has a number of locations, such as the Village Hall, the Somerset Arms, the Church and Brook House. Cllr. Bodman stated that the Wessex Close Play Area Group were currently putting together a bid to present to Semington Parish Council for new and improved play equipment.

Community and Communication. Cllr. Bodman stated that the new name for the disparate community groups in the village was **Semington Community Group**.

Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 16th June 2021



**Semington
Village Fete
Summer 2021**



Save The Date!

We have had our second meeting, outdoors of course, observing the rule of six, dressed in our coats and hats talking about summer!!

With lockdown hopefully easing, we hope to be able to bring you something a bit different this year...but lots of our old favourites will be there... music, bbq, teas, games, plants, cakes, toys, books, granny's attic and much more!! To be held throughout the afternoon and evening, updates to follow on the village facebook page.

To carry on the great work that our village has embraced over the last year, our chosen charity for this year's fete will be the Melksham Foodbank. An organisation that has provided not just food and provisions but a friendly face and a listening ear throughout this incredibly tough time. As a village we have supported the Foodbank week in, week out, through rain and winds, bootfuls of tins, toilet roll and toiletries have been welcomed by the volunteers to help out those less fortunate.

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Here's One I Made Earlier.....

Siobhan Chown

We're keeping everything crossed that we can hold our long-awaited Lockdown Exhibition at the end of July, hopefully tied in with this years Village Fete on Saturday 31st July.

It will be a lovely opportunity for everyone to share their lockdown creations. Crafts, sewing, knitting, painting, photography, writing, woodwork.....the list is endless. Your pieces can be displayed anonymously if you would prefer to go for that Banksy vibe or we can credit your work so that you can bask in the glory of village admiration!

If you would like to join us, then please can you let me know what, and how many things you would like to display, so that I can start planning how best to arrange everything. Ideally send me a picture of what you have.

You can contact me via email at **s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk** by phone **870197** or pop me a message via Facebook.

Calling Semington Crafters

Siobhan Chown

As part of the Village Fete this year, I would love to run a stall selling small handmade gifts, cards and knick-knacks with all proceeds going to the chosen charities.

I am sure, like me, there are many crafters in the village who have built up quite a stash over the various lockdowns and I thought it would be an ideal chance to raise some funds and make space for some more crafting!!!

If you have anything that you would like to donate, then please contact me via email at **s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk** by phone **870197** or pop me a message via Facebook.

Thank you so much Semington Craft Collective!

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Michelle Donelan – MP for Chippenham

Sport is such an important part of our lives and having heard from constituents over the last year just how important different types of sport are to them. I made this one of my priorities when it came to reopening. From golf to archery to football, sport gives everyone from children in school to adults at work to the retired an opportunity to meet new people, exercise and enjoy the beautiful spaces we have in Wiltshire.

It has been fantastic to see the Chippenham Sunday League restart with its usual excitement and rivalry and although Semington have faced tough competition, I know players will have thoroughly enjoyed its return and the chance to get back out on the pitch with teammates once again. Over the last year I have consistently written to the Minister for Sport, explaining just how important team sport is in Semington and Wiltshire more widely. With the incredible outdoor spaces we have, I just hope the weather lives up to expectations so we can have some brilliant tennis, cricket and golf seasons.

As I write this, the next step of the roadmap out of lockdown, on 17th May, means almost all restrictions are now lifted for outdoors and the rule of six will apply indoors, allowing pubs and restaurants to reopen inside too. The progress we have made so far has been inspirational and I want to take a moment to thank all Semington residents for being part of the effort to overcome this pandemic. We have some of the highest vaccine uptake rates in the South West and this is in no small part to the commitment of residents to fighting this virus and looking ahead to the weeks and months to come as normality becomes more and more of a reality as more age groups become eligible for the vaccine.

If you would like to speak to me about any issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at **michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk** or by calling **01249 704465**. You can also write or call to arrange a COVID-secure surgery appointment with me to discuss anything over the phone.

Remembering Guy Tadman

As many of you will have heard Jane and Ralph Cottrell's son Guy Tadman lost his brave fight against acute myeloid leukaemia at the end of April. At his funeral so many villagers lined the roadside alongside his Fire Service colleagues, sadly under the current restrictions we could not support the family and friends through the service. Greg, his brother, delivered the eulogy, which, with kind permission we now share an abridged version with you.

On behalf of Angela, Daniel and Joshua and our entire family, we wanted to offer our thanks to you for being here today. To those that lined the streets in Trowbridge and Semington, to the fire fighter community, as well as to those watching at home, thank you all for joining us and paying your respects. A special thanks to Damien Bence and the Trowbridge Fire Service who have provided an incredible send off to Guy.

