

# CANALSIDE NEWS

## for JULY 2025



### CANALSIDE CONTACTS

|                                 |   |                             |   |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
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| <b>Facebook</b>                 | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes">https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes</a> |                             |   |

## Thankyou Chris and Martyn

On Thursday 5th June many of us gathered to welcome home Chris and Martyn at the end of their 75+ mile long Pilgrimage and Sponsored Walk from Hereford Cathedral to St Mary Magdalen's Church Hilpertons. During the four day trek they experienced changeable weather from beautiful sunshine and blue skies



From Hereford to Hilpertons

on the Monday to torrential heavy rain on the Thursday. The route had taken them by road from Hereford into Wales and to Monmouth where they spent the first night. On Tuesday they walked through the beautiful Wye Valley, past Tintern Abbey and into Chepstow for the next stopover. Day three began with a walk across the Severn Bridge and back into England towards Bryste (the Welsh for Bristol). On arriving in the City the two native Bristolians made their way to the Cathedral for Evensong before going their separate ways (still on foot) to spend the night at their respective family homes in different parts of the city. On Thursday morning they met up for the last, longest and wettest day of the walk leading them out of Bristol along the Avon Valley and into Bath. After a brief visit to the Abbey they walked up the very long and very steep Widcombe Hill to Claverton and then descended down to the canal towpath. By late afternoon they were back in the Benefice and after a quick freshen up it was time for the “Welcome Home” at St Mary’s. Chris and Martyn said they were overwhelmed by the number of people who had turned out for their return including many members of the Cub Pack who were chanting “Reverend Chris”. After some cold drinks and nibbles everyone made their way into the Chancel for a short Compline Service, led by Joy, giving thanks for the safe return of the walkers at the end of a quite remarkable achievement. Congratulations and thankyou to Chris and Martyn and to everyone who donated/sponsored them. The total raised currently stands at **£2,742** – another remarkable achievement!



## From the Rectory

A lot of my time at the moment is on planning the Theology Taster Day we are running in the Benefice on Saturday 5th July. It’s happening at St Mary Magdalen Church and the idea is to do a day to explain what theology is all about and try and take the sting out of it. I love theology, so I have to be careful to remember that, just because I find things really interesting, doesn’t mean everyone else does!

That said, when I mention theology in churches, I frequently get two responses:

1) Oh, I'm not clever enough for all that.

2) What has theology got to do with what we do in church?

Our hope on the 5th of July is to show that you don't have to be "clever enough" to do theology and that it has a lot to do with what we do in church. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that what we do in church is almost entirely theology, as at its most basic the word simply means "God words" so it's what we're doing any time we talk about God.

Some examples might be helpful. Central to what we do in church is trying to understand who Jesus is, what he was talking about and why he did the things he did. Those are all big theological questions. Similarly, when we talk about the Holy Spirit, what are we talking about? Most people have a working idea of who Jesus is, at least some knowledge of the stories, but the Holy Spirit is a lot harder to define or conceptualise.

I can't say we'll answer the questions, but we'll be taking a day to try and think a few things through. There will be a session on all the different things that make up theology, like what is the church, what does it mean to be saved and what does the bible say is going to happen in the future. We'll look in depth at the story of the bible and at the history of the church, there will be an introduction to Christian Spirituality and we will finish the day by considering different perspectives on faith with black, feminist, womanist and queer theologies.

As I said, I love theology, and I'm really excited to share some of that with others. My prayer is that this will be a day of enthusiasm and engagement, that people will enjoy what we're doing. And, maybe, that we even learn something new and find something that helps us to grow in faith.

Tickets are £10 and that includes lunch. If you haven't signed up yet you can do so NOW but no later than Monday 30th June. Please contact Michael Gamble ([canalsideoffice@gmail.com](mailto:canalsideoffice@gmail.com) or 07795 400262). Chris

## Used Postage Stamps

Thank you to all those who have passed on all their used postage stamps to Bill and Marilyn Stubbs for the Bible Society. Please keep them coming and use the Storehouse church porch containers for dropping them off from which Bill will collect them.

