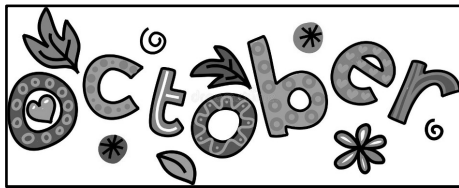


# OCTOBER 2022



## SEMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Minister for Semington:  
Rev John Rees  
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**St George's School Open Day**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm to 2.00pm

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Littlemarsh

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**Somerset Arms**

Semington Camera Club

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Crib and Chess Club

Wednesdays 7.30pm

Adults Hallowe'en Party

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm

Kids Hallowe'en Party

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 4.00pm

## Christians in Semington

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*Bev Woodward*

**Christians in Semington** - are meeting via zoom, to pray for our community, on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm**. Please contact Jack Woodward, 870784, for the zoom link.

**Housegroup** - we meet every other Tuesday, at 8.00pm. We're continuing to look at Luke's gospel, seeing 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 the venue.

**Harvest Celebrations and Breakfast Church** - Because our September Breakfast Church had to be postponed, our next one is on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**, in Church, and will be combined with our Harvest service. There will be a breakfast of baked goodies, fruit, juice, tea, coffee & hot chocolate from **9.15am** followed by a short service.

## Heartfelt Thanks

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DAVID DANIELS

*Ruby, Kim and Paul would like to thank Semington for their kindness during their sad loss of David. We have lived in the village for fifty years, having visited family for many years previously and we appreciated the support from many people. David had worked tirelessly for the school and church during his time here and was proud to be a villager. Thank you everyone, with special thanks to Rev. John Rees.*

## Editor's Note

---

*Gillian Airey*

If there is one thing I am completely rubbish at it is matching the correct day to the correct date when telling you when the contribution deadline is..... I've booked myself in for a disciplinary meeting and no doubt shall count myself lucky if I only give myself a first written warning! No doubt loads of you went to find when there was indeed a Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. I can tell you it's 2029.

Deadline for November's edition is **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October** (and yes I have double-checked) my email as always **semparmag@icloud.com**

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## This Month I'm All Over the Place

*Gilly Airey*

I am writing this piece in a different time zone to home – I am not the next Doctor Who's assistant I hasten to add. Gorgeous Hubby and I are on a road trip. It's the sort of a road trip that even last year I never dared dream we would ever enjoy again – but here we are!

I'm not going to lie the trip did not get off to the best of starts as we were mid Atlantic when the captain of the plane announced the sad news that Queen Elizabeth II had died. It was the most surreal moment, as the news was delivered there was a quiet ripple of (very British) applause and I'm not ashamed to say I shed a tear. You may remember Gorgeous Hubby and I found ourselves in Thailand as the world went into lockdown in 2020, so it seems we are making a habit of being far from home when momentous events happen.

We have been able to follow the news thanks to the coverage given over by the American TV networks, that is whilst we're not on the road. There's been a lot of driving, I mean hundreds of miles, which in fairness has allowed me the time to find the massage function on the passenger seat – brilliant but only lasts 10 minutes. I have also discovered the the world of American radio stations, 70s on 7, 80s on 8, 90s on.... oh I'm sure you can guess which channel that's on. I used to think Radio 2 had a limited playlist but I'm sure they only have 10 songs for each decade.

Anyhow, we've ticked off California, Reno in Nevada, Salt Lake City and Moab in Utah and now we're in Colorado. The thing I always forget about Colorado is everything is very high, like 2 miles high. We're in town called Telluride at a blues and brews festival, the altitude is a heart-attack inducing 8,752 feet. This means I have to go everywhere very slowly, no even slower than normal, water bottle in hand. The other thing about Colorado is it very cheap to get drunk in. Why I hear you cry? Well because at 8,752 feet one beer is enough to knock you out. Ask Gorgeous Hubby the next time you see him about how I fell off a bar stool in Tahoe and that's only 6,500 feet high.

So the festival for us is more about the blues than the brews, the music has been beyond amazing and as I write this I can hear the closing act of the festival in the distance. I sent Gorgeous Hubby back out to watch it so I could get on with the serious stuff – getting the Parish Magazine to you from a different time zone!

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## Down The Local

---

*John, the Landlord, John*

Here we are again Semington. Sorry for disappearing last month but me and deadlines don't always see eye to eye!

