

APRIL 2022



SEMINGTON  
PARISH MAGAZINE

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



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**Semingtones Choir**

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Village Hall

**Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 7.30pm

Village Hall

**Semington Easter Trail**

Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April

See page 16 for details

**Crafternoon**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm to 4.00pm

17 Highfield Close

**Book Club**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 8.00pm

Somerset Arms

**Somerset Arms**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Good Friday

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Crib and Chess Club

Poker Evening

Live Music – Jay Millar Band

Crib and Chess Club

Quiz Night

Poker Evening

## Christians in Semington

*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

**Housegroup** - we meet every other Tuesday, at 8.00pm. We're looking at Luke's gospel at the moment, to see how this can help us to live as God wants us to. If you'd like to join us please phone Jack/Bev 870784 or David/Pam 870030 for more details, including the venue.

## The Semingtones Choir

You will have noticed we've added the dates when The Semingtones meet at the Village Hall, we will publish them each month. If you are interested in joining this fabulous group of lovely, lyrical ladies feel free to email Lorraine at [lorraine@theatresense.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@theatresense.co.uk) for further details or you can simply go along to one of the rehearsals and join in the fun.

## Editor's Note

*Gillian Airey*

Happy Easter everyone! There's a lot of Jubilee activity in the magazine and the organisers would love as many people as possible to get involved – go on you know you want to! Hopefully plans will be more concrete and the full itinerary can be shared by the organisers.

Have you also remembered to pop a little something into the envelope to keep the magazine bobbing along!

Deadline for next month is **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** email: [semparmag@icloud.com](mailto:semparmag@icloud.com)

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## This Month I Open My Mouth and My Mum Comes Out

Gilly Airey

As I faced into the first Mother's Day without my fabulous Mum being around to receive one of my terribly witty Mother's Day cards, I recalled possibly the very best one I ever sent her which simply said on the front, *'Every time I open my mouth my mother comes out'* and Gorgeous Hubby would most certainly concur with this sentiment. I catch myself saying and doing things that if Christine Roe was still on this mortal coil she would approve of most heartily. Perhaps I pondered it's because since giving up work I formed 'habits'. Habits that are neither glamorous nor nefarious, more of the comfy slipper style of 'mum habits'.

It all started with a cup of tea..... no seriously it did, a lovely cup of Darjeeling or as I like to call it Darj with a dash (of milk) I thought it had a hipster ring to it except it became a routine part of my day, no spontaneous reckless moment of I shall have a Darj with a dash right now, oh no, the Darj with the dash moment happens every day straight after lunch. Lunch, of course, now happens at exactly the same time every day, just as my Dad would expect his tea at 5.30pm every evening, not dinner you understand, that was for posh people. My Dad was a straight forward breakfast, dinner, tea sort of bloke.

One of my other 'mum habits' I have developed a taste for is a little dose of 'Points West' every evening. My work life previously excluded me from this little treat mainly because I was still driving home. But, oh how I love a little bit of pointing west with David, Alex, Sabet and my particular favourite Ian, the weatherman. I even greet them all by name when they come on the screen, just like my Mum, and ponder what's happened to Alex's eyesight now she wears glasses all the time and that oft times she is clearly going straight out on a hot dinner date afterwards looking at what she's wearing!

Then the other thing I've noticed is how I recall the minutiae of conversations when sharing them with Gorgeous Hubby – I even have to reassure him that I am getting to the point but he really does need to understand that the blue coat my friend was wearing is incredibly important to the story, as was what she had for dinner last night, even though the crux of the matter was that we were going to meet them in the pub in half an hour!

But of all the mum habits I've yet to embrace it's the half a teacake one (top and bottom), even I'm not quite ready for that one yet!

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## Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

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*John Adams*

So here I am all Jubileed out! I blinked again at the planning meeting and picked up a load of actions (note to self don't blink!). So I hear you cry what is going on in our lovely village to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne, short answer is lots and lots – as a committee we are really excited as its such a good opportunity for the village to come together – VE day was amazing given the restrictions but as we start to enjoy a little normality its a great excuse for a party and to bring the village together.

