

CANALSIDE NEWS

for OCTOBER 2026



CONGRATULATIONS NATASHA



Yesterday (26th) a small group of us travelled to the Cathedral to attend a special Eucharist Service during which a number of people were licensed as Lay Ministers (LLM) in the Diocese. We were there to support Natasha Bristow - one of the candidates - who trained with us in Canalside before returning to the Benefice of St Thomas and West Ashton. The Service was led by Bishop Karen who is alongside Natasha in this photo.



If you look carefully you might also be able to make out someone else from Canalside just behind that Mitre. ***Congratulations Natasha.***

Thought from Joy

I think we can all say we are now well into the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness,' as we turn our attention to our Harvest celebrations in our churches. In years gone by, our churches would have been filled with fruit and vegetables grown locally in fields, gardens and allotments. I am sure most of us can remember windows filled with massive marrows, shiny apples, and beans and carrots galore.

Today, I am conscious that fewer of us work on the land, and not everyone has access to gardens, or even the time and energy to grow their own crops. The harvest in our churches has inevitably changed. The fruits of our labour today, will look very different to those a generation or two ago. The energy that went in the past into producing the massive marrows is now more likely to be directed into a well worded document or a carefully managed spreadsheet, but these do not make for good decorations in our churches!

Our autumn Harvest celebrations traditionally mark the end of the grain harvest. However, I was surprised when asking one local farmer why he was not busy on the combine, to discover that he had not only completed his grain harvest, but the combine harvester was cleaned and put away by 1st August. He had never known the harvest to be completed so early, and nor had he known the yield from his crops to be as low as it had been this year.

The combination of storms in winter and the long, hot heat of summer has not been kind to many growers, and several are reporting reduction in yields of their various crops. This together with the increased fuel costs that we have experienced in the last few months is going to inevitably lead to an increase in food costs for all of us.

While most of us can adjust our spending to accommodate these increases in prices without too much effect on our lifestyles, there are some who will struggle with the rise in food costs especially when combined with the escalation in energy costs, and for them, this is a real concern as they face the coming winter months.

This year, as we have in the last few years, at our Harvest celebrations, we will be replacing those massive marrows and shiny apples with donations of tinned and packet foods that will be passed to our local FoodBanks. Many people in our communities are finding themselves increasingly in situations where they are forced to rely on FoodBanks to feed themselves and their families, often through a sudden and unforeseen change of circumstances, that lead to a dramatic reduction of income. No one wants to be in such a situation, but FoodBanks provide a lifeline at a time of desperation.

Count yourself fortunate if you have never had to call on their services, and please be generous in your donations, both at Harvest time and throughout the year. We have a weekly collection at our churches or donations can be left at the collection points in most supermarkets.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the blessings for those who are merciful and those who long for justice, and he regularly talked of the need to care for the poor, the weak and the vulnerable. So let us not forget them this harvest time or in the future. Rev. Joy Albone

Remembrance Day

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th November 10am-12 Noon

Hilperton House in the Knap, Hilperton

with thanks to Ros Brown



Real Advent Calendars

I will be ordering Real Advent Calendars again this year. This is the only one with Fairtrade chocolate and a copy of the Christmas story. It supports charitable projects, and sadly no supermarkets stock it. The cost, as last year, is £4.95 each if we order 18 or more, otherwise £6.00. More details from

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>.

To ensure we have them for 1st December I need orders by Sunday 2nd November please.

Bev Woodward 01380 870784.



Jeannette's Funeral

Jeannette Worth's funeral will be held at St Michael and All Angels' Church in Hilperton on Friday 16th October at 3pm. Afterwards, whilst the family attend the Cremation at Semington we are all invited to remain at St Michael's for light refreshments. The family has requested that people should NOT wear black at the funeral but normal or bright colours. Donations given in memory of Jeannette will be split equally between the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and the British Heart Foundation.



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.

In Loving Memory for All Souls



Our annual In Loving Memory Service will take place on Sunday 1st November at St Michael's at 3pm. This is a Benefice wide Service at which we remember those we have loved and lost, and all are very welcome to join us. The names of those whose funerals, memorial services or interments have taken place in the two parishes during the last three years will be read out during the service together with all those named in the Book of Remembrance at St Michael's. If there are others that you would like us to name during the service, please write their names on the list which will be in church from Sunday 4th October or let Michael know by Friday 30th October.