So what's been going on? First and foremost I have to talk about the sad passing of Her Majesty. It made for an odd few days down the pub. Alongside the parks, open spaces and theatres around the country we gathered to pay our final respects. A somber time but it was nice to see villagers gathering together to remember the Queen. It gave a real sense of community albeit in a strange way.

Through the summer we enjoyed several great live music acts amongst them Caff, Gouldy and Red Light. You'll be pleased to hear that the Bev May Band and the Junkyard dogs are all reappearing before Christmas. Speaking of which be sure to come in and take a look at our delicious Christmas Menu. You can also find full details on our website.

We have had many staff changes over the summer and if I do say so myself (and trust me others do too) Chef Rich and his team are producing some really tasty treats. Come on down and enjoy. It won't be long now till the fires are lit and the pub is nice and cosy.

Don't forget the Post Office is now based at the pub on Mondays and Thursdays, so you can combine your mailing chores with a cuppa, tea or coffee, your choice and treat yourself to a piece of cake!

With energy costs being on everyone's mind why not switch your lights out and head to the pub. You don't have to spend a fortune but every little helps me keep my lights on.

We'll be celebrating Halloween as always with the children's party on the big day itself, **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** starting at 4.00pm and for the adults a Halloween fancy dress party on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October** starting at 7.00pm.

That's it for now.

Much love as always and hope to see you at the pub over the next month.

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## Parish Council Matters

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*Peter Smith – Chair of the Parish Council*

**Rights of Way** – reports of broken stiles have been received over recent weeks. Although one is in Hilperton parish, all have been reported to Wiltshire Council, which is the responsible authority for ensuring that landowners repair and maintain stiles. The parish council wants to replace at least one of these stiles with a kissing gate, to improve access for the less mobile amongst us. It will work with local landowners in an effort to make this happen.

**New Cycleway** – concerns on safety and dangerous experiences on the newly surfaced byway continue to be raised with Wiltshire Council by parishioners. Please do keep letting Wiltshire Council know of any incidents because, unless that council gets the information, it will assume there isn't a problem. The standard reply from Wiltshire Council is the same as reported last month: an independent safety audit will be carried out after works are completed. That audit can't be far off now so, hopefully, we'll know more by the time the October magazine is published.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and parish projects** – the Parish Council has received two (out of three) funding instalments arising from the Newland Homes development along St. George's Road. The CIL is a levy paid to all local councils to help improve infrastructure in the community when new homes are built. The sum so far received is £24,000. The Parish Council has set up a working group to identify projects which either meet the CIL criteria or may be eligible for funding from other Parish Council balances. As well as addressing Parish Council proposals (e.g. improving the Wessex Close play area facilities) and emerging Neighbourhood Plan priorities, this group has also been tasked with finding ways to involve village groups in identifying possible projects. All projects so identified will go forward to the Parish Council for consideration. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with me.

**Business and working from home survey** – the ever busy neighbourhood planning team are trying to identify businesses (whether based at home or on a separate Semington business site) and people working from home (for an organisation outside of the parish) to participate in a survey about their current and future support needs. This matters because we want to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan we develop is supportive of and helpful to current and future business plans. If you work from home, or have a business operating out of Semington, please take time to complete the survey which you will find accompanies this magazine. Thank you.

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**Floral Tribute**  
**Written by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage**  
**to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II**

*Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,  
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.  
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,  
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.  
A promise made and kept for life — that was your gift —  
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,  
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.  
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,  
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.*

*Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.  
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower  
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained  
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence  
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day  
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and  
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,  
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness  
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.*

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## News From Your Wiltshire Councillor

*Jonathon Seed*

The past month has been dominated by the incredibly sad news of the passing away of Her Majesty the Queen. I was privileged to meet the Queen and other senior members of the Royal Family during my 23 years of military service including during several years of ceremonial duty in London with the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. However the last occasion I met the Queen was as a Wiltshire Councillor in Salisbury in 2012 when she visited Wiltshire as part of her Diamond Jubilee Tour. The County reception was a great success and again it was a privilege to be presented as the elected representative of the people of Melksham as Chairman of the Melksham Area Board. That visit to Wiltshire which concentrated in Salisbury and was a huge success, I think, was the last civic visit by the late Queen and the late Duke of Edinburgh to Wiltshire.

