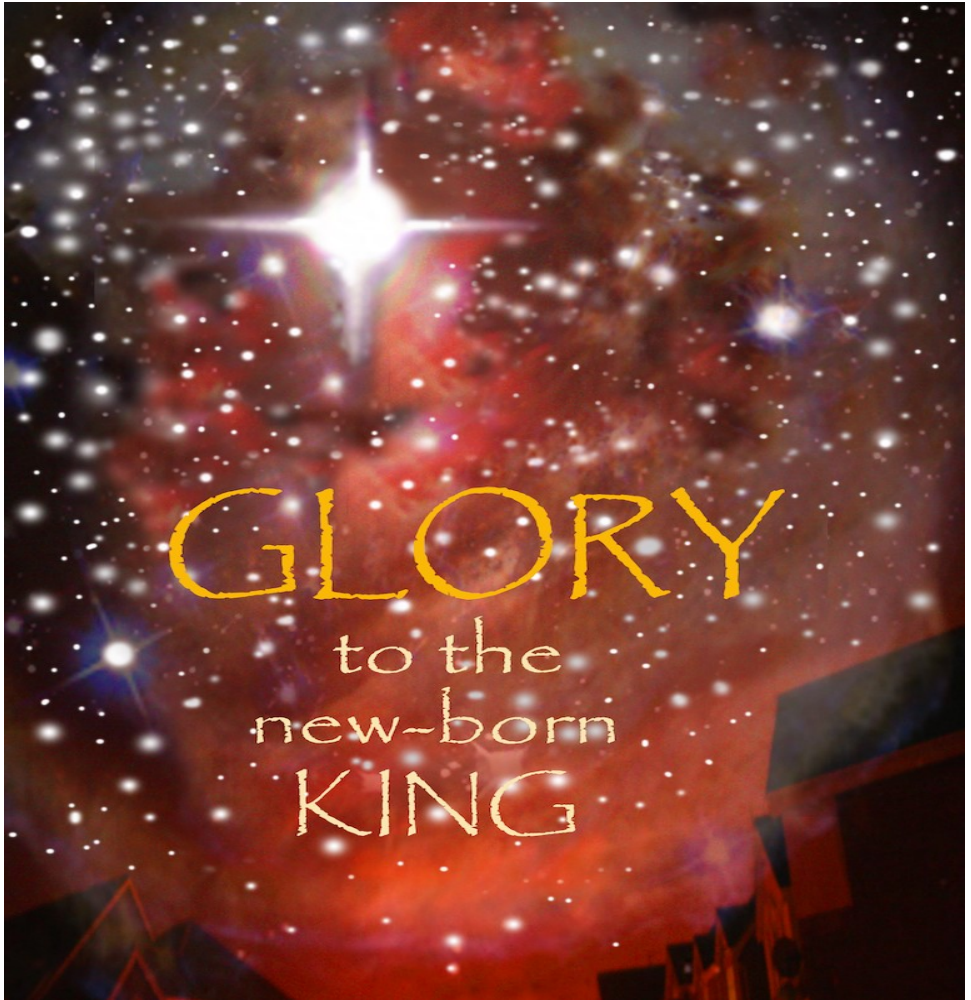


CHURCH ALIVE



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
December 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

Email: curatemsnstjohns@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

Tel: 411216

Email: msnparishoffice@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Mrs Beth Davies

20 Priory Close
Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ

Tel: 418787

Email: emdavies20@btinternet.com

Mrs Hilary Denning

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 Clandown
Volume 806 Number 12

ST. JOHNS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

10am until 12noon

**Start your Christmas shopping
Early with a cup of tea and a cake**



**A warm welcome awaits all
Bring along your family, friends & neighbours**



'Let us go now to Bethlehem...'

Dear Friends,

What an eventful year 2022 has proved to be. We have witnessed the tragedy of the war in Ukraine. We have felt the joy of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and then so swiftly, the nation's grief at her death. Amongst the sadness and much political and financial turmoil came the accession of our new king, His Majesty Charles III.



What a year! It has certainly not been an easy year for many.

But strife is not new, first century Palestine knew strife. Jesus was born into poverty, in an occupied land, and knew the life of one who worked with his hands. The new king whose arrival we celebrate each Christmas made a most humble entry into His troubled world.

Luke's Gospel paints for us a familiar and cherished picture of the poverty of Christ's nativity. He writes of the stable, the inn, the manger, the shepherds and angels. Matthew's Gospel brings us the terror of King Herod, the treasure of the Magi and the flight into Egypt.

