

CHURCH ALIVE



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
February 2023
Price 50p

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

The Revd: Guy Scott

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Assistant Curate

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Parish Administrator

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Churchwardens

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Email: emdavies20@btinternet.com

Mrs Hilary Denning

87 Nelson Ward Drive
Radstock, BA3 3FS

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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: 01749 588917

Email: ben.goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org



Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 807 Number 2



QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
AT 7PM
IN THE CHURCH HALL

Teams of 4, 5 or 6

Tickets £5:00 per person

To include Nibbles & Ham or Cheese Bread Roll

A bar will be available

Come along and enjoy a fun, happy evening

Tickets available from the Social Committee



Dear Friends,

“...then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,...” (Gen.2.7)

Each year at the start of Lent we hold a particularly moving service. On Ash Wednesday, as we have ashes marked on our foreheads in the sign of the cross, we hear the words “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ”. As well as initiating our season of repentance, these powerful words movingly remind us of our mortality and our unity with all of God’s creation.



I have always known the pull of that biblical dust, the soil, the earth, our grounding. Since sitting in the garden as a toddler, with my fingers in a mud pie looking for worms, mud has been magnetic. But it took a stressful year when I was working as a Deputy Head for that magnetism to wrench me from my career and drag me outside to play at being a gardener.

Outside, God’s creation grabbed hold of me. I became literally earthed. Outside I felt reclaimed and reconnected. With my hands in the soil, and dirt under my finger nails, I was back with the dust from which I came. I sensed my fellowship with all of God’s Creation. And the power of physical work, began its healing, I became grounded, humbled and in a sense ‘to dust returned’.

As a child I was deeply moved by the stories of St Francis that I heard from the Franciscan Sisters who lived nearby. They spoke of Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and our Sister Mother Earth. The jigsaw of creation made real sense to me. And yes, I could feel it, brothers and sisters with all of creation. Loved into existence, sustained by the same God, made of the same stuff, the same matter; built using the same building blocks, atoms, carbon and stardust – yes, we really are stardust! .

The miracle of existence and the power of God's creation can still thrill, excite and heal me. Time outside, gardening or being immersed in the natural world, can be a form of prayer, a form of worship, a form of active retreat.

My return to gardening breathed fresh life into my tired senses and reconnected me intimately with God, and with myself. And it has led me on to explore my spirituality more deeply and to hear God's call more clearly.

So as the days grow lighter, as the warmth of the sun gains strength, as the snowdrops and daffodils call us to look outside and open the window, why not come outside? Creation is calling. Come and be reconnected, come and be restored by God's creation, come and be grounded in the miracle of *dust made alive*.



"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it" (Gen.2.15)

Extra Services this Month

Thursday 2nd February

Candlemas 19:30 Sung Eucharist

The presentation of Christ in the Temple

Wednesday 22nd February

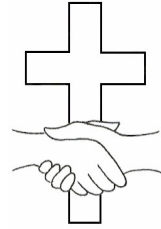
Ash Wednesday

12 noon Holy Eucharist

19:30 Sung Eucharist

JANUARY LADIES GROUP MEETING

Rob & Sue Broughton wrote an article for the September Magazine about their Austrian holiday in July 2022 which also included the experience of being in the audience for the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany.



Rob came to our January meeting to talk about their experience and talked us through their itinerary, illustrating it with some of the pictures they had taken. We admired the beautiful scenery of the Tyrol and both exteriors and interiors of churches, some of which were extremely ornate. Rob told us various facts/legends about certain of the saints to which the churches were dedicated, some more gruesome than others.

There was an extra interest and a trip down memory lane for a few of us who had visited some of the places Rob talked about.

Everyone found the illustrated talk very interesting. Thank you to Rob for giving up your time to come to our meeting.

Our next meeting, on the 9th February will be at the home of Hilary Denning, when Hannah Bartholemew will be talking about "Refillable Packaging".

