

MAY 2022



SEMINGTON
PARISH MAGAZINE

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



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Food Bank Collections

Wednesdays 6.00pm deadline

Church Porch and Pub

Coffee Mornings

Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00pm

Village Hall

Bingo

Mondays 7.30pm

Village Hall

Semington WI

Thursday 12th May 7.30pm

Village Hall

Members' Meal Tuesday 24th May 12.00pm

Bell Inn Lacock

Semingtones Choir

Fridays 6th, 13th, 27th 6.00pm to 7.30pm

and Sunday 22nd 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting

AGM Wednesday 18th May 7.30pm

Village Hall

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 8.00pm

In Focus Photography Exhibition

Now until June

See Page 16 for details

Book Club

Tuesday 10th May 8.00pm

Somerset Arms

Somerset Arms

Back in September

Crib and Chess Club

Sunday 1st May

Live Music All Day

Sunday 8th May

Poker Evening

Thursday 19th May

Quiz Night

Sunday 22nd May

Poker Evening

Christians in Semington

Bev Woodward

Christians in Semington - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 4th May 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.

Breakfast Church - our next Breakfast Church is on **Sunday 8th May**, in Church. There will be a breakfast of baked goodies, fruit, juice, tea, coffee & hot chocolate from **9.15am** followed by a short service. All ages welcome.

Semington Jubilee Windows

Siobhan Chown - 01380 870197

Now is the time to channel your inner Grayson Perry! These are the last few years that need to find a home for our Jubilee window theme. Let me know which one you'd like to honour over the Jubilee weekend. We just need 25 more windows!

1955, 1956 and 1959, 1961
1983, 1986, 1988 and 1989
1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1998
2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009
2010, 2015, 2017 and 2021

Editor's Note

Gillian Airey

There is loads of stuff going on in the magazine this month – including news about affordable housing coming available in the village, an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the activities that are planned for the Jubilee weekend, so you'd better read it all – because I'll be quizzing you on it all later!

I can scarcely believe it, but the next edition marks the halfway point of the year, the deadline for June's edition is **Sunday 22nd May** – due to personal commitments from yours truly the magazine will be a few days late going out so advance apologies!

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This Month I Was Almost Lost For Words!

Gilly Airey

As I was planning this month's magazine yes there is a modicum of planning goes into the magazine and I know it gives the impression of being a spontaneous combustion of news and information, but I absolutely promise I do attempt some planning.... I digress. Oh yes, when I was planning this month's magazine, it occurred to me that with so much going on in the village I may be in a position to spare you all my witterings as the page would be needed for something far more important and relevant.

And then at the eleventh hour as page 5 stood defiantly blank and fixed me with a stare as if to say 'so what are you going to witter about' I will admit I broke into a bit of sweat and thought what the heck have I been up to for the last month? So a Darj and dash later (emergency Darj not to schedule and definitely needed) it occurred to me I'd been up to quite a bit!

The end of March saw Gorgeous Hubby join the swelling rank of Covid statistics and as dashing as ever he decided to do it the day we were due to fly off on holibobs. Over thirty years I have learnt the art of caring for a poorly Gorgeous Hubby and I'm not going to lie the best plan of attack is just to let him get on with it – fussing over him really is a recipe for disaster. This is all very well except for one thing I love to fuss – so I took myself off to my cabin and made stuff. I diligently did the old lateral flow test everyday and became increasingly smug as each day passed that despite living with a Covid statistic I was clearly superhuman and immune. It wasn't to last sadly and the inevitable happened and I was then struck down just as Gorgeous Hubby punched the air with his second negative test.

I have been collecting my craft materials so I can make my Jubilee window display, making headband stands for Princess Bella, sewing all manner of clothes, getting addicted to Wordle, confused by Nerdle, baffled by Globle and banjaxed by Heardle. But best of all I am dipping my toe into the world of Instagram. Now I know Instagram has been around for a while but I am still relatively new to the 'Gram'. I had been cheerfully uploading what I thought were posts on my profile only for someone called GrannyLindaSews (yes really) to make contact with me to tell me I was doing it all wrong – so now I need to go to Instagram school it seems. Apparently if you get it right you can become an influencer but I need a tag line for that to really work and the only thing I can come up with was 'Old Girl Likes to Fuss and Make Stuff' I think it still needs some work!