As one reign ends another immediately starts and we usher in the reign of King Charles III. There was much civic activity in Wiltshire to mark both the death of the Queen and the proclamation of our new King. This activity is coordinated by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton. Several messages and instructions from the Lord Lieutenant were issued to Councils and Councillors from her office in County Hall in those key days last month. The moment was well prepared for with the relevant parts of Operation London Bridge (the detailed plan for the Queens death) having been previously circulated. Instructions were reissued to give local Wiltshire Councils and Councillors guidance on important matters like flag flying, national mourning and the Proclamation of our new King by Town and Parish Councils where they wished to participate.

The County proclamation of the new King took place in Trowbridge and was read to the assembled public and dignitaries by the High Sheriff, the Marchioness of Lansdowne. My wife and I chose to attend the local proclamation in Melksham and what a good choice it was. After signing the book of condolence in the Town Hall we gathered along with several hundred local residents outside Melksham Town Hall. The event was introduced by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Robert Floyd of Great Chalfield. King Charles III was proclaimed in Melksham by our young and very able Mayor Councillor Simon Crundell and followed by the singing of two verses of God Save the King. It was all brilliantly well done, very local and a superb local example of what we do best in this Country, County and our local Town.

Finally amongst all of these momentous events the business of local government continues. As your Wiltshire Councillor I am always available to help residents with any local government issues or problems that you may experience. Please feel free to contact me via e mail [jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk) often being the best way to get in touch.

## Abridged Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

*Meeting held Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September*

**Present.** Councillors P Smith (Chairman), R Bruges, S Chown, J Hailey, M. Kasasian, W. Scott, C. Wade and the Clerk, Roger Coleman. There was one member of the public present initially.

**Apologies.** Apologies for non-attendance were received and accepted from Parish Councillors V Bodman and from Wiltshire Council Cllr. J Seed.

**Declaration of Interests.** Cllr. Bruges declared an interest in Agenda item 12a – the item relating to St Georges PCC.

**Wiltshire Council Report.** In the absence of Cllr. Seed no report by Cllr. Seed was given. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Seed had informed him that Wiltshire Council had accepted that they were in error in not fully consulting with Semington Parish Council and local residents before seeking and committing funds for developing the new Hilperton/Semington Cycleway. He added that Cllr, Seed had no further information regarding any action being taken in respect of the Greenacres travellers' site.

**Planning and Development.** There were no planning applications received after 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Clerk advised the Council that Wiltshire Council has produced two draft strategies relating to Climate Change and the wider natural environment and that business and local groups have been invited to make representations in respect of the draft Climate Change Strategy and to comment on the Wiltshire Council 'Our Natural Environment Plan'. There are a number of engagement events and 'Drop-in' sessions planned. The following website address provide more information:[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate) Cllr. Scott expressed his pleasure at observing that the new 'Kendall Lane' road signs had now been erected at the Newland Homes site.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** The Chairman reported that there had been a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September and the main issues discussed were: The promotion of the Village Climate Change Survey, to update the 'Green Spaces List', to collate a list of businesses in the Parish so that those business could be consulted about the infrastructure they would wish to have to help them thrive in the village, to identify and engage a 'Landscape Assessment' consultancy. Cllr. Scott advised councillors that consultants have been engaged to look at the identified sites (the SHLAA and other sites) over the next two or three weeks – five and nine sites respectively.

**Finance. Total balance as at 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 £80,580.86**

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Scott for his paper entitled 'Community Development Funding (CDF) in which he had proposed a process for the disbursement of these funds for the benefit of the community. The Council **resolved** that a CDF Group is set up to undertake this task and Cllrs. Scott, Chown, Hailey and Cllr. Smith (when available) were appointed to the CDF Group. The initial task was identified as how best to communicate with parishioners and to organise and assess responses.

