

CANALSIDE NEWS

for AUGUST 2026



Thought from Joy

In recent years, church leaders have been encouraged to “grow younger.” I don’t mean to reverse our chronological ages, but to actively work to encourage families and young people into buildings and into our services! With this in mind in our benefice, we currently offer Breakfast Church in St. George’s and Tea@TheTin in St. Mary Magdalen, both aimed at families and those young at heart. And in September we will also be relaunching Toddlers@TheTin for pre-school children and their parents/carers. This is all in addition to our ongoing work every week in our schools. Even in the last week, welcoming our schools into church, as the Year Sixes celebrated the end of their time in Primary School. It was wonderful to see how they have grown into confident children, speaking clearly and with courage about their journey to date as they prepare for the next big step moving onto new schools.

However, most of the people who attend our churches do not attend these services, and Chris and I are fully aware that most of us are not in the first flush of youth. As our congregation grows older, how can we best serve them, and others in our villages and communities?

Providing pastoral care for the older members of our congregations is a real privilege for the ministry team, but it is not always regarded as the most direct way to create a 'successful' church! Too often pastoral 'success' has been measured by how many new people have been encouraged to attend church on a regular basis, rather than those everyday encounters we have with each other and the housebound, the elderly, the sick, and the lonely.

And yet there is something very important and special about what we do in Canalside. Ministering to each other. Holding the light of Christ aloft for those of our villages who in times of trial recognise their need for the support and comfort of the story of God. We may not be "growing younger," but I do believe what we offer is vital and it is about 'Making Jesus Known' in this benefice. Not in a way that will necessarily attract masses of young people into our churches every Sunday, but in a way that is faithful to God and focused on the needs of our communities.

Canalside may not be one of the new mission hubs that are currently drawing much attention in our diocese, but we still have much work to do, keeping the light of Christ burning bright, to guide those who need it, home to God.

So I encourage you to "fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart" (1 Samuel 12:24) as we each reflect on the good things he has done for us!

Used Postage Stamps

Don't forget to let us have all your used postage stamps. It would be great if you could save all your stamps and pass them on to Bill and Marilyn Stubbs who in turn pass them on to the Bible Society. Just pop them into the Storehouses boxes in the church porches and we will pass them on for you.



Prayer Requests

It is important that we pray for all who seek our support. Please let Michael know of anyone who particularly needs our prayers. Do ensure that you have their permission.

Alison Meader

Andrew Margetts

Audrey Sheppard

Barbara Tucker

Catherine

Colin

Den and Alison

Edward Fairclough

Eve Banks

Helen Thomas

Hilary and Mark

Heaton

Jeannette

Maureen Mitchell

Mike Aldridge

Richard Marshman

Roger Emes



- We pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time.
- We continue to pray for the people of Sudan at this time of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.
- We pray for all those preparing for marriage this Summer and in particular for Darren and Nicola whose wedding is being held at St Michael's on 1st August and for Graham and Arabella's marriage at St Michael's on 22nd August. May God Bless both couples for long, happy and healthy marriages.

- Please also hold in your prayers Miles Ethan Payne who will be baptised at St Michael's on 30th August and their Parents, Godparents, family and friends.

Toddlers @theTin

A fun, friendly group for babies, pre-school children and their parents/carers ♥

Toys Crafts Stories Singing Snacks

Every Friday
during Term Time
10:00am – 11:30am

St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall
Horse Road
Hilperton
BA14 7PD

Only
£2
per family!

Booking Advised ♥

To book or find out more,
please contact

The Parish Office

☎ 07795 400262
✉ canalsideoffice@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you! ♥

RELAUNCH





Storehouse



Together with many other Foodbanks across the country both Melksham and Trowbridge are desperate for more donations, as the demand is very high at present, so please give as generously as you are able.

If you can donate any food or hygiene items PLEASE, pop them in our trolleys or come on down and bring them to us. If you are a little flush; you can do online shopping with ASDA as they will deliver to us on your behalf. Please drop into the building as we now do a breakfast for the homeless so eggs are always needed plus cheese, butter bacon etc as we have a fridge freezer, and fridge. Fruit and vegetables are always welcome but do not put in a trolley. Please continue to donate to us so we can keep blessing the people of Trowbridge. Thank you all.

Please use the collection boxes in the porches of St Mary Magdalen's and St Michael's to drop off food donations etc. A BIG thankyou to Tony Roddis for taking on the collections for us from Bill Stubbs.

