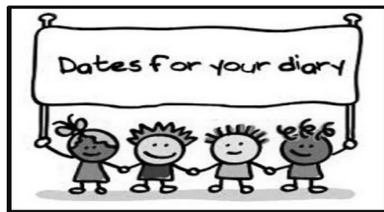


NOVEMBER 2021



SEMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:
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Little Marsh

17th November 10.30am to 10.50am

Village Hall

Steeple Ashton Films

Saturday 13th November 7.30pm

Steeple Ashton Village Hall

See page 16 for details

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 23rd November 7.30pm

Village Hall

Crafternoon

Wednesday 24th November 2.00pm to 4.00pm

The Old Kennels

Somerset Arms

Quiz Night Sunday 7th November 7.00pm

Music Night Saturday 27th November

Christmas Tree Switch On

Sunday 28th November 6.00pm

High Street

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 3rd November** at 8.00pm. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

Housegroup every other Tuesday, via zoom, at 8.00pm. If you'd like to discuss how the Bible helps us to live as God wants us to, phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details.

Book Club

Just a quick note to say that Angela has had a wee accident and is recovering at her daughter's – Pam Wildsmith is currently the contact for the book club.

Parish Council Website

Just a reminder that the Parish Council website **www.semington.org.uk** is a great resource for all things villagey. The website also has the full council minutes for all of the Parish Council meetings.

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

So here we are in the penultimate month of the year, where did 2021 go or is it because I am getting older? Next month's edition we'll see us through December and January so if you have any diary dates for January please do let me have them. The deadline for contributions is **Sunday 21st November** but if inspiration strikes earlier feel free to send over your contribution at any time, it really is most welcome. My email is **semparmag@icloud.com**

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This Month I'm Hibernating

Gilly Airey

When it comes to the seasons of the year for me there is a clear winner and autumn wins hands down every time. Autumn could have its very own starring role in Goldilocks..... the days are neither too long or too short, too warm or too cold nor too wet or too dry. Autumn is the best support act you could ever get before winter comes along with its headliners of Christmas and New Year.

I proper love autumn not least because you're not expected to eat salad anymore..... Sunday roasts are back on the menu and comfort food is what it's all about and let's face it there's nothing more comforting than double carbs. All those hearty pies, soups and casseroles make my heart sing and as for Gorgeous Hubby's secret recipe Chilli Con Carne..... well that is a secret!

As the nights draw in I need no excuse to light the stove as let's face it there is nothing quite as sad looking as a wood burning stove not burning any wood. Over the years I have made every member of our family a blanket – and as babies have grown up bigger blankets are requested and duly provided. Autumn is the time when the blankets come out and you'll find me hunkered down snuggled under a blanket on the sofa while watching 'Strictly' or 'I'm a Celebrity' surely the aces up autumn's sleeve. With cat and chocolate for company – oh sure Gorgeous Hubby is there too but he wears shorts all year round so blankets are lost on him!

There really is something comforting about autumn as it encourages you to hunker down and enjoy being in your home. The jigsaws have been lined up ready to be tackled, the knitting is back out after its summer break and I've a hundred and one recipes I'm going to try out on Gorgeous Hubby – I shall of course report back.

But best of all this year? I have a hobby hut in the garden for me to disappear to the only challenge being which projects to start and making sure I finish them. I've taken up dressmaking again and high on the list of priorities is making myself a Christmas top.

So if you're looking for me over the next few weeks I'll be beginning my hibernation, most likely I'll be the one gently snoring under a blanket in front of the fire, flapjack and hot chocolate in hand.

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Down The Local

John, The Landlord

Here we are again as another month whizzes by. So what's new down the pub? By the time you are reading this we will have our new menu offering live and kicking so why not book yourself a table and come and try it out. As we know Christmas is rapidly approaching and our Christmas menu is also available – get a table booked with friends, family or work colleagues.

You'll be pleased to hear that my cough is now pretty much gone so it must be quiz time - make a note in your diaries for **Sunday 7th November 7.00pm**. We want to keep it spaced out so please book your table of 6 people maximum soon.

