

CANALSIDE NEWS

for APRIL 2026



Thought from Joy

As a Benefice over the last few weeks we have explored what it means to be a follower or disciple of Jesus: from sitting at his feet and listening; to taking in the yoke of his teaching; following in his footsteps; responding to his calling on our lives, and finally last week on our commitment to his service.

However today is Palm Sunday and we join Jesus and his first followers on the journey through Holy Week from the joy and celebration of the cries of “Hosanna!” and “Praise to the King!” as Jesus entered Jerusalem, declaring his kingship by fulfilling the prophesy of Zechariah 9:9 and riding on a donkey.

Through to the challenges to Jesus’ authority; the dramatic clearing of the Temple and his final teachings to the disciples. The denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees and the foretelling of persecution for his followers. Onto the Passover Supper, when Jesus knelt to wash his followers’ feet (including the feet of those he knew would betray, deny and desert him), offering us a profound example of humility, and urging us to do likewise, before instructing us to remember him through the sharing of bread and wine.

Then after the anguish of Gethsemane we move onto his arrest, the false accusations made against him, the trial and mockery, the brutal flogging, before being forced to carry the heavy cross on his broken body and finally to be nailed to it and left to die the cruellest death imaginable under Roman rule.

This is a profound journey as we share in the anguish and suffering of Christ and the first disciples. However, I know that for myself, I cannot fully participate in the joy of the resurrection of Easter morning without first entering into the pain and sorrow of Holy Week.

If at all possible it is a journey I urge you to follow. If you are unable to join us in the various services during Holy Week, then may I suggest you take one of

the gospels and read ALL that is written from the celebration of Palm Sunday to the resurrection appearances, not omitting any of the less palatable verses, then you too will be able to join with the first disciples as they experienced the overwhelming confusion and outstanding joy of Easter.

So may I wish you every blessing this Eastertide, as we each continue to discover what discipleship means for us. Joy.



I know some of you are already aware of *easyfundraising* but for those of you who don't... When you shop online with participating retailers, they'll donate part of what you spend to your chosen cause. Whether you shop on your phone, laptop or tablet, you can earn free cashback donations for your cause. The retailer just needs to know you are an easyfundraiser to give a donation, and they know this if you visit them from our website, app or Donation Reminder. I have now registered **Hilperton and Staverton Churches** as a cause with *easyfundraising* so you now have the option to shop online and to raise funds for the Parish at no additional cost to you. There are over 8,000 retailers in the scheme including Tesco, Sainsburys, Amazon, M&S, ebay, Argos and John Lewis. I have tested it out on my own phone and laptop and have already starting raising funds for our churches. Only a small amount is raised per transaction but as one major store puts it "Every Little Helps". It is quite easy to set up but if you get stuck please give me a shout and I will try to help. Michael

A promotional graphic for easyfundraising. It features a dark teal background with a yellow curved border at the bottom. The text "easyfundraising" is at the top left. Below it, "Raise FREE donations for" is written in large yellow letters. A white box contains the text "Hilperton and Staverton Churches". Below that, "every time you shop online" is written in white, followed by "Search for us on: [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)". A yellow banner at the bottom contains the text "8,000+ online retailers will give us a free donation when you shop with them at no extra cost to you". Below this banner is a grid of 14 retailer logos: Booking.com, ebay, M&S, Dunelm, Argos, TUI, currys, JOHN LEWIS, Apple, Etsy, TESCO, Amazon, JUST EAT, and 8,000+ online retailers. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Download the easyfundraising App" and "GET IT ON Google Play" and "Download on the App Store".

We are very pleased to announce that we now have a new Benefice website.....