The Jubilee weekend runs as a four day Bank Holiday from **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**. The Highlight of the weekend will undoubtedly be the **Street Party on the Sunday** – we are in the process (as you should be aware) of applying to close the High Street for the afternoon and encourage BYO eating and drinking from the Church Street junction right down to Brook House – we are sourcing as many tables as possible for the street but please feel free to bring your own chairs tables etc to set up- be it along the road, down the pub or the village hall – we may even have space on the car lot in case it rains!

The weekend will however kick off with a concert by **The Semingtones** and then (in line with Her Majesty's guidance) at 9.45pm on the Thursday evening with **the lighting of a beacon** which will burn bright throughout the weekend.

There will be **live music** inside and out at the Pub primarily on the Friday but look out for details of other acts over the celebration weekend. **Semington Windows** are also making a return making for a fun stroll round the village whilst on route to events and don't forget to call in at the church for the **Flower Festival**.

Saturday will see a **Mini Football Tournament** taking place at the football field – We already have teams interested from not just Semington but Steeple Ashton and Seend as well as teams from pub and village. Sunday is the big day with plenty going on to entertain whilst picnicking - there will be a number of bands as well as BBQs manned at both Village Hall and Pub to complement your picnic in case you don't want to BYO. Sunday will also see the third running of the **Semington Soapbox Derby** - secure a good spot to cheer on the brave drivers. Fancy building a cart? Space is limited and filling up fast but application forms are available from the pub. Phew what a weekend already - got an idea or offers of help, get in touch full details from the pub or reach out to the committee lets go big Semington!

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## Parish Council Matters

*Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council*

It's a single issue message for this edition about.....

### **Newland Homes proposals for 18 additional homes.**

The community meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March was attended by 16 people, who heard about proposals to develop the remainder of the St. George's Road site.

Those present did not support the proposals. After this community meeting had ended, the parish council at its meeting **resolved** to **object** to the proposed development. The reasons we will give when we write to Wiltshire Council are:

- The land is outside the development boundary.
- Too many houses are proposed for a large village.
- There are already 52 dwellings with extant planning permission in the village whereas the parish's allocation in the draft local plan is only 35.
- The recent rural needs housing survey for the village did not indicate a need for additional housing over and above those already granted permission.
- The neighbourhood planning steering group has not yet considered the issue of allocation of land for housing.
- As some local services are already overstretched whilst others are overwhelmed, what is proposed cannot be sustainable development.
- There is considerable opposition to the development for the reasons stated above.

### **Please make your views known to Wiltshire Council.**

The deadline for comments about the development is **8<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. It is really important that, if you have a view on the development, you write to Wiltshire Council before then to get that comment in. If, like the parish council, you object, say so and say why (you may want to use all or some of the above reasons to explain why). You can do this either:

- Online via the Wiltshire Council website, by searching for planning applications, entering the planning number PL/2022/01367, clicking on "comments" and typing in what you want to say; or
- Writing a letter with your comments to Wiltshire Council at this address: Martin Broderick, Planning Department, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN, and heading your letter "Land off St. George's Road, Semington, PL/2022/01367".

The more of us who write, the more notice Wiltshire Council will take. As things stand, I fear that the relatively low turnout last night might give Newland Homes and Wiltshire Council the impression that the village isn't too concerned about this latest proposal.

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## Nature Notes

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Have we had the last of the frost for the winter do you think? Given that we're now seeing blossom emerge on trees and shrubs, I guess we should hope so. Still, it was good to wake to bracing frosty ground and clear blue skies this year unlike some other winters. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, frost is a popular topic for poetry and ***Frost at Midnight*** was one of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'conversation poems'. In it, the speaker is talking to his baby son who is sleeping at his side. This is how it starts, and ends:

The frost performs its secret ministry,  
Unhelped by any wind. The owl's cry  
Came loud—and hark, again! loud as before.

The inmates of my cottage, all at rest,  
Have left me to that solitude, which suits  
Abstruser musings: save that at my side  
My cradled infant slumbers peacefully.  
'Tis calm indeed! so calm, that it disturbs  
And vexes meditation with its strange  
And extreme silentness.