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Down The Local

John, The Landlord, John

So what's going on down the pub?

We've got lots to look forward to. The village quiz was well supported and in a very close run race the Orchard Pigs just past the post in first place winning the wine. Congratulations Neil Stockley, Sally Tyler, Sally Rigg, Brian Gibson Alex Tyler. Winning the wine means the next quiz is a cash rollover on **Thursday 19th May**. As always everyone is welcome and it would be great to see a few more village quizzers to take on the Orchard Pigs reign of terror.

Some of you may have seen that we are in the process of constructing a pizza oven and we will soon be offering pizza to eat in or take away. Crib club is now on a summer break but will be back In September.

On the early Bank Holiday May weekend we have a day of live music planned on **Sunday 1st May** with lots of bands and varied genres. Check out page 27 for the village Jubilee plans. And finally our chefs have been feeling creative so be sure to visit and sample our weekly specials. Hope to see you real soon!

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Parish Council Matters

Peter Smith, Chair of the Parish Council

Newland Homes proposals for 18 additional homes – consultation on the new proposals ended on 8th April. There are now 57 comments recorded on the Wiltshire Council website about this planning application, of which 47 are objections, two in favour, and 8 “expert” views from technical consultees about drainage, archaeology etc.

Cycle route works along Gypsy Lane byway - you’ll have noticed the traffic lights and works at the Devizes Road roundabout at the Paxcroft end of Hilperton. These were for the first phase of the cycle route works commissioned by Wiltshire Council. The second phase will see the Gypsy Lane byway closed for 3 weeks from 26th April to 13th May for improved drainage and new surface works.

Post Office failures – in recent weeks, the service at the post office has again become rather patchy. The breaks in service have been reported to the regional office so that it can work with the postmaster to give us a reliable service. The Parish Council continues to press for a solution but has no power to resolve the ongoing Post Office staffing problems.

Damage to the Semington Football Club facilities – there has recently been a third break-in at the club in as many years, with damage and chaos caused to clubhouse facilities. As well as being pointless and daft, it is also criminal. The Parish Council will help the club fund improved security at the clubhouse, which is likely to include 24/7 surveillance.

Tennis Court – work to lay a weed-suppressant barrier around the court has now been completed, ready for the court to be spray washed and painted (green and blue are the favoured colours). Many thanks to all the volunteers who dug, weeded, cut back, backfilled and made good the court surrounds. And thanks too to residents of St. George’s Court who kept the car park clear when the works were happening: much appreciated.

Semington Jubilee celebrations – lots of people in the village are working hard to give us all a great day celebrating the Queen’s 70th year as monarch. Make sure **5th June** is in your diary so that you can enjoy the day. Fingers crossed for fine weather!

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Nature Notes

Although William Wordsworth wrote these words over two hundred and twenty years ago, their message seems as pertinent now as it was then. And although he wrote it nowhere near Semington – it was following a visit to the River Wye a few miles above Tintern Abbey – he might just as well have been here walking through the fields that surround the village, as what he writes has nothing to do with either time or place.

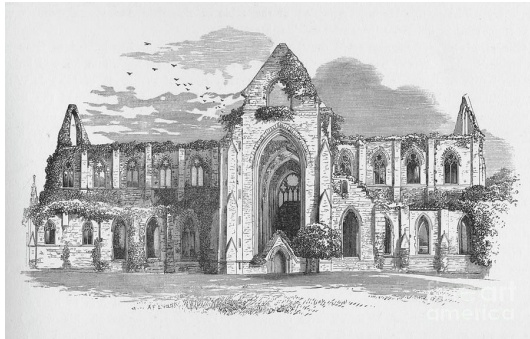
“I have learned to look on nature, not as in the hour of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes the still sad music of humanity, nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power to chasten and subdue.

And I have felt a presence that disturbs me with the joy of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime of something far more deeply interfused, whose dwelling is the light of setting suns, and the round ocean and the living air, and the blue sky, and in the mind of man:

a motion and a spirit, that impels all thinking things, all objects of all thought, and rolls through all things.

