

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



## **CANALSIDE NEWS**

**SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY 2022**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**THIS  
SUNDAY**

**TOGETHER in WORSHIP**

**10.30am St Michael's, Hilperton**

**BCP HOLY COMMUNION**

**3pm 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS6_E8D47JK0aDFP89UvBrQ)

# READINGS FOR THE TOGETHER IN WORSHIP SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S

## **The Collect (a special prayer for this Sunday)**

God our Father,  
in love you sent your Son  
that the world may have life:  
lead us to seek him among the outcast  
and to find him in those in need,  
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

## **The New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1.3-14**

<sup>3</sup>All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup>Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup>God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. <sup>6</sup>So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. <sup>7</sup>He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup>He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

<sup>9</sup>God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. <sup>10</sup>And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. <sup>11</sup>Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

<sup>12</sup> God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. <sup>13</sup> And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

### **The Gospel: John 1.10-18**

<sup>10</sup> He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

<sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

<sup>15</sup> John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

<sup>16</sup> From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

# READINGS FOR THE BCP COMMUNION SERVICE AT ST MARY'S WHADDON

## **The Collect (a special prayer for this Sunday)**

Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

All praise to you,  
almighty God and heavenly king,  
who sent your Son into the world  
to take our nature upon him  
and to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that, as we are born again in him,  
so he may continually dwell in us  
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3.1-12**

**3** When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles . . . <sup>2</sup>assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. <sup>3</sup>As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. <sup>4</sup>As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight

into this plan regarding Christ.<sup>5</sup> God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets.

<sup>6</sup>And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

<sup>8</sup>Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. <sup>9</sup>I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

<sup>10</sup>God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup>Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

## **The Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12**

**2** Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup>"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup>King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,  
for a ruler will come from you  
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

<sup>9</sup> After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

### **This Week’s Reflection by Marilyn**

Two days into 2022! But Christmas is not over, our cards, decorations and trees could well be up as we wait in Christmastide for the coming of the wise men bringing their gifts to worship the infant Jesus on 6<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany.

John begins his gospel (John 1 1-5) ‘In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing

was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.'

It's like a door being opened. The darkness that John speaks of is suddenly illuminated by the one who is light. For those who welcome the open door, there is life in abundance. Yet what is overwhelmingly obvious to some is by no means clear to all. John will unfold a story in which such contrasting attitudes continue to co-exist. What he will demonstrate is stated right here: what Moses gave was good, but look, Jesus is even better.

This morning let us reflect on verse: 16: From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.

Grace is one of the key words in the Bible. It means mercy or forgiveness, although we don't deserve it. God in his mercy graciously forgives us for all the sins we've ever committed as soon as we repent. The 'Amazing Grace', which the hymn sings about, is the generosity of God's forgiveness, offered to every one of us, even the most wretched of sinners. Grace comes at no cost to us; forgiveness can never be earned - no one can ever do anything to deserve God's forgiveness, it's simply the fruit of God's love.

In verse 16 John speaks of Jesus benefitting his people with one gracious blessing after another, John was affirming that he had never found Jesus lacking in any way. John's description conveys a subtle invitation for us to trust Jesus' ability to meet our needs. These benefits include all the believers, not just John and the apostles. All believers receive Christ's blessings, nothing can deplete Christ - no matter how much the believers receive of him, he keeps on giving, his blessings are inexhaustible.

Philip Yancey in his book 'What's so amazing about grace' says *"it's on tap for every person who comes through these doors. One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as "those evil people" or "those poor people who need our help." Nor must we search for signs of "love-worthiness." Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are.*

*Grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us. Ask people what they must do to get to heaven and most reply, "Be good." Jesus' stories contradict that answer. All we must do is cry, "Help!"*

*Repentance, not proper behaviour or even holiness, is the doorway to grace. And the opposite of sin is grace, not virtue".*

Here's an example:

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates.

St Peter says, 'Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I'll give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in.'

'Fine', the man said. 'I was married to the same woman for fifty years and never cheated on her, not even in my heart.'

'That's wonderful,' said St Peter. 'That's worth three points!'

'Three points!' he exclaimed.

'Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service.' 'Terrific!' said St Peter. 'That's certainly worth a point.'

‘One point? How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my town and worked in a shelter for the homeless.’

‘Fantastic that’s good for two more points.’

‘Two points?’ the man cries. ‘At this rate the only way I’ll get into heaven is by the grace of God!’

