

CANALSIDE NEWS

Sunday 13th September 2020

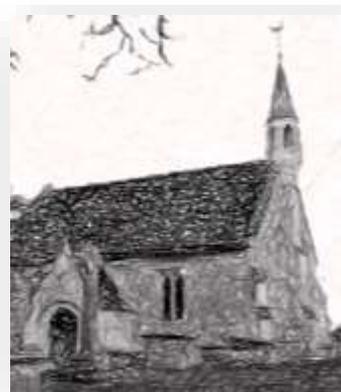
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Welcome back to St George's

It is now 6 months since the last Sunday service of worship at St George's. This weekend's live service is a 10am Communion Service at the Parish Church of Semington led by John Rees and Eric Clifford. The service will be filmed and the link to watch it will be sent to everyone in the afternoon. We wish John, Eric, Bev and Jack and everyone involved all the best as worship returns to St George's.

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen



The First Reading: Romans 14.1-12

14 Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. ² For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. ³ Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

⁵ In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. ⁶ Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honour him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honour the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, it's to honour the Lord. And if we die, it's to honour the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

¹⁰ So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For the Scriptures say,

“As surely as I live,’ says the LORD,
‘every knee will bend to me,
and every tongue will declare allegiance to God’”

¹² Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

The Gospel: Matthew 18.21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”

²³ “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Reflection for the Week by Eric

Today the lectionary Gospel lesson focuses for a second week on Matthew’s account of Jesus teaching on forgiveness. We particularly think about Ch. 18 v. 33 “ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you “ (N. L. T.)

Forgiveness is important for perpetrator and victim.

Forgiveness helps both break away from anger and bitterness, which can hold us in the past and destroy hope for the future.

Jesus has been teaching His disciples about forgiveness and the ever forthright Peter enthusiastically offers to forgive his brother 7 X. Jesus however says His disciples must be prepared to forgive 77 X. i.e. unlimited. Can we live up to that expectation ?

Forgiveness is the core of Jesus character, remember when Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in the Lord’s Prayer-forgive is mentioned twice.

Let’s look at some common misunderstandings of forgiveness today.

1. To forgive you must also forget - No
2. Forgiveness always brings about reconciliation - No
3. Forgiveness involves denying our hurt matters - No
4. Forgiveness is primarily about our feelings – No

God is concerned with our attitude and our willingness to try to overcome being wronged.

Have you been willing to try to forgive or are you still holding on ?

For Jesus, forgiveness and our participation in it, are fundamental signs of the Kingdom of God. By us forgiving we show that we understand how much God loves and forgives us. In so doing we can know the joy of working with Him to pass on the Grace we have experienced to others. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Will you work with Him, or will you allow barriers to persist ?

Vanquish your conscience, seek release, and come renewed in to the Lord's presence and realise His forgiveness this day and forever more. Amen

Let's pray.....(extemporary prayer)

Prayer Requests

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

<i>This week we pray for...</i>	Dylan & Family	Phyl Brown
Alex Castle	Doreen	Rob Dewsbury
Andree Cradock	Elizabeth (Anne's	Sheila Farthing
Andrew Matthews	sister)	Collette and Shin
Ann	Emelia	Miyagawa
Baby Christian & Family	Hannah & Ash	Sophia & Family
Barbara & David	James Vincent	
Barry & Brian	Mike Aldridge	
Celia & Colin Jackson	Ottie	
Deanna and Family	Pat & Stan Thompson	
	Rosa Light	

- Please continue to pray for the family of Malcolm Beadle as they prepare for the funeral.

- As a new, very different, School year begins please pray for all the staff and pupils in our 3 schools that they will all be kept safe and well.
- Please pray for all those grieving at this time around the World for all those who have died from the Coronavirus.
- Lord we bring before you all those suffering from the effects of Coronavirus in any way and thank you for the NHS, scientists, health professionals, politicians and key workers working so hard to help us through the crisis.

Joy's Ordination as Priest

Please pray for Joy as she prepares for her Ordination as Priest at the end of the month. In normal times the Ordination Service would have been held in Salisbury Cathedral and we



would have all been invited to attend and to share in Joy's special day. As these are not normal times the service is being held at Edington Priory Church on Saturday 26th September. Unfortunately due to the pandemic the number of people permitted to attend the ordination is very limited so a general invite to share in the celebration is not possible. However, Canalsiders will be able to celebrate with Joy at her first services as Priest on the Sunday. (see details elsewhere in the Newsletter).

