



CANALSIDE NEWS

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2021

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

THIS
SUNDAY

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL and
HARVEST COMMUNION**

10.30am St Michael 's, Hilpertont

HARVEST CELEBRATION

10.30am St Mary Magdalen's

HARVEST EVENSONG

6pm St Mary's, Whaddon

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

The Collect (a special prayer for this Sunday)

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 Prayer

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**

**This week's Readings for the Services at
St Michael's Hilperton and at St Mary's Whaddon**

The Epistle: Ephesians 3.14-21

¹⁴ When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

The Gospel: Mark 6.30-44

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. ³¹ 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.

³² So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³ But many people recognised them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ 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.

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

³⁷ But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

³⁸ "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.”

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

⁴¹ 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. ⁴² They all ate as much as they wanted, ⁴³ and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. ⁴⁴ A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.

This week’s Reading for the Service at St Mary Magdalen’s in Hilperton

Acts 2.42-47

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

This week's reflection by John

The feeding of the 5000 is undoubtedly one of the most significant and best known of all of Jesus' miracles. Because it is so familiar, it is easy for its' impact to be lost. We can fail to appreciate what these familiar verses teach us both about God's amazing generosity to humankind and our response.

Mark records that Jesus taught the crowd about "many things". We aren't told the detail, but his teaching would have assured everyone that God loved them – and would have explained to them how they should love others too.

Have you ever listened to someone talk who was so inspirational that time stood still? That was what it was like listening to Jesus. The crowd who has run along the shore to meet Jesus as he stepped out of the boat had sat and listened to him for many hours, so transfixed that they had forgotten about the hard ground they were sitting on and the hunger pangs they had from not eating for hours.

The disciples, however, could see a problem looming. It was getting late – and the crowd would need feeding. They came to Jesus with their proposed solution.

"Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

What do you think about their solution? Might you have proposed something similar?

But Jesus rejected this solution. In his response he pushed them to come up with a different answer, an answer that would lead them to a greater awareness of God's overflowing, abundant generosity and love.

I have much sympathy for the disciples' reaction when Jesus told them to feed the crowd. They were astounded. As they pointed out, apart from the practical matter of getting food delivered they didn't have

enough money. If you had been there would you have said “how ridiculous!” too.

Jesus next request to them; to find out how much food was available in the crowd, must have seemed equally impractical to the puzzled, and by now probably annoyed, disciples. With a crowd of 5000 men, together with women and children, it might have been reasonable to expect some food to share – if ten percent of those present had brought provisions there might have been 500 loaves and 200 fish – but there wasn’t even that. I suspect that the disciples reported the five loaves of bread and two fish in a tone of voice which said “we told you this wouldn’t work!”

All humanly possible avenues for feeding the crowd had been exhausted. The disciples had been unable to provide for the crowd using their own initiative and in their own strength. That of course, was the point.

It was then that Jesus took the five loaves and two fish that John’s Gospel records had been offered by a small boy, an offering that was hopelessly inadequate for the task but all that was available. Jesus looked towards heaven as he offered them to the Father and then blessed these loaves and fish.

He broke the loaves and fish in pieces, and Mark records that “*he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people*”; he did the same with the fish. Note that he kept distributing the food. This implies that God kept providing more and more as it was being distributed, rather than the sudden appearance of thousands of loaves and fish. There was enough food for everyone, and 12 baskets of food were gathered after everyone had eaten all they wanted.

Today, at this special Harvest time, we are thanking God for his generosity towards us, generosity that we can all too easily take for granted.

But I would like to finish with some final points: -

- a) God invites us to contribute to his boundless care for the world and everyone and everything in it.

We may often feel that we can make little difference as we seek to support others in our village, pray for or contribute to the many good causes in our country and across the world, or in attempting to reduce our carbon footprint. We need to remember that the boy in the parable would have felt the same. God will take what we offer joyfully and use it to bless others. In Hilperton and Staverton, over the next few weeks we will be reflecting on how we might respond to the financial challenges we face. You will be given a separate leaflet about this.

