

CANALSIDE NEWS

for SEPTEMBER 2025



CANALSIDE CONTACTS

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Note from the Choir

Hello. My name is Jenny, and I am the newest member of the church choir at St Michael's in Hilpertons.

I just want to share with everyone what a lovely experience I have had joining the choir. I have been made so welcome, and it's wonderful to sing beautiful music in such an amazing setting accompanied by the resonating sound of the organ. I don't feel under pressure to be there: I can't make every occasion and that's OK, but I go whenever I can because I enjoy it so much.

After a rehearsal (every Wednesday evening, 6.30pm to 7pm) or service (two a month at 10.30am) my spirit is lifted and I have a spring in my step.

If you've ever thought of being in a choir, maybe now is the time? There is no audition, and from my own experience you will be supported and encouraged and made very welcome, and you may, like me, find it fills your soul with joy. Drop James a line on jnewton@churchmouse.org.uk to find out more.

James adds: If you want to give it a try, we have a couple of festival services coming up – our patronal festival for St Michael And All Angels is on Sunday 28th September and our Harvest Festival is the following Sunday 5th October.



The Children's Society run many projects to support vulnerable children. Many people hold collection boxes to support their work. All amounts collected no matter how small are put to good

use and as the saying goes 'every little helps'!

You can find out more about their work at
www.childrenssociety.org.uk

As the box coordinator for St Michael's and St Mary's I will be happy to supply a collection box to anyone who would like to support this worthy cause.

The total amount sent this year from the box collection was £134.17.

If you would like a box, contact Michael Gamble at church or on 07795400262 and he will pass your details on to me. Many thanks for your support.

Shirley - Box Coordinator for the Children's Society
St Mary's Church Horse Road Hilperton
Supporter number CDN-021239 Charity Registration No. 221124

Thought from Joy

Whenever I go anywhere on holiday, I love to visit the local church building. To view the mementos of times gone by recorded in stained glass windows or plaques on walls. To witness the effect of hundreds of footsteps on worn stone floors or the smoothness of pews polished weekly by those who sat there. To spend a few moments sitting quietly, reflecting on the day, offering my prayers to God for my hopes and concerns for loved ones, friends and family and the world. Some might call it a 'busman's holiday', but I enjoyed visiting churches even before I became a priest. There is something so peaceful about a church building, even when it is bustling with visitors.

I am always awed by the thought of all those who have walked through those doors before me. Thinking of the joy they experienced seeing their child get baptised or married. Or the sadness they felt as the coffin of a loved one left the building for the last time. Then there are those faithful people who week after week, have made time to come together to worship God, and to hold their village or community before God in prayer. So many have brought their joy and their sorrow; their hopes and their fears; their laughter and their tears into the building; and even in an empty church it is possible to sense their ongoing faith in God supporting and sustaining me.

A few years ago, one church I knew, acquired some Perspex silhouettes of people from the village, as a reminder of those who had lost their lives during World War One. There was something very powerful about sitting alongside these shadowy figures from across the generations worshipping the same God, saying prayers that they would have recognised as well as some that would be new to them, and I often reflect on the presence of these 'ghosts' from times past in today's churches.

I suspect that for many, the village church holds little relevance from day to day, and yet to slip inside a quiet church like St. George's Church in Semington is valued by many, whether for a quiet five minutes or to just escape the heat of the sun! I would love to be able to offer the same in Hilperton again, but that is not for me to decide.

Wherever you may be in your faith journey, whether you attend church regularly or just periodically, for weddings, funerals and maybe even for the odd baptism (christening): I hope that you will take time, when you find the door open, to slip inside, to spend a quiet few minutes reflecting on your day, enjoying the peace and maybe even praying to God who is always ready to hear from you.

Rev. Joy Albone revjoyalbone@gmail.com

Data Protection


You may have seen from the news that the company APCS, used by many churches to process Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, have been the victim of a cyber attack resulting in the loss of personal data. People whose data is held by APCS and who may be at risk of identity theft as a result of this have been informed. We are fortunate that we don't seem to have been badly affected so far, but we are still taking steps to make sure anyone who has lost personal data is protected and that we follow all the steps we are being given by the Diocese of Salisbury. If you have any concerns about the news, please feel free to talk to Revd Chris or to Stella (as Parish Safeguarding Officer) to ask for more information.

Related to this, we are aware that, as a Benefice, we do not currently have anyone responsible for GDPR and data protection. This role is linked to safeguarding but is also distinct and it is very important to ensure that we are complying with current data protection law and also protecting everyone in our community. Please prayerfully consider if you think you might be able to step into this role, working with the PCC, to help us as we move forwards. Thank you. 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.

GOD, THE BIBLE & EVERYTHING (IN 60 MINUTES)




FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

DOORS OPEN 7.00PM

SHOW STARTS 7.30PM

£10 Advance Tickets
£12 On the door
£5 under 18s




Drink included in ticket price

SUITABLE FOR AGE 9+

ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

Get ready for the ultimate one-man comedy show about God, the Bible, and Everything! BBC sitcom writer James Cary hilariously unpacks the entire Bible in one hour. It's fast, furious, and laugh-out-loud funny. Faith or not, you'll love it!



