



# CANALSIDE NEWS

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

*Following the Government's lifting of Covid-19 restrictions there is no longer any need to book to attend services in the Benefice.*

**THIS  
SUNDAY**

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING**  
9.15am St George's, Semington

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
10am St Michael 's, Hilperton

*The Service at St Michael's will be filmed and available to watch online on Sunday afternoon.*

*Here is the link to watch the service together with any of our pre-recorded services:*

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS6\\_E8D47JK0aDFP89UvBrQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS6_E8D47JK0aDFP89UvBrQ)

## **The Collects (special prayers for this Sunday)**

### **Trinity 15**

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,  
that we may enjoy eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Harvest**

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
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**

## **Post Communion Prayers**

### **Trinity 15**

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;  
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,  
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,  
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Harvest**

Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation  
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:  
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Readings for St Georges

### The Epistle: Ephesians 3. 14-21

<sup>14</sup> When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>15</sup> the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>16</sup> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. <sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

<sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. <sup>21</sup> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

### The Gospel: Mark 6. 30 – 44

<sup>30</sup> The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.

<sup>32</sup> So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. <sup>33</sup> But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep

without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

<sup>35</sup> Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. <sup>36</sup> Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat.”

<sup>37</sup> But Jesus said, “You feed them.”

“With what?” they asked. “We’d have to work for months to earn enough money<sup>[a]</sup> to buy food for all these people!”

<sup>38</sup> “How much bread do you have?” he asked. “Go and find out.”

They came back and reported, “We have five loaves of bread and two fish.”

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

<sup>41</sup> Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. <sup>42</sup> They all ate as much as they wanted, <sup>43</sup> and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.

## **Readings for St Michaels**

### **The Epistle: James 3.1-12**

**3** Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

<sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. <sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! <sup>11</sup> Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

### **The Gospel: Mark 8.27-end**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets."

<sup>29</sup> Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."

<sup>30</sup> But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. <sup>32</sup> As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

<sup>34</sup> Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? <sup>37</sup> Is anything worth more than your soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

### **This week’s reflection for Trinity 15 by Joy**

Who remembers the childhood saying, ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.’ Today we are thinking about the powerful effect of the words we use, because as we know, words have the power to heal, but they also have the power to hurt and harm.

However, I would like to begin with a story, this story was recorded by Joyce Meyer, but I suspect it may have many other authors.

*Once upon a time, an old man spread rumours that his neighbour was a thief. As a result, the young man was arrested. Days later he was proven*

*innocent. After being released, he sued the old man for wrongly accusing him.*

*In court, the old man told the judge, "They were just comments, they didn't harm anyone."*

*The judges, before passing sentence on the case, told the old man, "Write all the things you said about him on a piece of paper." "Cut it up into little pieces and on the way home, throw the pieces of paper out of your car window. Tomorrow, come back to hear the sentence."*

*The next day, the judge told the old man, "Before receiving the sentence, I want you to go out and gather up all the pieces of paper that you threw out of your car window yesterday."*

*The old man said, "I can't do that! The wind spread them all over the place and I won't know where to find them."*

*Then the judge replied, "The same way, simple words and comments may destroy the honour of a person to such an extent that a person will not be able to fix it. If you can't speak well of someone, don't say anything at all. Let's all be masters of our mouths, so that we won't be slaves of our words."*

As I said, at the beginning, words have power, more than we often realise and this is what James is saying when he is talking about the tongue. The words we use, the things we say shape us. As Jesus said in Mark 7:15 which we reflected on recently, 'It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.' It is what we say that defiles us and has the potential to harm others. We have come here today to worship and praise God, but from our same tongue, from our same thoughts will come ungenerous words, words that harm others and defile us. Can we praise God in church on Sunday

and allow these thoughts to permeate our speech the rest of the week? Is this how we want others to think of us? Does this reflect the good news of Jesus in our lives?

