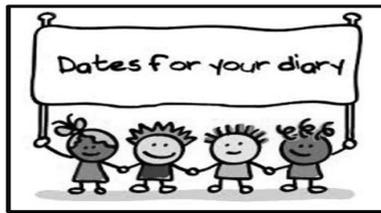


DECEMBER 2021
and JANUARY 2022



SEMINGTON
PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:
Rev John Rees
22 Warren Road
Staverton, BA14 6UZ
Tel. 01225 764365



Post Office

Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 12pm

Books and puzzles available for sale in the hall during these times.

Food Bank Collections

Wednesdays 6.00pm deadline

Church Porch and Pub

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00pm

Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th December 7.30pm

Village Hall

Crafternoon

No Crafternoon in December

Wednesday 26th January

Time and Venue TBC

Semington WI

Thursday 13th January 7.30pm

Village Hall

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

Yay and double yay! We made it to the end of 2021. Our snazzy Christmas Tree on the cover is courtesy of Isaac Parsons, 7. The entries this year was so very good and made it so very difficult to judge. As always my thanks go to Andy and Roxi at A M Print and Copy for their kind sponsorship of the colour covers we have for summer and Christmas. And thanks to you lovely lot for taking the time to read our little ole magazine. Our next issue will be February 2022 and the deadline for submissions is Friday **21st January 2022**. My email is **semparmag@icloud.com**

So however or wherever you spend this Christmas and New Year, promise me you'll have a good one and I'll see you on the other side!

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

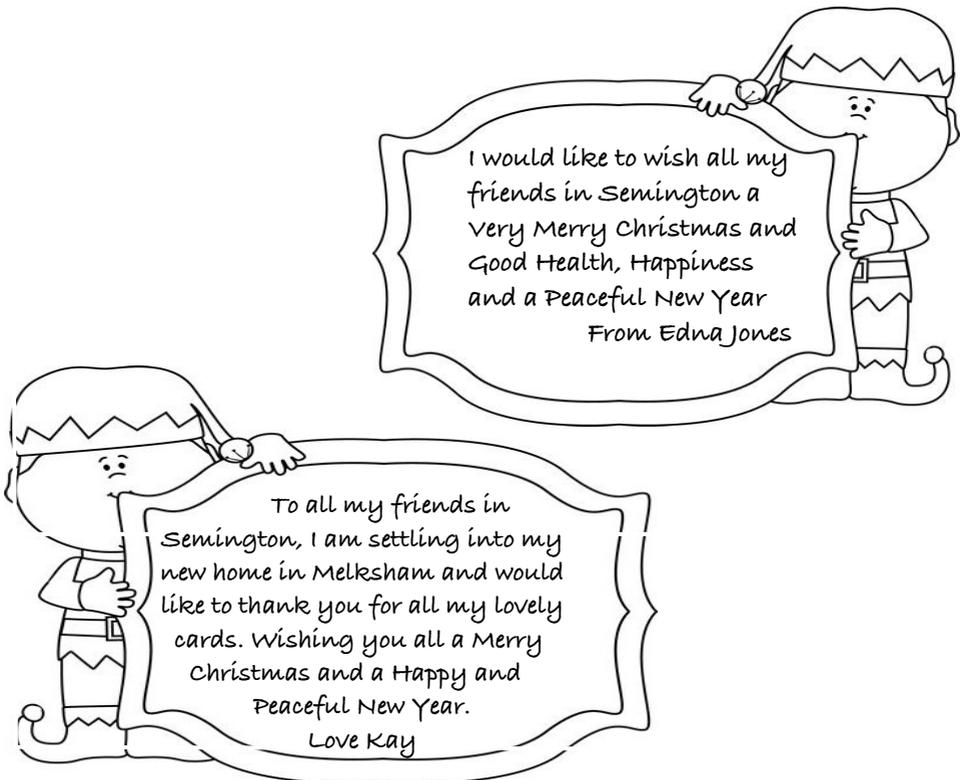
Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesdays 1st December and 5th January at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

Housegroup - we meet every other Tuesday, 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, including venue.

Christmas Eve Celebration

Bev Woodward

After not being able to have the Nativity Celebration on Christmas Eve last year, we hope to be able to hold one this year. It will be at **2.00pm**. If your child would like to take part, please contact me on 01380 870784 and we will let you have more details when we have them. There will be three practices during the week before Christmas, at times to (hopefully) suit everyone!