## A Message from Margaret Fairclough

Thankyou to everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes on my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

## Sad News

Many of you will have heard in church last week that sadly Keith Joint has passed away aged 90. A gentle quiet generous man and loyal supporter at St Michael's. Since his wife's death in June 2019 Keith has been a regular in the congregation always sitting in the pew at the back of church on the right hand side. In recent years he would arrive at church on his mobility scooter always with a cheery smile despite numerous health problems. We will miss him and our thoughts and prayers at this time are with his children Alison, Carolyn and Malcolm and the rest of Keith's family. The funeral will take place on Thursday 3rd July at 10am at St Michael's followed by burial in Hilperton Cemetery. Afterwards everyone is invited to join the family for refreshments at the Rugby Club.



Keith on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

It is also with great sadness that we heard the news this week that Valerie Lovell has passed away after a short second battle with cancer. Barrie and Val moved to St Austell in Cornwall just before Christmas last year, near to where one of their daughters lives. For many years they had been stalwarts in the Benefice with Barrie serving here as Churchwarden and always with Val working away quietly in the background. A great double act – Barrie with his

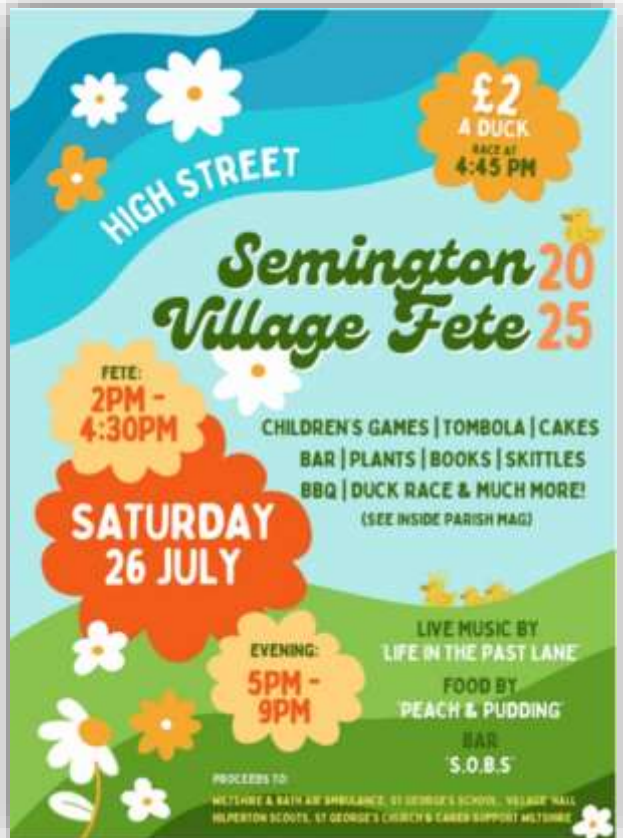
infamous corny one liner jokes and Val rolling her eyes alongside him. Please hold Barrie in your prayers at this time along with his daughters, his grandchildren and family.

May Keith and Val both rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Hilpertown and Semington Village Fetes



Our involvement at this year's Hilpertown Village Fete was a great success and broke all records since the days when it was a Church Benefice Fete. The proceeds from the Tea and Cakes was £1,029 ! This includes some generous donations in addition to sales on the day. For about 45 minutes the weather stayed dry and trade on our stall was steady but then it started to rain for the rest of the afternoon. At that point everyone made for the Hall for a cuppa and some cake. The queue was long and snaked around the hall and it soon became our gain as those stalls outside lost out. A big thankyou to everyone who made cakes, bought cakes, served cakes, ate cakes, made teas and coffees to go with cake and to wash up after tea and cake ! Over to you Semington !



## Foodbanks Update

Together with many other Foodbanks across the country both Melksham and Trowbridge are desperate for more donations, as the demand is very high at present, so please give as generously as you are able.

# Storehouse Foodbank



## HELP!

If you can donate any food or hygiene items PLEASE, pop them in our trolleys or come on down and bring them to us. If you are a little flush; you can do online shopping with ASDA as they will deliver to us on your behalf. Please drop into the building as we now do a breakfast for the homeless so eggs are always needed plus cheese, butter bacon etc as we have a fridge freezer, and fridge. Fruit and vegetables are always welcome but do not put in a trolley. Please continue to donate to us so we can keep blessing the people of Trowbridge. Thank you all.