The last Saturday in the month is music night **Saturday 27th November** so keep an eye out for what's on. Don't forget our "Pensioners" special menu on Wednesdays and as always Fridays are fishy for eat in or take away. As the evenings draw in please don't forget the local – it's been a tough summer and customers are slowly coming back but we need the support more than ever.

As always stay safe and see you real soon!

Semington Social Club

Gerald Taylor

After 18 months of shut down the Social Club is now open again!

The opening times are posted on the side door of the Village Hall. New members are always welcome.

We are still looking for Bar Staff, anyone interested please contact Gerald Taylor on 01380 870530.

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Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Berks and Wilts Canal – there was a presentation to the Parish Council on Wednesday 13th October by representatives of the Canal Trust. They talked about their revised masterplan for the development of a stretch of canal from Semington (just west of the the road bridge) to the River Avon (just west of Melksham). This is known as the Melksham Link.

At present, the plan envisages that the canal will be funded through the building of some 800 houses in and around Berryfield. It does not envisage any building south of the old railway line or west of the new canal itself. As such, a green buffer will be maintained north of the Kennet and Avon canal up to the old railway embankment. There will be an open day run by the Canal Trust on **18th November** (10.00am to 9.00pm) in **Berryfield Village Hall** where proposals will be displayed. All are welcome.

Neighbourhood Planning – has begun. It is likely that there will be village wide consultation events in the early part of the new year. The aim of these will be to gather in views from all parts of the village and from all age groups on anything and everything that matters to you about Semington; what we want to preserve and improve, what we want to see changed, what we want to add, and what we're prepared to do as a community to realise such ambitions. This consultation will shape the content of our neighbourhood plan and the priorities within in it.

I really hope that, when we are all restored after our first (hopefully!) proper Christmas and New Year since 2019, we can collectively strengthen our village by planning to meet the challenges ahead.

Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree!

Colin Wade

The village Christmas tree will be raised on **Saturday 20th November**. The Parish Council needs some willing volunteers to help with this between 10:00am and 12.00pm. Please help if you can and meet on the High Street.

The Christmas Tree Lighting will be on the evening of **Sunday 28th November** at 6:00pm. There should be carol singing followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the village hall. We hope to see you there.

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Nature Notes

Thomas Hood was an early 19th century poet and writer, best known during his lifetime for *The Song of the Shirt*, which described the harsh conditions faced by the working poor – in this case a seamstress. These are the first few verses from his poem *Autumn*. It takes a gloomy view of the season seeing it caught between the coming harshness of winter and the lost pleasures of the summer months. There is no sense of Keat's "mellow fruitfulness" here, though there is plenty of mist.

I SAW old Autumn in the misty morn
Stand shadowless like Silence, listening
To silence, for no lonely bird would sing
Into his hollow ear from woods forlorn,
Nor lowly hedge nor solitary thorn;—
Shaking his languid locks all dewy bright
With tangled gossamer that fell by night,
Pearling his coronet of golden corn.

Where are the songs of Summer?—With the sun,
Oping the dusky eyelids of the south,
Till shade and silence waken up as one,
And Morning sings with a warm odorous mouth.
Where are the merry birds?—Away, away,
On panting wings through the inclement skies,
Lest owls should prey
Undazzled at noonday,
And tear with horny beak their lustrous eyes.

Where are the blooms of Summer?—In the west,
Blushing their last to the last sunny hours,
When the mild Eve by sudden Night is prest
Like tearful Proserpine, snatch'd from her flow'rs
To a most gloomy breast.

Where is the pride of Summer,—the green prime,—
The many, many leaves all twinkling?—Three
On the moss'd elm; three on the naked lime
Trembling,—and one upon the old oak-tree!
Where is the Dryad's immortality?—
Gone into mournful cypress and dark yew,
Or wearing the long gloomy Winter through
In the smooth holly's green eternity.