*Cleeve Cats
Boarding Cattery
Seend Cleeve*

We Only Board Cats



www.cleevecats.co.uk
01380 828025

**GOOD QUALITY
HARDWOOD LOGS**

FOR SALE

**CALL JOHN
ON
01380 870264**

**HALL
FOR HIRE**

**Semington Village
Capacity 100**

Phone 07519393668

or

**Gerald 01380
870530**



**LAWN HOUSE
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC**

**Lawn House, 29 High Street
Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, BA14 6EU
Tel. 01380 871555
www.lawnhouse.co.uk**

*Treatment of back & neck pain,
shoulder, arm, hand, hip, leg & foot pain,
arthritis, spondylitis, tennis elbow,
slipped disc, pins and needles,
headache & migraine, sports injuries
Children treated*

**S.J. PRIOR B.Sc., D.C.
DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC**

**REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE
BRITISH CHIROPRACTIC
ASSOCIATION**

This Month I've been temp-ted

Gilly Airey

For those of you that know me very well – rest assured I have not taken leave of my senses or indeed my pedantry for the correct use of all things grammatical, hyphens and apostrophes being some of my pet crusades. Of course Mr W swears blind he finds a typo in the parish mag every month. From my point of view let's just say I see it as slipping in a little bit of brain training for everyone. No, my temp-ted is simply a little play on words, sometimes I agonise far longer over the title of my article than I do the contents (what do you mean 'and it shows'!).

Despite being retired I found myself back at my old desk last week at 'Th'Avon' my pet name for the company correctly known as Avon Rubber. I know, I was supposed to be enjoying myself dedicating time to my family, holidays and all things crafty. Whilst I never said never, I'm as surprised as anyone to find myself back at Th'Avon for a five week stint of work up to Christmas. There were a couple of reasons I decided to go back to work, one I got to work with my fabulous colleague Mrs T who makes me giggle and secondly because I have hopefully timed my return perfectly for the annual gift of the Avon Christmas Hamper!

Being born and brought up in Derby I understand completely how one company can define a place, for us it was Rolls Royce, for Melksham it was Th'Avon. However, what I had never fully appreciated when we first moved here was the place everyone described as Th'Avon – wasn't and hadn't been for many, many years. So when I joined Th'Avon five years I was as bemused to say the least that despite searching high and low I couldn't find one tyre being made anywhere in the place. That's because I learnt they hadn't made tyres for over 20 years and that was Cooper Tires. I only felt better about my ignorance when as part of the customer services team I got calls from the similarly ignorant Great British public needing tyres for their vintage cars. Somehow I never understood that after I had explained that we no longer made tyres I couldn't interest them in a gas mask instead.....

So I'm back at my old desk and would you believe they even had my old office drawers, still full of the same detritus that I left in there almost two years ago, I'm not going to lie the snacking dried fruit hadn't really stood the test of time. Getting back into the job has been a bit like riding a bike, but before you all get excited I need to manage your expectations – the real bike is probably going to stay in the garage!

THE SOMERSET ARMS
SENINGTON
PRESENTS
**THE PENSIONERS
PORTION**

SUBJECT TO
AVAILABILITY

£5

EVERY WEDNESDAY

FISHY FRIDAY

**EAT IN
£7.50**

**TAKE AWAY
£5.00**

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID
DISSAPOINTMENT

CALL : 01380 870067

Down The Local

John, The Landlord

Hello Semington!

How are you doing? The village is already starting to look a lot like Christmas as I write and we're really looking forward to seeing the place all lit up once again. We've all been through some pretty tough times and it will be nice to see some Christmas cheer.

I feel a little like we got bitten on the backside a bit last year making plans for Christmas and New Year but it looks like we will be safe this year. We have lots of Christmas bookings already so don't delay if you want to sample our fabulous Christmas menu.

November is always traditionally a quiet month, even more so this year and we have been closing the kitchen a few nights or condensing food service hours but come December we hope to be firing on all cylinders again and open all hours as usual. Remember it is always worth booking ahead if you are coming down to eat.

The rule of 6 and table service restrictions prevented us opening as we would have liked on Christmas Day last year but we are really hoping we can make amends this year and welcome you and your family for a Christmas tippie. Our opening hours will be:

Christmas Day 11.30am to 2.30pm – drinks only

Boxing Day 12.00pm to 6.00pm

Bank Holidays normal hours

New Years Eve we will be seeing 2022 in style with our traditional Fancy Dress party and music and dancing well into the New Year, keep an eye on our social media for full details.

So here's to a fantastic time with friends and family and as always remember to stay safe.