So, let us turn to our gospel reading and again we find the powerful effect of words. The disciples have heard Jesus' declaration, recording in Luke, that 'the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has appointed me to bring good news.' They have witnessed Jesus perform many miracles: the multiple healings including enabling the blind to see and the deaf to hear, the feeding vast crowds, the raising the dead, the casting out demons, even his authority over the wind and the waves. They have heard his teaching and how he talks about the Kingdom of God. And now he asks them a relatively simple question, "Who do people say I am?" but he follows it up with a much more difficult and direct question, "Who do YOU say I am?" (my emphasis). Immediately Peter responds, "You are the Messiah," ... and we can all let out a silent cheer, because for once Peter seems to have said the right thing at the right time!

But what sort of Messiah was Peter expecting, indeed what sort of Messiah was anyone expecting? Most Jews of the time were expecting the Messiah to be a military leader who would free the Jews from the oppression and slavery of Rome, probably in much the same way as Moses had freed the ancient Israelites from the oppression and slavery of Egypt. And it is quite likely that the reason Jesus did not want the disciples to tell anyone he was the Messiah, was because he knew this was what the Jews were expecting, and he wanted to correct that idea first. Likewise, if the Romans had heard that Jesus was the Messiah, they too would have been expecting a military leader, and would have most likely arrested him before he had time to complete his ministry.

This is possibly why Jesus told the disciples not to say anything, and it is clear later, after Peter had reprimanded Jesus when he said he was going to Jerusalem to die, that Peter still was thinking of the Messiah as a

military leader not the suffering servant described in Isaiah 53, to which Jesus may have alluded as he described what lie ahead for him in Jerusalem. Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Man, knew that his Messiahship was not going to be like that expected by Peter and the other disciples, nor most Jews. Jesus knew that as Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer, he would have to suffer and die, to take on the sin of the world, but that he would rise triumphant from death to glory, and in so doing defeat death and Satan's grip on the world.

We are among those who have benefited from the grace and mercy of God through his Son Jesus, and his act of salvation and redemption, and we could daily be using words of praise as we thank God for his goodness, and encourage others to become followers of Jesus, to take up their cross and follow him.

Words have power, our tongues can be our own cross, as anyone who has ever said something in the heat of a moment that they later regretted can testify. So let us use our words wisely, to praise God, to encourage and uplift our friends and family, and to spread the good news of the salvation of the Messiah, the one who suffered and died for us, and lives to intercede for us at the right hand of God!

## **Harvest in Semington**



Harvest is being celebrated in Semington this weekend. The theme of the service will be 'Giving thanks for God's generosity'. John would be really pleased if those coming to the service could bring

something to symbolise their thankfulness to God. It can be anything - provided it can fit through the church door! For example, vegetables, computer games, pictures of village events or your family, musical instruments. It will be good to compare the wide range of things and people for which we wish to give thanks.

### **This Friday: Barbara Hunt's Coffee Morning**

We are all invited to Barbara's for another of her famous Coffee Mornings and to enjoy her lovely garden. 10am-1pm at 17 Dymott Square, Hilperton BA14 7RW. There will be coffee/tea/cake/biscuits, a raffle, a Cake Bring and Buy Stall and lots of chat and fellowship.

### **Shoeboxes**

Following the launch of this year's Christmas Link to Hope Appeal – you now have 6 weeks to get your shoeboxes ready before they need to be brought to church for onward transit. This year's deadline is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Paper Orders of Service**

If any of you, who are unable to attend church services in person, would like a paper copy of the order of service please let Michael know and he will deliver one to you.

### **Looking ahead: A Fellowship Lunch**

As we plan ahead we would like to start a monthly Fellowship Lunch at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road, Hilperton. This is intended to be a simple lunch of a sandwich or soup etc. To make this happen we need someone to take a lead who can bring together a team of helpers and be part of the Parish Social and Fundraising Group (see below). If this is something you could help us with we would love to hear from you. Contact Michael for more details.