Therefore am I still a lover of the meadows and the woods and mountains; and of all that we behold from this green earth; of all the mighty world of eye, and ear — both what they half create, and what perceive;

well pleased to recognise in nature and the language of the sense the anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse, the guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul of all my moral being.”



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Semington Neighbourhood Plan

This is the summary note of the ‘drop-in’, plus a few general reflections. The full report, with every single comment noted, together with further information, is available on our website and on the community Facebook page. On Saturday 5th March, people were invited to ‘drop-in’ to the Village Hall to find out more about how the plan is shaping up. The aim of the event was to share a draft vision and objectives for the plan, and to build more information on what people felt should be the scope, or content of the plan. In all 62 people called in, spending on average of 30 minutes at the event. A lot of information was captured that is already helping to shape the content and direction of the Plan. We have made changes to the plan’s vision and objectives, and to how we will go about this work, as a result of what villagers said.

Key Points: People were very keen to give us their views, most of which showed strong support for the twin pillars of the plan; maintaining Semington’s actively rural character and restricting new housing developments. There was a generally positive response to the draft vision and objectives as well as some really useful comments that will be used to draft a next version of these. There was emphasis on [i] helping young families move to the village to maintain a diverse community and on [ii] helping families to remain here. The need for appropriately sized and affordable housing was stressed – but the need for that to be sensitive to the rural setting and small scale of the village must be taken into account. The need for more (and better) village facilities, the better use of facilities and meeting the needs of all were mentioned. Facilities mentioned included a shop, and play areas for younger and older children. Protecting wildlife, heritage assets (such as the pill boxes) and the rural setting of the village were all mentioned. The wide-open landscape setting, the canal and the many walking routes of the village were highlighted as important reasons why people love living in Semington parish. It was also clear that safety of roads, especially regarding outside the school area of Pound Lane is an important topic.

What Are The Next Steps? The Plan needs to be based on evidence to be strong – and collecting evidence can be an opportunity for everyone to get involved ...

- if you love walking in the landscape around, perhaps you could help to identify key views that a policy in the Plan could protect
- or if you are interested in how future development could be addressed in a sensitive and locally appropriate way, the complex question of future housing in the village will be an important point of consideration – we can have more control of this through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Interested? If so, get in touch with the **Steering Group at np@semington.org.uk** or through the village Facebook group

We have re-drafted the next version of the draft vision and objectives based on your feedback. Over the coming months, everyone in Semington, and we want to include our youngest residents, can all contribute in some way to shaping a Neighbourhood Plan that adds a Semington layer of detail and planning policies to the Wiltshire-wide Plan. We’ll keep you updated regularly through the community Facebook page, the village website and the parish magazine as we develop this work. And finally, thanks to those who were able to come along and to any taking the time to read this summary. We really appreciate your time and input in the Plan which we are hoping can play a strong and positive role in the future of our parish.

Parish Council Meeting

Abridged Minutes From Meeting Held Wednesday 13th April 2022

Present: Councillors P Smith (Chairman), R Bruges, S Chown, M Kasasian, W Scott and the Clerk, Roger Coleman.

Apologies: Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Cllrs. V Bodman, J Hailey, S Rimmer, C Wade.

Wiltshire Council Report: In the absence of Cllr. Seed there was no report. The Chairman stated that following Cllr. Seed's comment at the March Parish Council meeting that noted that other local Parish Councils were as concerned about the issue of the change in the Housing Market Area as was Semington, it was now proposed to contact the other Parish Councils and to meet and decide the strategy to adopt to reverse the HMA decision. The other Parish Councils involved were Steeple Ashton, Keevil and Great Hinton.