Welcome to the Canalside Parishes

serving the communities of Hilperton, Semington, Staverton and Whaddon in West Wiltshire

Two Parishes – Four Churches



SATURDAY 28th MARCH
CHURCH & CHARITY COFFEE MORNING
 St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall, Horse Rd, Hilperton
 10am — 12 Noon
 £2 Admission Includes Coffee/Tea Biscuits
 50% Proceeds to St Michael's and St Mary Magdalen's

Canalside News is our monthly newsletter
[click here for latest edition](#)

www.canalsideparishes.co.uk

Our Diary

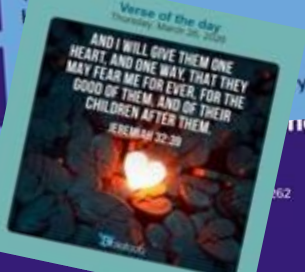
- Sat 28 Mar 10:00am - 12:00pm CHURCH AN... COFFEE MORNING @ ST MARY MAGDALEN'S
- Sun 29 Mar 10:30am - 11:30am - BENEFICE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION Palm Sunday
- Sun 29 Mar 4:00pm - 5:00pm - ... @ St Mary Magdalen's in Horse Road

A Welcome from our Rector

Our Benefice theme for Lent this year is Discipleship. A lot of people who come to church don't necessarily like words like Discipleship or even someone bears (I'm a Christian, they often give me a look that suggests that I'm probably mad. Most of all, they make assumptions about me...)



Rev. Chris Hunter



Benefice Office

6 Carisbrooke Crescent
 Trowbridge
 Wiltshire
 BA14 7PA





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
APR	Sun	19 th	1500	EBONITE CLARINET ENSEMBLE CONCERT (see poster)	St Mary Magdalen's
	Sun	26 th	1145	HILPERTON AND STAVERTON PARISH APCM after Morning Service	St Mary Magdalen's
MAY	Fri	8 th	1930	QUIZ NIGHT	St Mary Magdalen's
JUN	Sat	6 th	TBC	MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING (see poster)	St Mary Magdalen's
	Sat	13 th	1300	HILPERTON VILLAGE FETE	Hilpertown Village Hall
	Sat	27 th	1400	SEMINGTON VILLAGE FETE	Brook House, High Street and Village Hall
JUL	TBD	TBD	TBD	POSSIBLE FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIP EVENT	TBD
AUG	Sun	23 rd	1200	BARBECUE AFTER MORNING SERVICE	St Mary Magdalen's
SEP	Sat	12 th	TBC	SEMINGTON PRAYER DAY	St George's Church
	Sat	19 th	1000-1200	COFFEE MORNING	St Mary Magdalen's
OCT	Fri	2 nd	1900	HARVEST SUPPER	St Mary Magdalen's
NOV	Sat	21 st	1000-1200	CHRISTMAS FESTIVE FAYRE	St Mary's Magdalen's
	Fri	27 th	1900	QUIZ NIGHT	St Mary Magdalen's

Theology Club

Due to the third Sunday in April falling on the 19th the Theology Club won't be meeting as it clashes with the Ebonite Ensemble Concert. The Theology Club's next meeting will be on Sunday 17th May.

The background of the top section is a soft-focus image of three crosses in blue, green, and yellow, standing on a globe. The text is overlaid on this image.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Service at St James' Church
at 10:00 am

**Walk starts at 11:00 am
outside St James' Church**

(Children's activities, during
the Service, also available in
the Lansdown Room at St
James')

Annual Meetings and Electoral Roll Review

We are now moving into the season of our Annual Parish Meetings (APCM) so it's time to get the Annual Reports and accounts ready for the review of 2025. Hilperton and Staverton's Meeting is first and will be held at 11.45am after the 10.30am service at St Mary Magdalen's on Sunday 26th April. This year we will be electing two people to represent the Parish on the Deanery Synod. If you would be interested in helping us with that or in joining the Parochial Church Council Stella is waiting for your call. We are also now starting to revise the Electoral Roll for the Parish ahead of the Annual Meeting. In the same way that being on Wiltshire Council's Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and council elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters and stand for election to the PCC. If you are not already on the Roll and would like to be or you would like to know more about it please contact Michael as soon as possible.

The annual meeting for the Parish of Semington is taking place after the 9.15am Breakfast Church on Sunday 10th May.