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,  
Whether the summer clothe the general earth  
With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing  
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch  
Of mossy apple-tree, while the night thatch  
Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eave-drops fall  
Heard only in the trances of the blast,  
Or if the secret ministry of frost  
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,  
Quietly shining to the quiet Moon.

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## WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS

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*Jonathon Seed 07770 774463 [jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk)*

Our recent news has been dominated by the appalling events in Ukraine. This clearly is one foreign event that is having a disastrous human effect on those suffering in Ukraine but there is also domestic economic suffering as a result. The cost of fuel and domestic energy has escalated and is clearly volatile.

As I write petrol prices have risen to an all time high as a result of crude oil cost rises but curiously have not dropped alongside the 25% reduction in crude oil values this very week. Someone is clearly doing well out of this war. It is also heartening to witness our national willingness to take in Ukrainian refugees fleeing from the horrific conditions in their country. Several will be accommodated in our area and I look forward to joining in the community welcome to our Ukrainian friends.

The Melksham Campus construction continues apace. This is the first entirely new community campus that Wiltshire Council has built. There has been huge activity on the site and this includes significant archaeological work to secure the precious history of the site. The long awaited opening of the Campus will be later this year.

There will be a new swimming pool together with learner pool. The sports hall offering includes six badminton courts, five-a-side football, basketball, volleyball and two lanes of cricket practice nets. There will be a new gym with modern and improved gym equipment. All this is in addition to new community meeting spaces, a new library space and the housing of the Melksham Without Parish Council offices. Work is also underway on developing Melksham House into a further community and social facility. After all the years of involvement I really look forward to the Melksham Campus project completion.

Finally as we move towards the summer let us hope that although the pandemic is not over we are able to live with COVID. Our community and nation, as well as affected individuals, have suffered dreadfully and we need a break. We may never see a COVID free society but let us hope that the virus will mutate downwards in its effect as its predecessor of 120 years ago mutated from a coronavirus into the common cold.

## Parish Council Meeting

### *Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022*

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**Present:** Councillors P Smith (Chairman), R Bruges, V Bodman, S Chown, J Hailey, M Kasasian, W Scott, C Wade. Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed attended for items 1 to 4.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S Rimmer and from the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

**Wiltshire Council Report:** Cllr. Seed reported that he had contacted Cllr. Botterill about the letter from the Parish Council relating to the change of Housing Market Area. Cllr. Botterill re-confirmed that the issues would be addressed at the next local plan consultation stage, the date of which is not yet known. Cllr. Seed noted that other local Parish Councils were as concerned about this issue as Semington was and recommended that the councils should come together to make common cause. Cllr. Seed also commented on the presentation by the representative of Newland Homes. He said that there were aspects of the proposed development that merited consideration by committee. The Council **resolved** to ask Cllr. Seed to call the application [PL/2022/01367] into committee.

**Planning and Development:** Planning Applications – The following planning applications had been received from Wiltshire Council for assessment. PL/2022/01367 Land of St Georges Road – residential development of 18 dwellings with associated works including vehicular access. The Council **resolved** to object to the proposed development. The reasons are: [i] the land is outside the development boundary; [ii] too many houses are proposed for a large village; [iii] there are already 52 dwellings with extant planning permission in the village whereas the parish's allocation in the draft local plan is only 35; [iv] the recent rural housing needs survey for the village did not indicate a need for additional housing over and above those already granted permission; [v] the neighbourhood planning steering group had not yet considered the issue of allocation of land for housing; [vi] as some local services are already overstretched whilst others are overwhelmed, what is proposed cannot be sustainable development; [vii] there is considerable opposition to the development from the village for the reasons stated above.

The Council noted the latest information from Wiltshire Council about the timetable for the construction of the Semington/Hilperton Cycleway and about the proposals for the surface of the route. Considerable doubts remain about the suitability of the proposed surfacing and how safe multiple use on this surface will be.

The Council **resolved** to reconfirm its resolution at the meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 not to support any further housing developments in Semington before further village consultations through the development and realisation of the Neighbourhood Plan after which it would re-examine this resolution. It noted that the recent rural housing needs survey showed little demand for either affordable or market housing in the village. The Council noted that when re-examining the resolution, there would be a strong case for being pro-active in setting standards that the Council should like to see any such development meet before being able to support it. The Council therefore **resolved** to adopt the following standards, to use them in any discussions with prospective developers, and to commend them to the neighbourhood planning steering group.

