

# CANALSIDE NEWS

## for FEBRUARY 2026



### Thought from Joy

Do you ever get the impression that something is trying to grab your attention? You see something: a quote; a flower; a style of vehicle; and you think, I have never noticed that before, then all of a sudden that quote, flower, car seems to be everywhere you look.

That has happened for me recently with the first chapter of the Bible, Genesis chapter 1. It is not that I have not seen it before, but all the mediations and Bible readings I usually follow keep bringing me back to it, especially to God's creation of humans, and the task he gives them to care for his creation, for all that he declared to be "Good."

Many translations of the Bible, including the King James version which was the only version that was widely read for about 300 years, use the word 'dominion', when speaking of how God gave us the task of caring for his creation. To have dominion over something or someone is to have care and authority over them, but it would seem that for some they have come to understand dominion as being able to subjugate that someone or something to their will.

When it comes to the world God created the effect of the abuse of humankind's dominion of the world is only too evident to us today. For I do not think any of us can be ignorant of the effects of climate change on our planet, (even if there are some who seem to want to deny any responsibility for it!)

Now I am not a climate scientist, nor an ecologist, but I cannot disregard the change in weather patterns we have all witnessed in our lifetime. 2025 has been declared the third hottest on record, and 2026 is forecast to be between 1.34°C and 1.58°C above the average for the pre-industrial period (1850-1900)

which will make it the fourth year in succession when temperatures will have reached at least 1.4°C above pre-industrial levels. (Figures provided by the Met Office).

This shows the disastrous effect of our previous attempts to have 'dominion' over creation, and we must therefore look at alternative understandings of dominion, that is to care for, to prioritise the needs of the planet and of all God's creation, plants, animals and people, to find better ways of living that do not destroy the very world that we live in.

I do not know the best way to do this, I can only look at what I can do, to try and minimise my impact on God's creation, because I want a world that is sustainable not just for me but for my children and grandchildren and the generations that follow them. Each of us are responsible for the choices we make. May we be those who care for all aspects of creation in the coming year. In the meantime, I remain grateful to those members of our churches eco-groups who continually bring these matters to our attention.

*Rev. Joy Albone* [revjoyalbone@gmail.com](mailto:revjoyalbone@gmail.com)

## Real Easter Eggs



I am ordering Real Easter Eggs again this year. They are the only ones with Fairtrade chocolate and a copy of the Easter story. They support charitable projects, and sadly no supermarkets stock them. The cost is £5.50 each if we order 18 or more (like we did with the Advent Calendars, thank you!), otherwise £6.00 each to cover postage. More details from <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>. Easter is early this year, so to make sure I can get them to you by Easter Day I will need orders by Sunday 8th March please. *Bev Woodward 01380 870784*

## Monthly Reflective Service

Following the success of the healing service led by Jacqui Clark in January, we are going to lead a Reflective Service on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm,

at St Mary Magdalen's. The next service will be Sunday 1st February. We hope to see you there.

## Financial Update for Hilperton and Staverton Parish

As you know we ended the year with a deficit of £11,500. Chris and I have discussed the situation with the Diocesan Director of Finance and explained that despite increasing our church giving and fundraising we were unable to meet the full cost of our Parish Share for 2025. This was mostly as a result of the unforeseen heating repairs at St Michael's and likewise at St Mary Magdalen's plus kitchen roof repairs. Due to those costs, and the fact that our Parish has always paid its annual Parish Share in full in the past, the Diocese has kindly agreed to write off the outstanding amount of just over £12,000. We will, however, need to work towards raising the 2026 total due of £58,202. It will be a struggle together with all our other costs through the year but if we all commit to do our best no one can ask more.

**AS ALWAYS THANKYOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Michael**

## Used Postage Stamps

Don't forget to let us have all your postage stamps from the Christmas season. It would be great if you could save all your stamps and pass them on to Bill and Marilyn Stubbs who in turn pass them on to the Bible Society. Just pop them into the Storehouses boxes in the church porches and we will pass them on for you.