Your photos are needed

For our Harvest Service this year, we would like to include as many photos as possible of Harvest around the Benefice. It could be harvest from your garden or allotment, harvest in the fields around you, or

your interpretation of harvest. Please send your photos to Joy by Friday 18th September.

Benefice Diary for this week

T u	15th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Via Zoom : https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179	Online
W	16th	1000	Communion & Coffee via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86833181830	Online
		1400 – 1530	Private Prayer	St Michael’s Hilperton
		1400 - 1530	Private Prayer	St George’s Semington
T h	17th	0915	Semington Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990	Online
S u	20th	1000	Morning Worship including the launch of this year’s Shoebox Appeal	St Michael’s and online

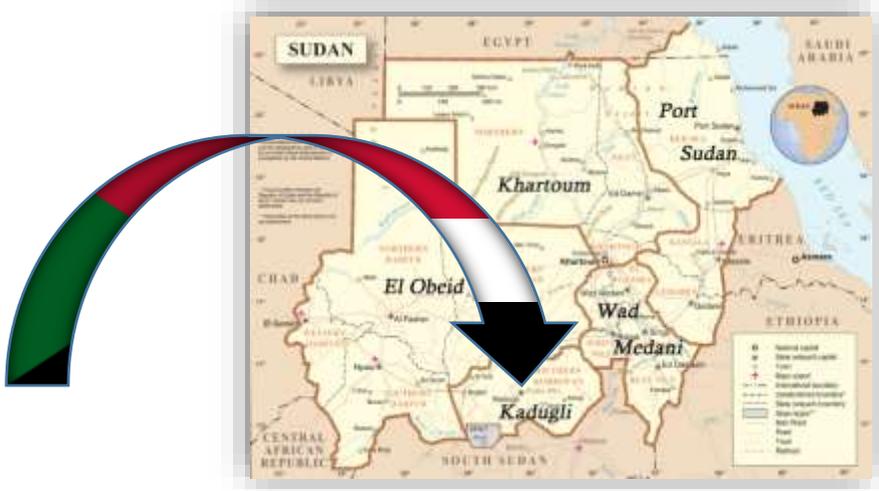
The Kadugli Diocese

We have been praying for Kadugli Diocese in Sudan for a long time. Do you ever wonder whether our prayers are answered? Here are several items of news for thanksgiving and for further prayer:

- Peace. We were asked to pray about the outbreaks of violence, and for Bishop Hassan’s role in working for reconciliation. A truce has been agreed between the different parties, who will come together after three months to evaluate and to try and establish who has been responsible for the trouble. Thank God for this progress, and pray he will bring about a lasting peace, with reconciliation between the different interests.

- A new governor has been appointed in South Kordofan and he has asked to attend a service in the cathedral. This is an encouraging and friendly step, so please pray that God will bless it and bless the governor.
- Rooted in Jesus. The violence disrupted the Rooted in Jesus course, but ways are being investigated to reactivate and re-energise it. Please pray that these efforts will be successful.
- Floods and Covid-19. The floods that so badly affected Khartoum did not affect Kadugli, which is a long way distant and is much higher up. Covid-19 appeared to be a more serious risk for Kadugli; it certainly affects areas like Khartoum, but Kadugli is fairly difficult to travel to, and there have been very few instances. Please thank God for this and pray Kadugli and its people will continue to be protected. Pray too for the protection of the whole of the Sudan.
- The good news about Jesus. Although the church in Kadugli has done no preaching to non-Christians, so far this year three Muslim men have accepted Jesus as their Lord. There is also a Muslim man who in 2014 read the Bible and “discovered the truth that Jesus and Christianity is the only religion that leads to heaven”. His life has changed completely, and he is to meet with the Bishop for advice on how to continue praying. Please pray for each of these people, for their guidance, for their growth in Jesus, and for their protection and for their witness to their families and neighbours. Above all, praise God who is at work. There are also people who are neither Christian nor Muslim; please pray for them.
- Partnership in Prayer. We know that we pray for the church in Kadugli, but do you know that they pray for us? Give thanks for the love and fellowship we enjoy together in Jesus’ name.