Community Leaflet

We are currently working on putting together a leaflet to go to every home in the Parish of Hilperton and Staverton promoting all that we do here and how the community might be able to help us. We are aiming to get the leaflets delivered to all 2,500 homes by the end of October but in order to do so we need a lot of help please. At the back of church is a list of all the streets that we are aiming to cover and if you could take on the delivery of any of them please write your name next to each of those streets. Some of you live outside the Parish so you won't find your own road listed but feel free to take on some of the other roads within our area. Many thanks. Michael

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

Edward Fairclough

Eve Banks

Helen Thomas

Hilary and Mark

Heaton

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 particularly for the family and friends of Jeannette Worth.
- We continue to pray for the people of Sudan in the turmoil of conflict, including Archbishop Ezekiel as he leads the Anglican Church there.



**FAIR MEANS
EVERYONE HAS
A CHANCE AT
A GOOD LIFE**

Buy Fairtrade today



St Mary Magdalen's & St Michael's Churches



HARVEST BRING & SHARE SUPPER

Saturday 3rd October

(Note change of date)

7pm

St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall

Horse Road, Hilperton

£6 each

There is a sign up sheet in church or
let Michael Gamble know if you will
be coming and what food you will be bringing

07795400262

canalsideoffice@gmail.com

Please Let us Know by 29th September



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
SEPTEMBER 2026				
Su	27 th	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and HARVEST		
		1030	'Explore' Service for Harvest	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	29 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89678887943?pwd=IkY2vBYNviwibNcoWUpqTtf4hpwQTA.1	Online
		1300	LPA/LWL Meeting	St Michael's Room
W	30 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
OCTOBER 2026				
Th	1 st	0900	Semington Morning Prayer https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88553953942?pwd=1EHGGg18bBqqYKytMMRbYvZ5JZFZnm.1	Online
F	2 nd	1000	Toddlers@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Sa	3 rd	1145	Visiting Bellringers from Catherington	St Michael's
		1900	Hilperton and Staverton's Harvest Supper	St Mary Magdalen's
Su	4 th	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and MICHAELMAS		
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin
		1800	Reflective Service CANCELLED	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	6 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
W	7 th	0930	Hilperton School Harvest Service	St Michael's
		1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
		1930	Hilperton and Staverton PCC Meeting	St Michael's Room
Th	8 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1430	Friendship Group	St Mary Magdalen's
F	9 th	0930	St George's School Harvest Service	St George's Church
		1000	Toddlers@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Sa	10 th	1930	Semington Harvest Supper	Semington Village Hall
Su	11 th	THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		0915	Breakfast Church for Harvest	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalen's

M	12 th	1030	Staverton House Service	Staverton House
Tu	13 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1930	Deanery Synod	Christ Church Bradford on Avon
W	14 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
Th	15 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1000 1200	Community Café	St Mary Magdalen's
F	16 th	1000	Toddlers@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
		1500	Funeral: Jeannette Worth	St Michael's
Su	18 th	THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		0915	Holy Communion	St George's Church
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	Theology Club	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	20 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
		1400	Staverton School Harvest Service	Staverton School
W	21 st	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	22 nd	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
Su	25 th	THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		1030	'Explore' Service	St Mary Magdalen's
		1600	Tea@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	27 th	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer See link above	Online
W	28 th	1000	Midweek Communion	St Michael's
		1430	Open the Book Rehearsal	St Michael's Room
Th	29 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online
NOVEMBER 2026				
Su	1 st	ALL SAINTS		
		1030	Holy Communion	St Michael's
		1500	In Loving Memory Service	St Michael's
		1800	Reflective Service	St Mary Magdalen's
Tu	3 rd	0930	Hilperton/Staverton Morning Prayer See link above	Online
W	4 th	1000	Midweek Morning Worship	St Michael's
Th	5 th	0900	Semington Morning Prayer Use link above	Online

F	6 th	1000	Toddlers@theTin	St Mary Magdalen's
Sa	7 th	1000 1200	Remembrance Coffee Morning	Hilpertown House
Su	8 th	REMEMBRANCE		
		1000	Service of Remembrance	St Michael's
		1015	Service of Remembrance	St George's
		1500	Service of BCP Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance	St Mary the Virgin

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	jpnorton@churchmouse.org.uk
Website	canalsideparishes.co.uk		
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/canalsideparishes		