The outpouring of love since the passing of my brother Guy is befitting as the man that he was. We have received messages far and wide and it has been wonderfully comforting to read the many cards and online tributes paid to him. They have all contained messages of love and we are all united in grief at this passing.

Today we join to celebrate the life of an extraordinary man. He embodied so much of what being great was all about. Even in his own words, he was a bit of a legend – he told us that often enough. But wasn't he just.....

Through his 17 month battle he never lost his optimism, his zest for life, or his commitment to his family and friends right to the end. He reflected often that he had the chance so many people do not necessarily get in death – time. And how wisely he spent that time, offering us kind and thoughtful reflection, words that help console us, words that meant more for us, than for him. That was the type of person he was, selfless to the end.

Since his passing, my mind has been racing about my relationship with this amazing man, which spans 42 years. He was a wonderful brother in every way possible. The love that he showed not only for his own family, but my own, was always something amazing about Guy. The affection and fun he brought was only matched by the love he showed every member of our family – he valued family above all else and ingrained it in us all. He raised two beautiful boys with Ange, and they are a testament to them both. They are fabulous boys and undoubtedly his greatest legacy.

He had a tremendous ability to speak concisely and clearly in analysing situations and people. He was as bright as a button, never evidenced more than whilst watching The Chase! He was forever tinkering around the house and coming up with ingenious devices to fix problems, reconditioning heirlooms and always ready to help people in

need. His OCD tendencies were a thing of legend, vacuuming his way out of the house striving for perfect symmetry and cleanliness – it drove us all mad, none more than Ange. I remember how his bedroom growing up was always immaculate, he would know if I was in there as he could tell from the prints on the carpet. His need for order served him very well in his life.

He was a wonderful sportsman enjoying many rounds of golf with Dad and his friends, a beautiful swing with that ‘hello sailor’ half leg of his. He was seldom happier than being on the course. Cricket dominated our life growing up - my love for the game was because of my brother and my desire to beat him! He coached me relentlessly trying to help me improve technique and concentration. He would bowl me out quickly and then proceed to bat for an hour whilst I tried to dismiss him. I remember playing for BoA as a young kid terrified of playing with adults. He would quickly tell me when I played a poor shot to ensure I was learning from my mistakes he never doubted me or anyone. That was the thing about Guy he really believed in us all – even when we doubted ourselves.

He was so principled and thoughtful with people. Never one to see anyone ‘done down’, there are countless stories of the good he did for people whether they be going through a tough patch or had been treated poorly. He helped improve people’s lives.

But didn’t he make all of our lives just a little better? He had that effect.

He certainly made my life better and I am sure he did yours too.

So as we move forward, we do so in the spirit he wanted.

Focus on the positive, the time spent, not the time lost.

To Dan, Josh and Ange, the path ahead will be tough, some days it will seem harder than others – memories are everywhere but it is important to embrace them when they arise. Time will help as will the love of your family and friends. We are all here for you. We take comfort as a family from the many wonderful memories he blessed us with.

Rest assured he will be up there now, drinking a Guinness and talking our grandparents and Uncle Ian through the last few years – dressed in Adidas tracksuit bottoms and a torn t-shirt.

Bless you brother – forever my legend.

Semington WI

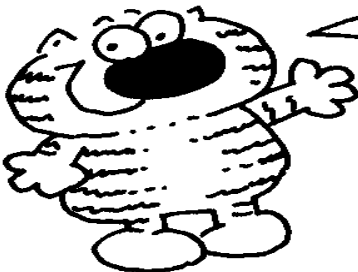
Yes!! We finally made it back into the Village Hall for our May meeting. Things were different We didn't have a speaker, we didn't really need one! We weren't able to sit in a big group. The notices on the table were telling us to maintain social distancing and we wore our masks if weren't sitting down.

Yes, things were different but it didn't make any difference. We chatted, laughed and sympathised as we discussed the good and the bad of the lockdown. The time passed unbelievably quickly and it was lovely to see everyone face to face.

Our next meeting will be on the **10th June 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. We will still have to practice social distancing etc. and for that reason we are going to have a games night and want everyone to bring baby photos and photos of their first cars.

Take care everyone.

Paws for Thought



Worry weighs a person down;
an encouraging word cheers
a person up

It's in the Bible; Proverbs 12, verse 25

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Summer Raffle

Adam Baker – Marketing and Communications Manager

One lucky person will be celebrating this summer by claiming the top prize of £3,000 in Wiltshire Air Ambulance's latest raffle. Entry is now open for the charity's 2021 Summer Raffle, which will help support the essential lifesaving service in Wiltshire, Bath and surrounding areas. As well as the bumper jackpot of £3,000, players also have the chance of winning other runners-up prizes of £500, £100 and 5 x £25.