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Parish Council Meeting

Abridged Draft Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 13th October 2021

Present: Councillors P Smith (Chairman), V Bodman, R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, M Kasasian, S Rimmer, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman. There were two members of the public present initially.

Wiltshire Council Report: In the absence of Cllr. Seed, no report was given. Councillors commented that when absent at a meeting he might wish to provide a brief written report. A similar comment was made in relation to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Chairman added that he will write to PCSO Gould to check why reports are no longer provided regarding current anti-social or criminal activities in Semington – as had been the practice up until recently.

Planning and Development: New applications submitted:

PL/2021/09152 Church Farm, Church Street – repair and refurbish barn to form two garages within it. The Council has no comment.

PL/2021/09400 4 Manor Close – proposed extension to enlarge existing kitchen and provide addition bedroom at first floor level. The Council has no comment.

The Chairman stated that he had attended a Wiltshire Local Plan meeting on 1st October at Trowbridge and was advised of a new possible development of land to the east of Trowbridge by Lightwood Strategic in association with the existing landowner. He stated that it was important for Semington Parish Council to continue to be represented at these meetings because the effect of such a large development – some 2000+ houses – would have a profound effect on Semington and he added that together with existing proposals contained in the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan there are now two possible developments being considered for that area.

In respect of the Housing Market Area (HMA) the Chairman stated that Great Hinton Parish Council had written to him supporting the campaign to move Semington and other local villages, including Great Hinton, back into the Chippenham HMA. He added that he had responded to the latest letter from Wiltshire Council (Cllr. Botterill) but it was obvious that Wiltshire Council did not wish to be drawn further into the argument, instead relying on the comments received during the forthcoming Wiltshire Local Plan consultation period before commenting further.

The Council noted that the proposed names to be considered by Wiltshire Council/Newland Homes for the development at St Georges Road were Union Lane, Dragon Lane, Ragged Smock Lane and Kendall Lane. The Council **resolved** to approve this choice and asked the Clerk to advise Wiltshire Council accordingly.

Neighbourhood Plan:

The Chairman stated that the first meeting of the Steering Group (SG) was held on 29th September 2021 at which a number of agreements were reached, such as Terms of Reference and some roles for members of the SG and some key decisions were taken e.g. to appoint a consultant to assist in the drafting of the plan, to apply for grant aid and to establish a Semington Village Consultation Working Group.

The minutes of this meeting can be viewed on Semington.org.uk The next SG Meeting is to be held on **9th November 2021** and a report on that meeting will be given at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on **23rd November 2021**. The NP has its own email address np@semington.org.uk

Finance. Final balance as at 13th October 2021 £44,335.14

Environment and Streetscene:

Rights of Way: Cllr. Bruges stated that he understood that Wiltshire Council was undertaking two surveys for the cycleway between Semington and Hilperton – one along the A361 road, the other along the HILP22/10 Byway and he questioned the necessity for both surveys to be undertaken when he understood that one of the routes was the favoured one. Cllr. Scott stated that he would make enquiries of Wiltshire Council. The Council **resolved** that Cllr. Chown is to purchase two ‘Villagers at Work’ safety signs at a cost of £38 each to protect councillors and parishioners when undertaking community work where traffic may be a hazard.

The Chairman reported that a parishioner has offered a batch of crocus bulbs to the Parish Council for planting out in the village. The Council **resolved** to accept this offer, to arrange a ‘planting party’ and to consider a contribution to the charity supplying the bulbs.

Transport and Traffic:

There was a lengthy discussion on the reported abuses of the ‘No Entry’ Bus Gate at the northern end of the village on the (old) A350 road and possible means of countering it, although it was thought that the present abuses had been exacerbated by the roadworks on the Semington Bypass road and that following the conclusion of these works the situation might ameliorate. Notwithstanding this, the Parish Council decided to investigate reintroducing the ‘Gate Watch’ scheme that had proved effective previously and to observe firsthand the current abuses. The Parish Council **resolved** to request that an article be placed on the Facebook website and in the Village Newsletter explaining the background to the restrictions on the bus gate, noting that it is a criminal offence for a motorist to ignore this sign and if a motorist does ignore it a substantial fine and possible points on his/her driving licence could be the result.