## **Benefice Day on Exploring Prayer: cancelled?**

I am very sad that unless we have many more bookings by the end of Monday, this will have to be cancelled. If you are able to come, please book via me. If you are not coming, please let me know why (eg inconvenient date / Covid concerns / chosen topic) to aid future planning. Thank you, John, ([canalsiderector@gmail.com](mailto:canalsiderector@gmail.com)), 22 Warren Road Staverton, 01225 764365.

Just two weeks to go now until this event. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding a Benefice Prayer Day from 10am-3pm. The day will be led by Canon Roger Morgan who will also preach in the Benefice on the Sunday. Roger is a is an experienced parish missionary who has helped many Churches develop their prayer life and other aspects of their ministry.

## **Social and Fundraising Group – We need your help**

Fundraising is always a key in the life of the church but obviously during the pandemic most of our annual events have had to be cancelled. In Hilperton and Staverton Parish we are now forming a Social and Fundraising Group to start work on planning ahead for the rest of this year and beyond. If you would like to be part of this Group we would love to hear from you – just contact Michael as soon as possible.

## **Let us have your seasonal photos**

Entries for the photo calendar are starting to come in but there is plenty of time for the rest of you to dig through your photos or to get out and take some new ones. We want seasonal photos of our villages for a 2022 calendar. The entries will be independently judged to select 13 shots (1 for each month and 1 for the cover) The Calendar will then be sold to raise funds for our churches. The entry fee for each photo is £3. Digital photos would be ideal as they can be entered by email or by phone. But if you don't have access to digital cameras/phones please don't let that

put you off – just let us know and arrangements can be made for your entry. As the winning photos will be enlarged for the calendar higher resolution photos would be best and in landscape format please. **Please send your entries to Michael by no later than Midnight on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Further details to follow.**

<b>DATES FOR DIARIES</b>					
<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b>SEP</b>	F	17 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1300	<b>BARBARA HUNT'S COFFEE MORNING with Bring &amp; Buy Cake Stall and Raffle</b>	17 Dymott Square, Hilperton
	Sa	25 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1500	<b>BENEFICE DAY ON EXPLORING PRAYER?</b>	Venue TBD
<b>OCT</b>	Sa	9 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1200	<b>COFFEE MORNING for St Michael's and St Mary's</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
	Th	14 <sup>th</sup>	1430-1600	<b>FRIENDSHIP GROUP</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
	Tu and W	26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>	All day	<b>JOHN'S SPONSORED WALK</b>	Kennet and Avon Canal
<b>NOV</b>	F	26 <sup>th</sup>	1900+	<b>QUIZ NIGHT for St Mary Magdalen's</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
<b>DEC</b>	F	10 <sup>th</sup>	1400-1630	<b>CHRISTMAS FAYRE AFTERNOON</b>	St Mary Magdalen's

## **Change in Service Start times at St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's**

**Please note that with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> September for a trial period lasting to the end of January, Sunday services at St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's in Hilperton will start at 10.30am.** This is to enable John to lead the 9.15 Semington service as well as a Hilperton service when needed and also to enable him and members of the ministry team

to lead a monthly Breakfast@9 Service which has been requested by Staverton School which will be open to all. Please pray for all those who are working on the introduction of this new initiative at the school.

## Drop in for Coffee

The Drop In for Coffee sessions at St Mary Magdalen's will restart THIS Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 10am-12 Noon. Come and join us for Coffee/Tea, biscuits and time to chat together again. A warm welcome awaits you!