John and The Somerset Arms Team

CAROL'S CABS LTD

PRIVATE HIRE & TAXIS

Airport & Party Runs

8 & 6 Seats Available

N.V.Q. Qualified

M: 0789 4873129

E: carolscabs@hotmail.co.uk

J.D. PRICE BUILDING SERVICES EST. 1987

- Extensions
- Garages
- Renovations
- Patios, Drives, etc.
- General Building Works

Phone for expert advice
and a free quotation
Tel. 01225 344624
Mob. 07970 737321

City & Guilds Accredited



Wedding flowers
Hand-tied bouquets
Arrangements
Funeral tributes

**Beautiful Stylish
Flowers
For Every Occasion**

www.stemsfloristwiltshire.co.uk

**01225 700020
Local delivery available**

Canal Bridge, Semington,
Trowbridge, BA14 6JT



Plumbing Services & Home Improvements

**For a Friendly Reliable &
Local Service**

Kitchen & Bathroom Installations

Showers • Taps • Toilets • Tiling
Ball Valves • Burst Pipes
& All General Plumbing Work

For a free quotation please call

Chris on 07837 589919

Fully Insured & All Work Guaranteed

Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Speeding - has been a concern raised by parishioners in recent weeks. The main problems reported seem to relate to drivers exiting the Turnpike roundabout and heading north on High Street, where they pick up speed going down the hill between the St. George's Road and Somerset Way junctions. Where buses have been spotted seemingly moving too fast, parishioners have reported the time and location to the bus company (Faresaver), and the company has responded positively. Anecdotally, there were also reports of private cars and unmarked vans speeding.

The Parish Council is to ask Wiltshire Council to set up a speed check on that stretch of road, so that we can get some sort of measure as to the scale of the problem. Once known, Wiltshire Council will be able to advise on what should happen next.

Housing on land south of St. George's Road – Newland Homes is now busy building the 24 homes (and eventually allotments) on the land between The Knapps and St. George's Court. This will fill about half of the land in that field. There is no additional planning permission for any further build in the remaining half of the field.

However, Newland Homes has asked if it may share initial thoughts on that undeveloped half, and will be attending the **January 19th Parish Council meeting** to do that. If you want to hear what is said and ask questions, please make a note now in your diary. The meeting will start at **7:00pm** in the **Village Hall**, all welcome subject to any coronavirus restrictions extant at that time.

Christmas waste collections – will be running on our usual collection dates, whether or not these fall on a bank holiday. The only exception is that whilst there is the normal garden waste service up to and including 16th December 2021, there won't be a garden waste collection on 30th December, but it will resume again on 13th January.

Neighbourhood Watch – a new scheme is to be launched in the new year. Watch out for details of how to get involved in the months ahead.

Finally - season's greetings and best wishes to everyone. Let's hope it's as "normal" as possible.

EJS Dog Grooming Studio

- Pet grooming services in rural location
- One to one service
- Tailored to individual needs
- Large of small
- Collection available
- City & Guilds qualified

Contact **Jackie 07904 405636**

jackiesimmons2410@gmail.com



Nikki Beech

Decorating Services

19 years experience

All aspects of decorating, both internal and external

Modern builds and restoration

Prompt courteous service

07535 084769

nbeechdecorating@hotmail.com

Peace of Mind Funeral Plans

Buy at today's prices

With a *Peace of Mind Funeral Plan* you benefit from

- ✓ Protection against rising funeral costs
- ✓ Your choice of funeral director
- ✓ Complete flexibility to choose the funeral you want
- ✓ Guaranteed acceptance.

To discuss your choices contact

Jack Woodward
01380 870784

www.peacefuneralplans.co.uk

All plans registered with the Funeral Planning Authority



Is your PC feeling sick or misbehaving itself?

Pop it in to us for a FREE health check

At Eagle IT we will give your PC or laptop a 24 point health check and report back to you with our recommendations to restore its sparkle

01225 962102

www.eagleitsupport.com

Eagle IT Support
21A CHURCH STREET
MELKSHAM SN12 6LS
helpdesk@eagleitsupport.com



Nature Notes

I am writing this at the end of October when many gardens are still full of colourful flowers and insects remain active. By the time you read it that will not be so. However, much will still remain to interest and bring us pleasure because gardens are a 12 month-round love affair as this brief verse by Rosamund Langham reminds us. Langham was an author, poet and horticulturist and lived for most of her life in Co Fermanagh. Her first book of poems was published in 1920.

*There is peace within a garden, a peace so deep and calm,
that when the heart is troubled, it's like a soothing balm.
There's life within a garden, a life that still goes on,
Filling the empty places when older plants have gone.
There's glory in the garden at every time of year.
Spring, summer, autumn, winter, to fill the heart with cheer.
So ever tend your garden, its beauty to increase.
For in it you'll find solace. And in it you'll find peace.*

Crafternoon

Siobhan Chown

There is no Crafternoon in December and we're aiming for our next date to be **Wednesday 26th January** as our next meeting. Venue is to be confirmed as we take it in turns to host. Feel free to contact me if you would like to attend though so we can ensure that everyone has the right details. You can phone me on 01380 870197, text etc. 07786 980608.

EMMA PUTNAM

- ✓ Friendly & reliable service
- ✓ Competitive hourly rate
- ✓ Eco-friendly



For those jobs around your home and garden that you haven't got time to do or need help with...