Recreation and Wellbeing:

Cllr. Wade reported that he is currently working through the list of contacts who have expressed an interest previously in acquiring an allotment plot. He added that he would confirm that the developers are to provide water to the allotment site. Cllr. Scott enquired whether there had been any progress in improving the Wessex Close Play Area. The Chairman reported that some very useful maintenance and improvement work had been undertaken, though there was still work to be done including groundworks in the goal area and new basketball kit. Cllr. Chown reported that a planned meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with a person interested in becoming the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator had been postponed.

Community and Communication.

Cllr. Bruges stated that St Georges Church is undertaking a major project in that the Nave is to be restyled to permit, and to encourage, greater use of the church as a community facility and to be better integrated with the village. The Parish Council **resolved** to fully support the aims of this project.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 23rd November

Bus Gate

Vicky Bodman – Parish Councillor

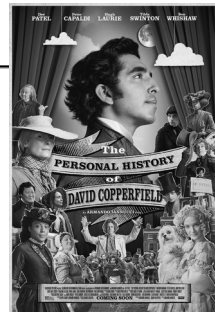


The subject of the bus gate at Outmarsh was discussed in October's Parish Council meeting and with the overnight roadworks on the A350 in October the village saw an increased abuse of the bus gate route by villagers and non-villagers alike. Many of you will recall the debate surrounding permits for use some 6 or 7 years ago, but this was not pursued. Use of the bus route is only permitted for those who are keyholders to the gate, otherwise you will be committing a motoring offence liable for a fine and points on your licence.

Steeple Ashton Films

Saturday 13th November 7.30pm – prompt start,
Village Hall, Steeple Ashton.
Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments.

Tickets £6.00 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop.



A fresh take on Charles Dickens' classic novel, *The Personal History of David Copperfield* is described as a comedy drama. The plot is based loosely on Dickens' life, and, although the title character differs from his creator in many ways, his early experiences of working in a factory and his schooling led him from parliamentary reporting into a successful novelist.

Those of you who came to our showing of *The Second Best Marigold Hotel* will recognise that the lead character played by Dev Patel has transformed into the role of the good-hearted David Copperfield. Following his mother's remarriage, David is adopted into his estranged Aunt's family. In the years that follow, he falls in love and goes on various adventures which eventually end up inspiring his writing career! With an impressive supporting cast including Hugh Laurie, Peter Capaldi, Ben Wishaw and Tilda Swinton this is a must watch!

For reservations, please ring Alison Wilson on 01380 871345 or for up to date news about Steeple Ashton Films, join our mailing list e-mail safilms268@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

Melksham Foodbank – Christmas Shopping List

Julia Wade – 01380 870137



Christmas is coming! Sorry, folks, I'm pretty allergic to early Christmas messages, but this has to be done! The Melksham Foodbank really needs us all to start donating specific things for Christmas. They need Advent Calendars no later than mid November please. Their general 'Christmas bags' will start going out from the beginning of December. They need; Christmas cake, Christmas puddings, tinned custard, tinned ham, Pringles, chocolates for adults, selection boxes and tins of biscuits. More general items they are currently short of are: pasta, jam, squash, biscuits, tinned peas, carrots, hot dogs and meatballs.

I normally collect from the church porch and the Somerset Arms at around 6.00pm every Wednesday. Please try and leave your items not long before then, if possible. Items left on a Thursday will sit there all week and cardboard cereal boxes etc., can get soggy if the air is damp! Also, if someone happens to be passing they could take items from the porch and the longer items sit there, the more vulnerable they are. Whilst I am not unduly worried about that, I appreciate you may feel differently, and the very last thing I would wish to do is discourage you from donating.

As always, a massive thank you to all of you who continue to support the absolutely essential work of the Foodbank, by donating items regularly. Everything you do is really appreciated.

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s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk.

