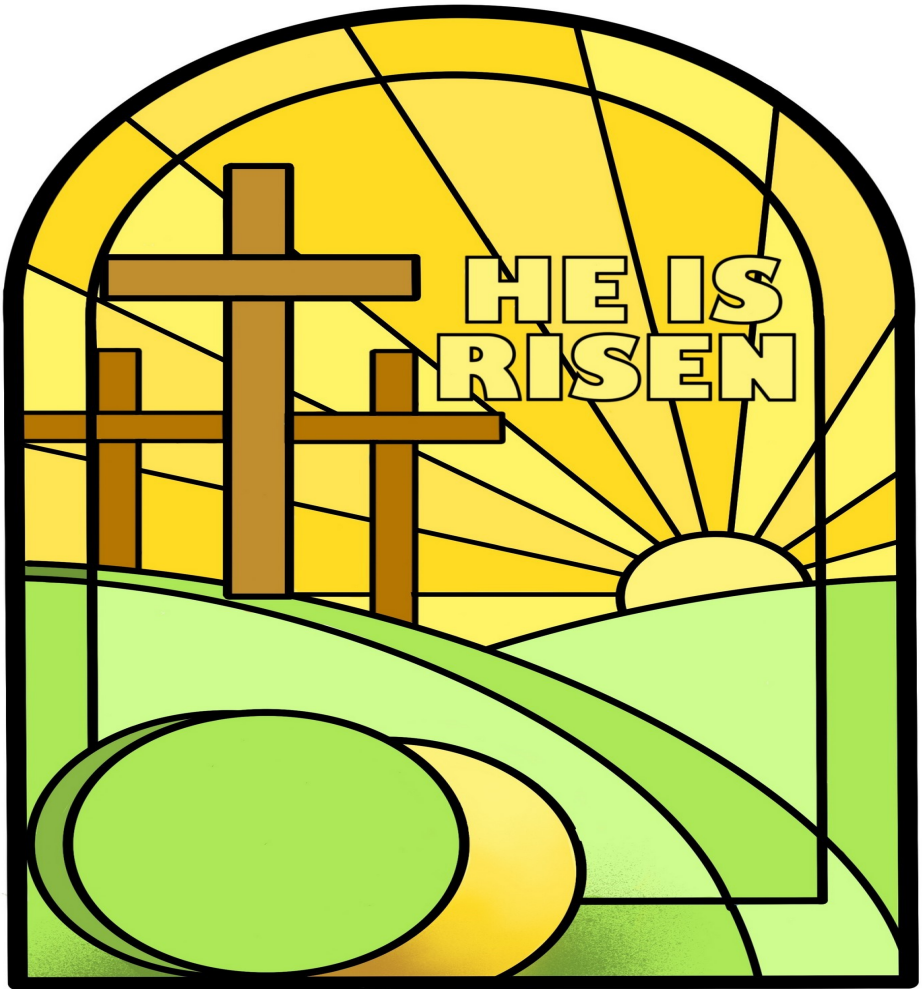


CHURCH ALIVE



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
April 2023
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: 01749 588917

Email: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/reporting-concerns-or-abuse>



Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 807 Number 4

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

- April 2nd **Palm Sunday**
8am Holy Eucharist
10am Liturgy for Palm Sunday with procession
from Church car park
- April 3rd **Monday of Holy Week**
12 noon Holy Eucharist
- April 4th **Tuesday of Holy Week**
10am Chrism Eucharist at Wells Cathedral
19:30 Holy Eucharist
- April 5th **Wednesday of Holy Week**
12 noon Holy Eucharist
- April 6th **Maundy Thursday**
19:30 Maundy Liturgy with Foot Washing
and Watch until 20:30
- April 7th **Good Friday**
12 noon to 15:00 Meditation & Reflection on the Cross
- April 8th **Easter Eve**
20:00 Easter Vigil
- April 9th **Easter Day**
08:00 Holy Eucharist
10:00 Easter Eucharist

Dear Friends,

What is your passion? Maybe it's cooking, or football, or maybe travel, fashion or music? People speak of their passion for many things. I was once asked in a job interview if I had a passion for customer service. Well, I struggled to say yes because passion is not really a word I tend to associate with shopping!

