

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

The Revd. Christopher G Chiplin, MA BSc
The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close
Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ Tel: 412118

Honorary Assistant Priest

The Revd. Roy Boots
41 Furlong Close, Midsomer Norton Tel: 419263

Churchwardens

Mr Tony Daniels
65 North Road
Midsomer Norton Tel: 417225

Mrs Carol Moore
1 The Dymboro
Midsomer Norton Tel: 412226

SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Said Mass
9:30 a.m. Family Sung Mass
6:00 p.m. Evening Service (As announced)

WEEKDAYS

Mass is celebrated on
Tuesday 12 noon, Thursday 17:00 & Saturday 9:00 am

Baptisms, Weddings etc. by arrangement with Fr Chiplin
Sacrament of Healing is celebrated during Mass on the first
Thursday of each month or privately by arrangement with the Clergy
Communion at home for those unable to attend church is easily
arranged with Fr Chiplin



Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 801 Number 9

Fr Christopher Writes

When you see a building with a cross on it, you know at once that it is a Christian Church. The Cross is the most widely recognised symbol of Christianity. The seven-branched candlestick stands for Judaism, and the crescent for Islam. But the Cross is the sign of Christianity. And on the 14th September each year we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



There used to be two feasts of the Holy Cross in the liturgical year, the Finding of the Cross on 3 May, and the Exaltation of the Cross on 14 September. They commemorated respectively the discovery of the Cross in Jerusalem by St Helena, the mother of the first Christian emperor, in the 4th century, and the recovery of the Cross by the Emperor Heraclius in the year 629AD, after it had been carried away by the Persians. We cannot be certain about the days of the year when these things happened, but they were certainly historical events. Now the liturgical calendar has combined their celebration into one on 14 September.

The Cross is central to Christian faith. It is rare to find a church of any denomination without a cross of some sort inside or outside, whether it be an elaborate carved Calvary or a neon lighted cross. So, what does the Cross mean for us? What does it stand for? What moment in history does it bring before us?

It was a moment (alas, one of many) when the religious and secular powers - in this case the Jewish and Roman - combined to condemn and execute an innocent man. As far as the powers were concerned, it was routine. Here was another religious and political fanatic, who was a threat to the stability of society and must be dealt with. Moreover, they had to do their job quickly because the Passover was imminent. They had no time to consider the case more carefully, even if they had wanted to do so.

What they could not see was that this man is the Son of God. Consequently, what they did was not just another routine execution. By their decision they committed the greatest sin imaginable: attempting to eliminate the man who was their God. As he was being nailed to the cross, Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do' (Luke 23: 34). And later, St Paul wrote: 'if they had known they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory' (1 Corinthians 2:8). They could not possibly understand the significance of what they were doing. But that does not make them guiltless. They knew he was innocent, and it can never be right to execute an innocent person. They did what they did from a mixture of motives, which is typical of fallen human beings. In the mind of his judges and executioners, Jesus' crucifixion was a typical moral muddle, with all the confusion, uncertainty and twinges of conscience that we all experience.

What, though, was the meaning of the Cross in Jesus' mind? It was the full and final expression of the love of God for his people and for his creation. He was born to be 'God with us', and he died as 'God with us'. He will never take that back, no matter how we treat him, no matter what we do. He could have escaped from the cross. In the Garden he told his disciples that he could command twelve legions of angels to come to his aid. But if so, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled? (Matthew 26: 53-4). God knew that we would try to reject our Saviour. The Old Testament had made that quite clear.

The history of Israel had been one of continual unfaithfulness. But the life and the death of Jesus is one of total faithfulness, the sacrificial offering of a human life lived with perfect love and self-giving, handed over to the Father: 'into your hands I commend my spirit' (Luke 23: 46). The cross is the conclusion of a life that is both fully human and totally divine.

In the single event of the crucifixion we can see at the same time both the depths of human sin and degradation, and the heights of God's forgiveness, love and power. He came as one of us, to abide with us, and make present among us his love and forgiveness. He came not just restore to us the life that had been offered at the beginning, but to lead us even higher: to be with him, the Son, at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus' human life ended on the cross. So the cross stands for both death and life. It displays the fact of Jesus' death at our hands, because of our wickedness. It also displays God's forgiving love, which can never be put off by our rebellion. As the hymn says:

Faithful cross, above all other:
one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peer may be:



ST JOHN'S GIFT DAY - AN UPDATE

When the PCC's Standing Committee met to discuss how we were going to replace this year's Summer Fayre, the suggestion of a Gift Day was met with some enthusiasm and with an expectation of raising between £500 and £1000. The latter figure is near enough what is raised each year by the Summer Fayre.