**MUSIC for a
SUMMER EVENING**

at St Mary Magdalen's
Horse Road, Hilperton
7pm on Saturday 6th June
Come and join us for
some local home
grown entertainment

Tickets available now from Michael
£10 each includes light refreshments
canalsideoffice@gmail.com
07795400262



Advance
Notice

Kandu Arts

Spring Indoor Market at Emery Gate Shopping Centre

After the success of the Christmas Indoor markets, Kandu is excited to showcase talented local artists once again – this time for the **Spring Indoor Markets at Emery Gate Shopping Centre, Chippenham.**

We're looking for musicians to deliver stripped-back, acoustic performances to the local community whilst they browse the indoor markets.

Live music dates and times:
10th April 12-4:00PM
11th April 12- 4:00PM
18th April 12- 4:00PM
25th April 12- 4:00PM

If you'd like to be considered, Please send a demo to Adminteam@kandu-arts.com

As part of our recent Discipleship theme Andrew Stubbs told us about Kandu Arts – a charity he is involved with in Chippenham. To the left is a poster that gives details of the indoor market that Andrew mentioned. Kandu have a base in the Emery Gate Shopping Centre – the Social Hub of Positivity (S.H.O.P). The following is an extract from Kandu's website. The Hub is a welcoming space and sanctuary where individuals of all backgrounds can come together to connect, create, and express themselves freely. Committed to inclusivity, the S.H.O.P prides itself on being autism-friendly and is a world of endless possibilities as it constantly buzzes with activity and creativity. From seasonal events to engaging workshops. Visitors are welcome to browse local artwork and crafts that are for sale. Our window displays are inspired by a new 'Artist of The Week.' For further details go to <https://www.kandu-arts.com/shop> or talk to Andrew.

Holy Week and Easter 2026 in Canalside



Monday 30th March

6.30pm: COMPLINE / NIGHT PRAYER @ St Mary Magdalen's



Tuesday 31st March

9.30am: MORNING PRAYER @ St Michael's

6.30pm: COMPLINE / NIGHT PRAYER @ St Michael's



Wednesday 1st April

10am: MIDWEEK COMMUNION @ St Michael's

6.30pm: COMPLINE / NIGHT PRAYER @ St Michael's



Thursday 2nd April ~ MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm: HOLY COMMUNION with Foot Washing
@ St Mary Magdalen's



Friday 3rd April ~ GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am: HOLY COMMUNION at St Michael's

2pm: LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS @ St Mary Magdalen's

Sunday 4th April

EASTER SUNDAY

6.30am: **EASTER DAWN COMMUNION**

Followed by Breakfast

@ St Mary Magdalen's, Hilperton

9.15am: **EASTER HOLY COMMUNION**

@ St George's, Semington

10.30am: **EASTER HOLY COMMUNION**

@ St Michael's, Hilperton

3pm: **EASTER HOLY COMMUNION**

from the Book of Common Prayer

@ St Mary the Virgin, Whaddon



Happy Easter

www.canalsideparishes.co.uk

Used Postage Stamps

Don't forget to let us have all your used postage stamps. 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

As Lent is now coming to an end, a time 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.

Treat yourself to an ECOEGG for Easter

The Ecoegg Laundry Egg is a revolutionary replacement for traditional laundry detergent, offering an eco-friendly way to wash your clothes. It cleans effectively using two types of pellets housed in a recyclable, refillable laundry egg case. The white pellets do the cleaning and the black pellets increase the efficiency of the white pellets by reducing the water surface tension, drawing out the dirt. Dermatologically tested and suitable for sensitive skin, it leaves clothes fresh, soft and residue free. Begin your ecoegg journey with a Starter Kit, available direct from ecoegg.com or via Amazon. After 50 washes, simply refill for as little as 8p per wash. Contact Alison for more information.



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
+ Colin Jackson
+ Collette Miyagawa
+ Colston Carpenter

+ Dave, Rosemary, Matthew & Family
+ Den and Alison
+ 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
+ Shirley Epps
+ Tanya
+ Val, Phil and family
+ Viv and Jan



- We pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time.
- We continue to pray for the people of Sudan at this time of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.