## Readers / Intercessors / Welcomers and Coffee makers

We are always looking for more people to help us in the above areas. Sometimes people can feel that they have been overlooked and think to themselves – I could do that but they have never asked me to. Don't wait to be asked just let Michael know.

## Flower Arrangers

Although we are approaching Lent, when traditionally flowers aren't displayed in church, we are looking for volunteers to help with the flower arranging through the year at St Mary Magdalen's and at St Michael's. If you can help please contact Michael.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A service for everyone!

**Friday 6 March**

*I will give you rest, come*

**SERVICE AT  
ST JAMES' CHURCH  
TROWBRIDGE  
AT 10.30AM**

**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led  
[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)  
Registered Charity Number 233242

## Pancake Evening

On Shrove Tuesday (17<sup>th</sup> February) we will be holding a Pancake Evening at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road, Hilperton. If you would like to join us just call in at the Hall anytime between 6 – 8.30pm. If anyone can help with preparing and cooking the pancakes please let Michael know.

All Welcome. To give us an idea of how many to cater for please sign your name onto the sheet at the back of church if you will be attending.



## Lent Lunch



On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February there will be a Lent Lunch at St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road, Hilperton at 1pm. It will be a simple soup lunch with hot drinks and some fruit. If you can help with providing soup please contact Carole 07999863085. To help us with catering please sign up for the lunch on the list at back of church.

**JUMBLE**  
**SALE**

**SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY**  
**ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH HALL**  
**HORSE ROAD HILPERTON FROM 2 TIL 4PM**  
**ADMISSION £1 (CHILDREN FREE)**

**JUMBLE WANTED**  
Please search your cupboards for clothing you no longer need (clean & in good condition, please) & bring to the church between 10 am & 12 noon or leave in the porch at 42 St Mary's Close from Feb 1st. Contact Alison for further Details 01225 781579

**HELP NEEDED**  
If you can help with setting up on the morning of the sale and/or at the event in the afternoon, please let Alison know. In addition, a clothes rail that can be borrowed for the event would be extremely useful. Thank you.

**Come grab a bargain - most items only 50p!**

**PLEASE HELP US RUN THIS OUR FIRST FUNDRAISING EVENT OF 2026**

## BENEFICE DATES FOR DIARIES

**Details of some events are yet to be confirmed but for now make a note in your diaries and we will keep you posted if and when those details change**

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
FEB	Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	1400 – 1600	JUMBLE SALE (see poster)	St Mary Magdalen's
	Tue	17 <sup>th</sup>	1800-2030	PANCAKE EVENING	St Mary Magdalen's
	Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	1300	LENT LUNCH	St Mary Magdalen's
MAR	Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	1030	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR NIGERIA	St James' Trowbridge
	Sat	28 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1200	CHURCH AND CHARITY COFFEE MORNING	St Mary Magdalen's
APR	Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	1500	CONCERT BY THE EBONITE CLARINET ENSEMBLE	St Mary Magdalen's
MAY	Fri	8 <sup>th</sup>	1930	QUIZ NIGHT	St Mary Magdalen's
	Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup>	TBD	PENTECOST THEMED COMMUNITY DAY	St Mary Magdalen's
JUN	Sat	TBC	TBC	HILPERTON VILLAGE FETE	Hilperton Village Hall
JUL	TBD	TBD	TBD	POSSIBLE FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIP EVENT	TBD
AUG	Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	1200	BARBECUE AFTER MORNING SERVICE	St Mary Magdalen's
	Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	TBC	SEMINGTON PRAYER DAY	St George'
SEP	Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1200	COFFEE MORNING	St Mary Magdalen's
OCT	Fri	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1900	HARVEST SUPPER	St Mary Magdalen's
NOV	Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	1000-1200	CHRISTMAS FESTIVE FAYRE	St Mary's Magdalen's
	Fri	27 <sup>th</sup>	1900	QUIZ NIGHT	St Mary Magdalen's

### Ellie Update

I am very pleased to inform you all that a new home has been found for Ellie – Danny Daniels' beautiful cat. Thanks to Geoff State one of his friends from Westbury has very kindly given Ellie a new loving home and she moved in the day after Danny's funeral. Bless her.