Saturday, July 15th was the chosen day and it was decided to offer refreshments with a request for donations. The culinary skills of the Standing Committee plus those of their wives, were felt to be sufficient to provide a range of cakes. Suitable CD's were provided for background music, and a table was set up with the 'advertising' material for St John's which had been so successfully employed at the Town Fayre. A table of second-hand books and jigsaw puzzles gave a token nod to the Fayre and, again, donations were requested for these.

Four hours, ten o'clock to two o'clock, passed by swiftly. Folk had time to sit, chat or think. Some strangers were keen on finding out about the history of the church, other strangers welcomed the idea of a break from shopping and a chance to eat and drink and talk with the stewards.

The main purpose of the day was of course to receive the envelopes. Some had been handed in the previous Sunday, many more appeared on the day and some arrived the following Sunday. Many envelopes were gift-aided. Guesses and estimates were made and no one thought that the day would raise over a thousand pounds, yet it did. And what an amazing and astonishing sum it became. At the time of writing £1,450 has been received. Gift Aid will add another £272 making a total of £1,722.

We thank each one of you who gave so generously, as our Treasurer said, 'This is a wonderful achievement.' It does however beg a question, and a question about which we would love to hear your views; do we repeat this day next summer or do we return to the Summer Fayre?

Tony and Carol

From The Registers



Communicants for July

At Church 405

At Home 5

Holy Baptism

"We therefore welcome you into the Lord's Family."

- July 23 Lillyanna Rose McGroarty
 Lucas James Ball
- August 13 Meadow Naimi Rayne Baird
 Roree William Sheppard-Gould
- August 20 Betsy Anne Chivers

BAPTISMS

Holy Matrimony

"May you live together in love and joy."

- July 22 Kris John Broadway &
 Kerrie Louise Chapman
- July 29 Charlie Hallet & Charlotte Evans



Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace."

- July 26 Carol Hooper
- July 27 Michael Hayes
- August 8 Shirley Parsons
- August 18 Joy Comer



ST JOHN'S WORKING PARTIES 'SUMMER' 2017

Eleven able-bodied and 'willing' volunteers turned up at the open churchyard in Church Lane on July 5th promptly at 9:00 a.m. This churchyard is kept in excellent order with its regular mowing and strimming, but occasionally the shrubs bordering the pathways and the shrubs by the path leading up to the Children's Graves need more than a little attention. The hedge on Church Lane was also in need of a heavy pruning and the persistently growing ivy around the entrance pillars needed to be cut down. The weather was hot, maybe a little too hot for this work, but we all beavered rather than badgered away, and by eleven o'clock, kindly supplied by Carol Moore ably assisted by Pat Daniels, considerable progress had been made. Half an hour later we returned to the task and by the end of the morning eight large builders' sacks had been filled. It was an incredible achievement and my grateful thanks go to all who gave their time and energy. My thanks also to David Moore who is always ready to go the extra mile – two weeks later David returned with his trailer to make the necessary trips to the tip.

There was a breakaway group of three doughty gardeners who felt inspired to work on the pathway from the carpark to the vestry on this Wednesday. They too did sterling work and made a huge difference to that pathway.

Fast forward four weeks to August 2nd and a second call to garden tools went out. This time eight mermaids and mermen braved a morning of rain, persistent and at times heavy, to tidy the grounds around the church and church hall. Another huge achievement as the vestry window was rediscovered, previously hidden by the pyracantha; the buddleia and ribes shrubs in the church hall gardens were tamed; and the pathway from the Church Lane entrance to the Church Square entrance was cleared of weeds. And one community-spirited lady cut down some brambles higher up Church Lane. She was profusely thanked by an elderly gentleman from Church Court who informed her that he had written to BANES asking them to remove the hazard.

