

# CHURCH ALIVE



**St. John the Baptist  
Midsomer Norton  
October 2022  
Price 50p**

# THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

## Vicar

The Revd: Guy Scott

The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close  
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Email: vicarmsnstjohns@gmail.com

## Assistant Curate

Revd: Philip Hopper

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Email: curatemsnstjohns@gmail.com

## Parish Administrator

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Email: msnparishoffice@gmail.com

## Churchwardens

Mrs Beth Davies

20 Priory Close  
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Email: emdavies20@btinternet.com

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87 Nelson Ward Drive  
Radstock, BA3 3FS

Tel: 07828 550006

Email: hilaryjohn87@gmail.com

## SERVICES

### SUNDAY

8am Said Eucharist

10 a.m. Parish Eucharist

### WEEKDAYS

Eucharist is celebrated on a Tuesday at 12 noon.

**Baptisms, Weddings** etc. by arrangement with the Vicar.

**Communion at home** for those unable to attend church it is easily arranged with the Vicar.

## Safeguarding

*Who should you talk to if you observe or are told about Safeguarding concerns?*

Ann Munton, Parish Safeguarding Officer Tel: 07895038871

Email: midsomernortonsafeguarding@gmail.com

Diocesan safeguarding manager: Ben Goodhind, Tel: 07834 514842

Email: ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org



*Church Alive*  
*The Parish Magazine of*  
*Midsomer Norton with Cladown*  
*Volume 806 Number 10*

**Flag and Bells following the announcement of the death of  
Queen Elizabeth II**

The Union flag was raised to half-mast within 30 minutes of the announcement.

It was raised to full mast on Saturday at 11am for the proclamation and lowered again to half-mast at 1pm on Sunday where it should stay until the day after the funeral (following the protocol issued)

Father Guy toiled the tenor bell for 96 strokes at 12 noon on 10th September.

Ringers from Chilcompton came on Saturday morning to put muffles on the bells so they were half-muffled. This means the hand-stroke was the normal volume of strike and the backstroke was muffed giving the effect of an echo.

Our three Midsomer Norton ringers (Guy, Kate & Tim) were joined by ringers from Chilcompton, Farmborough and Newton St Loe on Sunday 11th September enabling all 12 bells to be rung before the 10am Service.





## A prayer on the death of Her Majesty The Queen

Gracious God, we give thanks  
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,  
for her faith and her dedication to duty.  
Bless our nation as we mourn her death  
and may her example continue to inspire us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Dear Friends,

I wonder where and when you heard the news that our nation's longest serving monarch had died? For me it was a long awaited holiday. I had just returned from a blustery walk by the sea. Suddenly our moods changed as the news on the television came to hold our attention.

From then on our screens and airwaves have been filled with word and image, as our nation has sought to come to terms with the reality that things do not last forever, life comes to an end for all, even for a Queen.

Someone who had overseen many of our lives, who had subtly acted as a glue, holding our nation together, a constant in our changing fortunes, had suddenly gone. But we all know that this earthly life ends, and like us all, Queen Elizabeth II was one of us. She was human. She was flesh and blood. She was a daughter, granddaughter, a sister and aunt, a mother and grandmother...

Yet she was this, not only for her own flesh and blood, but for our nation – a symbolic constant in our nation's life. Throughout her life, for many she could be a daughter, granddaughter, a sister and aunt, a mother and grandmother...

But more than this, in our nation's life she came to symbolise qualities that for many seemed lost - service, honour, devotion to duty, and dignity.

As our Head of State, our Queen, she was able to reach beyond her flesh and blood to fulfil a daunting role. Yet here was a young woman, recently married, who by the accident of birth, found herself at Westminster Abbey, with crown, sceptre and orb...a young queen, head of an Imperial family and Head of State of a war ravaged democracy. How on earth could she do it?

For Queen Elizabeth II, it was faith that made her acceptance and discharge of this overwhelming duty possible. And to all, this young woman came to be known as the right person, in the right place at the right time. Few, if any, could have discharged her duty with such dignity and humility.