Whatever the task, whatever the time of year... ASK ME



POP BY FOR A CHAT FROM 11.15
EVERY THURSDAY
SEMINGTON VILLAGE HALL



@ASKMELOCAL



07895 455673



EMMA@ASKMELOCAL.CO.UK

Newhouse Farm Bed & Breakfast



Comfortable, country style farmhouse accommodation. Two double rooms: One on ground floor, plus twin room, all en-suite

Littleton, Semington,
Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 6LF
Carole & Derek Ball on 01380 870349

Email: stay@newhousefarmwilts.co.uk
www.newhousefarmwilts.co.uk

N K Plastering

07534129011 01225 2871138

n.kplastering@hotmail.com

www.melkshamplasterer.co.uk

All aspects of internal plastering covered

- Plastering over artex
- Plasterboarding
- Full house replaster
- Patch repairs

Contact for a free no obligation quote

Michelle Donelan – MP for the Chippenham Ward

It was an honour to attend several Remembrance services across the constituency on Remembrance Sunday and to see the continued and marked respect constituents have for those that bravely gave their lives for this country. We will never forget their sacrifice nor the freedoms for which they fought.

Recently, I have been meeting with care providers and working to convene a round table meeting with the Minister for Care and Mental Health, The Independent Living Centre and Carer Support Wiltshire. I have spoken out numerous times on how we have to improve and reform the social care sector and this year has been so important in finally setting out just how we will prevent spiralling costs, integrate the health and care sectors and invest in the workforce. We also need to make sure Government is aware of issues being faced on the ground and I hope this roundtable with local Semington care charities will make sure these concerns are heard at the heart of Westminster.

Finally, with the Chancellor's Autumn Budget coming through to deliver on our priorities, I wanted to update residents that support is being strengthened for our local pubs such as the Somerset Arms. We have permanently cut the cost of a pint, ended the duty premium on sparkling wine and cancelled the planned increase in duty on spirits, marking a complete overhaul of duty on alcoholic drinks to encourage drinking in pubs rather than in the home. This draught relief is targeted support for community pubs who do 75% of their trade on draught and will be supported by the one-year business rates relief of 50% for all hospitality, retail and leisure businesses. After the year they have had I believe it is absolutely crucial we back our local and support the pub trade.

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**. I am also holding regular surgeries for constituents so you can write or call to arrange an online appointment.

Parish Council Meeting

Abridged from DRAFT Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 23rd November 2021

Present. Councillors P Smith (Chairman), R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, M Kasasian, S Rimmer, W Scott, C Wade and the Clerk Roger Coleman. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended (Part-time). There was one member of the public present initially.

Apologies. Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllr. V Bodman.

Declaration of Interests. There were no interests declared.

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2021. The Council **resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

Wiltshire Council Report. Cllr. Seed gave the following brief report: Housing Market Area (HMA). He stated that he had received a poor response from the Wiltshire Council Cabinet member responsible for this matter to his request that the move of Semington to the Trowbridge HMA should be reconsidered and for the evidence that supported that original decision by Wiltshire Council should be re-examined. The view of the Cabinet member was that these comments and any others would be taken into consideration during the forthcoming Wiltshire Local Plan consultation period. Semington – Hilperton Cycleway: Cllr. Seed acknowledged the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the possible upgrading of the existing bridleway and the addition of lighting to comprise a 'new' cycleway between the villages. He commented that following discussions with the officer concerned it was now clear that there was not to be a major resurfacing of that bridleway or lighting to be installed thereby allaying the fears of the Parish Council that the rural nature of that path would be destroyed.

Planning and Development. New application PL/2021/10192 22, St Georges Court, Replacement Front Door. The PC has no comments and requests the application is sent to the Conservation Officer for comment. The Council reviewed the correspondence that had been exchanged with Wiltshire Council in relation to the Housing Market Area (HMA) and the Chairman tabled the recent correspondence from Cllr. Scott – full details available on PC website Semington.org.uk The Council noted the proposed presentation by Mike Kurton (Newland Homes Ltd) at the January 2022 Parish Council meeting and the Council decided that the presentation plus a Question and Answer session should take place between 7.00pm and 8.00pm on the **19th January 2022** – finishing promptly at 8pm to allow the Parish Council meeting to proceed at that time. The Chairman stated that he would contact Newland Homes.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman reported that at the last Steering Group meeting, consultants had been appointed – Place Studios – and that grant aid is now being sought to help finance this project and a Consultation Working Group had been established to identify the nature and scope of subsequent consultation exercises. He added that it was intended to hold a village-wide event on **12th February 2022** to advise parishioners of progress and to present a draft vision and objectives for Semington over the next 15 years. The Chairman commented that the Wiltshire Council 'link' for the Neighbourhood Plan – David Way – had advised the Steering Group that a Neighbourhood Plan is essentially 'a land use plan' although other issues can be addressed.