Once again Carol came to our rescue with a well-earned hot drink and pastries, and by 11:45, thoroughly sodden but in high spirits we called it a day. It was left to David Moore and colleagues to make the tip run twice, David's trailer laden with sacks of garden debris.

Two mornings of hard work, but a notable difference had been made. We may not be Ground Force, but we do make a formidable team. Thank you to everyone who helped for your wonderful commitment, sense of humour and ability to make a difference.

Tony D.



The vicar's scheme to make the church more appealing to men seemed to be having a degree of success

News from the Pews

**Wedding Anniversary
Congratulations**

Les & Joan Martindale
celebrate their

Diamond Wedding Anniversary on
Thursday 14th September

Andrew & Linda Broadhurst
celebrate their

Ruby Wedding Anniversary on
Sunday 17th September

**Congratulations to Alice Lewis who
will be going to
Sheffield University in the
autumn to study medicine**

**Letter from the Right Reverend
Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells**



One of my favourite poems is John Masefield's poem Sea Fever. I read it often as it reminds me of the sea and the joy I find in simply looking at the sea. The second verse is this:

*I must down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume,
and the sea-gulls crying.*

There is something liberating, inspiring and energising at being beside the sea and just looking at it, hearing it, smelling it and seeing it move as the waves go up and down and the tides go in and out. And when I am by the sea, whether it is tranquil or stormy, fathomless deep blue or angry and squally, I am aware of the presence of God. As the Psalmist said:

'For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his and he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.' (Psalm 95) 'The sea is his and he made it.' What inspiring words they are and the psalmist speaks also of singing for joy to the Lord; bowing down before him in worship; and kneeling before him. For he is the Creator of all things. 'We are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care'.

It was lovely therefore to be able to go to the beach most days during our recent holiday in France. Several times the waves were daunting and the surf intimidating. So much so that one day I didn't even dare to go in. But when I did there was that exhilarating experience of being literally lifted up and carried along by the surf. In the midst of our busy lives it is good to find time to rest and also to find places where we can enjoy the sheer beauty of God's creation.

Isaiah speaks about the Lord renewing those who are weary and tired and lifting us up that we might soar on winds like eagles. Those waves certainly lifted me up physically and we need to look to the Lord each day to lift us up spiritually as we come to him in joy and bow before him in worship.

*The Right Reverend Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells*

Lunchtime Concerts

The next series of popular Lunchtime Concerts start on
Wednesday 13th September.

Well known local singer Vivienne Moon will launch the Autumn Series followed by the ever popular Somer Valley Singers on 20th.

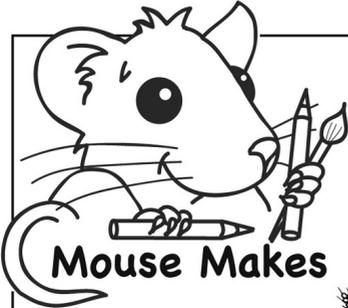
We are once again delighted that the prestigious musicians of Wells Cathedral School will showcase some of their talent on 27th September.

The concerts continue into October when we will be welcoming Sara Foster, Soprano accompanied by Gary Desmond on Piano, on 4th October. This will be followed by an organ recital by Jim Williams on 11th, a concert by musicians of Somervale School on 18th and concluding with the U3A choir for pleasure on 25th October

Whist there is no charge for the concerts we do rely heavily on the generosity of patrons donations to maintain our beautifully restored Parish Church.

Doors open at 12noon for the sale of delicious refreshments and all concerts start at 12.30pm and last about an hour.

Do feel free to come and go as time allows or meet your friends for coffee and a musical treat. We promise a really enjoyable, interesting and inspiring time in our beautiful church.



May all the peoples praise you, O God,
 may all the peoples praise you!
 The land has produced its harvest,
 God, our God has blessed us.
 God has blessed us, may all people
 everywhere honour him.

Psalm 67:5-7

Can you find these harvest
 words in the hay bales?