Saturday 20th September

Semington PRAYER DAY

Why Prayer Matters



A quiet day of contemplation, based around the Lord's Prayer to lead us into stillness and the presence of God.

10.00 – Morning Prayer
12.00 – Bible reading
2.00 – Contemplation
3.45 – Closing Worship
4.00 – Finish

everyone's welcome

 **St. George's Church**
Church Street, Semington

? Quiz Night?

with Ploughman's Supper

Saturday 20th September @ 7pm.

£5 per person max. 4 per team

To book please ring 07967193198

Wesley Rd. United Church in Trowbridge

Feel free to bring soft drinks- no alcohol please.

(Proceeds to Dorothy House and Macedonian Vision Africa.)

THE SILENT AUCTION

There are now only a few weeks to go until our second Silent Auction (see poster in this newsletter) so if you have anything that you no longer need and that you think someone else might like to bid for please let us know. We are looking for good quality items, new or used in a good condition. If the item is too big to be brought to the Hall (furniture etc) we can show a photo of it at the auction. Smaller items can be dropped off at the church hall in Horse Road the day before – Friday 26th September between 5 and 8pm.

Registration forms for your auction lots are now available in church or in the August newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Michael on 07795400262 or canalsideoffice@gmail.com

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
+ Catherine	+ Isabelle & Family	+ Val, Phil and family
+ Cathy and Ian	+ Jeannette	+ Viv and Jan
+ Chloe Stevens	+ Joanna Martin	
+ Colin Jackson	+ Laurence & Family	
+ Collette Miyagawa	+ Lilly, Phil & Louis	
+ Colston Carpenter	+ Maggie & Family	



- We pray for all those who mourn at this time particularly the family and friends of Kenneth Warr, Ted James, Peter Woodman and Mary Pomeroy.
- Please pray for Nevaeh Nellie-Rose McCafferty who is being baptised at St Michael's on 7th September. Please also keep in your prayers her Parents, Godparents, friends and Family as they gather to support her at the start of her Christian journey.
- We pray for the people of Sudan at this time of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.



Hilp Staverton Churches Silent Auction

Saturday 27th September 2025

St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall

Horse Road Hilperton 10.30am-4.30pm



Lots of Lots to bid for

**Just come along, have a look around
and if you see something you want**



write down your bid

Highest bid at the end of the day Wins

**If you have anything to be auctioned
please contact Michael Gamble**

07795400262 canalsideoffice@gmail.com



Teas and Coffees available ~ All Welcome

Proceeds to church funds

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 :

Packet Soup, Tinned Vegetables and Pulses Tinned Baked Beans, but all items are still urgently needed. 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.

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.

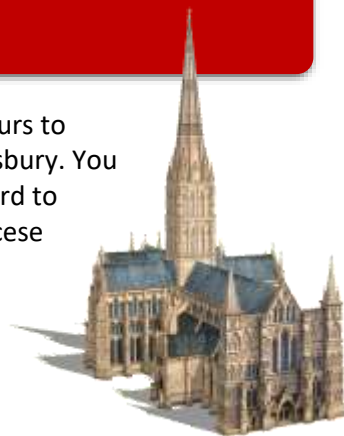
Free Entry to Salisbury Cathedral

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 or bring a printed copy of your completed form to the Welcome Desk in Salisbury Cathedral."



CANALSIDE DIARY

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

Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
SEPTEMBER 2025				
Tu	2 nd	0930	Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IKy2vBYNviwibNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1	Online
W	3 rd	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	4 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqgYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFZNm.1	Online
Tu	9 th	0930	Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
W	10 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	11 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1430-1600	Friendship Group	St Mary Magdalen's
F	12 th	1930	God the Bible and Everything (in 60 Minutes) See poster	St James' Church Trowbridge
Tu	16 th	0930	Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
W	17 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
		1900	Hilpertont and Staverton PCC Meeting	St Michael's Room
Th	18 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1000-1200	Community Café	St Mary Magdalen's
Sa	20 th	1000-1600	Semington Prayer Day (see poster)	St George's Church
		1900	Quiz Night for Dorothy House and Macedonian Mission for Africa (see poster)	Wesley Road United Church
Tu	23 rd	0930	Hilpertont/Staverton Morning Prayer	Online

			Use link above	
W	24 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	25 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
Sa	27 th	1030-1630	Silent Auction	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	30 th	0930	Hilpertown/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
OCTOBER 2025				
W	1 st	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	2 nd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online

DATES FOR DIARIES					
Month	Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
SEPTEMBER	Sat	20 th	1000-1600	PRAYER DAY	St George's
	Sat	27 th	1030-1630	SILENT AUCTION	St Mary Magdalen's
OCTOBER	Sat	18 th	1000-1200	AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING	St Mary Magdalen's
			evening	SEMINGTON HARVEST SUPPER	Semington Village Hall
NOVEMBER	Sat	22 nd	TBD	CHRISTMAS FESTIVE FAYRE	St Mary's Magdalen's
	Fri	28 th	1900	QUIZ NIGHT	St Mary Magdalen's

