

CHURCH ALIVE



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
September 2022
Price 50p

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

The Revd: Guy Scott

The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close
Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ

Tel: 412904

Email: vicarmsnstjohns@gmail.com

Assistant Curate

Revd: Philip Hopper

Tel: 07596 759 584

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Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

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Churchwardens

Mrs Beth Davies

20 Priory Close
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Tel: 418787

Email: emdavies20@btinternet.com

Mrs Hilary Denning

87 Nelson Ward Drive
Radstock, BA3 3FS

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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 9

GIFT DAY

Friday 16th September 2022

10.00am until 12 Noon

Our Annual Gift Day has replaced the Summer Fayre.

We do hope you will be able to join us
on the morning to make your donation
and to enjoy coffee or tea and home made cakes.

Envelopes are provided for you to make your donation
to bring along on the morning
or if you cannot attend,
for handing into our churchwardens
Beth and Hilary.

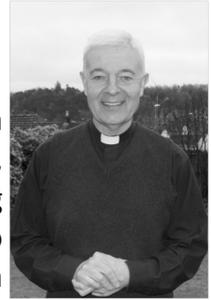
Cheques should be made out to **PCC St John the Baptist**.
The PCC would really appreciate your generosity.



Reflections from the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

During this month of September, we intend having a 'Gift Day'. When we reflect on the many blessings of life, give thanks for the gift of faith, and for the worshipping community here at St. John's. Can I encourage you to reflect and pray on how you may respond, whether as a one off gift or a possible increase to your regular giving.



I am very aware that we all face a cost of living crisis, with inflation reaching 10% and the cost of energy going through the roof! This will affect every household, business, and church. But if we look at the bigger picture, if we look around God's world, we are still relatively rich compared to many regions of our shared world.

How do we use the money, time and talents that have been given to us? Does our gratitude overflow and make us generous in our giving? How does what we give to God through the work of his church compare to other things we spend our money on? A loaf of bread, a pint of beer, a meal out, a weekend away? It is said that a quick look at our bank statements shows what we value and find important in life! What would a stranger looking at ours conclude about our lives, our priorities and our beliefs? It's a question worth asking. There should be a clear match between what we say we value and believe and where our money goes!

Now I know as well as anyone that not everyone has limitless incomes and that times are hard. But we can be too cautious in our giving! Part of our calling as Christians is to give sacrificially, to make (sometimes hard) choices about where we spend our money. To go without something we'd like, so that others may have what they need. This is an important part of our calling to live in faith. Living in faith also encourages us not to be anxious about our lives. What we have and don't have can so easily take over our lives. Jesus tells us not to worry, to leave it to our heavenly Father who does and will provide generously for us.

Many times I have heard people say that if God wants us to do more, he'd better provide the resources! What they are missing is that God **does** provide the resources – he gives them to us, and **we give them back to him**. I remember driving Bishop Bill Westwood back from a Confirmation in Rutland a long time ago. He asked me to detour through a neighbouring parish, saying that he had had a delegation insisting that they couldn't possibly pay their parish share **and** repairs to the church. As we drove through the village, past huge, well-cared for homes, set in immaculately-tended large plots of land, I was only too aware of the blood pressure of my passenger rising to danger point! Knowing him well, I said nothing; just kept driving slowly as we passed more modest housing now, some even slightly scruffy. We both knew that the delegation had not come from this end of the village. Indeed, there was a stall outside a particularly tatty house selling marmalade for the church roof. We stopped and bought a jar each! As I got back into the car clutching the two pots, Bishop Bill pondered sadly to himself, "Why can't they see that God's given them everything that they need? They just won't let go of it!"

God gives us everything we need in extravagant abundance. Let us give in the same way!

Yours in Christ, Guy

September is the start of a new academic year for our schools, colleges and universities.

We wish all those starting school for the first time, moving to a new school or college and those starting their university studies the very best of luck in the next chapter of the book of their lives.



From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace."

28th July Dennis Hancock

9th August Audrey Ray



Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

24th July Hugo Louis Stevens

Leo Alexander Stevens

31st July Douglas Eric Balliston Franklin

BAPTISMS

Holy Matrimony

"May they live together in joy and peace"

6th August Jordan Rupprich & Kitty Parfitt



Thank you again love Sally

My dear friends of M.U, thank you so much for the lovely flowers it was a lovely surprise when I came home from work. It was a pleasure to be part of M.U and enjoyed my time with you all.



ST JOHNS MOTHERS UNION

At our July meeting, members met to discuss whether to:

- A. Continue as a Mothers Union Group
- B. Continue outside of the Mother Union under a new name
- C. To disband.

The meeting opened with prayers.

The group consists of 9 members, having welcomed Mrs Janet Winter recently.

After a discussion, with everyone offering their thoughts and feelings, a vote was taken.

The outcome was 8 votes to 1 to cease being a Mothers Union Group.

9 votes were cast to continue with a monthly meeting under a new title.