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NCH Action for Children

Eric Clifford

Thank you to our generous supporters of Action for Children. This year £815 has been forwarded - £255 cream tea afternoon, £560 Home Collection boxes. The cream tea afternoon at friends on Paxcroft Mead was promoted as a FREE event so it is particularly pleasing that donations amounted to £255 on the afternoon.

The continuing generosity of so many supporters in Semington, especially through these pandemic times, with the "pennies" being dropped into the lanterns is also so wonderful. Thank you again to our growing band of lantern holders who have supported prayerfully and financially NCH Action for Children over many years. Should you wish to support UK's most vulnerable children in this way please do get in touch with Eric / Helen Clifford, 9 Somerset Way, 870922.

Crafternoon

Siobhan Chown

Crafternoon has a new home: The Old Kennels. Come along and join us, regardless of how crafty you are. All crafts, all levels and all ages welcome. Bring your current project along for a couple of hours of crafty chat with like-minded people.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Christmas Cards and Calendars

Festive scenes across Devizes, Salisbury and Bath feature on Wiltshire Air Ambulance's Christmas cards this year. Our helicopter is seen landing outside a snowy Salisbury Cathedral and at Bath's Royal Crescent in wintry conditions in two brand-new designs for 2021. There's also the option of our airbase, featuring both the helicopter and RRV, plus the Bell 429 over Devizes Crammer.

In total there are seven different designs available, all priced at £4 for a pack of ten cards and envelopes.

Christmas Cards can also be purchased from the WAA Charity Shop in Devizes, at 2 Maryport Street. Wiltshire Air Ambulance has also launched its own 2022 Calendar, featuring incredible images taken by Sony award-winning photographer Terry Donnelly and also pictures from the charity's own pilots and paramedics. Costing just £8.00, the A3 calendar would be the perfect Christmas gift and helps generate vital funds for the charity's lifesaving service at the same time.

To purchase Christmas cards and calendars, along with other merchandise, visit **www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/shop**

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Michelle Donelan - MP for Chippenham Ward

I was delighted to have recently completed my 87 mile walk to raise money for Holt Pre-School. I particularly enjoyed walking alongside the picturesque Semington locks on the Kennet & Avon Canal although it was getting dark by that point. Whilst my legs regretted completing this walk within just 3 days with no training it was an absolute pleasure to enjoy the wonderful waterways we have in our constituency and I encourage as many people as possible to get out and take full advantage of our canals.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage as many Semington residents as possible who are eligible to get the flu vaccination this winter. The Government is rolling out the biggest flu programme in history with 35 million people now eligible for a free seasonal flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is given free of charge on the NHS to specific groups of children and adults, your eligibility can be checked online at NHS.uk or with your doctor. You can get the flu vaccine at your local GP service or at a pharmacy offering the service. The NHS have developed a handy tool on their website where you can find pharmacies offering the service.

Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, I am pleased that Wiltshire Police will now be proactively offering to carry out a verification check to anyone they engage with. Wiltshire Police will be putting their personal issued radio on loudspeaker and asking a member of control room to confirm who they say that they are on duty. I am pleased that Wiltshire Police are taking important initial steps in order to create greater confidence in the safety of women and girls.

In November, I will be hosting my third over 60s Information and Advice Fair at Springfield Community Campus in Corsham. I have previously hosted this event in Chippenham and Melksham, and I am delighted to be bringing together the local community and raising awareness of the fantastic work local and national organisations do to combat loneliness. I have spoken to many organisations about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, some have bounced back, others have struggled with membership and attendance, so I hope this event will be positive for them. I also want to assist with those who might have experienced loneliness during the lockdowns and give people the confidence to return to social functions and get involved. Organisations attending this event include: Age UK, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Corsham Walking Festival and many more including local groups, societies and charities. This also includes taster performances from the Golden-Oldies!

If you would like to speak to me about any issue or if you would like to suggest an event you wish to see me host, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at **michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk** or by calling 01249 704465. I am also holding regular in person surgeries for constituents so you can write or call to arrange an appointment.