**Please use the collection boxes in the porches of St Mary Magdalen's and St Michael's to drop off food donations etc. Bill Stubbs then very kindly collects everything up and drops it off at Storehouse. As always Bill thank you so much for all you do on this.**

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>

**Storehouse is always in need of carrier bags**



Melksham Foodbank continue to need all items but in particular at the moment require tinned meat and fish, pasta and squash, the demand for support is very high

(please ensure all items are well within the best before date). They can also take large bags of rice, tea bags, sugar & pasta as these can be decanted into smaller bags for distribution. Please take your donations to the porch at St George's, Semington before 6pm on Wednesday.

In 2024 Melksham FoodBank gave out 1538 bags of food for single people, 3693 to families and 3086 to children, although this is slightly fewer than 2023. In December 2024 they were supporting 276 adults and 212 children. These figures include 24 pensioners, 13 disabled adults and 4 disabled children. They helped 198 households, but that does not include one-off bags taken by agency workers.

All this shows that our continued support of Melksham FoodBank and Trowbridge StoreHouse is vital, and a part of our response to God's generosity to us.

## A Prayer for World Peace

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; 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.

## Free Entry to Salisbury Cathedral

Salisbury Cathedral offers free entry during visiting hours to regular worshippers of churches in the Diocese of Salisbury. You will need to apply for a Salisbury Cathedral Diocese Card to redeem free visitor admission. How to apply for a Diocese Card.

- Please download the form online:

<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-and-music/congregation/#1>

- Return the form to [diocese-card@salcath.co.uk](mailto:diocese-card@salcath.co.uk) or bring a printed copy of your completed form to the Welcome Desk in Salisbury Cathedral."

## Prayer Requests



It is important that we pray for all who seek our support. Please let Michael know of anyone who particularly needs our prayers. Do ensure that you have their permission.

### ***This month we pray for..***

|                          |                                    |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| + Alison Meader          | + Dave, Rosemary, Matthew & Family | + Maureen Mitchell     |
| + Amelia-Lily and family | + Eve and Jim Banks                | + Mike Aldridge        |
| + Andrew Margetts        | + Hannah, Ash, Oliver & baby Leo   | + Ntombi and Family    |
| + Audrey Sheppard        | + Helen Thomas                     | + Richard Marshman     |
| + Barbara Tucker         | + Hilary & Mark Heaton             | + Roger Emes           |
| + Bob Cradock            | + Irene Hicks                      | + Rosa Light           |
| + Cathy and Ian          | + Isabelle & Family                | + Val, Phil and family |
| + Chloe Stevens          | + Jeannette                        | + Viv and Jan          |
| + Colin Jackson          | + Joanna Martin                    |                        |
| + Collette Miyagawa      | + Kenneth & Catherine              |                        |
| + Colston Carpenter      | + Laurence & Family                |                        |
|                          | + Lilly, Phil & Louis              |                        |
|                          | + Maggie & Family                  |                        |
|                          | + Marilyn Stubbs                   |                        |



- We pray for all those who mourn at this time particularly the family and friends of Keith Joint and Valerie Lovell
- Please pray for those being baptised in the Benefice in the coming weeks as they begin their Christian journey: Henry Brayshaw on 29<sup>th</sup> June at St Michael's, Remie Perrott-Wright on 6<sup>th</sup> July at St Michael's, Cobey Culley and Jacob Giles at St George's on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Please also keep in your prayers their Parents, Godparents and Families as they gather to support them.



- We pray for the people of Sudan at this time of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.

# Hilp Staverdon Churches Silent Auction

**COMING SOON**

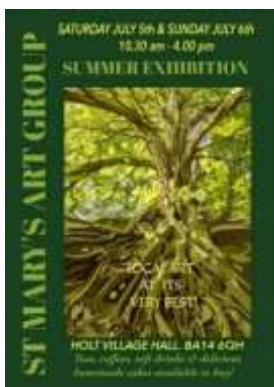
**Saturday 27th September 2025**

**St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall**

**Horse Road Hilperton 10.30am-4.30pm**



Please make a note of this date in your diaries and start looking out items that could be included in the Auction. We are looking for brand new, nearly new items to sell and anything that is in a good condition that you think someone else might want to bid on. This isn't an opportunity to clear out your loft unless your loft is full of treasures of course! We don't need the items yet — please hold on to them for now and full details will appear in the newsletter next month. To give you some idea of the type of things that might sell — here is a quick list of some of what sold at last year's Auction. DVDs, Handbags, Paintings, Crockery, Clothes, Jigsaws, Tools, Furniture, Books, Glassware, Jewellery, Vases, Toys, Lamps, Ornaments, Electrical goods — the list goes on. If you have any questions about the Auction please contact Michael.



