



CANALSIDE NEWS

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2021

THE SIXTEENTH 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	COVENANT SERVICE 9.15am St George's, Semington
	HOLY COMMUNION 10am St Mary Magdalen's
	TOGETHER in WORSHIP 10am St Michael 's, Hilperton

The Service at St Mary Magdalen'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

The Collect (a special prayer for this Sunday)

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**See the service sheet for the readings to be used during the
Covenant Service at St George's**

**Readings to be used during the Services at St
Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's**

The Epistle: James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

¹³ If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honourable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and

the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favouritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

4 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

The Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37

³⁰ Leaving that region, they travelled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, ³¹ for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." ³² They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

³³ After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" ³⁴ But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my

behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

This week's reflection by Jill

Who is wise and understanding among you?

What a question!

‘Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom’ it says in James’ letter.

‘The wisdom that comes from God, is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy, with no partiality or hypocrisy’.

Being wise therefore has a lot to do with listening to others’ points of view in a quiet peaceable manner.

The disciples as they walked were talking together.

Well, actually, let’s name it, they had been arguing with one another.

They wanted to see who is the greatest among them.

And they were doing this not quietly, not peaceably, but argumentatively.

Are the disciples showing wisdom here? It seems not. Sadly.

They had ideas that they were all going to be in positions of greatness.

That they are going to have authority now.

That Jesus, who they recognised as the Messiah would seize power and that the Roman rule would be overturned.

That’s because their ideas of a Messiah is of a conquering hero.

Someone who would bring about change through brute force.

Who would reign over them like the kings in the Old Testament.

They don’t understand what Jesus has been trying to tell them.

That he is to be betrayed, killed and afterwards to rise again.

They just don’t understand. Perhaps they don’t want to understand.

It just doesn’t fit in with their picture of how things should be.

They knew. They had wisdom. Or so they may have thought. They knew what they wanted. And they aren't 'on receive' for what Jesus is telling them.

Their wisdom, at this time is certainly not accompanied with understanding.

So what is Jesus' response to their lack of understanding?

He takes a child in his arms and tells them that those who welcome or receive a child like this, receive him and also in receiving Jesus, receive God and we all say aaaaaaaahhhhhh.

And we fail to realise that what Jesus does is shocking.

Shocking to those around him.

Shocking-

for a child in those days was almost considered to be a non-person.

Rather like the Victorian image of 'children should be seen and not heard' only magnified.

Children's place was to be with their mother, who is a semi non-person, herself, you could say.

To therefore bring in a child in such a way that Jesus does, to include them and give them importance, would have horrified his disciples.

So just what was his point?

Jesus treats the child who is socially invisible, as being his representative.

As someone who is as important as everyone else.

With modern attitudes to children, what he does seems very little, but in the context of Jesus' time, what he does is radical.

In our society today you could say that we have elevated the status of the child to the point where they have become the greatest, the most important, the most powerful, with the world revolving around them.

So if we are thinking of the least in our society today, who then would we be thinking of? Who today are those considered of little value?

We have all had our lives turned upside down by Covid and it's given us a new appreciation of all people. It has made us realise that everyone is needed

That there are no greater or lesser jobs. That every life is valued.

That's why it is so devastating to see in the news, the places at war and where innocent lives are lost. Every person is precious and valued.

Jesus showed this by his actions.

By picking out a child, in the way he does, shows us that every person is important to God.

That actually there is no least or greatest in God's kingdom.

Surely then we should treat all with equal respect, with equal kindness, with equal concern.

Surely we should be calling everyone our brothers and sisters.

Surely we should be welcoming to all.

Well maybe we can do this- welcome all- say hello, be friendly.

But receiving or welcoming does not just mean to say hello, but to include in such a way as to invite them right in, it means to embrace, and take close to your heart.

And this can be a challenge for us.

To welcome all, just as Christ welcomes us. Even those we find challenging? Well yes. Jesus didn't differentiate...nor should we.

Instead receiving people, accepting people, in the way that God the Father receives and accepts us.

As Karl Barth the Christian theologian says:

"To think of every human being, even the oddest most villainous or miserable as one to whom Jesus Christ is Brother, and God is Father, and we have to deal with him on this assumption."

So why do we sometimes rate people according to their status in society?

Think that some people are more important than others and treat people differently- differentiate and discriminate sometimes innocently, sometimes knowingly between people.

