



CANALSIDE NEWS

SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2021

THE FOURTEENTH 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

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

HOLY COMMUNION
10am St Mary Magdalen's

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)

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings for the Service at St Michael's

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9.11-13

¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹²So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

¹³As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

The Gospel: Matthew 25.35 – 40

³⁵For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

Readings for the Service at St Mary Magdalen’s

The Epistle: James 2.1-10 and 14-17

2 My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favour some people over others?

² For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewellery, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. ³ If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, ⁴ doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

⁵ Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren’t they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you dishonour the poor! Isn’t it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? ⁷ Aren’t they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

⁸ Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁹ But if you favour some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

¹⁰ For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws.

¹⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

The Gospel: Mark 7.24-end

²⁴ Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. ²⁵ Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, ²⁶ and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, ²⁷ Jesus told her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸ She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

³¹ Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. ³² A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

³³ Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha*," which

means, “Be opened!”³⁵ Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

³⁶ Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news.³⁷ They were completely amazed and said again and again, “Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak.”

This week’s reflection by Joy

I wonder what your first thoughts are on hearing today’s gospel reading especially the exchange between Jesus and the woman from Syrian Phoenicia?

For me this is probably one of the most disturbing incidents in the gospels, reported in both Mark and Matthew. For here we see not a gentle, loving Jesus but one who appears to at the very least racist, and abusive. Does this should shock you? Does it disturb you to hear such remarks from the mouth of Jesus? For me this is as close as Jesus seems to get to having sinned, for even when he overturned the tables in the temple, he did so with righteous anger, but this remark ? And yet we know that Jesus who died for us on the cross was without sin, for only one without sin could take our place on the cross, and live, only one without sin could intercede for us at the right hand of God.

So, what should we do about these offensive words, should we ignore them – no, I don’t think that is an option, although I am fully aware that many scholars and bible commentaries might wish to do so. Should we apologise for them and try to tidy them away with some sycophantic answer, no – I don’t think that is an option either, instead I think we need to look at one is behind these words.

Jesus had been challenging his hearers. We might even say his teaching was at the very minimum risky, as he took on the Pharisees and teachers of religious law, telling them that all their careful observance of religious laws could not save them, could not prevent them from becoming defiled, or unclean, for as he said, it is not what goes into a body that makes us unclean, but what come out of a person’s heart.

Now Jesus has left Galilee and passed into the region of Tyre, that is into Gentile territory. We do not know why he went there: was he tired as some might argue; was he just trying to escape from the pressures of ministry briefly; or was it simply the shortest route to his next destination, we don't know, and the gospel writers do not enlighten us.

Whatever the reason Jesus went into this area, the teacher who had just been teaching about inner purity was in a region, where his very presence would have left him ritually impure, and to make matters worse he was approached by a woman, an unclean woman from an unclean Gentile territory. A woman who falls at his feet and begs for help, not for herself but for her child, a female child possessed by a demon. The lowest of the low in hostile, unclean, territory.

So, the fact that this Gentile woman should have approached him with such confidence and begged for his help is in itself exceptional. Jesus never made any pretence of the true purpose of his time of earth, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep – the people of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). And yet for him to refer to the woman and her fellow Gentiles as 'dogs' still seems harsh. However, consider the xenophobic reactions we have witnessed in recent years, even recent days, as refugees seek shelter across borders; as we see people of a different race, culture, class or ethnicity move into our streets; can any of us honestly and truly say we have not at some time had a thought, or said something that would be considered racist or offensive if heard by others?

While Jesus' comment to her seems offensive, what amazes me is the intelligence and wit with which the woman responds as she parries his comment about it 'not being fit to feed the dogs (that is the Gentiles) before the children' (the Jews or Israelites), with her response that even 'dogs are allowed to eat the scraps from the table.' This woman recognised Jesus as LORD, she recognised his authority at a time when many of the Jews, even the disciples, those closest to Jesus, could not see it. No wonder her faith is rewarded, and her daughter is healed.

Compare this account with the one that follows, the healing of the deaf man. Both he and the child of the Syrophenician are Gentiles, both are outsiders

and would have been considered of little worth even in their own communities. In both cases someone else pleads with Jesus on their behalf, and in both cases, Jesus is trying to keep his presence a secret. But note too the differences; the healing of the deaf man is told in intimate detail, while the girl was healed remotely, and we do not have any detail of what, if anything, Jesus said or did to bring about her healing. Also, the deaf man is healed with apparent tenderness, there is no indication of the insult spoken to the woman being repeated here.

We live in a society when many feel excluded, denied even the crumbs from the table. At this time of international crisis, where we see many seeking sanctuary as refugees not just in our own country but across the world, what are we as individuals, and as a church going to do to invite the excluded to the table as equals? For as James reminds us, faith without works is useless, it is a dead faith. So, what will our works be this week?

One thing you might wish to consider it making a donation to charity, especially at this time any charity seeking to relief the plight of refugees, in particular those from Afghanistan. Or you might wish to contribute to the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal that Marilyn is launching in St. Michael's this week.

For Jesus did not leave any of us as beggars. He seats us at the table and claims us as God's beloved children: children from every culture, ethnicity, language and class. Even though the crumbs from under the table would be enough for our healing and salvation, Jesus has given us much more than we need, for he has set an abundant and life-giving feast before us.

Returning though for a moment to my comment at the beginning, for me this is still a disturbing incident, but I am equally aware that many others are disturbed by different passages of the gospels. We should not ignore or dismiss those words that unsettle us, they are there for that very reason. Jesus confounds the expectations of many people: his family; the religious leaders; many who sought him out; even his disciples. If the gospel message does not disturb us, then we are in danger of watering it down and domesticating Jesus to be our own pet version of God.