After a discussion with Father Guy, he gave the group his blessing to continue in its new capacity.

The group is to be named **“St Johns Friendship Group”**. It will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm in the Church Hall and will follow its present programme until the New Year. Membership is £5 a year, from September.

SEPTEMBER’S MEETING - 12 noon Eucharist in Church

This will be followed by lunch at Wetherspoons in the town.

OCTOBER MEETING - Father Guy will be speaking on a subject of his choice.

It would be truly wonderful if any male or female would like to come along and together, share these activities.

Remember, this is a new adventure for all of us!

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY (2020) 2022

In the year 2000, Rob's mother went to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Southern Germany and on her return, she recommended that we must go and see it at some time in the future. As it only takes place every 10 years, we decided that 2020 would be the ideal time to go, as it coincided with Rob's retirement and our 40th wedding anniversary. So, in July 2019 we booked our holiday with a travel company that specialises in having the Passion Play as part of a package – we chose the Austrian Tyrol option. Then came Covid, and although Rob was still able to retire (with a Zoom call for the final farewells) and the initial lockdown had just ended to allow a small family celebration in the garden for our anniversary, the holiday was put on hold. The organisers at Oberammergau had the foresight to decide that holding the event in 2021 would not be viable, so, they opted for 2022 and our holiday carried forward to the same week of the year as it originally would have been.

Although by the beginning of July this year, many things had returned to near normal, air travel is still struggling and unfortunately, we had a very late flight cancellation which meant that the first night of our holiday was spent at a London airport hotel rather than in the Austria Tyrol. We did fly the following day and had half a day in Kitzbuhel that included a cable car ride on the Hahnenkamm and an apple strudel birthday afternoon tea. The next 3 days took in Salzburg, Tratzberg Castle, Pertisau on the Aachensee and Innsbruck before an early start on the Friday to Ettal (where our hotel for Oberammergau had been allocated) and on to Oberammergau.

The Passion Play was held every year from 1633-1680 and has been held every 10 years since with very few exceptions. It came about as a vow to God by the community to avoid further cases of the plague which had brought immense sorrow and suffering to the village in 1632. Nobody died from the plague from that moment on. Initially the play was held in the cemetery of the church but moved in the 19th century to the place where the Passion Theatre (built in 1900) now stands.

All of the participants (over 2000 counting actors, musicians, technicians etc live in and around Oberammergau). The play is staged in an open-air theatre (the audience section does have a roof) with an audience of 4500. A significant number of animals (donkey, sheep, horse, camel are included in the performance).

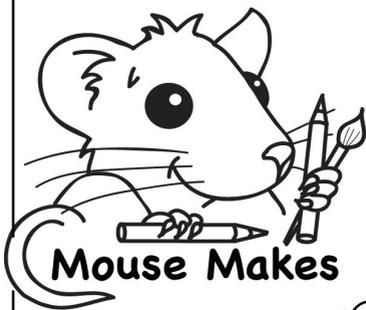
The afternoon part began at 1430 and continued to 1700. There was then a 3-hour break when the audience have time for their evening meal (in our case at the hotel in Ettal) before the second part at 2000 with completion at 2245. The play covers the events from Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the resurrection on Easter Sunday, which is performed to emphasise the theological principle that the resurrection is a "mystery of faith". Before each act of the play, there is a tableau depicting a scene from the Old Testament e.g., Cain & Abel, the Burning Bush, Daniel in the Lion's den, sacrifice of Isaac. These are accompanied by choral pieces, primarily composed by Dedler (1779-1822). The text of the play has been adapted over the years to reflect current attitudes, particularly those relating to the unique religious and cultural aspects of the Jewish religion. The singing and the play is all in the German language with a booklet being provided with an English translation (the play covers over 130 pages of an A5 booklet). It was relatively easy to follow the booklet during the afternoon but for the evening section, some use of the torchlight from mobile phones was much in evidence – of course, the basic storyline is very well known but the translation was very much needed.

You may have heard that on many occasions, the local weather conditions are such that a thunderstorm arrives at the time of the Crucifixion scene (it did for Rob's mother in 2000). That did not happen in our performance.

The whole event is extremely well organised, and Oberammergau is a very picturesque village that is visited by many, even when the Passion Play is not being held.

The next staging of the play is scheduled for the year 2030. If you have the opportunity to go, we would recommend it as part of an organised group.

Rob & Sue Broughton



Mouse Makes



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the _____ blew.

Matthew 7:25



On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:24

On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:26



Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49

What happened to the houses?

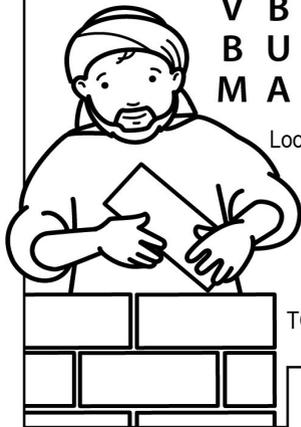
Read Matthew 7:25 and 27

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



What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?