For Queen Elizabeth II, this accident of birth was no accident, it was no role she had fought others to claim for herself. This role was a God-given calling, her vocation, her God-given duty and one that only faith would enable her to fulfil. And it was that faith that enabled her to do so with such dignity, subtlety and adept skill.

As we adjust to the turning of time, to the ending of one reign we embrace the new, praying that our new King, Charles III, will be as upheld by his own strong faith.

Fr Philip



### **A prayer for the new King**

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.  
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.  
Help us to work together  
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness  
flourish among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## *From The Registers*

### **Christian Funeral**

***"May they rest in peace."***

25th August	Rev. Alan Thomas
31st August	Averil Alice Parratt
1st September	Mary Joyce Barber
2nd September	Michael Blatchford
8th September	Stephen Michael Rush



### **ALL SOULS' DAY**

All Soul's Day, on November 2nd, gives us all the opportunity to join in worship for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. A time to remember those we have loved but see no longer. A time to reflect on all who died having contracted Coronavirus, on all who mourn and to offer our prayers to God. During the Holy Eucharist on Wednesday 2nd November at 12 noon there is the opportunity to remember those who have died by name.

If you would like your loved one/s to be remembered by name during this Eucharist please add their names to the list in church, which will be available from Sunday 16th October.

Also from 16th October 'Years Mind forms' will be available for completion if you would like your loved ones remembered on the anniversary of their death during the calendar year of 2023.

With Resurrection hope,  
Guy

**ST JOHNS FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

On Tuesday 11th October at 2:30pm in the Church Hall. Father Guy will be the guest speaker. Any ladies who would like to come along will be warmly welcomed.

Cost £2 to include Tea & Biscuits.

\* \* \* \* \*

St Johns Church has been gifted a **'Book of Remembrance'** which will be available for families and friends to view on the week of a loved ones memorial.

All past remembered, loved ones names, need to be hand written into the book and the book will need to be kept up to date.

If there is anyone who feels able to carry out this positive job or would like to look at the book or ask questions firstly, please contact Father Guy. Thank you for your consideration.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ADVENT THANKSGIVING IN PREPARATION FOR OUR LORD AND SAVIOURS BIRTH**

The Social Committee, in collaboration with Fr Guy, are planning a coming together, on ADVENT SUNDAY 27th November at 4pm in Church. Followed by light refreshments.

HOPE JOY LIGHT LOVE

\* \* \* \* \*

**ST JOHNS CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 10-12**

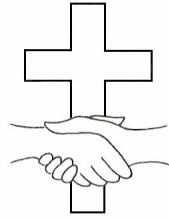
Anyone who would be willing to organise a stall, or any other important task needed to make the Fayre a happy, fruitful social occasion, please sign the list situated at the Church entrance from 9th October, or you could let Heather know please.

Although we hope to raise some money for the Church expenses, it is also the time to make feel welcome, all visitors from the town into 'their' Church.

We can do it!! Blessings Heather x

## SEPTEMBER LADIES GROUP MEETING

As the death of the queen had been announced very shortly before the start of the meeting, Hilary opened with prayers which included the prayer issued to use on the death of Queen Elizabeth. A few moments silence was held after which there was a toast to the Queen and to King Charles III.



Kay offered a choice of cocktails to accompany the delicious spread of canapes which she had provided.

Amongst the numerous subjects discussed, reminiscences were shared from those of us who could remember the Queen's Coronation

Kay was thanked for hosting the meeting.

Father Guy is due to speak to us at our next meeting on 13th October which will be hosted by Lynn Powell.

## The same yesterday, today and forever

Many of us know well Bob Dylan's song 'The Times They Are A-Changin''. Was it written with us in mind? None of us could have predicted the changes that we have seen in



2022. The death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth, the accession of a new King, a war in Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis. None of these were on the cards as we made our new year's resolutions on the 1st of January.

Yet happen they have. And whether we like it or not, we're forced to agree with Bob Dylan's lyrics that the times are indeed changing. What can see us though these days?