‘Come on in!’ St Peter replied

St Paul said in his letters to churches which were a mixture of Jews and Gentiles, that we are all equally undeserving. We’re justified, justified being ‘just as if I never sinned’ by grace, through faith, not by doing the works commanded by the law. Christians may pay lip service to this doctrine, but have we really taken to heart what it means when it’s applied to us as an individual child of God. We gain spiritual strength through God’s gracious love. A Christian is often compared to a light bulb, which can’t shine on its own. The electrical power is there in the mains, but it can only make the light shine if the plug’s pushed in and switched on. Similarly, God’s power is always available to us; God’s only waiting for us to ask, and he’ll gladly give us the strength of will and spiritual determination to do good deeds for His sake. But-the connection must be made, praying regularly and passionately, and then God will give us spiritual strength, or grace, so that we can do anything, absolutely anything that God wants of us.

Grace, at its heart grace is the loving relationship between a generous God and his trusting worshippers. It’s God’s undeserved love and the power it gives us. And saving grace? It’s a very small step. God wants to save everyone from the fear of death and the guilt and power of sin. There’s nothing we can do to earn this saving grace; God can give it to us of his own free will in the second that we ask for it. It’s given for people who up to now have lived a life doing or saying things that separate them from God, the moment we repent, turn away from these

things God in His grace forgives us, even forgets those things and we are back into union with Him.

John wrote: “The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.’

May no one leave Jesus as the baby in the manger but allow Him to grow into the Man, the Man upon the Cross who willingly paid the price for our sins, grace was very costly indeed. He is the Risen, Ascended King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus the Son, who is himself God can communicate God’s glory to us. He is near to the Father’s heart and has told us about God. Jesus is the one who explains about God. He came to earth and lived among us – to explain God to us with his words and by his person. No-one can know God apart from Jesus, God’s explainer. Again, this mirrors verse one, where the Son is called the ‘Word’ – the expression of God, the communicator of God. Perhaps our New Year resolution might be to draw closer to the One who is the ‘Word’ and ‘the Word made Flesh’ this coming year. Amen.

## **Midweek Services**

Midweek Communion will resume this Wednesday - 5th January.

## **A reminder: Next of kin contact**

Many thanks to those of you who have already done this but for those of you who haven’t here’s a reminder: If you attend church or other Benefice events on your own you might like to consider giving us contact details for your next of kin who we could contact in the unlikely event of an emergency. These details will be kept securely and will only be used for the purpose set out above. The Ministry Team, Administrator, Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens will have access to the details should they be needed. If this is something you would

like to do please let Michael have one or two contacts giving their name, their telephone number(s) and their relationship to you.

## **Do you know your body ?**

Valerie Sims has been busy again and very kindly produced a new quiz sheet for us all to puzzle over in the coming weeks. This time the theme is “Do you know your body ?” Most of the clues are general knowledge, anagrams, hidden words and a few cryptic ones. If you would like a copy please contact Michael and let him have the entry fee of £2. Closing date: 28/02/2022. The winner will receive £15, 2nd £10 & 3rd £5. All the proceeds will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of St Mary Magdalen’s Church in Horse Road, Hilperton and St Michael and All Angels’ Church in the Knap, Hilperton.

## **Your Christmas postage stamps**

A New Year perhaps a new resolution to save stamps for Marilyn to send to the Bible Society so they will be able to raise funds. Thank you to all those who have given me so many stamps so far. Please keep them coming. Marilyn

## **A thank you from Michael**

With my Treasurer’s hat on I just want to say a big thankyou to everyone who helped us get to the end of 2021 and to meet all our financial commitments. Although the accounts have not yet been finalised it now looks like St Michael’s ended the year with a deficit of £1,000 and St Mary Magdalen’s with a surplus of around £2,300. On New Year’s Eve I transferred funds from one set of accounts to another to ensure that the total Deanery Share due for the Parish was paid in full. THANKYOU to those who increased their giving, made one off donations, made and bought marmalade, joined the 100 Club, made and bought cream teas, sponsored John, Anne and Joy on their canalside walk, bought and sponsored the calendar, attended the Coffee mornings and fayres and

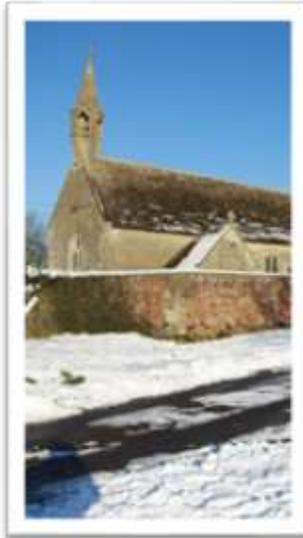
bought Val's Quiz Sheets. It's remarkable what we have achieved together despite the difficult times we live in. At one point during the year I was forecasting a deficit in the Parish of £5,000. Our prayers were answered and thankfully I was proved wrong. Well done everyone.