- b) We need to learn to bring our needs for ourselves, our Church, our village and world to God in prayer, and to trust that God loves us and answers prayer. As we learn to trust on God's strength rather than our own resources, we will experience God's blessing. Paul wrote about this in our other reading from Ephesians Chapter 3: -

He told the Ephesians that as they trusted in Jesus they would be strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit and through this would learn "*how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.*"

May we remember this and grow in our trust in God's desire to provide. May this be our focus as we seek support our village communities, as we seek to help others discover the faith in Jesus that sustains us and as we work to maintain and improve our much loved church buildings. As Jesus taught and demonstrated, with God all things are possible. May we grow in our trust in his provision, our willingness to play our part in his mission, and our gratitude for all we receive. May we plan for the future in confidence, prayer and trust.

This weekend we welcome Ruby

On Sunday afternoon we welcome Ruby Renee Milner aged nearly 2 years, into our church family as she is baptised at St Michael's. We also welcome her parents Darren and Donna, her Godparents Talia, Gemma, Sam and Ben and all her family & friends who gather to support her. Please pray for Ruby as she begins her Christian journey.

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 George's
Semington
(photo courtesy of
GTW)*

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, 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.
- we continue to pray for the staff, pupils and governors of Hilperston, Staverton and St George's School and of all our local 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.

Covid restrictions in our Churches: Policy change

At the end of July, following the Government's lifting of Covid19 restrictions, the Ministry Team, Wardens and PCCs met and discussed how the changes would affect the way we worship in Canalside. It was decided to proceed with caution and to small changes for the time being. The Hilperston and Staverton PCC met this week to review the current arrangements. After some discussion it was decided at St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's we will remove the requirement for people to sit socially distanced in our churches. If you don't want someone to sit next to you may like to put a bag or coat next to you to indicate this. Semington PCC agreed to take the same steps the previous week.

Generous Giving

This week we join the rest of the Diocese and launch the Generous Giving Campaign – a four week focus asking everyone to consider what they give to God to fund mission and ministry and what each church shares with others in giving to the Diocese. If you are in church this weekend please make sure you pick up one of the leaflets we have produced for each household, setting out the details of the scheme. If you aren't in church you will receive a copy of the leaflet in the coming days.

Private Prayer at St Michael's

Since June of last year St Michael's has been open on most Thursday mornings for private prayer. As the Church is now open each weekday and Wednesday Morning worship has returned to church the PCC has decided that there is no longer a need to have a designated time for Private Prayer on Thursdays. A big thank you to Sandra for taking a lead on these sessions throughout the last 16 months. The church remains open each weekday during daylight hours if you would like to spend some quiet time in the building.

Youth Alpha

Are you interested in exploring more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

Would you like to do this with others of a similar age to yourself?

If you are in Year 6 – Year 10 and would like to explore more, why not join us for a Pizza Supper on Thursday 7th October at 6.30pm, at Rev. John Rees' home – 22 Warren Road, Staverton, BA14 8UZ.

Attending the Pizza Supper does not commit you to joining the course.

For those who do wish to go further, we will discuss times and dates at the Supper.

For more details, or to express an interest, please contact either:

Rev. John Rees

or

Rev. Joy Albone

01225 764365

07931 638524

canalsiderector@gmail.com

canalsidecurate@gmail.com



Bishop Andrew's Visit

On Sunday 17th October the Bishop of Ramsbury will be visiting the Benefice at the 10.30am Communion Service at St Michael's. The main focus of the Service will be to give thanks to Ray Guymer, Ivor Hughes, Jeannette Worth and Gill Guymer as they retire from their ministries after a great many years of service. After the service coffee and cake will be served.

Shoeboxes – 3 weeks to go

Following the launch of this year's Christmas Link to Hope Appeal – you now have 3 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.

Dominica

In recent years, since Dominica suffered a devastating hurricane we have supported, in ways which we are able, appeals for items of light weight clothing all sizes & ages, shoes, bedding, curtains, towels, sewing items, Christmas gifts for children. Sometimes these have been shipped in containers or barrels.

Now of course the island has been hit by Covid & the main source of income is tourism.

The last amount given by folk in the benefice went in barrels to the island, the barrels will then be used to store water or cut in half to grow crops. It is amazing what is able to be fitted into a barrel. A printer for a computer being one! This time someone has generously donated a computer, others have donated other items of bedding etc, etc. If you should have any items you wish to go into the next shipment please may Bill & I have them by Friday the 8th October? Our thanks to all who have given in the past & blessed the people of Dominica. Bill & Marilyn Stubbs



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th October 2021
at the Church Hall
in Horse Road

10am-12 Noon

Cakes - Gifts -

Books - Games -

Jams & Pickles -

Teas - Coffees -

Raffle - Tombola -

Bric-A-Brac -

£1 Admission includes
Coffee /Tea

ALL WELCOME



PROCEEDS TO
ST MICHAELIS &
ST MARY
MAGDALENIS
CHURCHES
HILPERTON



Please support this event next Saturday which will raise funds jointly for St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's Churches. If you are able to help us on the day by running a stall etc please contact Val Legg on 755034. We would also welcome cakes for the cake stall and prizes for the raffle please. Most important of all please come along on the day and spend, spend spend !