## 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  
+ Amelia-Lily and  
    family  
+ Andrew Margetts  
+ Audrey Sheppard  
+ Barbara Tucker  
+ Bob Cradock  
+ Catherine  
+ Cathy and Ian  
+ Chloe Stevens  
+ Colin Jackson  
+ Collette Miyagawa  
+ Colston Carpenter

+ Dave, Rosemary,  
    Matthew & Family  
+ Eve and Jim Banks  
+ Hannah, Ash, Oliver  
    & baby Leo  
+ Heather  
+ Helen Thomas  
+ Hilary & Mark Heaton  
+ Irene Hicks  
+ Isabelle & Family  
+ Jeannette  
+ Joanna Martin  
+ Laurence & Family  
+ Maggie & Family  
+ Mark Johnson

+ Maureen Mitchell  
+ Michelle  
+ Mike Aldridge  
+ Mitchel and Divine  
+ Richard Marshman  
+ Roger Emes  
+ Rosa Light  
+ Tanya  
+ Val, Phil and family  
+ Viv and Jan



[The Canalside Parishes](#)

- We pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time especially the friends and family of Valerie Womersley, Danny Daniels, Mary Gredington, Ron Lowrie, Elaine Gibb and Doreen Hateley
- We pray for the people of Sudan at this time of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.



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.**

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 Magdalene's and St Michael's to drop off food donations etc. A BIG thank you to Tony Roddis for taking on the collections for us from Bill Stubbs.**

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, especially tinned meats and vegetables. 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. Thanks to the support of everyone, Melksham foodbank was able to distribute 7991 food parcels in 2025! 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.



# CANALSIDE DIARY

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

Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>				
<b>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b>				
Su	25 <sup>th</sup>	1030	'Explore' Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
		0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's
Tu	27 <sup>th</sup>	1450	Collective Worship	St George's School
		1930	Hilperton and Staverton PCC Standing Committee Meeting	St Michael's Room
		1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
W	28 <sup>th</sup>	1430	Collective Worship	Hilperton School
		0900	Semington Morning Prayer <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqqYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFNm.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqqYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFNm.1</a>	Online
Th	29 <sup>th</sup>	1345	Funeral: Elaine Gibb	St George's Church
		1445	Collective Worship	Staverton School
F	30 <sup>th</sup>	0930	Toddlers@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
<b>FEBRUARY 2026</b>				
<b>CANDLEMAS</b>				
Su	1 <sup>st</sup>	1030	Service of Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IKy2vBYNviwbNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IKy2vBYNviwbNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1</a>	Online
		1450	Collective Worship	St George's School
W	4 <sup>th</sup>	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
		1430	Collective Worship	Hilperton School
		1900	Hilperton and Staverton PCC Meeting	St Michael's Room
Th	5 <sup>th</sup>	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
F	6 <sup>th</sup>	0930	Toddlers@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Sa	7 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Jumble Sale (see poster)	St Mary Magdalen's