Finance. Final balance as at 23rd November 2021 £43,659.13. The Council discussed possible expenditure for FY2022/23 in relation to the 'Theme Groups' and Neighbourhood Planning the following was identified:

Neighbourhood Planning - £1000

Environment/Streetscene – Trees/Bulbs £500, Kissing Gates £1600.

Transport & Traffic – SLOW Marking £250.

Recreation & Wellbeing – Wessex Close Play Area £5500, NH Watch £450, Allotments £5000.

Community & Communication – Noticeboards £1600.

The Chairman stated that the Budget and Precept will be agreed at the December Parish Council meeting. The Clerk commented that following a query from a councillor he had examined the level of uncommitted reserves held by the Council and it was higher than official guidance would suggest. The Clerk added that this needs to be considered at the Budget meeting and identified and agreed projects for FY2022/23 should be earmarked and reserves committed to them.

Environment and Streetscene. The Parish Council resolved to make a donation of £100 to the charity 'End Polio Now' following the gift to the Parish Council of 2500 crocus bulbs from Trowbridge Rotary Club. The Parish Council resolved to purchase and to present a Memorial Wreath each year for Remembrance Day, commencing in November 2022. The Chairman proposed a Village Litter Pick to take place on **18th December 2021.**

Transport and Traffic. The following matters were reported: Speeding Traffic, please see chairman's report page 9. Cllr. Scott advised councillors of the recent email stating that many of the local train services are to be cut – especially those involving Westbury, Salisbury and Waterloo. He invited councillors to make their views known to Network Rail via the online petition. Following a resolution by the Council, the Chairman stated that he would respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Recreation and Wellbeing. Cllr. Wade reported that he is continuing to progress the acquisition of allotment plots and continues to liaise with the developers – Newland Homes - to obtain further details. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllr. Chown for organising the recent, very successful, Christmas Fair in the Village Hall. Cllr. Chown reported that she had a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with a person interested in becoming the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and Chris Holden had agreed to take the lead. Cllr. Chown added that she is proposing that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Semington is a village-wide scheme and that the whole community will become engaged in the scheme. She anticipated holding regular public meetings for parishioners to gain advice and alerts and to contribute to the work of the Neighbourhood Watch team. The Parish Council resolved to endorse a village-wide scheme. She stated that some new Neighbourhood Watch signs will be required and she agreed to investigate this further.

Community and Communication. The Council resolved to investigate the purchase of two new Noticeboards for the Village Hall and Cllr. Chown agreed to investigate possible designs and costs.

Date of the next meeting, Wednesday 15th December 2021 7.30pm

* Please note full ratified minutes are available on semington.org.uk

Wiltshire Councillor News

Jonathon Seed

Many of you will be aware that the last six months have been personally fraught for me and the next six months are likely to be little better. However life goes on and regardless of where my current personal journey ends (and I am confident that it will end positively) I want to assure every resident in the new Division of Melksham Without West and Rural that I will represent you to the very best of my ability until the end of my term of office as a Councillor. I attend all seven Parish Councils whenever I can and I am always happy to conduct personal meetings or surgeries with residents at any convenient time. My contact details are below so please get in touch if I can help. Residents of my Council Division may like to be aware that as well as attending the seven Parish Councils in the Division I am also a member of my own village Parish Council in Bromham. After the tragic fire destroyed our village social centre and hall in June I was asked to Chair the Rebuild Committee (which included the sourcing and provision of a temporary village hall) so I am keeping pretty busy with local government matters!

There are several important Wiltshire Council issues that are topical at the moment. The A350 Bypass is nearing a feasibility decision stage and the route is pretty much nearing determination. The possible canal link from Semington to Melksham is also approaching a decision stage. Many residents have expressed concern at the canal route as well as the number of houses needed to fund the project and I suspect that the latter will influence any final decision on the project. Other important issues include a proposed new cycleway linking Melksham to Trowbridge which is causing concern to local horse riders as well as worries about additional lighting. Long term issues include allegations of unauthorised development on traveller sites as well as large scale expansion of a local pub. These together with perennial local planning issues and concerns at poor road surfaces give me plenty of community work to do.

This is the last community message from me before Christmas so I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all the residents of the Parish a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Contact me on **07770 774463** or email jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk

As I write, in November, we are just collecting the last of the Advent calendars as a treat for families in need of help from the Melksham Foodbank, but we still need Christmas items such as Christmas cake, Christmas puddings, tinned and boxed biscuits, Pringles, chocolates and savoury biscuits such as Cheddars and Cheeselets, during December. These items could really make a huge difference to someone in need this Christmas.

A massive thank you to everyone who has donated food for Christmas, but special mention must be made of Lesley Williams for making 12 beautifully boxed individual Christmas cakes. The thought of a family or someone on their own, opening one of these on Christmas Day is really heart-warming. Regular items which they are short of include: tinned custard, coffee, sugar, UHT milk, tinned peas and tinned carrots, but any dried or tinned item with a long best before date, would be very welcome. Nothing fresh please.