Planning and Development: The Council examined the following planning applications and **resolved** to inform Wiltshire County Council that there were no objections to them: PL/2022/02476 53 Littlemarsh – Ground floor extension to living room.
PL/2022/02631 50 Littlemarsh – Two storey rear extension.
PL/2022/2656 Littleton Mill – Proposed wooden hut to house and protect turbines.
PL/2022/02756 37 Pound Close – Single storey brickwork and flat fronted horizontal extension to side of property.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP): The Chairman reported that the latest meeting of the NP Steering Group (NPSG) was held on 23rd March and that it reviewed the results of the NP Open Day and Public Consultation held on 5th March. He added that at that meeting it was agreed to set up five working groups to reflect key themes within the NP and to develop policies regarding the content of the NP. The Chairman commented that the NPSG would also be preparing a budget for the continuing work of the NPSG and for the necessary involvement of other agencies in the development of the NP. The Parish Council **resolved** that immediate expenditure to continue with the development of the plan would be met from the existing finances of the Parish Council pending reimbursement from the next grant instalment.

The Chairman explained that a key feature of the Neighbourhood Plan was to identify sites within the village that might promote a change in land use – for example to be developed as a green space, recreational area, housing development – and landowners and parishioners views would be sought. Cllr. Scott commented that Wiltshire Council intended to write to those owners of existing SHLAA sites with the parish seeking their views regarding their current thoughts regarding the land use of the land that they own, although it was not clear whether the NPWG would have access to this correspondence. He added that the NPWG is preparing a questionnaire to address these questions and to inform the NP and this would be agreed by the NPWG at its next meeting to be held on 27th April.

Cllr. Scott stated that at the last Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council resolved that the following policy be adopted by the Council in respect of any proposed housing development in the village (shown on opposite page):

The development is to:

- comprise 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

The Parish Council resolved that this policy be adopted by the NPSG and that Wiltshire Council is to be advised of this policy. The Clerk was asked to write formally to Wiltshire Council and the local Parish Councils stating this policy.

Finance: Total balance in hand as at 13th April £51,866.06. The Clerk commented that PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditors, had requested an explanation for the high reserves (£50k +) held by Semington PC as they represented more than twice the Precept. The Council acknowledged that the reserves were deliberately high because of anticipated future expenditure, and it resolved that the reserves were intended to be used as follows; Wessex Close play area refurbishment, £20,000, tennis court maintenance/repair, £5,000, creation of allotments £5,000 and Neighbourhood Plan £2,500

Environment and Streetscene: Rights of Way. Councillors commented that Path SEM18/10 had recently had a further two gates fitted that provided an obstacle to horse riders and other users of that bridleway. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council requesting that they investigate this development and whether such gates were appropriate on this bridleway when there were no animals to protect. Cllr. Scott stated that the Working Group had been active in clearing Paths SEM17/20 (towards Greenacres) and Path SEM17/30.

Cllr. Chown stated that the design of the replacement noticeboards had been identified. The Chairman stated that a decision to proceed with the purchase of these noticeboards would be made at the next Parish Council meeting. It was confirmed that Gerald Taylor, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, had agreed to the new noticeboards being mounted on the Village Hall to replace the existing ones.

Minutes continued overleaf.

Parish Council minutes continued

Recreation and Wellbeing: The Chairman stated that he and the whole Council were very disappointed to learn of the vandalism at the Football Field hut and that the message sent advising councillors of the wanton vandalism and seeking financial support for the introduction of additional security measures had been seen by all councillors. The Council resolved to provide financial support to the Football Club to improve security and that the first step was to invite the Club to provide costed proposals to the Parish Council for implanting the increased security. The Clerk commented that this project appeared to be an ideal project to attract an Area Board grant and that the Football Club should be encouraged to discuss this possibility with Cllr. Seed.

Community and Communication: Cllr. Chown reported that Cllr. Hailey had confirmed that she would be the focal point within the Council for matters relating to Wessex Close Play Area. Cllr. Chown advised councillors that she had had a very poor response to the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Semington. The Chairman thanked her for her persistence in attempting to establish such a scheme and the Council resolved not to expend effort in promoting further except for the purchase and erection of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme signs. The Council agreed to investigate possible locations for the signs to be erected, such as the lampposts where the original signs had been placed. Cllr. Bruges confirmed that the arrangements for the village fête that will be held on 23rd July were progressing well.