The development:

- comprises fewer than 10 properties so as to avoid sudden large increases to the size of the village size and hence to its character.
- does not further encroach the boundaries of the village into the green buffer zone between here and neighbourhood settlements.
- brings properties that primarily meet the needs of existing villagers and those with a local connection looking to move to the village.
- is above current building regulations to be fully carbon neutral, including construction materials and ongoing usage.
- includes electric car charging facilities for every dwelling, and also for visitors.
- provides significant additional tangible benefits to the village that enhances its actively rural character and natural surroundings.
- brings higher net biodiversity gain than the minimum 10% required by the 2021 Environment Act in addition to active support for existing wildlife populations.
- includes upgrades to the sewerage system and flood amelioration given the downstream challenges of the Bristol Avon.
- has full fibre broadband provision for every property.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** The Chairman reported on the community consultation event in the village hall on March 5th. This was attended by 62 villagers who provided feedback about the draft vision, objectives and possible policies and projects. There was positive support for every aspect of the plan, particularly so for proposals focused on green space, wildlife and community facilities and support. A full report on the outcomes of the event will be discussed at the next steering group (March 23rd) and will be included in the minutes of that meeting.

**Finance: Total balance as at 16th March 2022 £53,924.37**

**Environment and Streetscene:** Cllr. Chown presented her extensively researched report on replacement noticeboards. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Wade should consult Gerald Taylor and Paul Chown about the number of boards to be purchased and where they should be sited, and report back to the Council with a recommendation as to choice of Noticeboard at its next meeting. The Queen's Green Canopy initiative was discussed and the Council resolved [i] to replace the fallen tree in the Wessex Close play area with a 'Platinum Birch', and [ii] to plant additional trees at suitable sites in the village to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr. Hailey agreed to investigate both these issues, working with others, and to bring forward proposals to the next Parish Council meeting.

**Community and Communication:** The Chairman reported on arrangements for celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 5th were progressing well. An application has been made to close the road (12pm to 16pm) through the village from the Somerset Way junction on Pound Lane to the Canal Bridge. There will be a (max 15 entry) Soap Box Derby (insurance has been taken out), tea in the Village Hall c/o the WI, a flower show at St George's Church, a 'Rock about the Green' event, and a BBQ at the Somerset Arms.

Cllr. Bruges confirmed that the village fête will be held on July 23rd with the same format as last year save that tea will be available at Brook House rather than in front of the Somerset Arms.

**Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm**

Friday 15th to  
Monday 18th April  
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## News From Westminster

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*Michelle Donelan MP for Chippenham Ward*

The single issue of the last month which has dominated my thoughts is the invasion of Ukraine and the incredible bravery of its people who are fighting back. My heart goes out to all the citizens of Ukraine. Like so many of you my first instinct was to do what I can to help which is why I have been working with constituent Dawid Fedyk. I have been completely blown away by the generosity of local people in fact my office in Chippenham was completely full of donations in just a few days! Dawid has been doing such a selfless job in collecting the donations and arranging for them to be sorted and to reach the front line in Poland. I would like to thank Dawid and everyone who has donated and volunteered time for your kindness - it really shows the strength of our community.

As we help more and more refugees reach their families in the UK, residents also have the opportunity to open their homes to those fleeing the war in Ukraine through our new Homes for Ukraine scheme. Tens of thousands of people have been signing up to volunteer their homes so if you want to find out more about the scheme and how you can get involved, please visit the official page online <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

I also have been impressed to see the local Jubilee preparations coming along for the first weekend of June, with a host of events and activities across the Melksham area, including what I hear to be a rather extraordinary two kilometres worth of red, white and blue bunting! With Her Majesty having just recovered from COVID-19 and showing tremendous resilience in getting back to official duties, I am looking forward to celebrating her life and achievements more than ever.

With the strong military connection we have here in Wiltshire, I also wanted to highlight what I think is another worthy anniversary - the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Falklands Islands. To celebrate, the Falklands Islands Government are offering a once in a lifetime opportunity for eight lucky students to travel to the Falkland Islands to discover more about the remote islands and all they have to offer.