Please join us at Holt on 5th and 6th July. I shall be there with my new range of cards, "Radiate Love", and there are also some new Notelets in the Canalside Benefice range. Orders can be taken for personalised cards. Proceeds from my art work, cards and notelets all go to church funds. Come and see the incredible work of the St Mary's Art Group, they are talented cake makers too!

Thank you Gill Guymer

# CANALSIDE DIARY

Please pray for all events taking place in the next few weeks

| Day       | Date             | Time         | Event details  | Location           |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|--|--------------------|
| JULY 2025 |                  |              |  |                    |
| Tu        | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 0930         | <b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer</b><br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IKy2vBYNviwibNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IKy2vBYNviwibNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1</a> | Online             |
|           |                  | 1450         | <b>Collective Worship</b>  | St George's School |
| W         | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 1000         | <b>Midweek Communion</b>   | St Michael's       |
|           |                  | 1430         | <b>Collective Worship</b>  | Hilperton School   |
| Th        | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 0900         | <b>Semington Morning Prayer</b><br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8853953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqgYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFZNM.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8853953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqgYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFZNM.1</a>             | Online             |
|           |                  | 1000         | <b>Funeral:</b><br>Keith Joint   | St Michael's       |
|           |                  | 1445         | <b>Collective Worship</b>  | Staverton School   |
| F         | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 0930<br>1100 | <b>Toddlers@theTin</b>   | St Mary Magdalen's |
| Sa        | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 0900-1600    | <b>Theology Taster Day</b>   | St Mary Magdalen's |
|           |                  | 1030-1600    | <b>St Mary's Art Group's Summer Exhibition</b>   | Holt Village Hall  |
| Su        | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 1030-1600    | <b>St Mary's Art Group's Summer Exhibition</b>   | Holt Village Hall  |
|           |                  | 1230         | <b>Baptism:</b><br>Remie Perrott-Wright  | St Michael's       |
| Tu        | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 0930         | <b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above  | Online             |
| W         | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 1000         | <b>Midweek Morning Prayer</b>  | St Michael's       |
|           |                  | 1430         | <b>Open the Book</b>   | Hilperton School   |
| Th        | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 0900         | <b>Semington Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above  | Online             |
|           |                  | 1045         | <b>Open the Book</b>   | St George's School |
|           |                  | 1430-        | <b>Friendship Group</b>  | St Mary Magdalen's |

|    |                  |                         |  |                           |
|----|------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|    |                  | 1600                    |  |                           |
|    |                  | 1445                    | <b>Open the Book</b>   | Staverton School          |
| F  | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 0930-1100               | <b>Toddlers@theTin</b>                                       | St Mary Magdalen's        |
| Tu | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 0930                    | <b>Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above | Online                    |
|    |                  | 1100                    | <b>Interment of Ashes :</b><br>Timothy Holland               | St George's               |
|    |                  | 1450                    | <b>Collective Worship</b>                                    | St George's School        |
| W  | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 1000                    | <b>Midweek Communion</b>                                     | St Michael's              |
|    |                  | 1430                    | <b>Collective Worship</b>                                    | Hilpertont School         |
| Th | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 0900                    | <b>Semington Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above            | Online                    |
|    |                  | 1000-1200               | <b>Community Café</b>  | St Mary Magdalen's        |
|    |                  | 1445                    | <b>Collective Worship</b>                                    | Staverton School          |
| Su | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 1230                    | <b>Baptism:</b><br>Jacob Giles and Cobey Culley              | St George's               |
| Tu | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 0930                    | <b>Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above | Online                    |
| W  | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 0930                    | <b>Hilpertont School Leavers' Service</b>                    | St Michael's              |
|    |                  | 0930                    | <b>St George's School Leavers' Service</b>                   | St George's Church        |
|    |                  | 1000                    | <b>Midweek Morning Prayer</b>                                | St Michael's              |
| Th | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 0900                    | <b>Semington Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above            | Online                    |
|    |                  | 1400                    | <b>Staverton School Leavers' Service</b>                     | Staverton School          |
| Sa | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 1400-1630 and 1700-2100 | <b>Semington Village Fete</b><br>(see poster)                | High Street,<br>Semington |
| Tu | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 0930                    | <b>Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above | Online                    |
| W  | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 1000                    | <b>Midweek Communion</b>                                     | St Michael's              |
| Th | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 0900                    | <b>Semington Morning Prayer</b><br>Use link above            | Online                    |

