

CANALSIDE NEWS

for JULY 2026



Awarded to
The Canalside Benefice, St
Michael's, St Mary
Magdalen's, St George's and
St Mary's

On
23rd June 2026

Next Renewal due:
23rd June 2028



Rosemary has just received confirmation from the Fairtrade Foundation that our status as a Fairtrade Benefice has been renewed. Thankyou Rosemary for your input on this.



“When we listen to producers and farmers, what we hear is clear, fairness breaks down in three key places: >> People - providing rights and safety at work >> Planet - protecting the land producers depend on >> Pay - earning enough to live well and plan for the future.

That's why our 2026 focus is simple: **People. Planet. Pay.** Do it Fair.”

Thought from the Rectory

I have been away for most of June. Nothing too glamorous, I had to go to Manchester for three weeks. The reason is that, as I think most of you know, I am currently doing a PhD and part of the course includes a three-week residential at the College each year, which has been great to go and do.

It is something I often feel a bit awkward mentioning. "I'm doing a PhD" sounds a bit like, "Yes, I'm incredibly clever, please now be impressed by my towering intellect." Or, at least, I worry that's how people will hear it, so I try not to tell people. Except that there are two major problems with that: one is that I definitely don't think I'm incredibly clever, in fact doing this course has been incredibly daunting because I absolutely do not feel like I am intelligent enough to do a PhD but the opportunity came to me and it felt like God was telling me to get on and do it. Second, I love what I am doing so love talking about it. It is something I'm passionate about, get excited about and can talk about with great enthusiasm, so it is hard not to bring it up at every possible moment. When it does come up, I have to remind myself that, just because I find it interesting, doesn't mean the person I'm talking to will agree!

We often find that people don't necessarily share our joys and passions and there are times when it can feel as if we ought to hide the things that make us happy for fear of boring others or inducing eyerolls and yawns. And that's sad: if something genuinely makes you smile, gives you contentment or brings you fulfilment, that ought to be celebrated. Admittedly, it's got to be within reason and I suspect we've all had friends or colleagues who spent great lengths of time telling us about something they love long after everyone else has zoned out.

I actually find the same thing about my job. When I tell people I'm a vicar, you can see the look in their eyes, slightly terrified, as they think, "Is he going to talk to me about Jesus?" Last year, doing the walk from Hereford to Trowbridge, people would ask what I was doing and be really interested right up to the point where I said, "I'm raising funds for my church." At that point, the conversation would stop dead! I try not to be the sort of person who forces faith on others but, again, I have the same problem. I genuinely find Jesus to be an incredible person, a figure of inspiration who was brave in the face of oppression, particularly on behalf of others, and made people's lives better. Someone who spoke out against injustice and made a difference to people who were treated unjustly. A man who was on the side of

women, and on the side of the outcast and those who don't fit into society. He was incredible. Perhaps it is a sign of the cynicism of our age that people don't want to hear and perhaps it is simply because people have largely rejected ideas of God but it makes it hard to talk about something I'm genuinely passionate about.

I don't know what things get you really excited. I hope you have people around you who allow you to share your enthusiasm, like the way my wife patiently lets me ramble to her about cricket when she has zero interest. I also hope you're willing to hear what makes other people tick, what motivates them and what guides their life. And if you do listen, you just might find something that moves you, too. Rev. Chris.

SATURDAY JULY 4th & SUNDAY JULY 5th
10.30AM - 4.00PM

ST MARY'S ART GROUP

SUMMER EXHIBITION



LOCAL ART AT ITS VERY BEST!

HOLT VILLAGE HALL BA14 6QH

Teas, Coffees, Soft Drinks & Delicious Homemade cakes available to buy!

Judy Meats and Gill Guymer will be exhibiting at this event. Please support them. The proceeds of Gill's sales will go to church funds.



100+29=£11,000

Our 100 Club has now been running for nearly 29 years and has raised over £11,000 for church funds. Sadly the number of members has dwindled in recent years to under 50. I would now like to hand the paperwork etc over to someone else. If anyone would like to take that work on please let me know and we can have a chat. In the meantime THANKYOU to all those who have supported this fundraiser – 234 members – some of who have been members throughout the 29 years and some who are now absent friends ! Michael

100

Natasha's Farewell

Sunday 28th June will mark our final service with Natasha Bristow, who has been with us for the last two years while training to be Licensed as a Lay Minister. During this time, it has been an absolute joy to work with Natasha, to see her developing her gifts for teaching and encouraging and to see the depth of her prayer and spirituality.