When I hear of passion I am always drawn to recall the words written in the Song of Solomon, "for love is strong as death, passion as fierce as the grave". Passion speaks of a burning intensity, of a barely controllable emotion, of a strength of feeling beyond what is comfortable. It can encompass feelings of anger, desire and suffering. And for Christians at this time of the year, it refers to the agony and suffering of Jesus, his journey from the Last Supper to his death on the cross.

Before the joy of Easter, comes the season of Passion-tide. It covers the last two weeks of Lent. During this time our church services take us on a journey to Jerusalem, to Palm Sunday and beyond, to Holy Week and the devastation and trauma of Good Friday. On Maundy Thursday feet are washed, vows renewed, the church is stripped bare of joy, of flowers and colour. We sit in silence and meditate, watching and waiting, in our vigil.



Passiontide can be uncomfortable, but toward the end comes a growing expectation, as Easter Day draws near.

In the Lady Chapel at St John's we have a tabernacle, a secure place for the reserved sacrament, for consecrated bread and wine. It has a beautiful new cover, skilfully made by one of our congregation Pat Marriott. It shows a delicate passion flower - *Passiflora caerulea* - a familiar symbol of Christ's passion, known and used since 15th Century.

It is thought that the flower was used as a teaching aid by Spanish missionaries in the Americas. It was believed to bloom for three days, the blue and white symbolising heaven and purity. The five anthers can be seen to represent the five wounds of Christ. The three stigma, the three nails. The crown of filaments, can represent the crown of thorns, and the chalice shaped ovary, the Holy Grail. The ten petals can be seen as the Apostles minus Judas (who betrayed Jesus) and Peter (who denied Jesus), and the tendrils can be seen as whips, and the leaf tips, a lance.

It's a bit grim I admit, but once this glorious flower with its brutal symbolism, has been visited by a pollinator, maybe a bee or hummingbird, there is the promise of fruit, a fruit packed with new life. Inside each fruit are countless pulpy seeds and much juice, and a flavour cherished by many a passionate cook.

When we do get to celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Easter Day, we get to see and taste the fruit of His passion, sharing in the triumph and hope of the Easter season. And that is something to feel truly passionate about.

Happy Easter!
Phillip

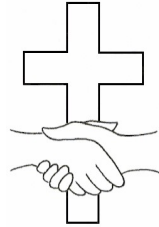


Mothering Sunday Posies

A big thank you to the people who donated the flowers and gave up their time to make the posies which were given out on Mothering Sunday. It was much appreciated.

MARCH LADIES GROUP REPORT

On the 9th March the Ladies Group went for a meal at La Campagna in Paulton. When I woke up on the morning of the 8th March and saw the snow blanketed landscape I was worried that we might have to cancel.



Fortunately the temperature rose and the snow had disappeared by the 9th of March.

We were all served delicious food with risotto being a popular choice. It was a very sociable evening that was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be a talk by the Churches Conservation Trust at Linda Broadhurst's house on the 13th April.

If you would like to find out more about Ladies Group please pick up a yellow programme from the back of church or speak to a committee member. New members are always welcome.



ST GEORGES DAY LUNCH

In the Church Hall

Sunday 23rd April
At 12:30pm



Tickets £12:50 per person
available from the Social Committee

The joy of Easter

As April begins, we mark it with the Palm Sunday procession, the welcoming of Jesus into Jerusalem amongst much jubilation and a sense of impending revolution. There were those who expected Jesus to be the next rebel leader who would rouse the local people to turn against their Roman overlords. Political populism at its height! In their enthusiasm, limbs of trees were broken to pave the way for this new hero.



However, it didn't take much for the crowd to turn around and change its tune. Those palm leaves torn from branches to throw in his path have become the palm crosses we hold today. Symbolising for us the way in which the week ends. Fronds of living trees now dried and woven to form the cruel instrument of death on which Christ suffered.

Many of our churches are now engaged with rewilding their church grounds, many are seeking to gain awards with Eco Church and are looking for new ways of reducing or capturing carbon. There would be horror at the thought of denuding our trees! In fact, parishes are discovering opportunities to partner with others to plant new trees on spare glebe land.