If you donate anything home made, please ensure each item has a full list of ingredients on it, or it cannot be given out. Every week I post the latest specific food requests on the village Facebook page, but a full list is on the noticeboard in the Church porch. If you want to know their specific requests and you are not on Facebook then do ring me and ask (tel. 01380 870137). The Foodbank has its own Facebook page and website **www.melkshamfoodbank.org.uk**

Please take donations to the Somerset Arms pub any time, or put in St. George's Church porch. I collect from both at around 6pm every Wednesday. Please try and leave your items in the Church porch not long before then, if possible, as cardboard items can get a tad soggy if left a long time in the damp air. Remember too that your donations can be left in designated trollies in the big supermarkets in Melksham, plus in some doctors' surgeries. Should you see anyone around the village who may be in need, please encourage them to come to the Foodbank on Mondays and Thursdays from 10.00am – 12.00pm, at Melksham Baptist Church on Old Broughton Road or ask the Vicar, their doctor or social worker for a referral.

Finally, as we approach the end of the year, I would like to thank and pay tribute to every person who has donated food or money to the Melksham Foodbank this year. Whether you have done it once or 52 times, every single thing is appreciated by the volunteers and the clients who receive help. You have been beyond amazing, so give yourselves a pat on the back!

Kavanaghs

SOLD

01225 706 860
www.kavanaghs.co.uk



LET

01225 790 529
www.kavanaghs.co.uk



On the move?

For Sales or Lettings
Residential or Commercial

Dealing with all types of property in the Melksham and Trowbridge area, Kavanaghs Chartered Surveyors are leading professional estate agents for all your property needs.

Call Melksham 01225 706860
Trowbridge 01225 341504

Email info@kavanaghs.co.uk or go to www.kavanaghs.co.uk



FORGET ME NOT GARDENING



*General maintenance
supplied by a
professional gardener*

-  Weeding
-  Pruning
-  Planting
-  Mowing

Call Jessica on **07896 627428**
forgetmenot21@hotmail.co.uk



Donna
WILLIAMS

ADI 318571

Registered Approved Driving Instructor

STRUCTURED TRAINING
PATIENT FRIENDLY INSTRUCTOR
COMPETITIVE RATES
ASK ABOUT DISCOUNTS

Tel: 01380 870767
Mob: 07855 708045

Book Club

Pam Wildsmith

The Book Club met on Thursday 23rd October, when we discussed A Month in the Country, by J L Carr. It was a short book for which some of us were grateful, but everyone enjoyed reading it. ... there was so much in this short novel - wonderful descriptions of countryside, reference to the Great War, a sense of healing and very dry humour. All in all, to be recommended. Our November book was Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson.

We hope to be 'back to normal' in January when we are hoping to have a delayed Christmas Meal. Anyone is welcome to come along, and don't feel you need to have read the book. It's just a lively evening when we can feel free to share our views on the chosen book. If you need any further information, please call Pam Wildsmith 01380 870030.

Semington WI

Deb Hurn

October saw us all having a go with various results at knitting, crocheting or making with felt, poppies. We were being helped by Sue T who has a large amount of patience. I'm not quite sure how many poppies actually made it to Remembrance Day but we all gave it a good go. It also gave us a chance chat and a lot of laughter was had. Thanks go to Sue for providing the patterns and the wool etc.

November had us making glass decorations for our Christmas trees. Alex from Comptons Glass workshop in Trowbridge provided the glass, the techniques and tuition. The trees we successfully made were all different and I'm glad it wasn't for a competition as judging would have been very difficult. We now have to wait to see the finished result after she fires the glass at her workshop. Some of us hope to take one of her classes in the new year. Not only did Alex provide every thing we needed for our Christmas trees but she also provided a delicious lemon drizzle cake and Carole made a lovely fruit tea loaf. Very much appreciated ladies. At our December meeting we will be playing skittles. It was decided this year to keep it to Semington WI members only. Hopefully we can go back to inviting others in 2022.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 13th January at 7.30 pm** in the Village Hall.

Last but not least Semington WI would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

CARE AND SUPPORT AT HOME



You love your home and feel safe there. The need for additional care and support shouldn't change that.

At Bluebird Care we offer a range of services including: Personal Care, Domestic Help, Medication Support, Companionship, Complex and Live-in Care.

Call our friendly team today
01225 863565

wiltshirenorth@bluebirdcare.co.uk



Inspected and rated
Good



Kieren Bourne Garden Maintenance

Regular or one-off service

Lawn mowing, pruning, wedding, hedge trimming, planting, edging, digging

May also help with interior, and some, exterior household painting

Bourne Gardening

01225 705782

kowhai45@hotmail.com

ACORN STAIRLIFTS **ACCREDITED PARTNER**

NEXT DAY STAIRLIFTS



LIFTS MADE IN THE UK ~ 24/7 EMERGENCY COVER

LOCAL WILTSHIRE SURVEYOR

FOR A FREE BROCHURE PLEASE CALL

0800 016 9276

www.nextdaystairlifts.com

HELP WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE AND DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Wiltshire Air Ambulance are launching a “double your donation” Big Give campaign to raise funds for new night vision goggles.