CHURCH SERVICES *in* CANALSIDE BENEFICE *during* SEPTEMBER



	HILPERTON St Michael's	HILPERTON St Mary Magdalen's	SENINGTON St George's	WHADDON St Mary the Virgin
31 st August Trinity 11		10.30am BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION		
7 th September Trinity 12	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION			3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION
	12.15pm BAPTISM			
14 th September Trinity 13		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	9.15am BREAKFAST CHURCH	
21 st September Trinity 14		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION	
28 th September Trinity 15 and Michaelmas	10.30am 'EXPLORE' SERVICE for MICHAELMAS	4pm TEA@theTIN		
5 th October Trinity 16 and Harvest	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION for HARVEST			3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION for HARVEST

Full details of upcoming services and events can be found on our
website www.canalside.org.uk

Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

"Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan" (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Recent News on Sudan.

News from Sudan is mostly general rather than specific, but it seems the SAF is advancing towards the west of the country, but still fiercely resisted by the RSF. As the SAF controls more ground, refugees have begun to return home, to places such as Khartoum, Al Jazira and White Nile in the East of Sudan. It is estimated that over 1.5 million of these have returned from other parts of Sudan, and another half million from abroad. Where fighting continues, however, people continue to flee their homes, bringing down the overall figure.

There is other encouraging news. UNICEF report that a humanitarian aid convoy has reached Dilling in South Kordofan province. This marks the first substantial delivery to this area by any UN agency since October 2024, and the convoy now will proceed to the provincial capital Kadugli. UNICEF reports that "The supplies are expected to benefit about 120,000 where humanitarian needs have reached catastrophic levels and communities have been under siege for months".

Encouraging though this is, we must remember future deliveries are not guaranteed, and that even what has been provided is only one delivery; many more will be needed.

The Church in Sudan.

The church in Sudan has to live with the destruction of many of its buildings. A photo was posted on Facebook recently, showing the ruins of a church, and with the message "Here I came to Jesus and talked and cried My church is destroyed, but Christ will not be destroyed."

This is by no means an isolated instance. Many churches have been damaged or destroyed, and their members and clergy scattered. Talking about this recently, Archbishop Ezekiel cited his own family as an example, staying in three different places. He knew of families scattered even more widely, and some who had lost contact with each other. Separation was a form of trauma needing healing. He recognised that the church needed people skilled in dealing with these issues.

Archbishop Ezekiel has been able to bring support and encouragement by visiting and ministering to the church in different parts of the country, including Dongola in the Northern State, Khartoum and Omdurman, and also the Nuba Mountains. He called for action to bring peace and unity, and prayed God would give the church the vision to handle the present crisis.

What about Kadugli Diocese?

News of the UNICEF humanitarian aid convoy is too fresh to be able to confirm it has reached Kadugli. When it arrives it will be welcome. It is expected to benefit 120,000 people, so much more is needed and regularly. Our own contributions are very important and are gratefully received, as are our prayers.



Accounts of specific acts of violence are few, but the worry and the danger is always present, as may be inferred from the prayer requests. Let us remember our suffering brothers and sisters also have families for whom they care. This comes through in messages from Archbishop Ezekiel and Bishop Hassan, and will be true for many others.

Conditions make it difficult for the church in Kadugli to witness, but it is evident the church continues to thrive amongst all the turmoil. There have been three confirmation services around the end of June/beginning of July, each with over 100 candidates; photos are attached.



We continue to support the people of Kadugli in their search for desperately needed food and other essentials, and in addition, we have been supporting Hassan's son Yassa with help for his fees for his course at a university in Uganda. Our latest news is that he is doing well. For administrative and other reasons any money given for Hassan's son Yassa would need to be kept distinct from other funds, so anyone wishing to donate for Yassa can use the same payment details as for other funds for Kadugli, but with the reference "Yassa" instead of "Kadugli."

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a continuous warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. The church in Kadugli is intensely grateful for our support, both financial and in prayer. Please continue to give via your church if you can, or directly. The account details are:

Bank:	Lloyds Bank Trowbridge
Name of Account:	Bradford Deanery
Sort Code:	30-08-75
Account No.	00710285
Reference	Kadugli. Or, as mentioned above, Yassa. <u>(N.B. This is important)</u>

Please also consider ways of raising funds for Kadugli.

And as always, we ask you to pray.

Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Bishop Hassan rightly says the present conflict and its attendant troubles need God's intervention.

- Let us pray for the nation of Sudan, that God will bring about peace and unity, stability and healing, and that he will give the church vision in handling the present crisis. Above all, we pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of the people there and bring them to a saving knowledge of God in Christ Jesus.
- Pray for food and medicine to be supplied.
- Pray for those made homeless.
- We pray God will enable the church to overcome the many difficulties and to bear witness to him with love, joy and confidence, and to serve one another and their neighbours.
- Remember before God the families, especially of Archbishop Ezekiel and of Bishop Hassan, for their protection and provision and strengthening in their faith.