On Christmas Eve that familiar scene will once again be on display beneath our altar, as we set up our crib figures for the coming weeks of celebration. The tradition of the crib can be traced back some 800 years, to the Italian village of Greccio where on Christmas Eve in 1223, St Francis of Assisi created a life-size nativity scene with live animals. People came to huddle in the candle light, to see a king born in humility, God as man, earthy and real, sharing in the life of his creation. God incarnate.

At 4pm on Christmas Eve, we will come together at St John's Church for our Crib Service, where we will celebrate the arrival of Jesus into our world. Following in St Francis' footsteps, we too will be creating a living tribute, as we re-enact the story that saw God born in human form, into the poverty of a stable, in first century Palestine.

There will be singing, readings, carols and drama. It is a time when memories are made, and remembrances treasured.

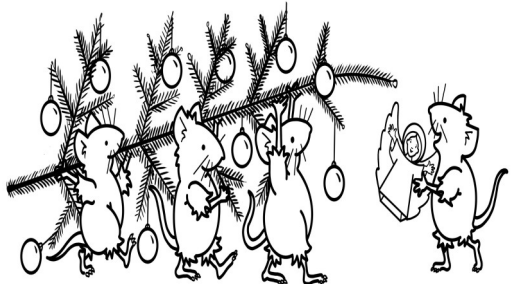
This year, although we have already cast our Mary, Joseph and Angel Gabriel, we are hoping to see a great host of shepherds, sheep, kings, attendants and angels, all gathered around the holy family. And who knows maybe even a donkey and an ox?

All primary aged children are invited all to come dressed-up and ready to join in. There will be some costumes for those who come without. So please spread the word, it's time to root out the old curtains, the tea towels, the tinsel and the dressing gowns.

'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us' (Luke 2:15)



Happy Christmas!
Philip



From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace."

26th October Freda Lily Daniels
5th November Michael James Small
George Ronald Coe
17th November Phenella Elizabeth Stagg
Gordon Parratt



Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

20th November Oliver William Luton

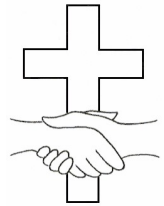
BAPTISMS

November LADIES GROUP MEETING

The Ladies Group held their AGM in November. We reviewed all the things we did last year and planned A programme of events for 2023. In the last year a few Events have had to be cancelled or rearranged but we Have still managed to meet and enjoy ourselves. For the coming year we are putting together a varied programme of events including social evenings, talks and a visit.

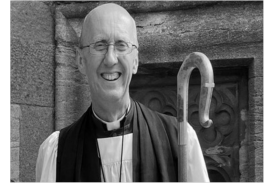
If you would like to join Ladies Group please talk to Kay Harvey or Ann Munton. New members are always welcome. Look out for our programme of events for the coming year which will be available from the back of church in December.

The next meeting will be a Christmas Social at Kay Harvey's house on Thursday 8th December. Nibbles will be provided but please bring your own drink. We will be having a quiz during the evening. The quiz is one we are recycling - we originally did it in 2000!



His light is never extinguished

As 2022 comes to a close, our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine whose country was invaded by Russia on the 24 February this year. In the months since, we have watched in horror as civilians, cities and infrastructure have been attacked, land occupied and atrocities committed. The UK has received more than 100,000 people fleeing from the conflict. The gift of their presence among us reminds us that this is no “quarrel in a far away country, between people of whom we know nothing”.



As we recall once again the coming into the world of Jesus at Christmas, our challenge is to connect our celebration of his birth with the realities and consequences of the conflict that is happening. Sadly, it's not hard to see the links. Jesus was born in a land (Palestine) that had been annexed by an expansionist foreign power (Rome) in pursuit of its territorial ambitions. The demands of the Roman occupiers meant that Jesus' birth happened not at home in Nazareth, but at a counting centre - Bethlehem. He was born in a stable because 'there was no room at the inn'. While still a baby, Jesus became a refugee when taken to Egypt due to warnings of atrocities to come.

Viewed this way, the Christmas story is no sentimental fable. It is a brutal foreshadowing of the events that Ukraine and our whole world have encountered this year. At the same time, it is also a story of hope. For it tells us that even in the very worst that can happen the Christ child whose birth we celebrate knows all too well the realities of the human condition. As a result, in any darkness his light is never extinguished. For he is Emmanuel – God with us.

So as we come to the end of 2022 we give thanks that God is always with us in whatever we face. May he be with Ukraine. May he be with Russia. And may he be welcomed by us all.

A very happy Christmas.