If you prefer you can make a one off financial donation or support Trowbridge Storehouse regularly, please follow the link below and select storehouse.

<https://westwiltsvineyard.churchsuite.co.uk/donate/fund/zk54op3a>

Storehouse is always in need of carrier bags

Melksham Foodbank continue to need all items, especially tinned meats and vegetables. The demand for support is very high (please ensure all items are well within the best before date). They can also take large bags of rice, tea bags, sugar & pasta as these can be decanted into smaller bags for distribution. Please take your donations to the porch at St George's, Semington before 6pm on Wednesday.

Our continued support of Melksham FoodBank and Trowbridge StoreHouse is vital, and a part of our response to God's generosity to us.

CANALSIDE DIARY

Please pray for all events taking place in the next few weeks

Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
JULY 2026				
Su	26 th	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		1030	'Explore' Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	28 th	0930	Hilpertor/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's
W	29 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	30 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqqYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFZNm.1	Online
AUGUST 2026				
Sa	1 st	1600	Wedding: Darren and Nicola	St Michael's
Su	2 nd	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and LAMMAS		
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	Songs of Praise	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	4 th	0930	Hilpertor/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IKy2vBYNviwibNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1	Online
W	5 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	6 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
Su	9 th	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		0915	Breakfast Church	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	11 th	0930	Hilpertor/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
W	12 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	13 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1430	Friendship Group	St Mary Magdalen's
Su	16 th	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		0915	Holy Communion	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's

Tu	18 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer See link above	Online	
W	19 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's	
Th	20 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online	
		1000 1200	Community Café	St Mary Magdalen's	
Sa	22 nd	1400	Wedding: Graham and Arabella	St Michael's	
Su	23 rd	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			
		1030	‘Explore’ Service	St Mary Magdalen's	
Tu	25 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's	
W	26 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's	
Th	27 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online	
Sa	29 th	Visiting Bell Ringers			St Michael's
Su	30 th	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			
		0915	Benefice Holy Communion	St George's	
		1215	Baptism: Miles Ethan Payne	St Michael's	
M	31 st	BANK HOLIDAY			
SEPTEMBER 2026					
Tu	1 st	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer See link above	Online	
W	2 nd	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's	
Th	3 rd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online	
Su	6 th	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and CREATIONTIDE			
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's	
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin	
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's	



CANALSIDE CONTACTS

Rector	Rev. Chris Hunter	07396875236 01225 975510	rector.canalside@gmail.com
Associate Priest	Rev. Joy Albone	07931638524	revjoyalbone@gmail.com
Office	Michael Gamble	07795400262	canalsideoffice@gmail.com
Churchwardens			
Semington	David Wildsmith	c/o 01380 870784	c/o jackbev.woodward@gmail.com
Hilperton and Staverton	James Newton	07803904947	jnnewton@churchmouse.org.uk
	Martyn Carpenter	07831309377	martyncarpenter55@gmail.com
Website	canalsideparishes.co.uk		
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes		

"IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN"

So sang Kermit the Frog -- and we're inclined to agree with him. "Green" products can be costly and difficult to obtain, especially for those who don't have internet access. However, there are inexpensive products that most of us already have in our homes and which we could use to good effect without harming the environment:



Ugly water marks and limescale? Distilled vinegar will remove those white marks from your stainless steel sink or the limescale ring inside that tumbler you keep on your bedside table. It even works in the toilet bowl! First, remove as much of the water as you can. Next, pour in vinegar up to the normal water level & leave overnight. Finally, give the toilet bowl a good scrub.



For regular toilet cleaning, sprinkle bicarbonate of soda around the bowl immediately after flushing, then spray or pour distilled vinegar over the bicarb to cause a fizzing reaction. Leave for 30 minutes, then scrub thoroughly with a toilet brush before flushing to rinse.



Taps encrusted with limescale? Simply scrape it off with a 2p coin (harder than limescale but softer than stainless steel or chrome).



Grubby glazing? Fill a spray bottle with equal parts of distilled vinegar and water and use it to clean your windows and mirrors.



Need an air freshener? Make as above (with the addition of a few drops of essential oil, if you wish) and spray away. The vinegar smell will quickly fade, taking unwanted odours with it.



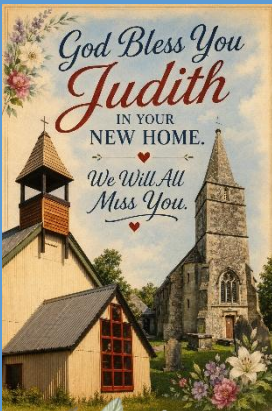
Grimy hob? Mix bicarbonate of soda with water to create a paste. When the hob is cool, smear the paste over any burnt spills or greasy spots. Leave it to work for 30 minutes, then wipe off.