Date of the next meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm followed by Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm

In Focus Photography Exhibition

Roy and Sue McDine founders of the Semington Camera Club along with Sheri O'Reilly have created and curated the In Focus Exhibition at Trowbridge Museum it is on now until June 2022. It is a collaboration of work created and curated by them and with over 50 years of experience collectively and finding inspiration, In Focus promises to be compelling to all.

Admission to the museum and exhibition is free.

News From Westminster

Michelle Donelan MP for Chippenham Ward

Lately, I have been working tirelessly with the Home Office to help residents from across the constituency with their sponsorship applications. Simply put, the faster we approve Homes for Ukraine applications, the better. When the Prime Minister went to Ukraine and met with President Zelensky in person, he reaffirmed the historic British tradition of standing with countries in the face of tyranny. In Ukraine's time of need, we must support them.

Connected to this conflict is the stark rise in global energy prices, something I have never personally seen in my lifetime. Having listened to residents and pushed for swift action, we announced an energy strategy to make sure the future of British energy is clean, affordable and secure from global crises. This means accelerating our wind, nuclear, solar and hydrogen energies; making our electricity 95% low carbon by 2030; creating over 40,000 new jobs in the green industries and, ultimately, lowering energy bills. We also introduced a number of things to help people through this time with energy rebates, council tax discounts and a £1billion investment in the Household Support Fund for local authorities like Wiltshire Council to provide urgent help to those who need it. If you or anyone you know is struggling, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

We also have a fantastic initiative being set up in Semington to help retrain veterans into a new industry in just over five weeks. Between Ringway, Wiltshire Council and the charity Building Heroes, Semington will play host to this fantastic training scheme which provides hands-on work experience with a guaranteed interview at the end of the course in our highways sector. Veterans will be able to develop skills including health and safety, IT and employability together with the technical skills necessary to become a skilled highway operative.

Finally, I hope you all had a lovely Easter and I was delighted to see the village Easter Bunny Trail take off from The Somerset Arms in conjunction with St George's School. Easter has always been one of my favourite holidays where we not only celebrate the Resurrection but get together as families and as communities, something I think is very special.

If you do want to discuss any local or national issues, I am holding a surgery at Broughton Gifford Village Hall on **Friday 6th May from 5.00pm to 6.00pm**. Alternatively, please do not hesitate to email or call: **michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk** or by calling **01249 704465**.

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New Affordable Houses for Semington

Semington Parish Council

The Parish Council has been asked by Wiltshire Council's Residential Development Team to promote to parishioners the new affordable homes that are being built in Semington. This team is responsible for delivering new council homes across Wiltshire.

Newland Homes is in the process of building 24 new homes along St. George's Road. This build includes 6 homes which aim to meet the village affordable housing needs identified in the 2014 housing needs survey. The homes are estimated to be ready in early Autumn 2022 and the Parish Council has been asked by Wiltshire Council to encourage anyone within the village to apply for one of the new homes. This may also include people outside the village who have a local connection to the village.

If anyone is interested in one of these new homes, they would need to register on Wiltshire Council's Home - Wiltshire www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk for both tenures, the affordable rent and the shared ownership. Shared ownership applicants would need to think about securing a mortgage for the homes, as these are part buy/part rent.

The six new homes are:

- 1 x 3 bed bungalow - the tenure is affordable rent
- 1 x 3 bed house - the tenure is affordable rent
- 2 x 2 bed houses - the tenure is affordable rent
- 2 x 2 bed houses - the tenure is shared ownership / part buy part rent.

Sales prices for the shared ownership are yet to be confirmed, they will be valued later this year when the homes are nearly complete. The homes are being built to a high standard and will be zero-carbon, meeting the Wiltshire Council's aspirations to enable its tenants to live in homes that are energy efficient and help to reduce household bills.

If anyone is interested in these new homes, please contact Wiltshire Council directly through the link given above.



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If you want this space



Save The Date - Saturday 23rd July
2.00pm to 4.00pm

The village venues will be the same as last year as everyone seemed to really enjoy the way it worked.

More information as always to follow in the Parish Mag and Facebook.

Where is all the talent hiding?