- Sue Cottle in Steeple Ashton held a takeaway cream tea for Kadugli. Praise God that it was strikingly successful. Every blessing – John Joy



Cleaning at St Michael's

As you know even before the pandemic we were starting to look at other ways of cleaning the church as the rota of volunteers was getting fewer and fewer. Earlier in the summer the Parochial Church Council agreed that we needed to employ a cleaner for upto 2 hours a week and we are pleased to announce that Aimee Britton-Ridout has been appointed and has already started work. The timing could not have been better as the cobwebs and dust were beginning to take hold ! Tony Roddis had already set up a “Garden Angels” fund to pay our gardener and it has now been agreed to use this fund to also pay the cleaner. **BUT** those funds will only go so far and we really need more “Angels” to help us fill the gap. If you would like to help with this funding (any amount is much appreciated) please contact Tony on 754134.

Sunday Services in September

20 th	1000	Morning Worship for Shoebox Sunday	St Michael's & Online NOT St Mary's
Joy's First Sunday as Priest			
27 th	1000	Holy Communion	St Michael's and online
	1145	Holy Communion (please note slightly later start time to give more time to those taking part in both services)	St Mary Magdalen's and online
	These services will be identical but held in 2 churches to accommodate more people.		

Private Prayer at St Michael's and St George's

Please note that St Michael's and St George's are now both open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3.30pm. Thank you to those who have volunteered to supervise these sessions. If anyone would like to join the rota at St Michael's please get in touch with Michael.

Daily Hope Free Phone Line

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services

during the period of restrictions in mind. Please share this with your friends and family members who are not online. All calls are free.

Home Visits and Communions

Joy and I would be pleased to offer socially distanced Home Communions (in her case by extension) or visits, either in homes or in gardens. If you would like this please phone one of us on the numbers below. Due to bereavement and holiday I'm afraid that I will not be able to visit until later this month. *John*

Jeannette needs your Jam Jars (and lids)

1lb jam and honey jars with lids needed please for Jeannette Worth ahead of her main marmalade production period after Christmas. Please dry lids and leave them loose. All size jam jars. Please no pickle or cook-in-sauce jars. No coffee jars or plastic lids. Jeannette Worth: 107a Church Street, Hilperton 353772

Storehouse Update

Thank you so much for all the items which you are putting into the boxes in supermarkets and the items which are being popped into the box at St Michael's and St. Mary's. The current request from Storehouse is for :- ***Bodywash, Tins of carrots, meat and rice.*** Bill checks and collects both boxes twice a week also any food items at home which anyone would wish to be collected, please contact Bill, 753118, thank you.

and there are now foodbank collection points in Semington

We now have a container in the church porch for food, and it is also collected in the Somerset Arms car park on a Wednesday. Thank you!
Bev

Collection points are also in Sainsburys, Asda and Waitrose in Melksham. The Foodbank in Melksham is currently in need of ***Tins of meat, Peas, Carrots, other veg, Potatoes, Fruit and Rice Pudding. Sweets and chocolate (as we all love a little treat). Toilet Rolls.***

Our website: www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

The Benefice website contains information about how the Churches are operating during the Coronavirus crisis and ideas and resources for all ages.

We are continuing to provide online services every Sunday. Details of how to access these are on the home page of our website, <https://canalsidebenefice.org.uk>

On Wednesday 16th September we will have an online Communion & Coffee at 10am.

Join in on zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86833181830>

It is also available to dial in via phone on 0203 481 5237. Once you are in Zoom you will be asked to enter the meeting id: 86833181830#. You must then enter # again to enter the meeting. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Michael Gamble if you would like a copy of prayer resources.

Support

If you need support or are aware of others who may need support, please contact one of our Churchwardens, John, Joy or Michael. Similarly let us know if you are able to offer shopping or other help – and thank you to those who have already offered this.

If you would like someone to pray with you or for you, or if you would like to speak with someone, please do not hesitate to contact John or Joy.

BENEFICE CONTACTS:

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