Natasha will be licensed to St Thomas', Trowbridge, at the end of September and has been advised to take the summer to return to St Thomas' and settle into the community there. She will be a huge asset to them and to their ministry team.

While we are sad to see Natasha leave Canalside, she goes with our full blessings and I know she is going to be a brilliant Lay Minister.



Thank you, Natasha, for everything you've done during your time in Canalside and for what you have contributed to our churches and our community.

Go, in the grace of God.

Chris and all the Ministry Team

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.



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.

Alison Meader

Andrew Margetts

Audrey Sheppard

Barbara Tucker

Catherine

Colin

Den and Alison

Eve Banks

Helen Thomas

Hilary and Mark

Heaton

Jeannette

Maureen Mitchell

Mike Aldridge

Richard Marshman

Roger Emes



- We pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time and in particular the family and friends of Gerald Taylor, Alice Moody and Robin Herman.
- We continue to pray for the people of Sudan at this time of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.
- Please hold in your prayers Lydia and Isla Hambling who will be baptised at St Michael's on 5th July, and their Parents, Godparents, family and friends.



**Yesterday is just a page
in its History
Today is just a moment
on its Stage**



You are invited to join us from 7.00 pm prompt until 7.45 pm on **Tuesday 14th July 2026**, assembling at the Westbury White Horse Car Park, when Trowbridge Churches Together meet to pray God's will and blessing over Trowbridge, Westbury and the surrounding area.

This short but vital time of intercession is **open to everyone – men and women**

We would love to see you in person; however if you cannot be there would you consider linking with us in prayer wherever you are during this 45-minute period? To help, if you are praying at home, we plan to pray specifically for

1. Business & Finance, for the businesses and work opportunities in the Town.
2. Education & Training, for all schools and the college. For staff & students.
3. Health & Wellbeing, for all health services.
4. Media & Entertainment, for BBC Radio Wiltshire & others that there will be truth & integrity in their reporting.
5. Politics & Government, for our MP, Wiltshire Council & Trowbridge Town Council.
6. Policing & Security, for the local Police and Fire & Rescue Service.
7. Community & Family, for Church Leaders, Town Chaplains, Street Pastor's, Storehouse/NEXUS and other unpaid voluntary workers supporting those in need.

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16 (NLT)

“Our only true power is the power of prayer. When we pray, God moves from heaven. When we pray, things happen that would not otherwise happen. By prayer all things are possible.”

Evening arranged by **MENUNITED** Trowbridge

TROWBRIDGE STREET PASTORS

How would you like to have fun with Jesus? Are you being called to help people in need? Would you like to find a different way to talk to people who wouldn't normally go near a church? Then maybe becoming a Street Pastor is exactly what you need to do. I'll be honest – it is a calling and it is a commitment, including undertaking extensive training, having an interview and a DBS check. We need people who really feel called to go out on the streets of Trowbridge late at night, talking to strangers, listening to them and helping them. You may feel nervous or unsure about it but do give it a try and see if you perceive that call.



There has been a Street Pastors Initiative operating in Trowbridge since 2009, but our numbers have gone down, especially since Covid. Currently we have 7 active Street Pastors and have had to reduce our patrols to every fortnight, on a Saturday night. However, each Street Pastor would, generally, only go out on patrol once a month.

Our Chair, David Goldstone, always says that we have fun with Jesus out on patrol; and that is true. I have seen potentially confrontational situations turn into something completely different, even ending in laughter. We certainly each know that we absolutely could not do this without Jesus being with us, or without the Holy Spirit within us.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV UK.

One of the great privileges of being a Street Pastor is that we are on the front line between the world and God's Kingdom and we meet people on their patch. We can have really good conversations about why we do what we do, for no pay, which is so counter cultural that people are really taken aback. We have the opportunity to show people God's love, in action, which is truly wonderful. So, if you would like to know more then please contact the Coordinator, Julia Wade, on 01380 870137 or email trowbridge@streetpastors.org.uk You are welcome to come out as an observer to see for yourself what we do, without any obligation to take it further.