## 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  
 Chris  
 Colin Jackson  
 Collette Miyagawa  
 David Franklin  
 David and Audrey  
 Sheppard  
 Deanna and Family  
 Debbie &  
 Sam and Family  
 Doreen  
 Doris and Arthur Walker  
 Hannah, Ash & Oliver  
 Holly Thompson



*St Mary the Virgin  
 Whaddon*

Iris and Paddy Webb  
 James Vincent  
 Jess Humphries  
 Lilly & Phil  
 Margaret Hulbert  
 Mike Aldridge  
 Nancy Leonard  
 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 the families of those who have passed away in recent weeks
- 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.
- We pray for our schools as they prepare to re-open for the new term.
- 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.

**HILPERTON AND STAVERTON CALENDAR 2022**

Sold to raise funds for the Churches of Hilpertown and Staverton (St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road and St Michael & All Angels' in the Knap)

Many thanks to all those who entered photographs for all our seasons and to Roy and Sue McGee - The Judges

**£10**

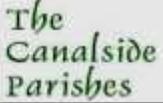
**Through the Seasons**

**NOW ON SALE!**

Hilpertown and Staverton Churches have produced a photo calendar for 2022. 12 seasonal views taken locally by people in our communities. An ideal gift for this Christmas. If you would like a copy just contact Michael Gamble on 07795400262 or at [canalsideoffice@gmail.com](mailto:canalsideoffice@gmail.com). £5 from each copy sold will go to St Michael and All Angels' Church in the Knap, Hilpertown and St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road, Hilpertown. The other £5 is the cost of printing.

**We have now sold 75 calendars and have a few left if anyone would like one. If you would like a copy please get in touch with Michael as soon as possible. The cost is £10 each. 50% of sales will go to St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's. The other 50% is production costs.**

DATES FOR DIARIES					
Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
FEB	Su	6 <sup>th</sup>	1500	EBONITE CONCERT	St Mary Magdalen's

THIS WEEK'S DIARY				 	
Month	Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
JAN	Tu	4th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179</a>	Online
	W	5th	1000	Midweek Communion for Epiphany	St Michael's
	Th	6th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990</a>	Online

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

**NEXT  
SUNDAY  
9th  
JANUARY**

**JOINT ANNUAL COVENANT /  
COMMUNION SERVICE**  
3pm St George's, Semington

### FOODBANKS UPDATE

**TROWBRIDGE STOREHOUSE:** Many thanks to Bill who continues to collect donated items from the church porches & take them directly to Storehouse. Storehouse sends a Happy New year to All their Supporters and Clients. The food bank needs **All basic items, Tinned meats, Meat meals and sugar**

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>

A Community Lunch is now held on a Wednesday, instead of soup and sandwich.

**MELKSHAM FOODBANK:** is particularly requesting **tins of meat/curry, tins or jars of hot dog sausages, tins of custard and rice pudding, rice and squash.** Please take your donations to the Somerset Arms any time or to the church porch as close before 6pm on a Wednesday as possible. Please continue to support the work of both our local foodbanks.

Find details on our Facebook page & our website:

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

**BENEFACT CONTACTS:**

**Rector:** Rev. John Rees 01225 764365 [canalsiderector@gmail.com](mailto:canalsiderector@gmail.com)

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

**Other clergy:**

Rev Hugh Hoskins 01225 781579 [hughhoskins9@gmail.com](mailto:hughhoskins9@gmail.com)

Rev. Jill Perrett [revjperrett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revjperrett@hotmail.co.uk)

**Licensed Lay Ministers:** Claire Horton [canalsideclaire@gmail.com](mailto:canalsideclaire@gmail.com)

Marilyn Stubbs 01225 753118

**Office:** Michael Gamble 07795400262 [canalsideoffice@gmail.com](mailto:canalsideoffice@gmail.com)





# SUNDAY SERVICES



Sunday  
2nd  
January

**TOGETHER in WORSHIP**

10.30am St Michael's, Hilperton

**BCP HOLY COMMUNION**

3pm St Mary's Whaddon

Sunday  
9th  
January

**HOLY COMMUNION**

10.30am St Michael's, Hilperton

**JOINT ANNUAL COVENANT /  
COMMUNION SERVICE**

3pm St George's, Semington

Sunday  
16th  
January

**HOLY COMMUNION**

9.15am St George's, Semington

**CELTIC COMMUNION**

10.30am St Mary Magdalen's

Sunday  
23rd  
January

**HOLY COMMUNION**

10.30am St Michael's, Hilperton

**CHRISTINGLE TEA@theTIN**

4pm St Mary Magdalen's