To enter you must be born on or between 10<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2007 (i.e., aged 16-18 years old at the time of travel) and resident in the UK. You can submit a short story, a poster, a film/video or a podcast and I would strongly encourage any residents thinking about it to apply through their official website <https://www.falklands40comp.co.uk/>

If you would like to discuss this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing [michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk) or by calling **01249 704465**.

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## Semington Windows - The Return!

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*Siobhan Chown*

I wonder if anyone would like to join me in one of my middle-of-the-night ideas to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June? My idea is for people to choose a year and then create a window or front garden display to represent that year. It might be a momentous event, a famous person born in that year, an event special to you or simply a colourful display of the year numbers. The options are endless.

I will then create a map plotting where all the years are so that people can wander around the village to enjoy a little walk through history. Maybe even do a trail for the kids to go looking for each year.

I would LOVE to have all 70 years of the Queen's reign represented and we are already about half way there. At the time of going to press these years are still up for grabs; 1955, 56, 57, 59; 1961, 63, 65; 1983, 86, 88, 89; 1990, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96, 98; 2001, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09; 2010, 15, 17 and 2021. So if you would like to join us and create a display for everyone to enjoy, then please contact me. You can call on 01380 870197, text 07786 980608 or email me [s.chown@bearlythere.co.uk](mailto:s.chown@bearlythere.co.uk)

I hope that together we can create something special for everyone to enjoy over the Bank Holiday Weekend.



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## Middlewick Open Gardens

Can you help Wiltshire Air Ambulance for a major community fundraising event?

We're looking for local people and businesses to donate raffle prizes and cakes for the Middlewick Open Gardens two-day extravaganza this July.

Raffle prizes can be dropped off at the airbase up to 8 July.  
Cakes would need to be delivered by 11am on Friday 29 July.

If you are able to help or want to discuss the event, please get in touch with our charity team, details below.

☎ 01225 300536  
✉ [hello@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk](mailto:hello@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk)  
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**kowhai45@hotmail.com**

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**semparmag@icloud.com**

*If you want this space*

## Neighbourhood Watch back in Semington

*Siobhan Chown*

Gone are the days of curtain twitching busy-bodies, the Neighbourhood Watch Association is now much more about supporting local communities and their vulnerable residents. The idea is that hopefully we can combine the new scheme with our already established support group network that was set up during Lockdown 1, to form a support group with local knowledge of our environment and our residents along with added input from the local police and the council.

So, we will start small, with a village-wide scheme rather than individual roads, but if we discover that there is a particular area with great support then they could form their own scheme. The quickest way to subscribe to the scheme is via their website, **[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)**

You first need to register as a member and then you can request to join a scheme. Our scheme is called "**Semington Parish**". Members sign up and select the information (called 'Alerts') that they would like to receive and these will be sent via email.

I would stress that we particularly want to include any residents who do not have access to a computer. If you would like to join the scheme then please contact Siobhan on 01380 870197 and I can add you onto the mailing list. You will then receive information in printed form.

The scheme is in it's very early stages and there will be much more we can do to tailor it to our needs and requirements. Hopefully we can have a meeting in the Spring to discuss how we would all like this to evolve.

Do check out the Neighbourhood Watch website as there is loads of information on there.

As always, contact me with any queries;

Siobhan Chown  
01380 870197  
**[s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk](mailto:s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk)**

## Semington WI

*Deb Hurn*



Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall. We went over the events of 2021/2022. Although the past 2 years have been challenging to say the least, It was surprising how much we'd managed to do. We were able to have some speakers as well as being able to get back around the table, to try our hands at different crafts with plenty of chances to chat and laugh.

As always at the AGM the new committee was elected as follows:

Deb Hurn (President), Sue Connor (Secretary), Cassandra Reynolds (Treasurer), Angela Houghton-Jones, Carole Ball, Pam Ebsworth (Committee).

There were some that we had to say thank you to:

Carole for hosting and providing a delicious cream tea.

Shirley for showing us how to make lovely Easter cards and sourcing all the materials.

Sue for sorting out tea and coffee every month and instructing us with various craft projects.