**Environment and Streetscene.** It was noted that an enquiry had been received to relocate the Defibrillator at the Independent Living Centre (ILC) from inside to outside the building thus making it more accessible to the community living or passing nearby. The ILC had requested the Parish council to contribute to the cost of doing so. The Chairman stated that the ILC is to be invited to make a written request with associated costings and it will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Rights of Way.** Councillors reported that Paths SEMI9A/10 and HILP22/10 and recently designated a 'cycleway' by Wiltshire Council has had its final top-dressing treatment. Cllrs. Scott and Hailey each expressed their deep concern regarding the danger that motorised vehicles present to other users of this path and they recounted recent very dangerous encounters. The Council also noted similar concerns expressed by parishioners some of whom had contacted Wiltshire Council directly. The Council noted that Wiltshire Council has stated that it is to undertake a safety audit of the route, including examining the possible safety issues where the cycleway ends at St George's Place. Cllr. Scott agreed to write to Wiltshire Council seeking more information regarding this audit. It was confirmed that Wiltshire Council had been informed regarding the two broken stiles – one on HILP23/10 and the other on SEMI 6/10 – and the Council **resolved** to request that the broken stile on SEMI 6/10 (at Pound Lane) is replaced with a 'kissing gate'.

**Other Matters.** Cllr. Wade confirmed that he had examined possible designs and costs for the two new noticeboards and that current available sizes of noticeboards differ significantly from those currently at the Village Hall. He added that he would value a second opinion from another councillor. The Chairman offered to assist. Cllr. Hailey stated that she had sent all councillors revised details of possible tree planting areas in the village, including possible species of trees, costs and availability. The Chairman and councillors thanked her for her detailed research and for the annotated drawings and details that she had provided. The Chairman added that neighbours living near to the proposed sites had been consulted and that he was awaiting a response from Wiltshire Council. The Council resolved to adopt the planting sites and the species of trees proposed. Cllr. Wade stated that the new 'SLOW' road signs for Littlemarsh had not yet been erected. He commented that additional signage is required for the new Cycleway – especially where the Cycleway meets St Georges Road.

Cllr. Scott stated that he had a conversation with the Clerk to Melksham Without in respect of the concern expressed at a previous Parish Council meeting regarding possible parking restrictions at the Canal Bridge. He commented that it would appear that Wiltshire Council was developing plans to implement double yellow lines on both sides of the bridge. Cllr. Bruges questioned whether these proposed restrictions were really necessary. Cllr. Wade added that he will contact Wiltshire Council (Mark Stansby) and enquire what is actually being proposed.

**Recreation and Wellbeing.** Cllr. Wade reported that a recent meeting with the Gloucester Road Allotment Society, arranged by Cllr. Smith, had proved very useful in providing guidance for setting up a similar scheme in Semington. The Council noted the correspondence from Wiltshire Council in respect of the possible disposal or replacement of the defective play equipment (the Ludus Spinning Disc) at the Wessex Close Play Area and the invitation by Wiltshire Council for the Parish Council to consider acquiring the Wessex Close Play Area as a 'Community Asset Transfer'. There ensued considerable discussion regarding the proposals by Wiltshire Council and following this discussion the Parish Council **resolved**: *continued on page 16*

To request Wiltshire Council to remove the defective equipment and to reinstate the land. To invite Wiltshire Council to provide details of the Community Asset Transfer Scheme – emphasising that the Parish Council had made no decision regarding whether to adopt the Community Asset Transfer Scheme for Wessex Close.

Cllr. Scott stated that it remained an important matter that interested parishioners should take 'ownership' of this Play Area and not for the Parish Council to be solely responsible for its management and upkeep. Cllr. Smith agreed to contact the group of parishioners who had previously expressed an interest in management of the Play Area.

**Community and Communication.** The Council expressed its thanks to Jack Woodward in explaining the proposed work to St George's Church during the Public Participation prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Bruges left the meeting. The Council discussed the request for a donation towards the project costs at some length. It noted that the initial aim of the project was to construct toilet facilities immediately outside the church building, although it was commented that the church was a Listed Building and that no discussions had yet taken place with Wiltshire Council Development Control or the Church Authorities (the Diocese of Salisbury). Councillors observed that the costs incurred to date and for which a donation was requested were for the provision of quotations from the proposed architects and from the Quantity Surveyor and that no work had yet taken place or had been commissioned. The Chairman, supported by councillors, commented that the Parish Council would normally consider a donation for projects that benefitted the community and that had been agreed but not for those that have yet to be approved nor for providing quotations for projects that may not proceed. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** not to make a donation. Cllr. Bruges re-joined the meeting.

**Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm**

## Appeal for Family History Information

---

*Colin Demmery*

Over many years I have been involved with researching the Demmery family history. In the main the Demmerys are from around the east side of Bristol and up to now the earliest record is of the marriage of a Daniel Demmery to a Mary Frankham at Keynsham in September 1766.