## 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.

### ***This week we pray for..***

Amelia-Lily and family  
Andrew Margetts  
Barbara & David  
Beryl Curtis  
Beryl Strange  
Colin Jackson  
Collette Miyagawa  
David Franklin  
Deanna and Family  
Doreen  
Doris and Arthur Walker  
Elizabeth  
Hannah, Ash & Oliver  
Holly Thompson  
Iris and Paddy Webb



*St Mary the Virgin  
Whaddon*

James Vincent  
Jess Humphries  
Judy Meats  
Lilly & Phil  
Margaret Hulbert  
Michael & Clem  
Mike Aldridge  
Ottie  
Pat & Stan Thompson  
Pauline Burbidge  
Phyl Brown  
Rosa Light  
Roselyne Mélan  
Rosie Alice & Mark  
Sophia & Family  
Winnie Curtis

- We pray for all those who mourn but particularly at this time for the families of Jacqui Fudge, Martin (Sam) Tucker, Diana Burbidge, Janet Pearce and Maz Thompson.
- Please pray for the Dean of Salisbury and all those involved in the appointment of the 79<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Salisbury.
- Let us thank God for the continuation of the vaccination programme and the ray of hope it brings to all our lives.
- Praying for staff, pupils, parents and governors as the new school year begins.
- 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.

## **The Children Society - St Mary's and St Michael's**

Wanted: a person to take over the Children's society. If you are interested please contact Sandra on 753958

## **Foodbanks Update**

### **TROWBRIDGE STOREHOUSE:**

Many thanks to Bill Stubbs who continues to collect donated items from the porches of St Michael's and St Mary's in Hilperton each Tuesday & Thursday morning & takes them directly to Storehouse where they are gratefully received. **Stock is very low at the moment**, everyday items are needed. Urgently needed: **Sugar, Biscuits - Plain and Chocolate, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Custard, Tinned Rice, Tinned Meat, Beans and Sausage, Ravioli, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Soap, Bleach, Washing Power, Washing Liquid, Carrier Bags, Squash, Hot Chocolate, Instant Whip, Cooking Sauces, White wine sauce, Stewing steak, Minced beef, Micro Rice, Noodles, Honey, Peanut butter, Tomato Ketchup and Halal Food.** The Storehouse is also

starting to gather stock for Christmas including puddings and mince pies but nothing containing alcohol.

If you prefer you can make a financial donation so that Storehouse can order supplies from the supermarkets. EVERY donation makes a difference. If you would like to support Trowbridge Storehouse regularly or give a one off donation, please follow the link below and select storehouse.

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

On Wednesdays Storehouse provide a Soup Kitchen from 1-2pm *“Come on down for smiles and food to fill hungry tummies”*

### **MELKSHAM FOODBANK:**

is particularly requesting **coffee, sugar, tinned fruit, custard, biscuits, jam and squash** this week.

Items for the Melksham Foodbank can be left in St George’s Church in daylight hours, in most local supermarkets and at the Somerset Arms. Please continue to support the work of both our local foodbanks.

<b>BENEFICE DIARY FOR THIS WEEK: 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b>				
Tu	14 <sup>th</sup>	0930	<b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179</a>	Online
W	15 <sup>th</sup>	1000	<b>Morning Worship</b>	St Michael’s
		1400	<b>Open the Book Rehearsal</b>	St Michael’s Room
Th	16 <sup>th</sup>	0900	<b>Semington Morning Prayer</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990</a>	Online
		1000 1130	<b>Private Prayer</b>	St Michael’s
		1000 1200	<b>Drop in for Coffee</b>	St Mary Magdalen’s
F	17 <sup>th</sup>	1000 1300	<b>Barbara Hunt’s Coffee Morning</b>	17 Dymott Square, Hilperton

**NEXT  
SUNDAY  
19th  
SEPTEMBER**

**COVENANT SERVICE**  
9.15am St George's, Semington

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
10am St Mary Magdalen's

**TOGETHER in WORSHIP**  
10am St Michael 's, Hilperton

Find details on our Facebook page & our website:

[www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk](http://www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk)

**BENEFICE CONTACTS:**

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**Curate:** Rev. Joy Albone 07931638524 [canalsidecurate@gmail.com](mailto:canalsidecurate@gmail.com)

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