We may differentiate between people not only according to societal status but also with reference to gender, or race sometimes. The whole subject of black lives matter has shown this and the Living in Love and faith has revealed that the Church of England is beginning to make progress with the conversations around human sexuality and what this means for us.

Do we follow the model of Jesus? With his all- inclusive love. Who saw equality with God as not something to be exploited but rather emptied himself by becoming human and took the form of a servant, humbled himself even to his willingness to suffer death, death on a cross, as it says in Philippians chapter 2.

Are we modelling the kind of greatness of the servant king with the knowledge that there is no least or greatest in God's kingdom but that all are valued, all are welcomed, embraced and loved by God.

God's wisdom can tell us what true greatness is.

For God's wisdom is not the same as the world's.

We need God's wisdom, with understanding, to know what God's invitation is to us. What God's purposes are for us?

So that we don't get distracted by our own agenda, like the disciples did.

So that we don't argue and disagree over who is the greatest, listening to whose voice is the loudest.

So we don't think our view is the best view on the tasks we are doing, or project we are undertaking.

But rather let us be genuinely open to listening to others, with interest, integrity and impartiality, for isn't this the key to being wise?

REMEMBER NEXT SUNDAY: Service Start times change at St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's

With effect from next Sunday (26th) 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.

Shoeboxes

Following the launch of this year's Christmas Link to Hope Appeal – you now have 5 weeks to get your shoeboxes ready before they need to be brought to church for onward transit. This year's deadline is Sunday 24th October.

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: POSTPONED

Thank you to those of you who contacted me about the Prayer Day planned for next week. As the time was inconvenient for some, and as others are understandably concerned about Covid, we have taken the

decision to postpone the day, probably until next Spring. However, I'm pleased that Canon Roger Morgan will still join us for the Benefice Communion Service at 10.30am next Sunday in St Michael's, when he will speak on Discipleship and Prayer.

He will also join us for lunch from 12.00 at St Mary's. Drinks will be provided, though for Covid reasons please bring your own packed lunch. Do come if you can.

Roger will also be at next week's Tea@TheTin service. John Rees

Social and Fundraising Group – We need your help

Fundraising and meeting for social activities are both significant in parish life 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 30th September 2021. Further details to follow.**

The Children's 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

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
David and Audrey
Sheppard
Deanna and Family
Doreen
Doris and Arthur Walker
Elizabeth
Hannah, Ash & Oliver
Holly Thompson



*St Michael's
Hilperton*

Iris and Paddy Webb
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 Diana Burbidge, Maz Thompson, Janet Pearce and Joyce Lee (Stuart's sister).
- Please pray for the Dean of Salisbury and all those involved in the appointment of the 79th 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.

- Pray for staff, pupils, parents and governors of our Benefice schools.
- 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.

Foodbanks Update

TROWBRIDGE STOREHOUSE:

Many thanks to Bill who continues to collect donated items from the church porches & takes them directly to Storehouse. **Stock is very low at the moment**, everyday items are needed. Urgently needed: **Tinned Meats, Tinned chopped tomatoes, Tinned vegetables, Spaghetti, Pasta and sauces, Tinned fruit, Rice puddings, Custard, Sugar, Coffee, Toothpaste, Adult toothbrushes, Shampoo, Snacks. Washing powder and liquid, Cleaning products, Bags** urgently needed

The Food Bank hopes to give 70 or more families all they need for a fresh wholesome Christmas. Your donations could buy the following: **Complete Hamper £50, Meat/Vegetarian option £25, Fresh Vegetables £10, Christmas trimmings: Christmas pudding custard etc £15.**

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 **UHT Milk, Tinned or Instant Potato, Tinned Soup, Tinned Meat, Tinned or Instant Custard, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Biscuits, Jam, Squash, Sugar, Sweets suitable for adults and children** this week. Items for the Melksham Foodbank can be left in the porch at St George’s

Church, in most local supermarkets and at the Somerset Arms. Please continue to support the work of both our local foodbanks.

BENEFICE DIARY FOR THIS WEEK: 20th-27th September 2021				
Tu	21 st	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179	Online
W	22 nd	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	23 rd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990	Online
		1000 1130	Private Prayer	St Michael's

**NEXT
SUNDAY
26th
SEPTEMBER**

**BENEFICE
HOLY COMMUNION
10.30am St Michael 's, Hilperton**

**TEA@theTIN
4pm St Mary Magdalen's**

Find details on our Facebook page & our website:

www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE CONTACTS:

- Rector:** Rev. John Rees 01225 764365 canalsidirector@gmail.com
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