		<b>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b>		
Su	8 <sup>th</sup>	0915	<b>Breakfast Church</b>	St George's Church
		1030	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	10 <sup>th</sup>	0930	<b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online
		1450	<b>Collective Worship</b>	St George's School
W	11 <sup>th</sup>	1000	<b>Midweek Communion</b>	St Michael's
		1430	<b>Collective Worship</b>	Hilperton School
Th	12 <sup>th</sup>	0900	<b>Semington Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online
		1430	<b>Friendship Group</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
		1445	<b>Collective Worship</b>	Staverton School
F	13 <sup>th</sup>	0930	<b>Toddlers@theTin</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
Sa	14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ST VALENTINE'S DAY</b>		
Su	15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</b>		
		0930	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>	St George's Church
		1030	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>	St Michael's
Tu	17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b>		
		0930	<b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online
		1800-2030	<b>Church Pancake Evening (see notice)</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
W	18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>		
		1000	<b>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion</b>	St Michael's
		1930	<b>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion</b>	St Michael's
Th	19 <sup>th</sup>	0900	<b>Semington Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online
		1000	<b>Community Café</b>	St Mary Magdalen'
		1200		
Su	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>		
		1030	<b>'Explore' Service</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	<b>Tea@theTin</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	24 <sup>th</sup>	0930	<b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)</b>	St Michael's
		1450	<b>Collective Worship</b>	St George's School
W	25 <sup>th</sup>	1000	<b>Midweek Morning Worship</b>	St Michael's
		1300	<b>Lent Lunch (see notice)</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
		1430	<b>Open the Book</b>	Hilperton School
Th	26 <sup>th</sup>	0900	<b>Semington Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online

		1140	<b>Open the Book</b>	St George's School
		1445	<b>Open the Book</b>	Staverton School
F	27 <sup>th</sup>	0930	<b>Toddlers@theTin</b>	St Mary Magdalen's

## M A R C H 2 0 2 6

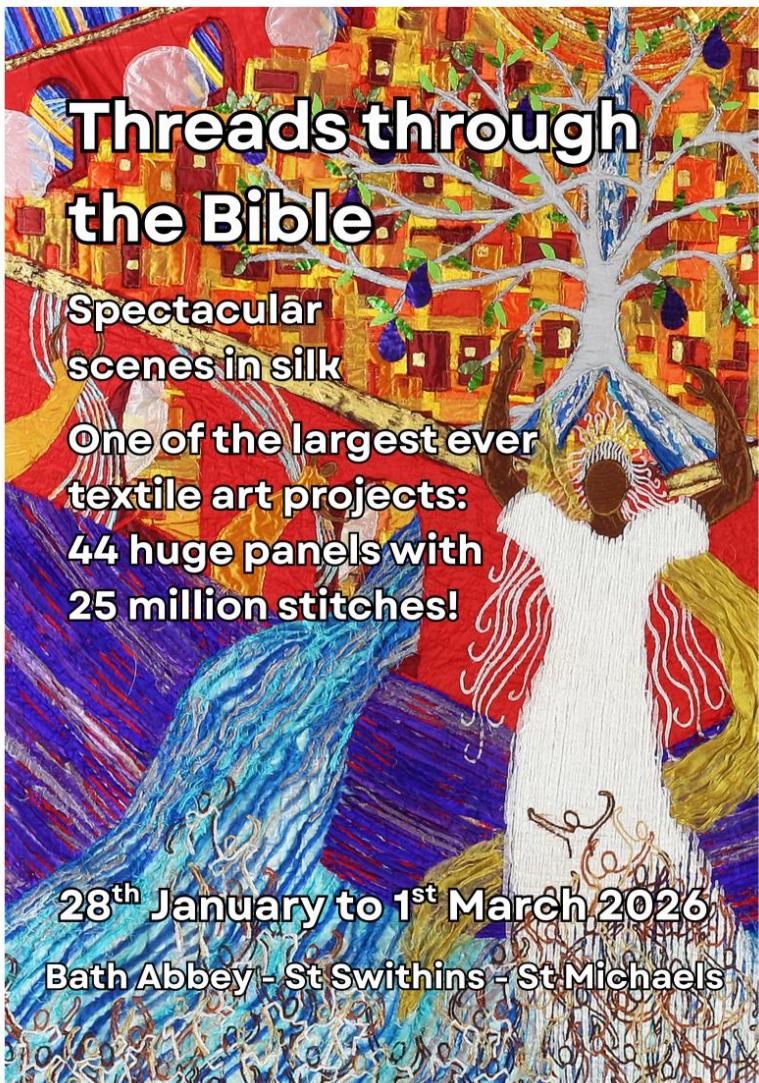
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>				
Su	1 <sup>st</sup>	1030	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>	St Michael's
		1500	<b>Service of BCP Holy Communion</b>	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	<b>Reflective Service</b>	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0930	<b>Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online
		1450	<b>Collective Worship</b>	St George's School
W	4 <sup>th</sup>	1000	<b>Midweek Communion</b>	St Michael's
		1430	<b>Collective Worship</b>	Hilperton School
Th	5 <sup>th</sup>	0900	<b>Semington Morning Prayer</b> Use link above	Online
F	6 <sup>th</sup>	0930	<b>Toddlers@theTin</b>	St Mary Magdalen's