However recently by chance I came across a record in the Semington Parish Register of the baptism of a Daniel Demmery (son of Robert and Mary) on January 27<sup>th</sup> 1745. It is strange that this Daniel was born some way away in West Wiltshire but the name is unusual and the age seems to tie in. He would have been 21 when married and previous records referred to him as being born "in about 1747".

I wondered if through your parish magazine anyone has any old records of the Demmerys in Semington ? The name itself was invariably spelt with one m!

Please feel free to contact me via email [quincecottage@sky.com](mailto:quincecottage@sky.com)



## News From St George's School

Sue Cook

Wow, what a fantastic start at St George's so far this term. The children have all come back in with such enthusiasm and motivation. It is great to hear the children back together, laughing and sharing stories of their summer holidays. This term also welcomes Mr McKenna who has joined us as Assistant Principal. Here are a few words from him:

*I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and say how delighted I am at my appointment as Assistant Principal at St George's School. The entire school community, from the children and the staff to parents and carers, have been so welcoming, and it has been a delight getting to know everybody over the past week. I have been so impressed with the desire of the staff at the school to provide the pupils with exciting, creative and purposeful learning experiences, in turn building a love of learning within the children. Seeing this combined with the support of our wider school community, means I am very excited for the future. I hope to be able to meet many of you either at the school gates or at the village events that are planned for the year ahead. This is a wonderful Wiltshire village, and I am looking forward to becoming very much a part of the local community. All the very best, Mr McKenna.*

If you have or know of any children that are due to start school in September 2023, then please let them know about our upcoming Open Days. Parents and children are welcome to come and visit us on **4<sup>th</sup> October between 1:30pm – 2.00pm** or **8<sup>th</sup> December 9:30am – 10.00am**. Please call our office on **01380 870243** to book a spot or if you are unable to make either of these we would be happy to show you around at your convenience. We do have some spaces throughout the school, so it is never too late to come and visit us.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September the staff and children were wearing yellow and green for the day in support of Air Ambulance Week. Due to the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we also gave everyone the option to wear black, or a uniform of an organisation they belong to for the day instead. We also welcomed parents and carers into school with us for a morning assembly and joined together in a minute's silence.

We have lots of fun activities planned for the coming year and the Friends of St George's School also have some great things planned already, so we look forward to sharing with you more news from the school gates throughout the year. We are currently advertising for a mid-day supervisory assistant. If you are interested in this role, or know anyone who might be, please contact Jan Palmer in our school office for more information: **01380 870243** or **admin@st-georges-semington.wilts.sch.uk**

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## Semington Social Club

### Stuart Taylor

If you are interested in bar work for a few nights a week please contact Stuart Taylor on **07720 707326**

## A Note of Thanks from The Fun Dog Show

*Ian and Sophie Williamson*

A big thank you to all who supported the dog show last Saturday. We had over 80 dogs join in. We will be running the event again next year and plan to offer pre registration to reduce the queues to register and one or two other improvements. Thank you for bearing with us this time as a totally new event.

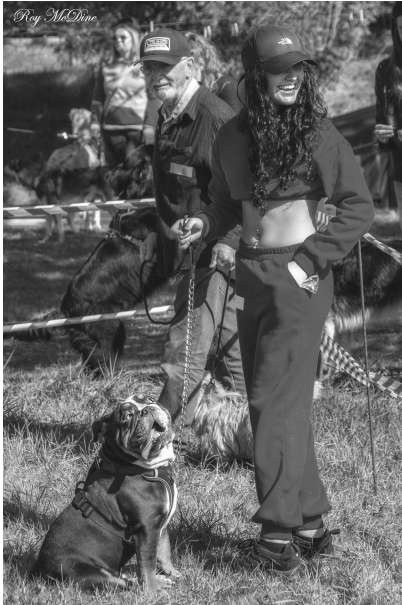


Photo credits: Roy and Sue McDine



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*11.00am to 3.00pm*

*Village Hall*

## Wiltshire Air Ambulance – Carols by Candlelight

Wiltshire Air Ambulance will be hosting a special Carols by Candlelight event leading up to Christmas.