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

AT 2:30PM in the Church Hall

Programme Planning

Old Time singing

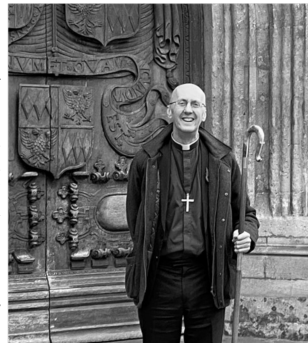
Plus Bring & Buy

Why not come along and have a cup of tea and a chat?

More information from Heather on 07882 734507

A better way

Culture, it's said, is 'how things get done around here'. This suggests that our understanding of the world is largely formed by our experiences and what we're accustomed to. That's all fine until everything around us, as it does, keeps on changing. Then we're then set on a collision course between how we think things should be, and how they actually are. Anybody aged over 40 who's had to ask a nine year old how to use their new phone will understand this dilemma perfectly.



Cultural collisions aren't just restricted to technology. They affect churches too. Many of us grew up with a model of church set up by the Victorians. This mostly meant that each parish had one church building with its own vicar, who took responsibility for most aspects of the ministry needed in a particular place. Yet even this was new in its day. Look much further back and things worked very differently. The New Testament speaks of churches where lots of different people played many different roles, each operating out of the particular skills and gifts given them by God. In Ephesians the writer describes a church where 'some [are] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers'.

So what would be the right model of church for our day? The Victorians' assumption that the vicar would do almost everything would seem to be a crying waste of the gifts and passions that together we share. And as more of our clergy care for three, six or more parishes, the nineteenth century model is increasingly leaving our vicars tired, overstretched and liable to burn out.

We need a better way; one that draws on the rich talents, abilities and skills that our church members have. Here in Bath and Wells we're calling this 'shared local ministry'. Examples of what that can look like exist in many places around our diocese. Neither first century nor nineteenth century, but an emerging twenty first century way of how we want 'to get things done around here'. A better way to inhabit well the faith we've inherited in our time and generation.

Bishop Michael

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

“May they rest in peace.”

20th December Carole Bromilow

12th January Richard Stephen Wherry



Holy Baptism

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

18th December Zoe Janes

James Johnstone



From the Parish Pump

2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to ‘present Him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’.



Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

From Manna - Bath & Wells News

Threads through Creation

Bath Abbey is hosting
'Threads through Creation',
a stunning exhibition of twelve enormous,
embroidered silk panels that explore the
story of Creation.

Inspired by the verses of Genesis, the first
book in the Bible, textile artist Jacqui
Parkinson re-imagines this ancient story
in a vibrant combination of layers of silk,
hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers and
gold leaf, miles of thread – and more than eight million stitches!



The exhibition opened in January and will run until 19th March.

News from the Diocese of Bath & Wells

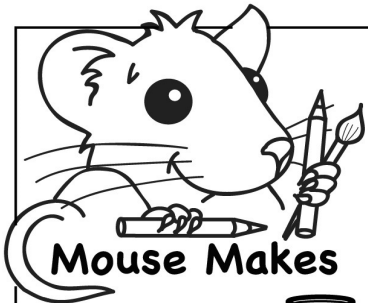
Everyone, everywhere growing in faith

People throughout Bath and Wells are exploring growing in faith in the first week of February in our Everyday Faith event.

The event started with a Zoom service on Sunday 29 January and every day during the week people are exploring the themes of Growth, Rhythms, Others, Word, Together and Hope before taking the opportunity to come together on Saturday, 4 February.

You can still sign up during the week of the event and access the resources when the week is over.

Find out more at bathandwells.org.uk/everyday-faith-event



What was the special meal
Jesus was preparing to eat?