| AUGUST 2025 |                 |      |   |              |
|-------------|-----------------|------|---|--------------|
| Tu          | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 0930 | Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer<br>Use link above | Online       |
| W           | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 1000 | Midweek Communion                                     | St Michael's |
| Th          | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 0900 | Semington Morning Prayer<br>Use link above            | Online       |

| DATES FOR DIARIES |             |                                      |                         |                                     |                        |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Month             | Day         | Date                                 | Time                    | Event details                       | Location               |
| JULY              | Sat         | 5 <sup>th</sup>                      | 0900-1600               | THEOLOGY TASTER DAY                 | St Mary Magdalen's     |
|                   | Sat         | 26 <sup>th</sup>                     | 1400-1630 and 1700-2100 | SEMINGTON VILLAGE FETE (see poster) | High Street            |
| SEPTEMBER         | Sat         | 20 <sup>th</sup>                     | All Day                 | PRAYER DAY                          | St George's            |
|                   | Sat         | 27 <sup>th</sup>                     | 1030-1630               | SILENT AUCTION                      | St Mary Magdalen's     |
| OCTOBER           | Fri/Sat tbd | 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> tbd | TBD                     | HILPERTON/STAVERTON HARVEST SUPPER  | St Mary Magdalen's     |
|                   | Sat         | 18 <sup>th</sup>                     | 1000-1200               | AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING               | St Mary Magdalen's     |
|                   |             |                                      | evening                 | SEMINGTON HARVEST SUPPER            | Semington Village Hall |
| NOVEMBER          | Sat         | 22 <sup>nd</sup>                     | TBD                     | CHRISTMAS FESTIVE FAYRE             | St Mary's Magdalen's   |
|                   | Fri         | 28 <sup>th</sup>                     | 1900                    | QUIZ NIGHT                          | St Mary Magdalen's     |



**THEOLOGY TASTER DAY**

**Saturday 5th July**

9am — 4pm

St Mary Magdalen's Church

Horse Road, Hilpertont



Contact Michael now to book and no later than Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June

# CHURCH SERVICES *in* CANALSIDE BENEFICE *during* JULY



|                                     | HILPERTON<br>St Michael's   | HILPERTON<br>St Mary<br>Magdalen's       | SENINGTON<br>St George's  | WHADDON<br>St Mary the<br>Virgin      |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 2  | <b>10.30am<br/>BENEFICE<br/>SERVICE<br/>Holy<br/>Communion<br/>with<br/>Baptism</b> |  | <b>LUNCHTIME<br/>SERVICE &amp;<br/>BBQ @ BROOK<br/>HOUSE,<br/>SENINGTON<br/>1200 for<br/>Swimming<br/>1300 for Food</b> |                                       |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July<br>Trinity 3   | <b>10.30am<br/>HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b>   |  |   | <b>3pm<br/>BCP HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> July<br>Trinity 4  |   | <b>10.30am<br/>HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b>    | <b>9.15am<br/>BREAKFAST<br/>CHURCH</b>  |                                       |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July<br>Trinity 5  | <b>10.30am<br/>HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b>   |  | <b>9.15am<br/>HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b>  |                                       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July<br>Trinity 6  |   | <b>10.30am<br/>'EXPLORE'<br/>SERVICE</b> |   |                                       |
|                                     |   | <b>4pm<br/>TEA@theTIN</b>                |   |                                       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> August<br>Trinity 7 | <b>10.30am<br/>HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b>   |  |   | <b>3pm<br/>BCP HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</b> |

Full details of upcoming services and events can be found on our  
website [www.canalside.org.uk](http://www.canalside.org.uk)