FRIDAY 8th MAY 2026

**@ ST MARY MAGDALEN'S
CHURCH HALL
IN HORSE ROAD**

SAVE THE DATE

FULL DETAILS TO FOLLOW



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 Magdalen's and St Michael's to drop off food donations etc. A BIG thankyou 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.

Ebonite Clarinet Ensemble

3PM Sunday 19th April 2026

Tickets: £10, cash on the door, refreshments included



St Mary Magdalene Church
Hilperton Marsh
Trowbridge
BA14 7PD



Raising funds for



**BONE
CANCER**
RESEARCH TRUST
UNTIL THERE'S A CURE

CANALSIDE DIARY

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

Day	Date	Time	Event details	Location
MARCH 2026				
Su	29 th	BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS		
		PALM SUNDAY		
		1030	Benefice Service of Communion	St Michael's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's
M	30 th	1830	Compline	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	31 st	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's
		1830	Compline	St Michael's
APRIL 2026				
W	1 st	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
		1830	Compline	St Michael's
Th	2 nd	MAUNDY THURSDAY		
		0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqgYKytMMRbYvZ5JFZNM.1	Online
		1100	Chrism Eucharist and Re-affirmation of vows	Salisbury Cathedral
		1930	Maundy Thursday Service of Communion with Foot Washing	St Mary Magdalen's
F	3 rd	GOOD FRIDAY		
		1030	Good Friday Service of Communion	St Michael's
		1100	Walk of Witness	St James' Church Trowbridge
		1400	Last Hour at the Cross	St Mary Magdalen's
Su	5 th	EASTER DAY		
		0630	Easter Dawn Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		0915	Easter Day Communion	St George's
		1030	Easter Day Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Easter Day Service of BCP Communion	St Mary the Virgin
M	6 th	BANK HOLIDAY		
Tu	7 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IkY2vBYNviwibNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1	Online
W	8 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's

Th	9 th	1430	Friendship Group	St Mary Magdalen's
Su	12 th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		0915	Breakfast Church	St George's Church
		1030	Service of Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	14 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1450	Collective Worship	St George's School
W	15 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
		1430	Collective Worship	Hilperton School
Th	16 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer	Online
		1000 1200	Community Café	St Mary Magdalen's
		1445	Collective Worship	Staverton School
Su	19 th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		1030	Service of Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Ebonite Ensemble Concert	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	21 st	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1450	Collective Worship	St George's School
W	22 nd	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
		1430	Collective Worship	Hilperton School
Th	23 rd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1445	Collective Worship	Staverton School
Su	26 th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		1030	'Explore' Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		1145	Hilperton and Staverton APCM	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	28 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's
		1400	LPA/LWL Meeting	St Michael's Room
		1450	Collective Worship	St George's School
W	29 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
		1430	Open the Book	Hilperton School
Th	30 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1140	Open the Book	St George's School
		1445	Open the Book	Staverton School
MAY 2026				

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER				
Su	3rd	1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's

CANALSIDE CONTACTS

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

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.



A PRAYER FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Almighty and everlasting God, the only worker of great marvels, send down upon your servant Sarah, called to be Archbishop of Canterbury, and all who are committed to her care, the spirit of your saving grace, and that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.



SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES *in* CANALSIDE BENEFICE *during* APRIL



	HILPERTON St Michael's	HILPERTON St Mary Magdalen's	SENINGTON St George's	WHADDON St Mary the Virgin
5th April EASTER DAY	10.30am EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION	6.30am EASTER DAWN SERVICE followed by Breakfast	9.15am EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION	3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION for EASTER DAY
12th April Second Sunday of Easter		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	9.15am BREAKFAST CHURCH	
19th April Third Sunday of Easter	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION			
26th April Fourth Sunday of Easter		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION		
		4pm TEA@theTIN		

Full details of upcoming services and events can be found on our website

www.canalsideparishes.co.uk

TAKE A LOOK

It's New, It's Live and It's Ours