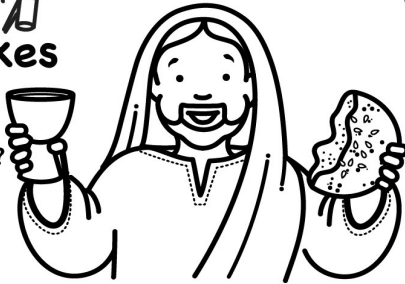
Matthew 26:18

What did Jesus take,
bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus give
thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27



What did Jesus say
this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say
this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:27-28

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue
to break bread and share the cup "in



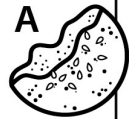
of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCCHARIST

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



Find the words from the questions too!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

From your Social Committee

Quiz Night

Friday 17th February 7pm in the Church Hall

St George's Day Lunch

Sunday 23rd April at 12:30pm in the Church Hall

Coronation Celebration Meal

Saturday 13th May at 5pm in the Church Hall

From the Parish Pump

14th Feb: The very first Valentine card, a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14th February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

**Avon & Somerset Faith Communities
Major Emergency Plan
A Multi-Faith Response to a Major Emergency or Disaster
A volunteer project in conjunction with the
Avon & Somerset Constabulary**

If you were a victim in a major emergency ... Who would help you?

When a major incident occurs, the statutory services respond swiftly. However, the victims of major emergencies often need the sort of pastoral support these services are not equipped to provide. Faith communities can play an important part - but only if we are ready to respond in an effective, coordinated and appropriate way. To this end a Faith Communities' Major Emergency Plan was set up in the 1980s and now provides support for the entire Avon and Somerset Constabulary area.

Although we regularly recruit new volunteers, each year some of our team members retire or move away. Right now more volunteers are needed if we are to provide adequate cover on a rota basis, bearing in mind that in the event of a major emergency a proportion of our team may not be available for a variety of reasons.

We are holding Familiarisation Days for those who want to find out more on
Thursday 16 February 2023: 10:00am - 3:00pm
Thursday 2 March 2023: 10:00am - 3:00pm
at Avon & Somerset Constabulary Headquarters, Valley Road, Portishead

Thursday 23 March 2023: 10:00am - 3:00pm
at Flourish House, Wells

If you or any of your colleagues or members of your congregation are interested in attending on of these training days, please contact Allie White, Mission Development Team Coordinator, Diocese of Bath & Wells,
at Allie.White@bathwells.anglican.org or phone her on 01749 588904

Thank you for considering this and we look forward to hearing from you.

Andy Paget MEP Co-coordinator
Adrian Prior-Sankey MEP Co-coordinator

Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
5th February	Carol Moore <i>Ann Munton</i>	K Gay, L Powell
12th February	David Moore <i>Beth Davies</i>	J Shears, M Small
19th February	John Shears <i>Kay Harvey</i>	D Winter, J Winter
26th February	Margaret Small <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	N Barnett, P Clynes
If you have to swop or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Beth or Hilary know. Thank you		

Coffee Rota	
5th February	Pat & Hilton Taylor
12th February	Sue Holley, Margaret Small
19th February	Josie Mitchard, Margaret Cleaves
26th February	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

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...).**



February 2023

Thursday 2nd	Candlemas	19:30 Sung Eucharist
Friday 3rd	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Sunday 5th	3rd Sunday before Lent	
Tuesday 7th	10:30am - 11:45am	Coffee in Church
	19:00	PCC Meeting
Thursday 9th	19:30	Ladies Group
Sunday 12th	2nd Sunday before Lent	
Tuesday 14th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30 - 16:30	St John's Friendship Group
Friday 17th	11:00	<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
	19:00	St John's cell of Our Lady of Walsingham - Eucharist
		<i>Church Quiz night</i>
Sunday 19th	The Sunday next before Lent	
Tuesday 21st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 22nd	Ash Wednesday	12noon Holy Eucharist
		19:30 Sung Eucharist
Sunday 26th	1st Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 28th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church

This month's front cover was provided by the Parish Pump
Flooded tree at Slimbridge