The stunning Marlborough College Chapel is the venue for the festivities on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, which will include carols sung by The Military Wives Choir. Doors will open at **6.00pm for a 7.00pm start**, led by Bishop Andrew.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance's fundraising coordinator for events, Beth Knights, says: "We're incredibly excited to be inviting our supporters to come together and celebrate this Christmas. "We hope to see as many people as possible enjoying the festivities with us at the beautiful Chapel at Marlborough College."

Wiltshire Air Ambulance ambassador Paul Martin, star of TV's 'Flog It', will also be in attendance for a reading. Attendees will be able to enjoy refreshments, including mulled wine and minced pies.

Tickets can be purchased online now, with the event costing £12.00 for adults, £8.00 for under-16s and a family ticket (for 2 adults, 2 children) is priced at £35.00.

Visit [wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/carols](http://wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/carols) to find out more or to secure your ticket now.

# SEMINGTON

SUMMER 2022

## 60 SECOND SURVEY

MELKSHAM WITHOUT WEST AND RURAL



CATHERINE READ



Listening to concerns on the doorstep

Earlier this year, **Catherine Read** and Green Party volunteers knocked on doors and undertook a quick survey in **Semington** to find out what your concerns are. This will help to focus efforts and set our **priorities** for **local action** in the future.

It was a cold, blowy day, but despite the weather, we spoke to **many residents** on the doorstep. After delivering the survey, we had a delicious lunch and drinks at the **Somerset Arms**. Then a delightful walk round to collect completed surveys from letterboxes. It was **fantastic** to find **lots** of you kindly **responded** and gave us your views.

“ Our environment has to be the priority. ”

## ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU

### WHAT YOU TOLD US

Waste: Wiltshire Council should provide **food waste** collection & encourage supermarkets to use **less packaging**. More bins on public footpaths.

Transport: More EV charging points and a footpath to Trowbridge.

Environment: Preserving our **environment** and **conservation** of our **wildlife** as a priority. Increasing tree cover with new planting. Lack of **action** on **climate emergency**.



Catherine & Emma delivering survey.

CATHERINE READ: WORKING TO GET THINGS DONE IN MELKSHAM WITHOUT WEST & RURAL



<https://cdnw.greenparty.org.uk/>

## From the Church Register

*Victoria Shackleton*

### **David Thomas Daniels**

A service of thanksgiving to remember and celebrate the life of David Daniels was held at St George's Church on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. We pray that David's wife Ruby, daughter Kim, son Paul, grandchildren, family and friends will know the love and peace of God at this sad time.

## Harvest Celebrations

*Bev Woodward*



We'll be celebrating Harvest on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October** this year. **Harvest Supper** will be in the Village Hall on the **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm**. There will be ham/cheese/quiche and salad and various delicious puddings.

Michael Gamble will be finishing the evening with a music and picture presentation. Tickets (£5.00 each) available from coffee morning or Bev Woodward - 870784.

## Prayer Spaces

*Bev Woodward*

On **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October** children from School will be in Church exploring Prayer Spaces. These activities will then be available for anyone in the village to explore from 2.30pm - 4.00pm. Everyone welcome!

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## Semington WI

*Deb Hurn*

We started our September meeting with a minute's silence in light of the news that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away that afternoon. We were all greatly saddened by the news. The Queen was a truly inspirational woman. Leading our country with dedication, dignity and grace. The one true constant throughout. She was also a member and supporter of Sandringham WI. As a group we passed on our sincere condolences to the Royal family and good wishes to Prince Charles as he becomes King Charles III.

Our September meeting was spent tasting chocolate. We were guided through the history of chocolate, how it's produced and the difference the percentage of cocoa makes etc., by Holly of Hollychocs. It was amazing to find out that essentially chocolate is still being made as it was centuries ago. The finished product was much preferred to the taste of the cocoa bean that we were all given to try. We were treated to a homemade hot chocolate and lots of samples of different dark chocolate, white chocolate and some special chocolates (my favourite being the salted caramel) all of which were made by Holly.

Our next meeting is on **October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** in the Village hall. We will be having a go at Tai Chi (probably needed after all the chocolates!!)

## Semington Book Club

*Angela Grodzicka – 870756*

Bookclub met on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September and discussed Circling the Sun by Paula McLain. Everyone enjoyed it and it was thought to be a well written page turner of a story based around the life of Beryl Markham a most interesting woman. She had been the first woman to have a horse trainer's licence and also the first woman to fly the Atlantic from east to west.