There was also a thank you to all the members for their continued support throughout very strange times. We now look forward to things hopefully getting back to normal as much as possible and our next meeting is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

## Semington Bookclub

*Angela Grodzicka – 870756*

Bookclub met on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March and discussed *The Seventh Scroll* by Wilbur Smith and *The Hand That First Held Mine* by Maggie O'Farrell. Both books had been enjoyed and it was agreed that the Wilbur Smith was an exciting adventure story with interesting engineering facts about the traps set for tomb raiders with a love interest weaving through it. Maggie O'Farrell was thought to be an author worth pursuing as she has a good, easy to read style of writing which is very descriptive, creating a wonderful atmosphere which draws one in.

The next meeting has been booked for **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm** in the pub when we will discuss *The Storyteller of Casablanca* by Fiona Valpy.

## Armstrong's Angels Skittles

*Rose Costello - Captain*

This season has been shorter than usual due to a number of ladies' teams deciding not to play and the skittles' committee deciding it was best to just concentrate on league rather than cup matches. So only twenty matches played but our best season, since I've been captain, finishing fourth. We welcomed two new players, Chelle Edwards and Louise Gunner (who joined us temporarily from Semington A who decided not to enter a team this season).

Vicky Bodman had the highest average, 32.33 pins and Andrea Bowland had the highest score, of 38 pins, and played in all but one of the games. Both Vicky and Gillian Airey got two spares. A special mention for Louise whose average was 28.73 and, having played 75% of the matches, was our 'official' highest average winner.

Our last match of the season was a complete disaster, we blamed it on being distracted by the lovely spread of food supplied by the opposition, so we do not intend to start next season in the same way. The words 'skittles is a stupid game' can often be heard being muttered as we wonder why you can get a nine in one leg and then a duck in the next, while another player is scoring a consistent five in each leg. Also how can a player score the most spares and the most ducks in one season and manage to bowl the ball back up the ball chute – now that takes skill! *(It's a very special skill – Ed!)*

Six of us decided to end the season by entering the Ladies Pairs Competition, which took place on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Louise and Andrea did us proud by getting through to the semi-finals, only missing reaching the final by four pins! And they actually scored higher than both the other semi-finalists. Sally Rigg and I made it through to the last eight, but couldn't maintain our earlier performance. Lyn Cobley and Lesley Williams also put in a fine performance but sadly didn't make it past the first round.

A couple of our players needed to take a break from skittles this season but we look forward to welcoming them back in September, and we're all looking forward to our end of season get together in the summer – something we haven't been able to enjoy for the last two years.

As ever my thanks go to Andrea my Vice Captain and to Sally for doing the board. Thanks to Tyler Bowland for being our main sticker up, we will miss you next season, and thanks to Tia Bowland and little Oliver for your help too.

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## Catholic News

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

### **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

**Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal:** The situation in Ukraine is one we cannot ignore. As Lent begins, we're all shocked by the situation unfolding in Ukraine. People are separating from their loved ones and fleeing the country, simply to survive. CAFOD'S sister organisation, Caritas Ukraine, and other Caritas agencies in neighbouring countries, are already on the ground helping people affected by this conflict. Caritas Ukraine has 19 centres across the country. They are extremely experienced, having been active for 30 years and have been responding to the conflict in eastern Ukraine since 2014. Caritas Poland, Caritas Romania and Caritas Moldova are all supporting people who have fled Ukraine and are in need of food, water, shelter and means to continue their journeys to safety. They are providing food, blankets and warm clothes to families who have been forced to leave everything behind. Whatever you can give today will help us reach more families with urgent assistance. Your support today will have a direct impact on the people of Ukraine. You can donate today directly on the CAFOD website.

**Prayer for Peace:** *Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.*

**Cally Todd Walking the Camino in aid of Dorothy House Hospice:** Before the March 2020 COVID lockdown, retired Dorothy House Doctor Cally Todd (parishioner at St. Johns) had planned to walk 500 miles of the Camino Way to Santiago de Compostela. Well, the walk is back on! Cally will begin the journey on Easter Sunday 2022 and you can support Dorothy House Hospice by sponsoring her by calling 01225 721480 or by visiting [www.justgiving.com/CallyCamino700](http://www.justgiving.com/CallyCamino700) Thank you.