Plus, supporters who enter before **11th June 2021** will automatically be entered into our special early bird draw to win a £100 Marks & Spencer voucher. Tickets are just £1 each and can be purchased online by visiting:

www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/raffle

The raffle will be drawn on **11th August 2021** so to be in with a chance of winning entries need to be received by **6th August 2021**. Wiltshire Air Ambulance is working in partnership with Chippenham-based Woods Valldata once more to deliver the raffle.

As well as being available to play online, raffle packs will also be distributed across the county and will soon be arriving on doorsteps. In the letter accompanying the raffle pack, Wiltshire Air Ambulance critical care paramedic Sophie Holt writes: "I've been working at the charity for three years and it's fair to say the last 12 months or so have certainly been the most challenging for the aircrew.

"The statistics show the need for our service has never been greater, as we were called to a record 1,238 incidents during 2020. However, the pandemic has had a major impact on our fundraising. Please consider taking part in our Summer Raffle and help continue to fund our vital work." Wiltshire Air Ambulance needs to raise £3.75 million each year to continue saving lives. The charity receives no regular direct funding from the Government and or National Lottery grants.

Last year Wiltshire Air Ambulance saw their fundraising affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, with a drop of around £500,000 due to cancelled events in their 30th birthday year.

Players must be 16 years of age or over.

Catholic News

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

Weekly Timings: Please check newsletter for changes

St John the Baptist – Trowbridge Sunday & Weekday Masses:

For the duration of the Corona Virus Mass times are:

Saturdays 12.00pm and 6.00pm (Vigil Mass), Sundays 10.30am & 12.00pm

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am, Tuesday 6pm

St Bernadette's – Westbury Mass times are:

Sunday 9.00am and Thursday 10.00am

Masses will be live streamed each day and are recorded for later viewing. Social distancing and safety protocols will be followed, and face masks are required to be worn whilst in church.

Live Streaming Details: All masses are streamed live on www.churchservices.tv or on YouTube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

Parish Newsletter: This is available weekly on the Parish website:

www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk Should you wish to have an emailed copy please contact Francis Geraghty – details as below.

The Bible in a Year with Fr Mike Schmitz: Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. <https://ascensionpress/pages/biy-registration>

THE NEW 300 CLUB 2021: 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 tel 01380 871083 and email fgeraghty303@btinternet.com**

Thoughts From The Rectory

Anne Rees - Lay Pastoral Assistant in the Canalside Churches

I am writing this on the day I had my second Covid-19 vaccination. What a privilege and a relief to be fully vaccinated against the most deadly virus in living memory. A year ago, as we were beginning to emerge from the first lockdown, scientists talked in terms of years before an effective vaccine could be produced and delivered. We could never have imagined the speed in which not one but several vaccines would be produced, and the difference the vaccination programme has made to the people of this country.

Professor Andrew Pollard, one of the leading scientists behind the Oxford Vaccine, was interviewed on Songs of Praise in March about the remarkable global collaborations that made the vaccine possible and the parallels with the hope of the Christian faith. He spoke of the team of 2000 people from different backgrounds involved in the vaccine programme, enormously different in ethnicity and religions but with a common goal - a vision of developing a vaccine that could be deployed around the world not for profit. Professor Pollard is a Christian and compared the hope of the Christian message, the hope Jesus brings to the world, with the efforts around vaccine development. We prayed in our churches last year for an effective vaccine to be developed quickly – and believe our prayers were answered, giving the possibility of real hope to the world. We continue to pray that the vision of deploying the vaccine around the world so that everyone can benefit will soon be realised.

I am encouraged by Professor Pollard's description of his team. What a better place the world would be if people with different backgrounds, ethnicities and religions could always work together for the good of others rather than seeking to outdo each other or, even worse, using violence or terrorism against others in attempts to achieve their own ends. The Christian hope that all will live in peace and harmony was described by Isaiah 700 years before the birth of Jesus: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

I believe this is a hope we could all do well to strive for.

With my prayers and best wishes.



CHURCH SERVICES



In addition to the 'LIVE' services detailed below ONLINE services will also be available each weekend. See our WEBSITE for full details

CANALSIDEBENEFICE.ORG.UK

Booking is required for all 'LIVE' services via Michael Gamble
canalsideoffice@gmail.com / 07795400262

SUNDAY
13th
JUNE

MORNING WORSHIP
9.30am St George's, Semington

SUNDAY
20th
JUNE

HOLY COMMUNION
9.30am St George's, Semington

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