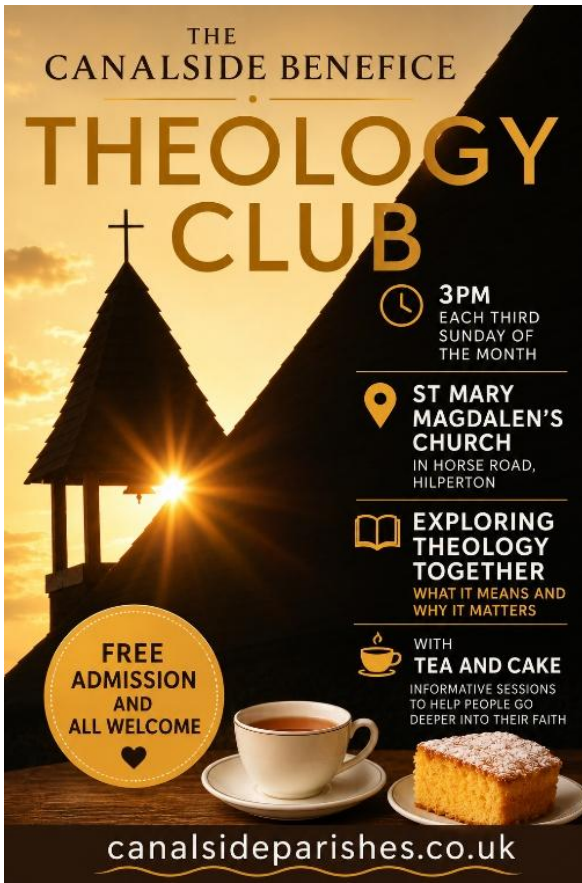
Hi All! Just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to the 14 people who are supporting Hilpertown and Staverton Churches on easyfundraising! Just by taking an extra step when you shop online and collecting a free donation for us, we've currently raised over £203.60! If you're not one of our supporters yet, please join today at:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/hilpertown-and-staverton-churches/xlsd5u/c2s/mQ7oHj9a/PMC19/email/203.6>



THE
CANALSIDE BENEFICE

THEOLOGY CLUB



 **3PM**
EACH THIRD
SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH

 **ST MARY
MAGDALEN'S
CHURCH**
IN HORSE ROAD,
HILPERTON

 **EXPLORING
THEOLOGY
TOGETHER**
WHAT IT MEANS AND
WHY IT MATTERS

 **WITH
TEA AND CAKE**
INFORMATIVE SESSIONS
TO HELP PEOPLE GO
DEEPER INTO THEIR FAITH

**FREE
ADMISSION
AND
ALL WELCOME**



canalsideparishes.co.uk

Sunday 18th October

Sunday 25th October



**Tea
@the Tin**

Informal All Age Worship with Cake!



**St Mary Magdalen's Church,
Horse Road, Hilperton**

4pm on the Fourth Sunday of Each Month

All Welcome
canalsideparishes.co.uk

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH HALL
HORSE ROAD

Friendship Group

Every
Second
Thursday
of the Month
2.30 – 4pm

An informal, friendly gathering where people can have a chat with friends old and new, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, bring their knitting or crochet, play board games or other activities.

Free Admission

All are welcome!
Come along, make new friends and enjoy good company!

Contact the Parish Office for more details
07795400262 canalsideoffice@gmail.com

Thursday 8th October

Thursday 15th October

Community Café

at St Mary Magdalen's Church
Horse Road

Every
Third
Thursday
of the month
from
10am-
Noon

COFFEE TEA BISCUITS GOOD COMPANY AND CHAT

Free Admission

ALL WELCOME

CHURCH SERVICES *in* OCTOBER



	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>
Sunday 4 th October 18th Sunday after Trinity / Michaelmas	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	6pm A SERVICE OF REFLECTION		3pm BCP HOLY COMMUNION
Wednesday 7 th October	10am MIDWEEK MORNING WORSHIP			
Sunday 11 th Oct 19th Sunday after Trinity		10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	9.15am BREAKFAST CHURCH	
Wednesday 14 th October	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION			
Sunday 18 th Oct 20th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am HOLY COMMUNION	3pm THEOLOGY CLUB	9.15am HOLY COMMUNION	
Wednesday 21 st October	10am MIDWEEK MORNING WORSHIP			
Sunday 25 th October The Last Sunday after Trinity		10.30am EXPLORE SERVICE 4pm TEA@theTIN		
Wednesday 28 th October	10am MIDWEEK COMMUNION			

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