**300 Club Membership:** If you wish to join the 300 Club, please ask Fr. Tom for an application form. They are also available on the parish Website. Thank you. January Draw Winners as follows: £200 Maura Magee, £70 Cecily Geldhart, £50 Brian & Margaret Moore, £10 John Mellon.

## Thought from the Curate

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*Rev. Joy Albone*

As I look out of my window today, I can see blossom on the trees, and the daffodils nodding in the garden, but the air is still cold and I am looking forward to the warmer days that the Spring equinox usually heralds and the Easter season. At this time of year, we remember Jesus' triumphal journey into Jerusalem followed only a few days later by humiliation and the suffering leading to his death on the Cross.

However, this year I cannot help but compare the suffering of Jesus to the awful suffering unfolding on our news daily from Ukraine. People living in constant fear, under dreadful bombardment of rockets and guns, seeing and hearing their cities being destroyed around them, faced with fleeing for their lives with what little they can carry to an uncertain future. The indescribable torment, we have witnessed in recent days, is beyond the imagination of many of us, in our comfortable and peaceable homes, and my prayers have been for all who have been caught up in this.

My prayers have also been for those many thousands who are providing places of refuge across Europe and beyond for those who have managed to flee and I give thanks for the thousands of pounds of donations that have gone into supporting the refugees. I rather hope that by the time you read this, the fighting will have ceased, although what form any ceasefire will take looks very uncertain and quite frankly quite scary at present.

Jesus suffered torture, and humiliation before his final brutal death on the cross. In his suffering he can relate to all those who have experienced inhumane treatment at the hands of others, for he has been there. It is difficult to know at times what we should pray when we witness man's inhumanity to man, but we have in God, a saviour who does know the desires of our hearts, and never leaves us or abandons us, even when times are tough and we are challenged to our core with the pain and suffering we see around us.

## Thought From the Curate Continued

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If you do not know what to pray, you are not alone, and I offer to you the prayer given to us by Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell:

*God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine\* today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.  
\*and all who suffering*

May we all know the hope of the resurrected Jesus this Spring.

## From The Church Register

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### **The Funeral of William (Billy) Ernest Raymond Withers**

The funeral of Billy Withers was held at St George's Church on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. We pray that Sally, sons Ben, Buckley, Billy Jr, Beau, daughter Emily, eldest granddaughter Halle and all his grandchildren, Billy's brothers James and Peter, together with all his family and friends, will know God's love and peace at this sad time.

### Paws for Thought

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Jesus said "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!"

It's in the Bible; Revelation 1 verses 17 and 18



# 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
Sunday 3rd April	10.30am	<b>TOGETHER in WORSHIP</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton
	10.30am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road
	3pm	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> at St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon
Sunday 10th April <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	10.30am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton
M / Tu / W 11th/12th/13th April	6.30pm	<b>COMPLINE</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton
Thursday 14th April <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	7.30pm	<b>HOLY COMMUNION for MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton
Friday 15th April <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	2-3pm	<b>MEDITATION for the LAST HOUR</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton
Saturday 16th April <b>EASTER SATURDAY</b>	10am	<b>EASTER@the TIN ALL AGE WORSHIP</b> at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road
Sunday 17th April <b>EASTER DAY</b>	7am	<b>EASTER DAWN SERVICE followed by Breakfast</b> at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road
	9.15am	<b>ALL AGE EASTER COMMUNION</b> at St George's in Semington
	10.30am	<b>EASTER COMMUNION</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton
Sunday 24th April	10.30am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> at St Michael's in Hilperton

## Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes:

Administrator – Michael Gamble, please contact Michael for initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings and general matters on **07795 400262**

E-mail: [canalsideoffice@gmail.com](mailto:canalsideoffice@gmail.com)

PCC Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Woodward **01380 870784**

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

Lay Pastoral Assistants are co-ordinated by Marilyn Stubbs. Please contact Marilyn on **01225 753118** or John if you would like a visit.

Curate: Revd. Joy Albone **07931 638524** email [canalsidecurate@gmail.com](mailto:canalsidecurate@gmail.com)

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

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