- HARVEST
 THANKSGIVING
 PRAISE • GOD • BLESSED
 SEEDS • SOW • LAND
 PLOUGH • SCATTER
 SOIL • GROW
 CROPS • REAP

W H E A T S W P I C K C
 A P P L E R A I P E A R S
 U R G P P T P S E D U
 T O R L B L E S E P O G
 U B O U R O R S E R T A R
 M O W M O U S R A P E S
 N U T S S G R A P E S
 O G O D E H S C R O P S

- WATER • RAIN • SUN
 AUTUMN • GATHER
 PICK • REAP • BALE
 TRACTOR • BARN • CART
 HAYSTACK • FOOD
 MOUSE • BREAD • LOAF
 GRAIN • CORN
 WHEAT • OATS
 RYE • BARLEY

- OLIVES • GRAPES • PIPS
 PEARS • PLUMS • APPLE
 BERRIES • NUTS • VINE
 FIGS • BEANS • PEAS
 POTATOES • FLOUR
 ONIONS
 PARSNIPS
 RICE • SUGAR

G H A Y S T A C K E R P
 A F C A R T R A C T O R
 T O N I O N S F I G S A
 H O P O T A T O E S B I
 E D E I F L O U R A S
 R P A R S N I P S O R E
 T O S B E A N S U N R
 B A R L E Y O L I V E S

St John's
Sing - a - long
Film Evening



Saturday 16th September
7pm
Tickets £10/£5 to include
Two course 'workhouse' supper

From Diane & Lyn

ROTAS for SEPTEMBER

Coffee & Offertory Rota

Date	Coffee	Offertory
3rd Sept	Mrs J Hill Mrs M Maddock	Congregation
10th Sept	Mr R Plummer Mrs C Plummer	Mothers Union
17th Sept	Mrs L Hughes	Congregation
24th Sept	Mrs M Wilton Mrs M Cheshire Mrs L Guiney	Ladies Group

Date	Reader/<i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
3rd Sept	John Shears <i>Chris Plummer</i>	P Shellswell, A Fitch A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
10th Sept	Theo Lewis	T Marshall, M Wilton R Broughton, S Broughton
17th Sept	Jane Hughes <i>Choir/Organ</i>	S Dryburgh, P Clynes P Daniels, L Hughes
24th Sept	Robert Broughton	K Harvey, K Gay L Powell, M Small

Please note: the October magazine will not be available until Sunday 1st of October

Magazine deadline for copy is the 14th of the month

To: Mrs Linda Broadhurst, 43 Furlong Close, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PR
Telephone: 01761 415562 Email: stjohnsmagazine@aol.com

Parish Directory

		Telephone
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Angela Fitch	413636
Choir Leader	Mr Geoff Miles	
Church Cleaning	Mrs Pat Clynes	412928
Church Hall Bookings	Helen Bailey	07923 501966
Coffee Rota	Mrs Margaret Small	411474
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mrs Christine Plummer	416343
Flower Rota	Mrs Jenny Barnett	413319
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Head Server	Mr John Norman	
Head teacher (St John's)	Mrs Claire Mirams	412019
Ladies Group Leader	Mrs Diane Chiplin	412118
Magazine Advertising	Mrs Diane Chiplin	412118
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	415562
Magazine Distribution	Mr Ralph Plummer	416343
M U Branch Leader	Mrs Sally Curtis	201435
Organist	Mrs Margaret Whatley	418072
PCC Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Maureen West	433784
PCC Vice Chairman		
Safeguarding Person	Mr Tony Daniels	417225
Sunday School Leader		
Tower Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895
Traidcraft	Mr John Shears	479033

Church Organisations

The Choir practise on Fridays from 6:30 pm until 7:50 pm.

The Mothers' Union: Prayer Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month except January and August. The Branch meeting is on the second Tuesday of the month.



September 2017

Sunday 3rd	Trinity 12	Traidcraft Stall in the Hall after 9:30 Service
Tuesday 5th	14:45	M.U Prayers
Sunday 10th	Trinity 13	
Tuesday 12th	12 noon	M.U. Corporate Communion Followed by Fellowship Lunch
Wednesday 13th	12:30	Lunchtime Concert
Monday 14th	19:30	Ladies Group
		<i>Magazine copy date</i>
Saturday 16th	19:00	Sing-a-long film evening
Sunday 17th	Trinity 14	
<i>Monday 18th to Friday 22nd</i>		<i>Walsingham Pilgrimage</i>
Wednesday 20th	12:30	Lunchtime Concert
Sunday 24th	Trinity 15	
Wednesday 27th	12:30	Lunchtime Concert