## CANALSIDE CONTACTS

<b>Rector</b>	Rev. Chris Hunter	07396875236 01225 975510	<a href="mailto:rector.canalside@gmail.com">rector.canalside@gmail.com</a>
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Rev. Joy Albone	07931638524	<a href="mailto:revjoyalbone@gmail.com">revjoyalbone@gmail.com</a>
<b>Office</b>	Michael Gamble	07795400262	<a href="mailto:canalsideoffice@gmail.com">canalsideoffice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Churchwardens</b>			
<b>Semington</b>	David Wildsmith	c/o 01380 870784	c/o <a href="mailto:jackbev.woodward@gmail.com">jackbev.woodward@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hilperton and Staverton</b>	James Newton	07803904947	<a href="mailto:jpnewton@churchmouse.org.uk">jpnewton@churchmouse.org.uk</a>
	Martyn Carpenter	07831309377	<a href="mailto:martyncarpenter55@gmail.com">martyncarpenter55@gmail.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://canalsidebenefice.org.uk">canalsidebenefice.org.uk</a>		
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes">https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes</a>		



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.



# Threads through the Bible

Spectacular scenes in silk

One of the largest ever textile art projects:  
44 huge panels with  
25 million stitches!

28<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026

Bath Abbey - St Swithins - St Michaels

A breathtaking journey through the story of creation, redemption and revelation in this remarkable textile exhibition. Ten years in the making this extraordinary display celebrates artistic devotion with the timeless message of the Bible. Created by artist - Jacqui Parkinson. The panels stretch over 80 metres, weaving scenes of beauty, faith and hope on an awe-inspiring scale.

A wonderful opportunity to discover together how art and faith intertwine to tell the greatest love story ever stitched. More details:

[www.bathabbey.org/threads-bible](http://www.bathabbey.org/threads-bible)

## QUIZ SHEET FOR SALE – IT'S A CON



Val Sims has produced another of her Quiz Sheets to raise funds for Dorothy House. This time it's called "It's a Con" 60 questions where each answer contains the letters CON consecutively possibly at the start, middle or end. If you would like a copy please contact Michael. Entry Fee £2. Cash prizes.

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

	HILPERTON St Michael's	HILPERTON St Mary Magdalene's	SEMINGTON St George's	WHADDON St Mary the Virgin
1 <sup>st</sup> February Candlesmas	<b>10.30am HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>6pm REFLECTIVE SERVICE</b>		<b>3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> February Second Sunday Before Lent		<b>10.30am HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>9.15am BREAKFAST CHURCH</b>	
15 <sup>th</sup> February Sunday Before Lent	<b>10.30am HOLY COMMUNION</b>		<b>9.15am HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday	<b>7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION</b>			 ASH WEDNESDAY
22 <sup>nd</sup> February First Sunday of Lent		<b>10.30am 'EXPLORE' SERVICE</b>	<b>Lent</b> 	<b>4pm TEA@theTIN</b>



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