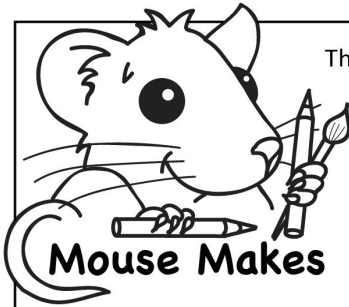
A phrase that's often used about the period through which we're going is 'unprecedented'. I'm not sure it's entirely valid! Previous generations have faced situations as challenging or more than ours – seasons of plagues, wars, famines and conquest. The times in which the New Testament was written were, for its writers, periods of profound uncertainty. Its writers faced violence and vulnerability, conflict and dispute. Yet into their times they were able to speak words of hope, confidence and assurance.

One such phrase that stands out for me is a line from the letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews was written in response to a time of persecution and the possibility of people falling back from the faith as a result. Into its time and ours, the writer of the letter makes an extraordinary claim: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8)

Just imagine! The one who walked in Galilee has been there for his people throughout time, is with us now, and will be whatever the future may hold.

So respectfully, I have to disagree with Bob Dylan. In his song he tells us that in the face of times that are 'a-changin'', we'd better start 'swimmin'. Much better than hyperactive splashing, I suggest, is to live out our vision to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'. For it's as we do so that we can hold fast to the one who is constant and unchanging, who holds us always in the palm of his hands; Jesus Christ who is 'the same yesterday, today and forever.'

Bishop Michael



The New Testament has **four gospels, twenty one epistles** and the book of Revelation.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.

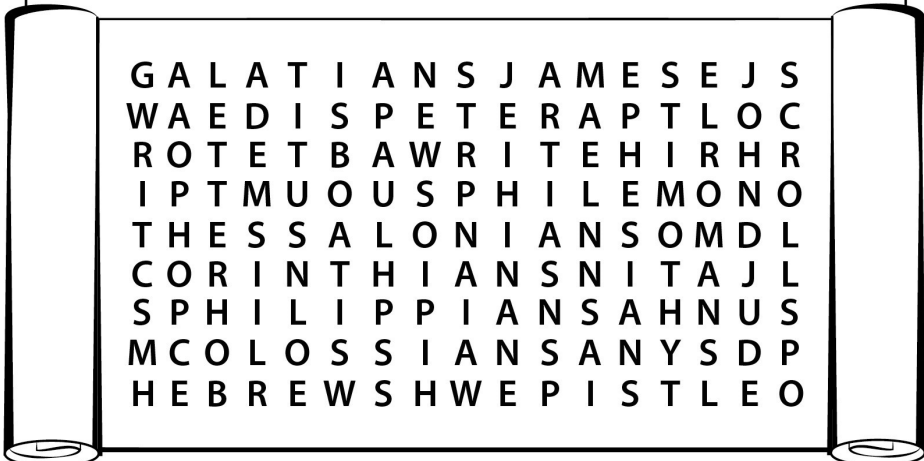
How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?  
.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which are the longest epistles?  
.....  
.....  
How many chapters do they have?  
.....

Which is the shortest epistle?  
.....  
How many chapters does it have?  
.....

**DID YOU KNOW...?**  
At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls



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

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON  
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

# HARVEST LUNCH

**SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER at 12:30pm**

**TICKETS £10 ON SALE THROUGH THE MONTH  
OF SEPTEMBER**

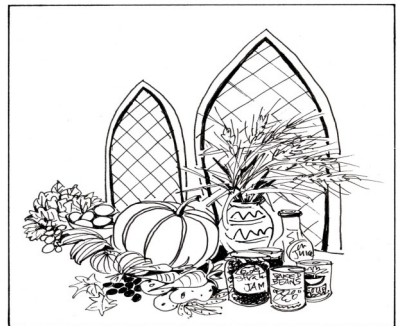
To include an Auction of Harvest gifts which, if you are able to provide, we ask to be taken into Church on Saturday 1st October between 10am and 12 noon.

Goods can be collected if needed.

If you have family, friends, neighbours you think may like to come along, please ask, we would love to welcome them.

***'SO THANK THE LORD, O THANK THE LORD,  
FOR ALL HIS LOVE.'***

From the Social  
Committee



## STOP PRESS:

As this copy of the magazine was going to press it was announced at the Sunday Service following our Gift Day that £2,800 had been collected. This may not be the final figure, as there were still envelopes coming in. Thank you for your continued support to Parish life.