The charity operates its lifesaving service up to 19 hours a day and during the winter months more than half a shift can be spent in night vision goggles. Existing sets used by the charity are old and will soon become obsolete, so it needs to raise £40,000 to purchase four newer generation night vision goggles.

The Big Give campaign runs from **midday on 30th November until midday on 7th December**, at which point all donations received will be doubled. Therefore, Wiltshire Air Ambulance needs to generate £20,000 in donations in the week of the Big Give campaign to have the funds doubled by a host of pledgers to £40,000 – enough to purchase the night vision goggles required.

Chief pilot Matt Wilcock said: “With the winter nights upon us, we can operate using Night Vision Goggles for around 10 and a half hours of a 19-hour shift. If we don’t have reliable or serviceable night vision goggles we could be prevented from responding in the aircraft when it is dark, which would have a significant impact on our ability to help patients. The four sets of goggles would be used by the three operational crew on shift, with one spare unit to cover when a set goes away for servicing.”

Critical care paramedic Sophie Holt said: “The new goggles would include image intensification, ensuring they work better on those nights when there is no moonlight or if cloud cover prevents starlight. It is hugely important that we are able to respond to emergencies for up to 19 hours a day. Thank you in advance to everyone who donates to the Big Give campaign.”

Wiltshire Air Ambulance would like to thank our Big Give Champion funder, the Wiltshire Match Fund, along with a host of companies and individuals for pledging to help double our donations: BT Communications, Coleview Community Centre, Eric Vines, Excalibur Communications, Kingstons Estate Agents, Lowden Garden Centre, Medical Wire, Melksham Relics, Mia Regan, Office Evolution, PA To Go and Qinetiq.

To support the Big Give campaign and help Wiltshire Air Ambulance raise the money needed for the new Night Vision Goggles, visit our website from midday on 30th November.

Steeple Ashton Films

Alison Wilson

Thank you to all those who supported our Autumn film season. We were thrilled to be able to bring back Steeple Ashton Films. There was so much appreciation and enjoyment in the films we had chosen and the health and safety measures we had put in place. We can now announce that we have a Spring season of films organised.

The Courier (12) - Saturday 22nd January 2022 at 7.30pm

The Courier is a true life spy thriller, the story of an unassuming business man (Benedict Cumberbatch) recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history. At the request of MI6 and a CIA operative, he forms a covert dangerous partnership with a Soviet officer in an effort to provide crucial intelligence. An exciting film not to be missed!

Spencer (12A) - Saturday 2nd April 2022 at 7.30pm

This is a film based on the events of the last Christmas that Princess Diana spent at Sandringham with the Royal Family before her divorce. We booked it as we felt it would be popular, only to discover it has already been advertised widely. We hope you will consider waiting for our film showing, or enjoy seeing it for a second time! The survival of Steeple Ashton Films depends on our audience numbers which have been lower than usual since our return. We will continue for as long as we can. We are still hoping to show a film in February or March so watch this space.

Tickets £6.00 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop.

Doors Open at 7.00pm for refreshments – please remember films start promptly at 7.30pm.

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.

News from St George's School

Sue Cook

Another action packed term is well underway at St Georges, with Children in Need dress up day been supported and other activities planned by the Friends like decorate a doughnut, a Christmas Film night. The Friends are also running a Wreath Making Workshop on **2nd December** (Tickets are available online or from The Somerset Arms).

Our Key Stage One children are busy learning the songs and will soon be given parts for their Nativity play, which is always a highlight of the year. Our Head Boy and Head Girl represented St George's at this year Remembrance Service and laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor (7½ hours a week) if this is of interest to you, or you know someone it may suit then please feel free to contact us for more details. If your child is due to start school in September, please feel free to contact Jan Palmer our admin officer and book a visit to come and look around our lovely village school. We would love to meet you.

And finally.... All the children and staff at St George's School thank you for your support and wish you a very happy Christmas.

Semington Annual Door to Door Poppy Collection

Christine Moore



Semington Annual door to door poppy collection raised £513.03. Many thanks to the dedicated poppy collectors who gave up their time and to the generosity of the village. In addition St George's School raised £177.13 so again many thanks to the pupils, parents and staff.

We are delighted that as a whole, the village donated a total of £690.16 to such an important charity.