Siobhan Chown

I would love to hear from anyone in the village who has a talent for making things! Artists, sculptors, crafters, photographers, knitters, stitchers, woodworkers - I could go on!

I have been asked to put on an exhibition along the lines of the one I did for last years Summer Fete but thankfully, this year we haven't had a lockdown to endure so there is no specific theme, other than showcasing Semington's talent. Please contact me if you would like to exhibit some of your work for the whole village to enjoy on **Saturday 23rd July**.

We were blown away by the creativity on display last year and I know that there are many more talented people in the village, so don't be shy, contact me asap to let me know what you might like to display. Items are not for sale (unless you want to) and can be displayed anonymously if you would prefer. Everything will be cared for and never left unsupervised. I can't wait to hear from you all!

All best wishes, Siobhan **01380 870197**, s.chown@bearly-there.co.uk

Semington WI

Deb Hurn



I do hope everyone had a lovely Easter. April's meeting had us learning a little about the interesting history of Venetian face masks courtesy of Karen Johnson. We then went on to make our own. It was good fun and some wonderful masks were made. At our May meeting on **Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall, we will be having a talk on the life of the honey bee.

To celebrate our 25th anniversary which was in January, we will be having a members' meal at The Bell in Lacock on **Tuesday 24th May at 12.00pm**. Details to be arranged at our May meeting.

Semington Bookclub

Angela Grodzicka – 870756

Eight members met on 12th April to discuss *The Storyteller of Casablanca* by Fiona Valpy. Everyone agreed it was a very descriptive, well written, easy read with two interesting strands which intertwined at the end to give a sad but moving finish to the book.

The story took place during the Second World War and facts concerning the German occupation of Morocco were new to everyone in the group. The next meeting has been booked for **Tuesday 10th May at 8.00pm** in the pub to discuss *Golden Hill* by Francis Spufford. Everyone welcome.

Melksham Remembers

Ray Heard

I am a member of the group 'Melksham Remembers'. In 2018 we held an exhibition in Melksham Town Hall and the surrounding villages including Semington. Following the exhibition we decided to produce a book and Semington P.C. purchased two copies and I have sold them to some of our villagers, these are still available for £16.00 and I can deliver.

In 2019 I did a reading for the 'Wiltshire Blind Association' and I was asked if it would be possible to provide an audio version. We're commencing the recording sessions at the moment at Melksham Oak, using members of our group and pupils from the school. It will be available from the end of June at the cost of £10.00. Please contact me at **rayheard1937@btinternet.com** or call **07887 841937 01380 870746** if you would like to purchase a copy.



West Side Story (12A)

Saturday 7th May 2022

7.30pm (Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments)

The Village Hall Steeple Ashton

Directed by Steven Spielberg, it is set against the authentic backdrop of New York City with the flavour of Latin America. Most of us know the story of the Jets and the Sharks, two rival gangs and the love story between the sister of the Puerto Rican leader of the Sharks and the best friend of the leader of the Jets! Inspired by William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

Nominated for six Oscars, this is a highly acclaimed remake of a much loved classic and is part of our cinematic history! For those of us who remember an earlier version of West Side Story and feel nostalgic, this is a new and exciting production which is colourful and impressive and will not disappoint. You will recognise all the familiar songs and we hope you will join in with the singing, clapping or just hum along! Time to really enjoy yourself!

If you have tickets for Spencer and wish to exchange them, you may choose from any of the next season's films West Side Story, Death on the Nile or The Duke.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 11th June – Death on the Nile

Following the success of Kenneth Brannagh's Murder on the Orient Express, Death on the Nile is his second adaptation of an Agatha Christie murder mystery with an all star cast

Friday 8th July – The Duke

Starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren, this comedy/drama is based on the true story of a 60 year old taxi driver who stole a famous painting in the 1960's and holds it for ransom until the government invests in more care for the elderly!

Tickets £6.00 from Steeple Ashton Shop

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

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Catholic News

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. 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.

Children's Rosary: Children's Rosary will continue on the the first Saturday of each month in St. John's Church at 11am. All welcome.