+Michael

Bishop Michael's Installation

Out and about from Bath to Wells

A phrase that has stuck with Bishop Michael from the service when he became a bishop is 'bishops know their people and their people know them'.

As he seeks to live out that sentiment, rather than make a conventional car journey home from attending Morning Prayer at Bath Abbey back to Wells on the morning of his installation, Bishop Michael took a different approach, using different forms of transport and meeting the people of Bath and Wells along the way.

A service marked with tradition and symbolism

Bishop Michael was installed 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells wearing the Coronation Cope, originally commissioned for the Coronation of HRH Edward VII in 1902. His Oath of Allegiance to the King was taken on Bishop Robert Creyghtone's Bible which dates back to 1633, and he received the 15th century episcopal ring.



Representatives from every parish across Bath and Wells, young and old, attended the service. Members of clergy together with parish lay representatives and guests from local schools, businesses, and civic society. All were encouraged by Bishop Michael to "...be people who long for a harvest - a world transformed into a place of peace, fairness, service, justice, loving-kindness."

Bishop Michael gifts 1,000 saplings at installation

Preaching on the reading from the Book of Acts Bishop Michael said in his sermon that his gift was an example of just one of the things we can do to bring about the harvest of God's life into God's world and asked all those present "will you plant a sapling as a sign that under God each of us, in every place, can play our part in working for change, for transformation, for life? Small actions that when we undertake them together make a big difference."

FROM THE PARISH PUMP

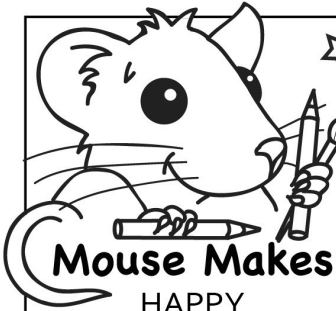
6th December: St Nicholas - A much-loved Saint

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the *patron saint of children*, and was given 6th December as his day.

Perhaps it was on account of St. Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6th December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night – or else on a ledge in the chimney.

In Bavaria the children left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind – Krishkinkle as they knew him – and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast.



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-21.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

G
L
J
O
M
S
O
N

V
D
S
A
E
H
E
S
E
E
S
E
E

B
O
C
A
L
I
N
M
C
A
E
I
T

N
G
O
O
D
O
O
D
O
O
D
O
O
D
O
O
D

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



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

SERVICES FOR CHIRSTMAS

Sunday 18th December 18:00 Carol Service

Saturday 24th December 16:00 Crib Service

Saturday 24th December 23:30 Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th December 08:00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 25th December 10:00 Parish Eucharist



Christmas Cards in Church 2022

We will be using the same system for distribution of Christmas cards brought to church as for 2020 and 2021.

The box for depositing cards will be placed in church on Sunday 4 December and removed after the 10am service on 18 December.

The cards will be sorted and made available to pick up at the Carol Service or when the church is open.

Please note, this facility is just for **regular** attenders at St John's.

Cards in the box for **non-regular** members of the congregation will not be delivered.

The wonderful Poppy display
that was in church for
Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you
Hilary Denning and
Pat Marriott
For arranging it



Ukraine Appeal

The Ukraine Humanitarian
Appeal in our church finished in
November and for the season of
Advent we will be supporting
the local charity

‘The Dairy House Project’



"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play
time – I can never find a tea-towel!"

Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
4th December	John Shears <i>Kay Harvey</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
11th December	Margaret Small <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
18th December	Linda Broadhurst <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
24th December		K Gay, L Powell
25th December	Robert Broughton <i>Sally Curtis</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 December	Heather & Tony Hill
11th December	Pat & Hilton Taylor
18th December	Sue Holley, Margaret Small
25th December	Josie Mitchard, Margaret Cleaves
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: stjohismagazine@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	07941 204179
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. A warm welcome is extended to all who would like to attend the service or join us on Pilgrimage.

Further details can be obtained from a member of the Clergy.

**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...).**



December 2022

Saturday 3rd	10am - 12noon	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 4th	2nd Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday 6th	10:30am - 11:45am 15:30	Coffee in Church St Johns School - Carols by candlelight Ladies Group
Thursday 8th	19:30	
Sunday 11th	3rd Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday 13th	10:30am - 11:45am 14:30 - 16:30	Coffee in Church St John's Friendship Group <i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Wednesday 14th		
Thursday 15th	09:00 14:00	St Johns School Christmas Services
Sunday 18th	4th Sunday of Advent 18:00	Carol Service
Monday 19th	19:00	Mendip Male Voice Choir
Tuesday 20th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Saturday 24th	16:00 23:30	Crib Service Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY	

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