Can you help us with a monthly 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 **SOUP AND A ROLL**. 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.

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.

Rev John's Fundraising Walk

Following on from his very successful sponsored walk last year John will again be taking to the towpath later this month. He will be raising funds for St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's in a bid to reduce the forecast deficit as much as possible. On the 26th and 27th of October John will be walking along the canal towpath between Pewsey and Kintbury. If you would like to make a donation to John's walk on there are a number of ways you can do so.....

- **BACS payment:** Hilperton PCC / 30-98-75 / 00319535 (state SPONSORWALK in the transaction)
- **Give a Little website:** use this link
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/09f15793-e102-42b9-8b88-f5857547cec4>
- **PayPal:** Log on to your PayPal account
Click "Send" In the "name, money or mobile number" type in canalsideoffice@gmail.com
Click "Next". Type in the amount you wish to donate and then in the "Add a note" box type "SPONSORED WALK" Finally just follow the instructions on screen and the payment will be made from your account.
- **Cash/Cheque**

Pop it into an envelope marked SPONSORED WALK and drop it into the Rectory or the giving plate in church. Cheques should be made payable to Hilperton PCC

Traidcraft

A message from Rosemary Yates: The Autumn/Winter Traidcraft catalogue is now available for you to buy Fair-trade Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, gifts, food and fashion and also to raise money for the Church. Further details from Rosemary on 753741.

Our very own Calendar for 2022

Many thanks to those of you who have already entered seasonal photographs for our 2022 Calendar. We would love to see more entries so if you have any snaps please do get in touch. 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. Don't worry if you only have photos on paper – they can still be entered – just let Michael have the photo and he can copy it and return the original to you to go back into your album or wherever you keep them. If you prefer you can enter digital photos by email or by phone. Just remember that each photo must be taken in Hilperton, Staverton or Whaddon and should depict Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter views. The photo can be an old one or one taken recently. **Please send your entries to Michael by no later than Midnight on SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER 2021.**

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: **Corned Beef, Tinned Ham, Coffee, Sugar, Biscuits, Soap, Shampoo, Items for the Christmas hampers.**

They also desperately need any type of bag. On Wednesdays they are now holding a Community Meal for at least 16.

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 **Tinned Fruit, Jam, Squash, Sugar, Dried Pasta and Coffee** 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.

DATES FOR DIARIES					
					
Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
OCT	Sa	9 th	1000-1200	COFFEE MORNING for St Michael’s and St Mary’s	St Mary Magdalen’s
	Th	14 th	1430-1600	FRIENDSHIP GROUP	St Mary Magdalen’s
	Th	21 st	1000-12--	DROP IN FOR COFFEE	St Mary Magdalen’s

	Tu and W	26 th and 27 th	All day	JOHN'S SPONSORED WALK	Kennet and Avon Canal
NOV	Sa	13th	1000-1200	REMEMBRANCE DAY COFFEE MORNING	Hilperton House
	F	26 th	1900+	QUIZ NIGHT for St Mary Magdalen's	St Mary Magdalen's
DEC	F	10 th	1400-1630	CHRISTMAS FAYRE AFTERNOON	St Mary Magdalen's

BENEFICE DIARY 2021



The Canalside Parishes

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
OCT	Tu	5 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179	Online
	W	6 th	1000	Midweek Communion by Extension	St Michael's
	Th	7 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990	Online
	F	8 th	0915-1045	Toddlers@the Tin	St Mary Magdalen's

NEXT SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER

MORNING WORSHIP
9.15am St George's, Semington

HOLY COMMUNION
10.30am St Michael's, Hilperton

Find details on our Facebook page & our website:

www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE CONTACTS:

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

Curate: Rev. Joy Albone 07931638524 canalsidecurate@gmail.com

Office: Michael Gamble 07795400262 canalsideoffice@gmail.com