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 Rectory

Anne Rees

As England returns to more or less “normal” life since the Covid restrictions were lifted in February, I’m sure that like me, many of you have been pleased to do things again that we used to take for granted before March 2020. Meeting up with family members, going out for coffee or meals with friends, holidays and days out, our children going to school, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the ways we really want to, returning to the social groups we are members of, Thursday coffee mornings in the Village Hall and meeting together to worship in our churches were all things many of us missed and are pleased to have the opportunity to properly return to in 2022.

As human beings, most of us are sociable and want to be with others to chat, to listen, to share ideas and experiences – and sometimes just to sit or walk in companionable silence. The Bible tells us that Jesus spent time with his twelve disciples for the three years of his ministry – but sometimes he wanted time away from them, when he went to a quiet place to be with God his Father. We don’t all have the privilege of choosing one of those options though. Some people want peace and quiet sometimes, but live and work in noisy environments where that is very difficult to achieve. Others want company and a change of scene but because of their health or other circumstances feel isolated or lonely.

Jesus said that the two greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbour. As we move to a post-pandemic world, let’s be mindful of our neighbours who want more space in their lives to be quiet, and those who would really appreciate a visit or a phone call. Lockdown isn’t over for everyone.

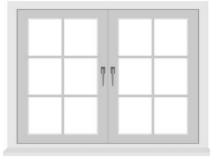
With my prayers and best wishes

Anne Rees

Lay Pastoral Assistant in the Canalside Churches

Semington Jubilee Weekend Celebrations

John Adams



Semington Windows

Throughout the whole weekend, there will be windows charting all the years of of Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne. Maps will be available so you won't miss a single one!

The festivities kick off on **Thursday 2nd June** with the Semingtones performing in the Church at **6.30pm**. Then at 9.45pm a string of beacons will be lit across the country. We will be lighting one for our village and tipping the royal standard



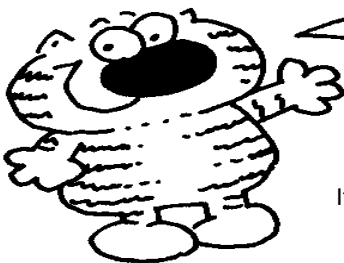
Live music at the pub **Friday 3rd June**

On **Saturday 4th June** there will be the football tournament at the football pitch and meet afterwards at the Somerset Arms. All proceeds will go towards repairing the vandalism damage.



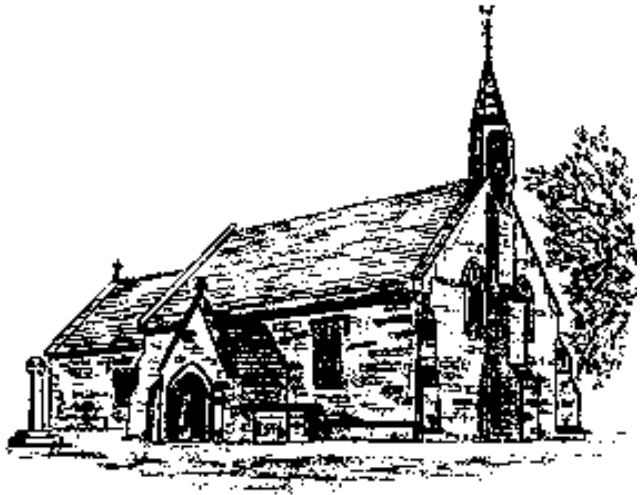
Sunday is Street Party day, kicking off with local children parading from the school. Bring a picnic down to the High Street and enjoy a host of entertainment, teas and coffees in the hall, live music and not forgetting the brave souls navigating their soap box carts through the village. Carts are starting to appear around the village and the competition looks fierce!

Paws for Thought



'Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

It's in the Bible; 1 Corinthians 13 verses 6 and 7.



Services May 2022

Thursday 5th May 9.00am – Morning Prayer for Semington via Zoom

Sunday 8th May 9.15am – Breakfast Church

Thursday 12th May 9.00am – Morning Prayer for Semington via Zoom

Sunday 15th May – Holy Communion

Thursday 19th May 9.00am – Morning Prayer for Semington via Zoom

Thursday 26th May 9.00am – Morning Prayer via Zoom

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