The Trowbridge Women's Shed, Based at Holy Trinity Church

Judy Wright

This is a new community venture for St Thomas' Church Family, to reach out to all women in our town and is probably best summed up in the positive and upbeat message on the front page of our brand-new Trowbridge Women's Shed website **www.trowbridgewomenshed.com** which provides information about all of the activities, crafts and events that have started or are being planned for 2022.

There's always something fun and exciting happening at Trowbridge Women's Shed. As well as joining in with a range of activities and enriching programs, it's a great opportunity to come and meet old and new friends over a cuppa. We like to keep our members informed about what's happening at our Centre and what's going on in the community. We are welcoming and inclusive and we aim to create a connected community where women are empowered to pursue their interests.

We launched on Wednesday 29th September with a Taster Morning. The Shed is open Wednesday mornings 10.00am to 12:30pm at Holy Trinity, Stallard Street, Trowbridge. Women from the surrounding villages are of course welcome as well as Trowbridge. There is a fee of £2.50 per session including unlimited refreshments, plus there may be an additional cost for any specialised materials. No obligation to come every week. A one-off membership fee of £10.00 buys access to the members part of the website, negotiated discounts at retailers and some trade materials, priority access to tickets for future events. You may also link into the Men's Shed for £3.50 per session in groups of four (plus a small charge for materials) to get expert help to build a project from wood, renovate your bike, learn how to tile, wire a plug etc.

The Women's Shed is open to any women, any faith or none. We are also taking referrals from Organisations, Health Visitors and Community Workers. We don't yet have any funding and there are some grant applications in, so it is an act of faith. If anyone would like to make a donation, however small, it will be gratefully received.

If you would like to support we'd love to hear from you. Speak to Judy, Lyndsey or Jenny G at St Thomas' about coming to share your skills, donating materials, or being on the committee. Or why don't you just turn up for a cuppa and a chat.

Careers at Dorothy House Hospice Care



If you're looking for an outstanding employer, we're looking for you! We want caring and passionate individuals to join us, working to support our patients and their families, living with a life-limiting illness. We have careers based out in the community, so you can work close to home.

If you have experience, we'll reward you. If you are new to the care sector, we welcome you. Thinking of re-training or returning after bringing up your family, we can train you. Here is where your passion for care and your potential to grow come together. More information can be found on our website. Just search for 'jobs' on www.dorothyhouse.org.uk or please contact:

nicola.bullivant@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk or call Nic on **07788 542312**.

Open Day at Julia's House Hospice

Meet members of the Julia's House team and take a tour of the purpose-built children's hospice in Devizes on a special open day. The free event on **Tuesday 9th November** will mark the first time that the charity has been able to open the hospice doors to the general public in this way since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Each bookable one-hour session will include a tour of the charity's hospice building, where you can learn more about how your support makes a difference for seriously ill children and families in Wiltshire.

Julia's House recently launched its Together We Care Appeal to raise awareness of the respite care and support provided by the charity's nurses and carers in the local community. The children's hospice charity hopes that the appeal will help to raise the £1.5m needed to run the vital service each year across the county. At next month's Open Day event, visitors will have the chance to explore the hospice sensory room, activity room, accessible bathroom and end of life Pegasus suite. Supporters can also take a look around the vibrant hospice garden, which has been developed for play, relaxation and reflection.

Drinks and cake will be available, plus the opportunity to chat to members of the Julia's House care and fundraising team. To book your slot visit: www.juliashouse.org/event/wiltshire-hospice-open-day

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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:

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

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am and Tuesday 6.00pm

St Bernadette's – Westbury Mass times are:

Sunday 9.00am

First Holy Communion 2022: Applications for First Holy Communion will begin in September. If your child is in Yr3 or above, please ask Fr. Tom for an application form. The closing date for applications is **December 10th 2021**. Course details will follow after all applications are received.