MELKSHAM
foodbank

Storehouse

Foodbank

Re-Fresh

Community Lunch

Cookery School

Nexus

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. 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
JUNE 2026				
Su	28 th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		1030	'Explore' Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	30 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's
JULY 2026				
W	1 st	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
		1430	Funeral: Gerald Taylor	West Wiltshire Crematorium
		1430	Open the Book	Hilperton School
Th	2 nd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGgG18bBqqYkYtMMRbYvZ5JZFZNM.1	Online
		1140	Open the Book	St George's School Semington
		1445	Open the Book	Staverton School
Sa	4 th	THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL		
		1030-1600	St Mary's Art Group Summer Exhibition	Holt Village Hall
Su	5 th	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		1030-1600	St Mary's Art Group Summer Exhibition	Holt Village Hall
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1230	Baptism of Isla and Lydia Hambling	St Michael's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's
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	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online



		1430	Friendship Group	St Mary Magdalen's
Su	12 th	THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		0915	Breakfast Church	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	14 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer See link above	Online
		1900	CATA Blessing over Trowbridge. Westbury and surrounding area	Westbury White Horse
W	15 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	16 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1000 1200	Community Café	St Mary Magdalen's
F	17 th	1345	Staverton School Leavers Service	Staverton School
Su	19 th	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and the WORLD CUP FINAL		
		0915	Holy Communion	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Theology Club	St Mary Magdalen's
M	20 th	0930	St George's School Leavers Service	St George's Church
Tu	21 st	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
W	22 nd	0930	Hilperton School Leavers Service	St Michael's
		1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	23 rd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
Su	26 th	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND MARY MAGDALEN		
		1030	'Explore' Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		1200	Church BBQ If you would like to attend please contact Jack/Bev on 01380 870784	Brook House, Semington
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	28 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer (NOT online – IN PERSON)	St Michael's
W	29 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
		1930	Hilperton and Staverton PCC Meeting	St Michael's Room
Th	30 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online

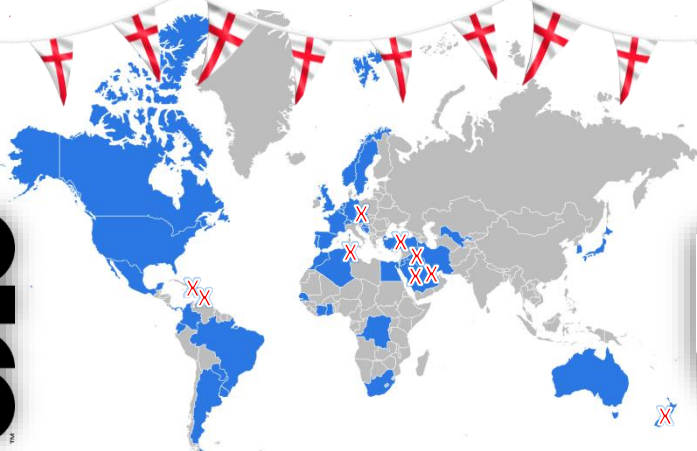


AUGUST 2026

LAMMAS				
Su	2 nd	1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	4 th	0930	Hilpertown/Staverton Morning Prayer See link above	Online
W	5 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	6 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY				
Su	9 th	0915	Breakfast Church	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	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
Hilpertown and Staverton	James Newton	07803904947	jnewton@churchmouse.org.uk
	Martyn Carpenter	07831309377	martyncarpenter55@gmail.com
Website	canalsideparishes.co.uk		
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes		



CHURCH SERVICES *in* The CANALSIDE PARISHES *during* JULY



	HILPERTON <i>St Michael's</i>	HILPERTON <i>St Mary Magdalen's</i>	SEMINGTON <i>St George's</i>	WHADDON <i>St Mary the Virgin</i>
Wednesday 1 st July	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION			
Sunday 5 th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	6pm SERVICE of REFLECTION		3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION
Wednesday 8 th July	10am MIDWEEK MORNING WORSHIP			
Sunday 12 th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	9.15am BREAKFAST CHURCH	
Wednesday 15 th July	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION			
Sunday 19 th July Seventh Sunday after Trinity	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION		9.15am HOLY COMMUNION	
Wednesday 22 nd July	10am MIDWEEK MORNING WORSHIP			
Sunday 26 th July Eighth Sunday after Trinity / Mary Magdalen		10.30am EXPLORE SERVICE		
		4pm TEA@theTIN		
Tuesday 28 th July	9.30am MORNING PRAYER			
Wednesday 29 th July	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION			

Full details of all our Services and Events can be found on our new
Benefice Website canalsideparishes.co.uk.