The next meeting has been set for **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm** in the pub to discuss Flying Under Bridges by Sandi Toksvig. All welcome.

## 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

**Harvest Sale:** St. Bernadette's are having a Harvest Sale of home produce after Mass on **Sunday 2nd October**. Produce will include pickles, chutneys, jams, pies and cakes etc. Proceeds will go to 'Crosspoint'. Cash sales only.

**Installation of Fr. Tom as a Canon of the Clifton Cathedral Chapter:** Fr. Tom will be installed as a Canon to the Clifton Cathedral Chapter on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** during Mass at 12 noon. All parishioners are invited to attend if they wish to do so. Please indicate if you wish transport to be provided by placing just a tick on the list provided in the Church porches.

**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.

**ABC Group:** About Being Catholic: This course is for all those interested in becoming Catholic, knowing more about the Catholic Church. Or those who were baptised Catholic but missed making their First Holy Communion or Confirmation. The first session for 2022/23 session takes place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 6.45pm** in St. John's Church. Please ask Fr. Tom for details if you wish to know more, or just come along to the first session if you are interested

### Paws for Thought



Whoever sows  
generously will reap  
generously.

It's in the Bible; 2 Corinthians 9 verse 6

## Thought From The Rectory

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*The Revd John Rees*

I'm writing this a few days before the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and still coming to terms with the news of her death. Most of us can't remember a time before she became Monarch. The Queen has always been there at the head of our nation, utterly committed to serving us and the nations of the Commonwealth through the many changes in British and worldwide society in the last 70 years. Although intellectually we knew that she couldn't go on for ever, somehow it has seemed impossible to imagine our society without her. And yet we must. So where can we turn for help when we feel lost and disorientated?

Losing something or someone is really stressful. It can leave us feeling disorientated, as well as deeply sad and sometimes angry. You have probably experienced the shock and stress of losing someone, even if the loss is only temporary. I vividly remember my feelings of panic when we lost our young son at Legoland many years ago. We searched frantically, and the sense of relief when we found him was immense. To lose something in Jesus' time was equally stressful. Several of his parables, stories teaching us what God is like, concern loss. The parable of the lost sheep is one of them. A farmer lost one of his hundred sheep but searched everywhere until he found it. There was much rejoicing when the sheep was found.

Times of loss, whether personal, national or worldwide, demand a lot of us. It is important that at such times we recognise our need for support - the support of those close to us is really important. But the Bible also teaches us that we can turn to a greater power when we recognise our vulnerability and need strength and guidance. Like the farmer finding the lost sheep, Jesus said that there would be a party in heaven when people recognise that they could turn to God for forgiveness and support and that he offers them a new start.

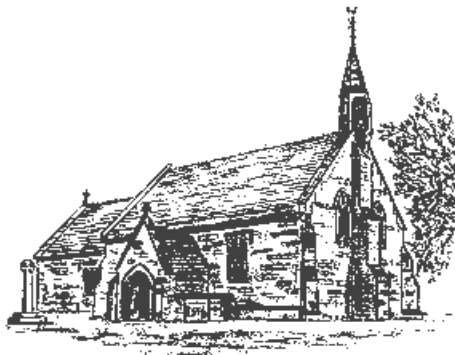
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth made it clear throughout her life that she depended on her faith in Jesus for the strength she needed for all her remarkable achievements. In her Christmas message in 2014 she said this:

*"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace..... is an inspiration and anchor for my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hand in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to respect and value all people of whatever faith and none".*

We are celebrating harvest in St George's this month, a time to thank God for all we have. As we move into a new era with our new King, I encourage us all to give thanks for the life of the late Queen and to follow her example in valuing everyone and everything we have, remembering her confidence in Jesus Christ, who invites us all to turn to him for strength and support whenever we feel lost and vulnerable.

## October Services at

### St George's



<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion St Mary The Virgin Whaddon</b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion St George's</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving Service Breakfast Church St George's</b>

#### **Contact Details for The Canalside Parishes:**

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

E-mail: **canalsideoffice@gmail.com**

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

Church Warden – Mr David Wildsmith

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

Curate: Revd. Joy Albone **07931 638524** email

**canalsidecurate@gmail.com**

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

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