The final figure will be placed in the November magazine.



## FROM THE PARISH PUMP

### **Bible Sunday: how many translations by now?**



Ever wonder how many Bible translations there are in the world? And how many more are still needed? Wycliffe Bible Translators reports the following, as of 2021:

There are now 3,495 languages, which have some Scripture available to 7.04 billion people.

*This figure of 3,495 breaks down into:*

717 languages with a complete Bible – 5.75 billion people

1,582 languages with a complete New Testament (some also have Old Testament portions) – 830 million people

1,196 languages with some translated Bible portions – 457 million people

Meanwhile, there are a further 828 languages which have work in progress – 67.6 million people. And also, there are 1,892 languages still waiting for translation (or preparatory work) to begin – 145 million people.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader/<i>Intercessions</i></b>	<b>Sides person</b>
2nd October	Robert Broughton <i>TBA</i>	D Winter, J Winter
9th October	Linda Broadhurst <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	N Barnett, P Clynes
16th October	Beth Davies <i>Sally Curtis</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
23rd October	Hilary Denning <i>David Moore</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
30th October	Lesley Garvey <i>Heather Hill</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
If you have to swop or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Beth or Hilary know. Thank you		

<b>Coffee Rota</b>	
2nd October	Heather & Tony Hill
9th October	Pat & Hilton Taylor
16th October	Sue Holley, Margaret Small
23rd October	Josie Mitchard, Margaret Cleaves
30th October	Margaret Wilton, Kathy Sinkins
If you swop or are unable to fulfil your rota, please can you let Margaret Small know. Thank you	

**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](mailto:stjohnsmagazine@aol.com)

## Parish Directory

		<b>Telephone</b>
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Angela Fitch	413636
Choir Leader	Mr Geoff Miles	
Church Cleaning	Mrs Pat Clynes	412928
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs Carolyn Wroe	07591 557578
Coffee Rota	Mrs Margaret Small	411474
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	415562
Flower Rota		
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Head Server	Mr John Norman	
St John's School	Mrs Danielle West-Gaul	412019
Ladies Group Leader	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	415562
Magazine Distribution	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	415562
M U Branch Leader		
Organist	Mrs Margaret Whatley	418072
PCC Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895
PCC Treasurer	Mr John Shears	479033
PCC Vice Chairperson	Mrs Beth Davies	418787
	Mrs Hilary Denning	07828 550006
Safeguarding Person	Mrs Ann Munton	07895 038871
Tower Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895

### Church Organisations

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

**The Friendship Group:** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

**The Ladies Group** meets on the second Thursday of the month

**The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham** meets every 3rd Friday of the month at 11am for Said Mass and the Angelus. The Cell takes an annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham in September. Further details from Christine Plummer 01249712894 or 07870216479. A warm welcome is extended to all who would like to attend the service or join us on Pilgrimage.

**You can stay in touch with us on our website: [www.stjohnschurchmsn.org.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchmsn.org.uk)  
Twitter: [@StJohnMSN](https://twitter.com/StJohnMSN), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnMSN)  
and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).**



# October 2022

<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	
	12:30pm	Harvest Lunch
Tuesday 4th	10:30am - 11:45am	Coffee in Church
	19:00	PCC Meeting
Friday 7th	11:30	Trio Paradis concert
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
Tuesday 11th	10:30am - 11:45am	Coffee in Church
	14:30	St John's Friendship Group
Thursday 13th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 14th		<b><i>Magazine Copy Date</i></b>
	10:00 - 12noon	Churchyard gardening group
<b>Sunday 16th</b>	<b>18th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
Tuesday 18th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 23rd	11:00	St John's parish cell of Our Lady of Walsingham - Holy Eucharist
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	<b>Bible Sunday</b>	
Tuesday 25th	10:30am - 11:45am	Coffee in Church
Friday 28th	10:00 - 12noon	Churchyard gardening group
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Advent</b>	

This month's front cover was provided by the Parish Pump