Ride+Stride for Churches

This is an annual national sponsored event, organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts. People are sponsored to walk or to cycle to as many churches as they can during the day. Wiltshire Ride + Stride has been going since 1984 and has raised over £1.5 million for the county's churches. 50% of the money raised goes to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust.

Barrie and Sandra will be at St Michael's to welcome Riders and Striders from 10am-4pm and St Mary Magdalen's will be open from 1pm onwards as part of the Cream Tea Afternoon.

Winnie Morris

As you know a special service was held recently at St Michael's to celebrate and remember the life of Winnie Morris who passed away last year. Donations at the service were given to St Michael's and the final total was **£400.10**. Many thanks to Joanne, Pauline and Sandra (Winnie's daughters) and to all the family and friends who so kindly donated in memory of Winnie. We very much appreciate your kindness.

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: Please book NOW

On Saturday 25th September we will be holding a Benefice Prayer Day at Steeple Ashton Methodist Church from 10am-3pm. The day will be led by

Canon Roger Morgan who will also preach in the Benefice on the Sunday. Roger is an experienced parish missionary who has helped many Churches develop their prayer life and other aspects of their ministry. **I would be very pleased if you would make this day a priority. I sense that exploring prayer together is key as we discern God's plans for our future ministry. Please book via Michael in the office. Many thanks John**

**NEXT
SATURDAY
PLEASE
BOOK
NOW !**

CREAM TEA AFTERNOON

St Mary
Magdalen's &
St Michael's
Churches

Saturday 11th September 2021
between 2.30 and 4.30pm
St Mary Magdalen's Church
Horse Road
Hilperton



Tickets £5 from Michael or Val Legg
Cake Stall ~ Raffle ~ Music ~ Chat - Fellowship

Less than a week to go now until our first major fundraiser since March 2020. Please come along and join us but to help us with catering **please let Michael know if you would like a ticket (£5 each) by 9am on Monday Morning (6th)**. The proceeds will go towards reducing the deficit forecast for this year at St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's (50/50 split). Hopefully the weather will behave itself and enable us to sit outside but if not we can always move things indoors. There **WILL** be live music during the afternoon from our very own Mr Jim Banks. In addition to cream teas there will be cakes to buy and take home. Donations for raffle prizes would be very welcome. As with most things at the moment hygiene will be our number one priority and please be assured that we will do our level best to keep everyone safe. Many thanks to those of you who have already volunteered to help during the event, to provide scones for the cream teas and cakes for sale on the cake stall. Please let Val Legg know if

you are able to help with this event (755034). If you are unable to join us because you will be on holiday or if cream teas ain't your thing or for whatever reason - donations to the funds would be very welcome.

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 30th September 2021. Further details to follow.**

This Sunday: Fundraising for our Sudan and South Sudan link Dioceses

- ❖ The Medical Link Garden Party on Sunday 5 September from 14:00 – 17:00 in the South Canonry in Salisbury

Also this Sunday.....

Due to a funeral at St Mary's Church in Whaddon the planned BCP Holy Communion service there at 3pm is cancelled.

Advance Notice of a change to Service start times

Please note that with effect from 26th 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.

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 George's
Semington*

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, Maz Thompson, Haydn Weston, Geoffrey Holland, Elizabeth Duggan and John Taylor.

- 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.
- 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

Friendship Group

Friendship Group, an informal gathering on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 2.30 – 4.00 at St Mary Magdalen's, will restart **THIS Thursday (9th)**. This is an opportunity to play board games, bring your knitting, crochet, colouring or other activity or just chat over a cuppa. Everyone is welcome. Contact Anne Rees on 764365 if you need a lift.

Drop in for Coffee

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

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.

. 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.

DATES FOR DIARIES					
Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
SEP	Sa	11 th	1430-1630	CREAM TEA AFTERNOON with music and cake stall for St Michael’s and St Mary’s	St Mary Magdalen’s
			Evening	HARVEST SUPPER	Semington Village Hall
	F	17 th	1000-1300	BARBARA HUNT’S COFFEE MORNING with Bring & Buy Cake Stall and Raffle	17 Dymott Square, Hilperton

	Sa	25 th	1000-1500	BENEFICE DAY ON EXPLORING PRAYER	Steeple Ashton Methodist Church
OCT	Sa	9 th	1000-1200	COFFEE MORNING for St Michael's and St Mary's	St Mary Magdalen's
	Tu and W	26 th and 27 th	All day	JOHN'S SPONSORED WALK	Kennet and Avon Canal
NOV	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
SEP	M	6 th	1345	Cremation Service: Martin (Sam) Tucker	West Wiltshire Crematorium
	Tu	7 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88326941179	Online
	W	8 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
	Th	9 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008141990	Online
			1000-1130	Private Prayer	St Michael's
			1430-1600	Friendship Group	St Mary Magdalen's
	Sa	11 th	1000-1600	Ride + Stride for Churches Day St Michael's will be open 10am-4pm and St Mary Magdalen's from 1pm	St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's
			1430-1630	A Cream Tea Afternoon	St Mary Magdalen's

**NEXT
SUNDAY
12th
SEPTEMBER**

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
9.15am St George's, Semington

HOLY COMMUNION
10am St Michael 's, Hilperton

Find details on our Facebook page & our website:

www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE CONTACTS:

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

Office: Michael Gamble 07795400262 canalsideoffice@gmail.com



Link^{to} Hope



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- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Bulgaria

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30
years of
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Before the **5th November 2021**

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