Sometimes though it can feel to us that the environmental crisis is too great a one to solve. Yet the message of Easter shows us that when things seem nigh on impossible it is then that we glimpse the grace of God at work. God's way of overcoming evil was not to fight a small act of resistance against a Roman invasion but rather to combat sin itself. The death of Jesus was the ultimate battle to overcome that which has separated humanity from knowing the extent of God's love for each and every one of us.

The natural world around us is a wonderful illustration of how death is not the end. The environment can be devastated by flood, fire and human carelessness and yet new life can begin again. The joy of Easter is that the story doesn't end in death but opens a new beginning for us all through the resurrection of Christ.

May you know the life and love of Christ this Easter!

Bishop Ruth

LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES RETURNS TO ST JOHN'S

A new series of Wednesday lunchtime concerts will begin on 12th April at 1pm in the church, with a recital by flautist Nicola Woodward, who will play beautiful and unusual music for a variety of flutes including piccolo, alto and folk flutes and whistles.

The programme includes the iconic Bach Partita in A minor and a selection of the wonderfully evocative but rarely heard *Chants de Nectaire* by French composer Charles Koechlin. Nicola will also perform some of her own folk-style compositions and "Wake up!" by Dehnhard for piccolo and alarm clock no less! She will give informal spoken programme notes throughout and be around afterwards for questions and a close up look at any of the instruments.

The series will continue on Wednesday lunchtimes at 1pm (refreshments from 12:30pm) with a variety of performers, to include the Mendip Ensemble (Flute, Oboe & Piano) on 26th April, a clarinet recital by Neil Moore on 10th May and a concert by the Jubilate Recorders ensemble on 3rd May.

TRIO PARADIS CAFÉ CONCERT DATE CHANGE

To avoid a clash with the Good Friday service, Trio Paradis' Family concert, The Sea, has been rescheduled for the preceding Monday, 3rd April at 1pm. Concerts return to the first Friday of the month from 5th May.

SMILE LINES FROM THE PARISH PUMP

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church to stay with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

Gardening working group.

Although the recent weather may suggest otherwise, spring is here and it is time to resume our gardening working parties. Please bring your own gardening tools.



We will meet at 1000 on Friday 31st March to tidy the paths around the church in preparation for the Palm Sunday procession and then at 1000 on Friday 14th April and Friday 28th April in the open churchyard when we hope to welcome a volunteer resulting from the recent article in the Midsomer Norton Life magazine. There have been other offers of help following that article from people who regularly tend to graves in the open churchyard but are unable to join us on a Friday. It is hoped that we can agree a plan of action to allow them to help in areas of the open churchyard when they can.



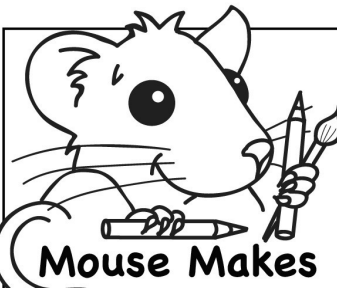
We will then meet on the 2nd Friday of each month around the church and on the 4th Friday in the open churchyard.
i.e. 12th /26th May, 9th /23rd June, 14th /28th July, 11th /25th August, 8th /22nd September, 13th /27th October, 10th /24th November.

Robert Broughton

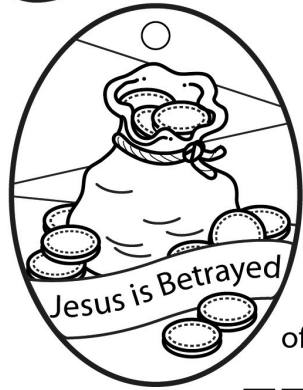
FORTHCOMING EVENTS: From your Social Committee

Coronation Celebration Meal

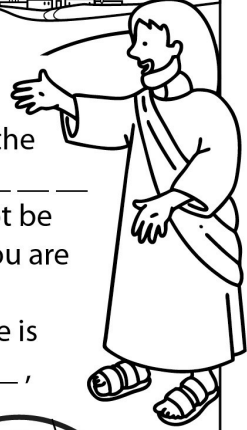
Saturday 13th May at 5pm in the Church Hall



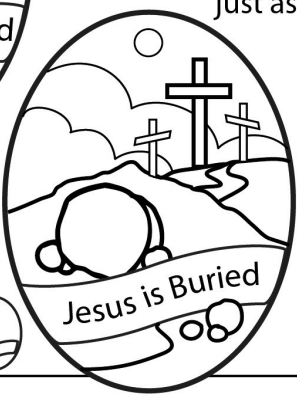
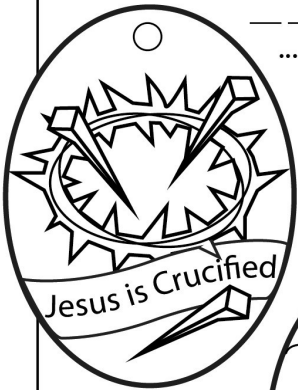
HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



How many other
words can you
make from
RESURRECTION



An _____
of the Lord came down from _____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter



MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

followed by

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

will take place in the Church Hall on

Sunday 30 April 2023 at 11-15

The meeting to elect two churchwardens will be held immediately before the APCM.

The APCM is a chance for all church members to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 and an opportunity for anyone to raise questions and to comment on what the Officers and PCC have done during the year.

Churchwardens are elected annually and their term of office is for one year. Hilary is willing to stand again but Beth is not seeking re-election.

PCC representatives are elected to serve a three year term of office. Three people need to be elected to serve from 2023 to 2026 and one to serve from 2023 to 2025.

2023 is the year that Deanery Synod Representatives are elected to serve a three year term. The number of representatives is governed by the number on the electoral roll. As the number on our electoral roll has dropped below 100 we are now entitled to two representatives.

Please speak to Father Guy, the churchwardens or the PCC Secretary if you are interested in taking up one of these positions.

Nomination forms are available on request from the PCC Secretary.

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

“May they rest in peace.”

1st March Muriel Audrey Williams



Easter Flowers

In previous years we have received donations towards flowers which adorn the church at Easter but this year, we would like to try something different. Someone in the congregation suggested this and we agreed that it is a lovely idea for everyone to share in Easter thanksgiving and hope in the Resurrection.

We are asking if you will bring flowers to church yourselves in remembrance of your loved ones on Maundy Thursday evening to rest near the altar of Repose, or ask someone to bring them for you.

The flower team will arrange them on Easter Saturday for Easter Sunday.

The church will be open from 6pm until 7.15pm on Maundy Thursday and there will be containers left near the altar for this purpose.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 07828 550006.

Hilary



Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
2nd April	Lesley Garvey <i>Jim Ballistone Thicke</i>	J Shears, M Small
9th April	Heather Hill <i>Carol Moore</i>	D winter, J Winter
16th April	Les Martindale <i>Ann Munton</i>	N Barnett, P Clynes
23rd April	Carol Moore <i>Beth Davies</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
30th April	David Moore <i>Kay Harvey</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Beth or Hilary know. Thank you		

Coffee Rota	
2nd April	Heather & Tony Hill
9th April	Pat & Hilton Taylor
16th April	Sue Holley, Margaret Small
23rd April	Josie Mitchard, Margaret Cleaves
30th April	Margaret Wilton, Kathy Sinkins
If you swap 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...).**



April 2023

Sunday 2nd	Palm Sunday	
Monday 3rd	12 noon	Holy Eucharist
	13:00	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Tuesday 4th	10:00	Chrism Eucharist at Wells Cathedral
	19:30	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 5th	12 noon	Holy Eucharist
Thursday 6th	19:30	Maundy Liturgy
Friday 7th	Good Friday	12 noon - Meditation & Reflection on the Cross
Saturday 8th	Easter Vigil	20:00
Sunday 9th	Easter Day	
Tuesday 11th	10:30am - 11:45am	Coffee in Church
Thursday 13th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 14th	10:00	Gardening Group
		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Sunday 16th	2nd Sunday of Easter	
Tuesday 18th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 21st	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 23rd	3rd Sunday of Easter	
	12:30	St George's day lunch
Tuesday 25th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 28th	10:00	Gardening Group
Sunday 30th	4th Sunday of Easter	
	11:15	Annual Parochial Church Meeting