Read Matthew 7:28-29

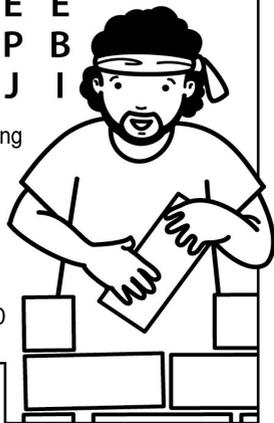


Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word

F O U N D A T I O N S



HARVEST LUNCH

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER at 12:30pm

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

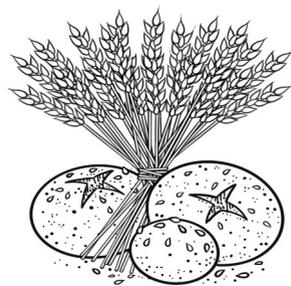
To include an Auction of Harvest gifts which, if you are able to provide, we ask to be taken into Church on Saturday 1st October between 10am and 12 noon.

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



Pat Clynes talk on her role at the Coroners Court read at the Deanery Service.

- ◇ The Coroners Courts Support Service, is an independent charity founded in 2003.
- ◇ Trained volunteers offer confidential, emotional and provide support to anyone who has to attend an inquest in England & Wales.
- ◇ We can also signpost people to other organisations such as CRUSE; Samaritans & Papyrus.
- ◇ Any death can have a devastating effect on the bereaved, but when that death is sudden, unexplained, or of an unknown cause, it can only add to the misery & negative impact on families.
- ◇ An inquest can be a traumatic experience for anyone, the court a bewildering place to attend, the family seats & witness box can be very lonely place and it is an event over which those attending have little or no control.
- ◇ An inquest is not a trial! There is no prosecuting, no defence, nobody is on trial, least of all the deceased. It is a fact finding investigation to establish the medical cause of death for registration purposes.
- ◇ The Coroner has to answer 4 questions & 4 questions only; who died, how, when & where that person came by their death. There is no 'why' they died and this can upset families as they often want to apportion blame.
- ◇ It is part of the volunteers role to be non-judgemental, never give an opinion, discuss the evidence, or talk about the possible conclusion, this used to be called a verdict but that was thought to be too criminal so it was changed in 2012.
- ◇ It was in that year that the C.C.S.S was established at the Avon Coroners Court. There are 85 coronial areas in England & Wales, & presently there are 319 volunteers supporting 54 courts with 65 folk in training.
- ◇ We fall under the jurisdiction of the Avon Coroner, that is S. Glous, which includes Bristol, N Somerset & BANES. It is a very diverse area if you think about it. With a population of over 1 million and our court is one of the busiest outside of London.
- ◇ The role has changed somewhat since COVID, there are no more hugs & mugs of tea/coffee, but being able to show folk the court, explain the procedure & where everyone sits can help put people at ease at what is probably one of the worst times of their lives. They've had the bereavement & now they have to sit through an inquest which can take months, even years to happen & can last for days, sometimes weeks.

- ◇ The telephone helpline was established during the 1st lockdown, coordinators pass the call to a local volunteer like me who is then able to say what happens at the court the person will attend.
- ◇ It can be tough at times, especially when inquests involve children, young adults or families at war. But overall the past 10 years have been a very worth-while use of my time & energy and I have learnt a great deal.

Telephone Helpline 0300 111 2141. Mon-Fri 9am—6pm. Sat: 9am—2pm
Email: helpline@ccss.org.uk

Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
4th Sept	Carol Moore <i>Jim Ballistone Thicke</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
11th Sept	David Moore <i>Ann Munton</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
18th Sept	John Shears <i>Beth Davies</i>	K Gay, P Clynes
25th Sept	Margaret Small <i>Kay Harvey</i>	J Shears, M Small
If you have to swop or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Beth or Hilary know. Thank you		

Coffee Rota	
4th Sept	Hilary Denning, John Shears
11th Sept	Pat Clynes, Pat Marriot
18th Sept	Lyn Powell
25th Sept	Lyn Hurst
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

Parish Directory

		Telephone
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 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.

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

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...).



September 2022

Friday 2nd	12:30—13:30	Palm Court Trio Concert
Sunday 4th	12th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 6th	10:30am - 11:45am	Coffee in Church
Thursday 8th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 9th	10am - 12 noon	Churchyard gardening group
Saturday 10th	10am - 15:00	Tower Tours - One of MSN Heritage Open Days
Sunday 11th	13th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 13th	10:30am - 11:45am 14:30	Coffee in Church St John's Friendship Group
Wednesday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Friday 16th	10am to 12 noon	Gift Day
Sunday 18th	14th Sunday after Trinity	
	Walsingham Pilgrimage	Sun-Fri
Tuesday 20th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 23rd	10am - 12 noon	Churchyard gardening group
Sunday 25th	15th Sunday after Trinity	

This month's front cover was provided by Rob & Sue Broughton
From their trip to Oberammergau