Semington's
MOT & **Mobil**
Service Station



Accredited Member



KINGS
AUTO SERVICES

Mobil
Authorised Supplier

RMI
Approved Member

Kings Auto Services

Est. 1989

Serving Semington

for over 15 years

Offering discounts to local residents

and Businesses

Loan car available on request

Your local

MOT Station with

On-line booking facility

Free Local collection & delivery

From work or home

14 Turnpike Industrial Estate, Semington BA14 6LB
Tel: 01380 870999 Web: www.kingsautoservices.co.uk
Email: jez@kingsautoservices.co.uk

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

Deanery Service of Reconciliation: There will be a Deanery Service of Reconciliation on **Wednesday 15th December 7.00pm** at St. John's. There will be visiting priests during this service. All welcome.

Advent Sycamore Course: After our successful Lent and Easter Sycamore course via zoom, we will once again meet online with the Advent Sycamore course. The gatherings will take place on **Thursday 2nd December, Thursday 9th December, Thursday 16th December and Thursday 23rd December, beginning at 6.30pm and finishing at 8pm.** If you wish to participate, please send Fr. Tom an email and he will add you to the invitation list.

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.

Grand Christmas Draw 2021: Tickets are now available for the 2021 Grand Annual Draw. 1st prize £1000! 2nd Prize £250, 3rd Prize £100, 4th Prize, a sumptuous Christmas hamper, 5th prize, a case of table wines. Tickets are £1 each, please take a book or more and return completed counter-slips and money to St. John's presbytery. The draw will take place after the 10.30am Mass on **Sunday 19th December**. All proceeds will be shared among the charities we support, including Fr. Pratap in India.

Thoughts From The Curate

Joy Albone

I find myself writing this thought just after Remembrance Sunday, when in Church life, our thinking turns from the busyness of the Remembrance and Remembering season to preparations for Advent and Christmas. Even now in mid-November, it doesn't take much to see the shops and businesses gearing up for Christmas, all hoping for a more successful and financially rewarding Christmas than was possible last year. By the time you read this, I am sure many of you will have begun your own Christmas preparations in your homes in earnest.

However, have you ever stopped to consider just WHAT, or rather WHO, all the preparations are for? It is so easy in the busyness of the season; when we are desperately trying to find Auntie Joan's new address to send her Christmas card, trying to find an alternative to socks again this year for Grandad, let alone working out what food and drink we are going to need for the two days the shops are closed, and how after last year, we are going to be able to catch up with our family and friends safely, all of which can cause us to forget the true meaning of the season, the WHO that all the preparations are for!

Advent is a season of preparation, not preparing for the Christmas celebration, but preparing ourselves for a spiritual encounter with the living God, whose Son's birth in a manger over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, is the real, and only reason for Christmas. Advent is a time to press the 'pause' button of life, spend a few minutes quietly contemplating the changing light outside our window, or reading a book (maybe even a passage from the Bible), just doing something for ourselves, and giving ourselves time to reflect on who we are, and our relationship (whatever that might look like) with God.

The advent candles that we light in church, represent the hope, peace, joy and love, that we anticipate in the coming of the Saviour. This Advent and Christmas, we wish you to discover the hope of the Christ-child, the peace of God, the joy of the angels, and the love of Mary and Joseph for yourselves, as you journey towards Christmas. And if you don't know how to do this may I remind you of my favourite verse from 'In The Bleak Midwinter' written by Christina Rossetti:

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part, –
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.*

Are you willing to give Him your heart this Advent and Christmas time?

If you wish to explore more about the true meaning of Christmas this year, please join us at one of our services in Church, (details available in our newsletters or on Facebook) or visit our website and follow the links to view what is available. With every blessing Rev. Joy Albone

Final Methodist Service at St George's

Eric Clifford

Please note the final Methodist Service in St. George's, Semington, will be our Joint Annual Covenant Service on **Sunday 9th January 2022 at 3.00pm.**

A warm welcome is extended to all.

From The Church Register

Victoria Shackleton

Service of Thanksgiving for Betty Bonham

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Betty Bonham was held at St George's Church on Friday 22nd October 2021. We pray that Betty's daughters Lyn and Delia, sons-in-law Andy and Alan, grandchildren Alison and Paul, great-granddaughter Kaitlyn, family and friends will know God's love and peace at this sad time.

Heartfelt Thanks from Julie Masters

As many of you will know in November, my brother John passed away suddenly after suffering a stroke. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of so many of you, with beautiful messages of sympathy and cards as well as the very many of you who have offered to help me through this most difficult of times. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Julie.

Paws for Thought



All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")

It's in the Bible; Matthew 1 verses 22-23



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

Date	Time	Service
Friday 10th December	6pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT AT ST MARY'S, WHADDON
Sunday 12th December	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 19th December	3pm	CAROL SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE	2pm	A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS DAY	10am	CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION
Sunday 9th January	3pm	JOINT ANNUAL COVENANT / COMMUNION SERVICE
Sunday 16th January	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION

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