Stained teaspoons? A little bicarbonate of soda on a damp cloth will wipe away those tea stains with ease.



Please try these for yourself. They really do work!



On 19th July we said farewell to Judith Phillips who is moving to Larkhall in Bath. She has worshipped in Hilperton for many years and will be greatly missed. Good Luck with the move Judith and we pray that you will be blessed in your new home with good health and happiness.



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH HALL
HORSE ROAD

Friendship Group

Every
Second
Thursday of the Month
2.30 – 4pm



An informal, friendly gathering where people can have a chat with friends old and new, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, bring their knitting or crochet, play board games or other activities.



Free Admission

All are welcome!
Come along, make new friends
and enjoy good company!

Contact the Parish Office for more details
07795400262 canalsideoffice@gmail.com

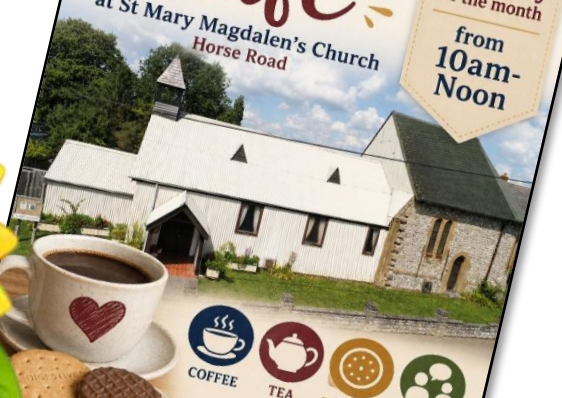
We look forward
to welcoming you
at our meetings
in August



Community
Café

Every
Third
Thursday
of the month
from
10am-
Noon

at St Mary Magdalen's Church
Horse Road




COFFEE TEA BISCUITS GOOD COMPANY AND CHAT

Free Admission

ALL WELCOME

Songs of Praise

ON SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST
6 PM

THERE WILL BE A *Songs of Praise* STYLE SERVICE
AT *St Mary Magdalen's*
IN HORSE ROAD



If you'd like to hear your favourite hymn/song,
please email it to me on
revjclark2023@outlook.com
by THURSDAY 30TH JULY.
I will choose the most popular choices.



Also, if there is anyone who would be willing
to do a 3-5 minute testimony as per
Songs of Praise then please would you
also message me or call me on

📞 **0794 808 9865**

and leave a message; if I don't answer,
I'll get back to you.

All are welcome 🍀

TO JOIN US AND I LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU THERE.

Jacqui 🍀

COMING
NEXT
MONTH!

**NEXT
WEEK**

PRAYER DAY

A day of prayer and contemplation

CENTRED ON THE
Beatitudes
(MATTHEW 5:1-11)



St George's Church
+ Semington

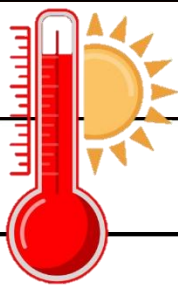
10.00 - 4.00

Saturday 12th September
ALL WELCOME

If you could help us with
this event please contact
Chris asap

CHURCH SERVICES *in* AUGUST



	HILPERTON St Michael's	HILPERTON St Mary Magdalen's	SEMINGTON St George's	WHADDON St Mary the Virgin	
Saturday 1 st August	4pm WEDDING				
Sunday 2 nd August Ninth Sunday after Trinity and Lammass	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	6pm SONGS of PRAISE		3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION	
Wednesday 5 th August	10am MIDWEEK MORNING WORSHIP				
Sunday 9 th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	9.15am BREAKFAST CHURCH		
Wednesday 12 th August	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION				
Sunday 16 th August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION		9.15am HOLY COMMUNION	 Full details of all our Services and Events can be found on our new Benefice Website canalsideparishes.co.uk.	
Wednesday 19 th August	10am MIDWEEK MORNING WORSHIP				
Saturday 22 nd August	2pm WEDDING				
Sunday 23 rd August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity		10.30am EXPLORE SERVICE			
Tuesday 25 th August	9.30am MORNING PRAYER				
Wednesday 26 th August	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION				
Sunday 30 th August Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	12.15pm BAPTISM		9.15am BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION		