

CHURCH ALIVE



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

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

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



Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 807 Number 5

Lent Lunches

A big thank you to Beth and Hilary for organising, preparing and serving the food for the Lent lunches.

We were treated to a different flavour of soup each week, which was accompanied with delicious hunks of bread plus a generous portion of cheese.

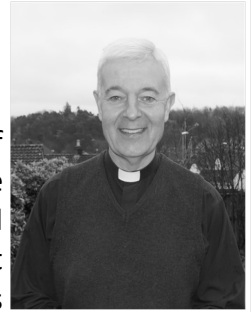
The lunches raised over £220 for church funds.



PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the June magazine will be **12th May**.
This is due to the bank holidays and unavailability for printing for the end of the month.

Reflection from the Vicarage



Dear Friends,

On May 18th, this year, the Church marks the Feast of the Ascension, when Christians remember the time when Jesus left the world for the last time and returned to his Father in heaven. It is an important Feast, one which can be overlooked falling as it does on a Thursday, marking the end of the Easter Season.

Here is the account of Christ's Ascension from the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. Perhaps you would like to imagine the scene, which took place at the top of a mountain (Acts 1:9-11).

As (the apostles) were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?"

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Now, I don't know what you pictured. Romantic, swirly mists, a fantasy film style interpretation with dramatic special effects and rousing music or perhaps a science-fiction scenario with not quite this-world landscape and not quite human people.

Whichever one you saw, it can be a useful way to get into scenes from the Bible; to imagine yourself there, either as a detached observer or as an active participant, one of the apostles, perhaps. How might you feel? How might they have felt? What might they have done in response to what they saw? What might we do in response to what we have experienced? Does it remind us of similar feelings we may have had in other totally different situations? Can we take what we have felt and use it to help us in our everyday life?

Feelings of fear, amazement, wonder, terror, confusion strike us often as human beings at the most unexpected times and in the most unexpected places.

Perhaps we can learn something from those apostles, whose reaction to the mystery was not paralysing fear, great sadness, nor just shrugging it off. It inspired them to wonder, to think, to pray and to worship God, reassured by the words of angels.

In moments of extreme panic in difficult, unexpected situations, it can be difficult to hear angels and God can feel far away. Perhaps next time **you** feel like that you can picture Christ's Ascension on the mountain, and be inspired by the apostles, who gained strength, comfort, and even joy, from their experience.

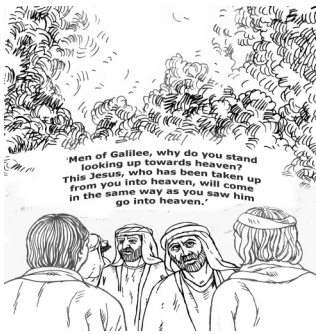
Yours in Christ,

Guy

Additional Services in May:

Sunday 7th May 16:00

A Commemoration Service
for the Coronation



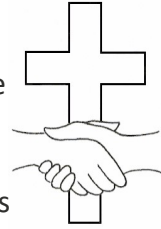
Thursday 18th May 19:30

Ascension Day Sung Eucharist with
Incense.

APRIL LADIES GROUP REPORT

At our April meeting, we welcomed Rachel Whitty from the Churches Conservation Trust.

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity saving historic churches at risk and it has over 350 buildings in its care, which attract almost 2 million visitors a year.



Its unique collection of English churches includes irreplaceable examples of architecture, archaeology and art from 1,000 years of history. They are kept open and in use – living once again with the support of their communities. The churches remain consecrated and can be used for occasional services.

Rachel explained the process involved in assessing a church before it is accepted and how the Trust has a range of experts who are vital to restoration and repair work. She also shared the story of how she came to her “dream job” and her enthusiasm was infectious! There are several CCT churches in Bristol, as well as Hemington church, Cameley church and the tower in Pensford.

You can read more about the CCT and its work at visitchurches.org.uk

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

At the April meeting we enjoyed an Easter Emporium which included readings, hymns and personal experiences and memories of Eastertides over the years.

We finished the meeting with a cup of tea and a Hot Cross Bun.

At the May meeting we will be enjoying a Cream Tea. Please feel free to join us.

Celebrating British Science Week at St John's C of E Primary School

The school celebrated British Science Week
10-19th March.



This year's theme was 'connections'. Firstly, the pupils explored this theme by making connections within their local community reaching out to two STEM ambassadors who delivered whole school assemblies. Both ambassadors spoke about their STEM based careers and how Science relates to their everyday life. On Thursday 16th they hosted a STEM fair with entries from Reception to Year 6.

There were nearly 60 wonderful entries.

Entries ranged from electrical circuits to mechanical hands! The entries were judged by industry professionals who joined them on the day. They were astounded by the level of effort made by all children. This made the judging very close but there were several winners announced on the Friday across the key stages.

Not only did they make connections within their local community but in their Science lessons. Each year group learnt about a Scientist related to their current topic. This allowed them to make connections between their Science learning in school and real life scientists. Their learning was then shared and celebrated in the week during whole school collective worship



LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES AT ST JOHN'S IN MAY

The series of Wednesday lunchtime concerts continue in May starting at 1pm in the church. Refreshments will be available from 12:30pm.

Entrance is by donation - proceeds go to the church and the musicians.

3rd May Jubilate Recorder Ensemble

Jubilate will perform music from Bach to the Beatles, Mozart to Musicals, guaranteed to entertain.

10th May Neil Moore - Clarinet

A programme of 20th century French works, including Poulenc's Clarinet Sonata

17th May Vocal Recital

24th May Vocal Recital

31st May Naomi McLeod Jones - Soprano & David Bednall - Piano

Gardening Working Group

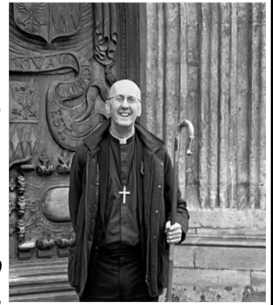
We meet in May at 10am on the 12th May around the church and on the 26th May in the open churchyard.

Please bring your own gardening tools if you are able to.



Remember Jesus too

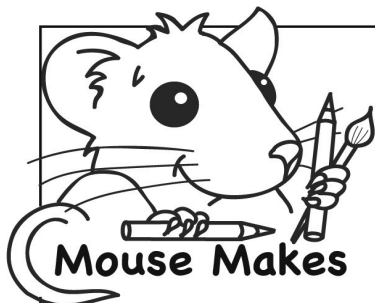
Writing about the celebration of Holy Communion almost eighty years ago, Gregory Dix posed the question ‘Was ever another command so obeyed?’ It’s well worth searching online for his whole answer. An edited quote of his response reads: *‘For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race*



on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unflinching, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the plebs sancta Dei—the holy common people of God.’

The first of Dix’s scenarios will be played out before us at the coronation of King Charles III. At the heart of the ceremony, amidst all the pomp and circumstance, the oaths and declarations, the regalia and crowning, will be the celebration of Holy Communion. The words used will be just the same as those spoken in our parish churches Sunday by Sunday. From Communion, the King and Queen will be sent out from Westminster Abbey to live like us the prayer we say at the end of many of our services. They will offer ‘their souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, sent out in the power of [God’s] Spirit to live and work to [God’s] praise and glory.’

The command that the King, Queen and all of us obey is Jesus’s direction to ‘Do this in remembrance of me.’ So, as you watch the Coronation please remember Jesus too. For he is the one who comes to us as a servant; the king of Kings.



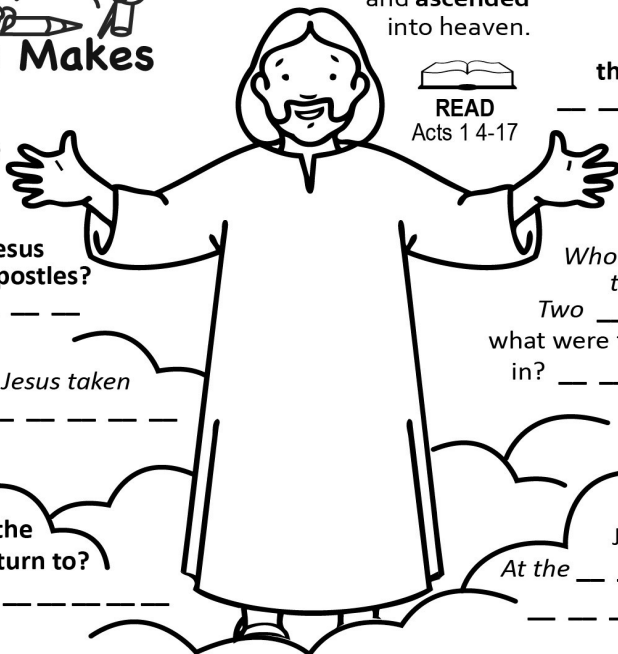
Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and ascended into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?



READ Acts 1 4-17

Find the answers in the word search



to be Jesus' witnesses. Acts 1:8

What did Jesus say from the Apostles?

a _____ Acts 1:9

Who appeared to the Apostles?

Two _____ and what were they dressed in? _____ Acts 1:10

Where was Jesus taken up to? _____ Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to?

Acts 1:12

Where is Jesus seated?

At the _____ of God. Mark 16:19

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

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING
 SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT
 GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

CORONATION HIGH TEA

13th May at 5pm
in the Church Hall

Tickets are on sale at £10 for this celebration tea, available from members of the Social committee

We may not be able to be in attendance at King Charles III coronation, but we can share our opinions of the celebrations with each other as we enjoy a lovely high tea.

Please feel encouraged to wear anything RED, WHITE and BLUE



Forthcoming Event for your diary

Cheese & Wine evening with a Silent Auction
Friday 21st July at 19:00

Advance Notice:

The **Jenny Peplow Singers** are giving a concert in church at 7pm on Friday 16th June.



Tickets are not required, but donations will be welcomed

Proceeds are for Children's Hospice South West.

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

“May they rest in peace.”

5th April Norman Wood



Baptism

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

23rd April Teddy Finn Wyatt

BAPTISMS

Diocese Manna mailing – May 2023

**Historic bells back for
Coronation**

The first set of church bells to have been engraved with the cypher of King Charles III have been delivered to St Peter and St Paul’s in North Curry, near



Taunton. They will be in place in time to ring for the Coronation, to the delight of the local community who help raised the funds to get them cast.

The Revd Simon Bale said: "It's a wonderful feeling to have new bells and they will ring out with joy and thanksgiving, once again calling people to worship. The new cypher marks the beginning of a new era. It is history happening in our own village."

Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
7th May	Hugh Pountney <i>Sally Curtis</i>	A Fitch L Hurst
14th May	John Shears <i>David Moore</i>	K Gay, L Powell
21st May	Margaret Small <i>Heather Hill</i>	J Shears, M Small
28th May	Linda Broadhurst <i>Jim Ballistone Thicke</i>	D Winter, J Winter
If you have to swop or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Beth or Hilary know. Thank you		

Coffee Rota	
7th May	Hilary Denning, John Shears
14th May	Pat Clynes, Pat Marriot
21st May	Lyn Powell
28th May	Lyn Hurst
If you swop or are unable to fulfil your rota, please can you let Margaret Small know. Thank you	



***This month's front cover was taken by the Editor
of the Easter Garden in Church***

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...).**

Tuesday 2nd	10:30-11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 3rd	12:30	Spring Concert
Friday 5th	12:00	Trio Paradis Concert
Saturday 6th		Coronation of King Charles
Sunday 7th	5th Sunday of Easter	
	16:00	Coronation Service
Tuesday 9th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 10th	12:30	Spring Concert
Thursday 11th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 12th	10:00	Gardening Group
		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Saturday 13th	17:00	Coronation High Tea
Sunday 14th	6th Sunday of Easter	
Tuesday 16th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 17th	12:30	Spring Concert
Thursday 18th	19:30	Ascension Day Sung Mass
Friday 19th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 21st	Sunday after Ascension Day	
Tuesday 23rd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 24th	12:30	Spring Concert
Friday 26th	10:00	Gardening Group
Sunday 28th	Day of Pentecost	
Tuesday 30th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 31st	12:30	Spring Concert