Confirmation 2022: We were not able to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2020 or 2021 because of the Covid restrictions. We are glad to announce though that Bishop Declan has been invited to Trowbridge to celebrate the Sacrament Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7pm. If you are in Yr 8 or above from September 2021, then application forms will be available from Fr. Tom at St. John's or St. Bernadette's in September 2021. (**Closing date 10th December 2021**) Course details will follow applications.

November Holy Souls: November is fast approaching. November is a month of Remembrance. We remember those who have died in this last year. We think of those who die in war and conflict. We also remember loved ones and friends who have died. Holy Souls Envelopes are available for you to place the names of those who you wish to be remembered at Mass during November. Please return to Church and place them in the box provided. You may also place an offering in the envelope if you wish.

Mass for Bereaved Relatives and friends: We will celebrate Mass for the Faithful Departed on **Tuesday 2nd November**. During this Mass will have have a moment of reflection for all who have lost a loved one in recent years. Those who have died will be remembered. All are welcome, especially those who have lost a relative or a close friend recently.

Thoughts From The Rectory

Rev John Rees

This year I invited people to bring items to our Harvest services for us to share which symbolised things or people for which we wished to give thanks to God. We had a wide variety of items, even including a model combine harvester, symbolising our gratitude for food and those who produce and distribute it. I was pleased it wasn't a real one!

After one of the services someone said to me that what she was most thankful for was her memories. That struck me as being really helpful. Our memories are so important for us, and they are a key part of our growth as human beings. Some of our memories bring us great joy; for example, even in this difficult year I remember many wonderful walks, both on the Dorset and Cornish coasts and locally along the Kennet and Avon canal. Other memories are less pleasant; I remember mistakes I have made – but these make me determined to learn from them and not to repeat them.

As I write this we are approaching the remembrance season. On 31st October at 3.00pm at St Michael's Church in Hilperton we will have our "In Loving Memory" service, in which we remember those we have loved who are no longer with us, by lighting candles and reading names, including the names of those connected with Semington. The service acknowledges both the joy of times we have shared and the pain of loss.

On Remembrance Sunday we will once more give thanks for all those who have given years of their lives, and in some cases life itself, so we can live in freedom. The shock news of the murder of Sir David Amess is a powerful reminder that we must never take this hard won freedom for granted. Our Remembrance Service at St George's Church will be at 10.15am and will include the act of remembrance by the war memorial at 11.00am.

May your good memories bring you joy and may God comfort you in those memories that are painful.

With best wishes

John

Methodist Services St George's

Eric Clifford

After prayerful consideration the decision has been taken and agreed for Methodist Services to cease early in 2022. Following the closure of the village's Methodist Chapel in March 1981, it was with joy that the remaining Methodist congregation could still worship in Free Church style in the village with the kind invitation of the then Anglican incumbent. So September 1981 saw the first Methodist service in St. George's. At our recent Joint Anglican/Methodist Covenant Service (September 2021) mention was made of the 40th Anniversary of sharing, and the Church Sharing Agreement signed by Miss Elsie Gaisford and Mrs Muriel Gover on behalf of the Methodist Church.

So it is with sadness that this season, this era, draws to a close. Gratitude is expressed to all those who have supported Methodist Services in the past, and trust that they have been spiritually uplifting, and that God has been glorified through our worship. The final Methodist Service in St. George's will be on **Sunday 9th January 2022 at 3.00pm.** which will be a Joint Annual Covenant Communion Service led by Rev. Ward Jones (former Chair of the Bristol Methodist District) and Rev. John Rees. A warm invitation to this service is extended to all to share in worshipping the Lord and giving Him the praise. Refreshments will follow the service.

Paws for Thought



There is no greater love than
to lay down one's life for
one's friends

It's in the Bible; John 15 verse 13



CHURCH SERVICES in SEMINGTON

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 **NO LONGER** required to attend services

SUNDAY
14th
NOVEMBER

SERVICE of REMEMBRANCE
10.15am St George's, Semington

SUNDAY
21st
NOVEMBER

HOLY COMMUNION
9.15am 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: canalsidirector@gmail.com www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk