

CHURCH ALIVE



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
July 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 Pat Clynes

37 Staddlestones
Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

Email: Patclynes@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 412928

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 Cladown
Volume 807 Number 7

Church flowers

We have a really excellent team of ladies who add to the beauty of our Church with their glorious flower arrangements. If there is anyone else in our congregation who would like to join this team I would be delighted to hear from you.

Also, if you would like an arrangement done in memory of a loved one please let me know and that can be arranged. At the back of the Church you will find a list of dates with the names of the person arranging the flowers that week. A new arrangement will be done every other week with the flowers watered for the second week.

Donations for flowers are very much appreciated and can be given to me if wished. Carol Moore

* * * * *

FLOWER GROUP



On a sunny afternoon in June, a group of flower 'fairies' met at Carol's to create some playful flower arrangements without using floral foam (oasis). It was a challenge but thanks to Carol and David's wonderful and prolific garden, the group produced some very respectable results. After a restorative cup of tea and some homemade Welsh cakes (thank you Carol) everyone felt the afternoon was a great success.

Reflections from the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Following our Annual Parochial Church meeting at the end of April, several people have asked if I would submit the 'remarks' I made at the meeting to Church Alive. So here we go.....



At our A.P.C.M. we look back on the last year, reviewing our finances and receiving various reports. We rightly thank all those who have contributed to the life of our worshipping community, often doing those things we so easily take for granted.

My thanks to Philip, Kate, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Tony. To Hilary and Beth our churchwardens. To all PCC members. To Ann our Parish Safeguarding Officer. To Margaret and Geoff, and choir members. To our serving team. To the sacristy team. To the Sidespeople team. To those who read, and who lead intercessions. For those who ring our bells. To the cleaning team. To our flower arrangers and decorators. To those who draw up the rotas! To those who produce the pew sheet and 'Church Alive' and update our website. To those who care for our closed and open churchyards. To the Social Committee and those on the Coffee and Tea Rota. To the groups offering companionship and support. To Liz and Carolyn who manage the Church Hall. To those who give so generously of their time or treasure. And to those who faithfully pray for us all.

Whilst it is good to take stock and look back, we also ought to look forward. So, with that in mind, I would like to make some observations. It is good to see this sacred space, this Parish Church being open for the community beyond our worshipping community. I believe this Parish Church is a community resource open to everyone. It is good that we have been able to offer this space to the Trio Paradis Friday lunchtime concerts, while the Town Hall is being refurbished. It is a real pleasure to be hosting the Wednesday lunchtime series of concerts again.

We have welcomed back the Midsomer Choral Society and the Mendip Male Voice Choir, and have hosted services for the Probus Club and Rotary Club. In offering this space for these concerts and services we are encouraging many more people beyond our worshipping community to come in and enjoy this space.

It is good to hear our bells rung on a Sunday again. An important witness to the community at large – that the church is here and alive, and they are calling us to prayer and worship. We are grateful for the support and encouragement of ringers from local towers, particularly Chilcompton, Farmborough and Corston. It is pleasing to see the nucleus of our own band of ringers and learners forming, with our tower captain Robert Perry.

We are all called to witness to our faith in our day to day lives. When possible, Philip and I have visited those in need or who have asked us to visit them. It has been a privilege to lead services for Age Concern at the Orchard Centre, where day care is offered to vulnerable adults. I also attend the first half hour of Town Council meetings, where I am invited to give a short reflection before business begins. These are opportunities to meet people where they are and share the story of Jesus.

With Philip's past school experience and his eagerness to engage with our schools. I believe we are now building good relationships with four schools in our community.

We are all called to care for God's creation. I am really encouraged by our flower arrangers, who despite the difficulties and having to look again at how they do things, are creating wonderful arrangements without the use of oasis, which is so damaging to the environment. I am encouraged when we use china and glass for our hospitality, rather than paper or plastic. We are now recycling the metal from used votive candles. Small steps perhaps, but steps forward in recycling what we can. We are also looking at the amount we print, and the paper used, which both helps with the environmental impact and monitoring our costs of paper and ink.

The National Church is promoting Environmental Awards' schemes to encourage Parishes to strive for bronze, silver or even gold! It would be good for St John's to be one of the parishes working towards these in our Diocese to help us fulfil our stewardship responsibilities.

The natural environment in our care is also important, and I am heartened by the willingness of those who help maintain our closed and open churchyards, in finding ways of setting aside areas to 'grow wilder' and encourage natural diversity. It is also encouraging that offers of help from the wider community to maintain our churchyards have been forthcoming and gladly received.

These are challenging times for the Church; nationally, at Diocesan level, at Deanery level, and for every Parish and Benefice. The Diocesan financial situation we are facing is difficult. More resources and advice for parishes will be available in the autumn, so please do keep an eye on the Diocesan website. We have already been working with Kate Mayo, Archdeaconsy Giving adviser, about contactless giving and QR codes to enable those visiting us to give, even if they have no cash. I hope we will shortly join the Parish Giving Scheme, which our Diocese will be promoting, which saves treasurers a lot of work, because the scheme claims the gift aid on donations monthly, allowing Parishes a regular income and cash flow. Can I encourage you all to consider your level of generosity and if at all possible direct debit your regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme once it is up and running. I am about to change my internet provider to Truespeed, and this broadband provider is offering churches free internet access, which I hope we can take forward and benefit from.

It has been good to see study groups increasing steadily in size. Our most recent Lent Group provided us with an opportunity to think about the place of the Eucharist at the heart of our faith and our life together. It is good, too, to see participation in worship increasing again, especially on feast days and special occasions. Numbers of families coming for Christenings and weddings are encouraging, and our funeral ministry is building well. These occasional offices, as they are known, are important ways for us to connect with our wider community and show them God's love and welcome.

With the observations I have made, I am confident we have the green shoots of emerging hope. With that hope in mind, we step forward into God's future as a modern catholic worshipping community seeking to be inclusive, intergenerational, diverse, caring for creation, and striving to worship God in the beauty of holiness.

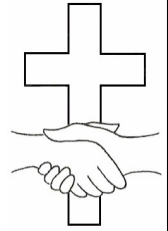
Yours in Christ, Guy

JUNE LADIES GROUP REPORT

The Ladies Group in June met at Downside, where Kay took us all around the Abbey. Her knowledge and obvious love of this Church made it a fascinating



and informative tour. We learned about the history of Its buildings and amongst many things, the poignant story behind the beautiful stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel, designed by Sir Ninian Comper and a most exquisite 15th century oak Madonna and child by Nikolaus Gerhaert.



We finished a lovely afternoon with a cream tea in the garden.

Many thanks to Kay for organizing the day.

Our July meeting includes Lawn Bowls at the home of Carol Moore. (Hope we don't damage her lawn too much!!)

(The picture is the altar in the Lady Chapel at Downside Abbey)

ST JOHNS' FRIENDSHIP GROUP

At our June meeting, we were delighted to welcome Pat Clynes who took us through her years as a Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nurse. She spend some of her time as a midwife. Two of the countries she nursed in was Singapore and Nepal, with the Gurkhas. Pat recalled may stories on her working experiences which we all found so interesting.

Pat provided lots of photographs and memorabilia for us all to see, which helped give us a bigger picture.

Margaret gave a vote of thanks to Pat and everyone agreed how entertaining the afternoon had been.

CHEESE & WINE WITH A SILENT AUCTION.

On Friday 21st July at 7pm, there will be a Cheese & Wine evening with a silent Auction, in the Church hall.

We would welcome goods for the Silent Auction please. Goods can be new or second hand, perhaps an ornament that you don't want to dust anymore, a book, picture, puzzle, handbag, handkerchief, chocolates, a bottle of drink given by your mother in law, which you never drink! A plant, dustpan & brush, anything please, but not the kitchen sink.

A plastic box will be placed at the back of the Church by the staircase for items to be placed please. If you are unable to get goods to Church, please contact Heather on 07882 734507 for collection.

Tickets £10 to include your first glass of wine/soft drink.

Thank you for all your support.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the concert by the Jenny Peplow Singers on 16 June a resounding success.

The amount raised for CHSW was £1,120



PATRONAL FESTIVAL

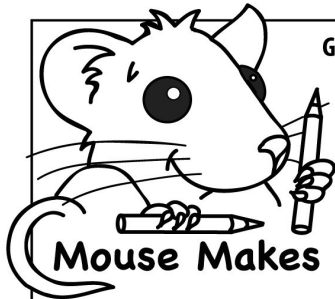


On Sunday 18th June we welcomed Bishop Michael to our Patronal Festival, who presided and preached at our 10am Eucharist Service

It was wonderful to see a full church, which included some of the pupils from St John's school with their parents. The young people led the prayers and the school choir sang beautifully during the communion..

Everyone agreed it was a lovely service



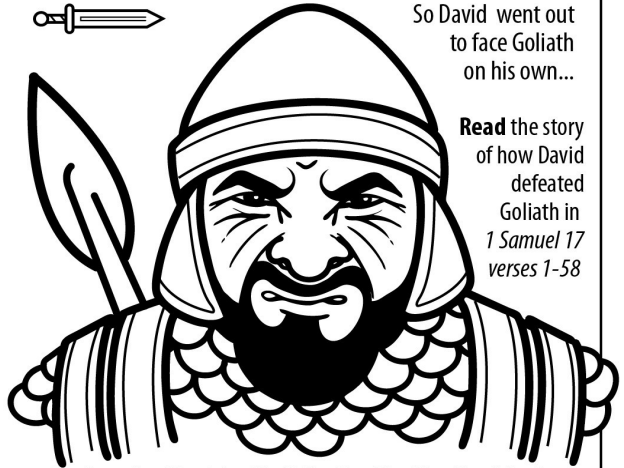


Goliath, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.
"Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me then we will be your servants!"

The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:
"The Lord who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

So David went out to face Goliath on his own...

Read the story of how David defeated Goliath in *1 Samuel 17 verses 1-58*



Where did Goliath come from?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:4*

How tall was Goliath?

_____ cubits.
1 Samuel 17:4

What was Goliath's armour made of?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:5,6*

What weapons did Goliath carry?

a JAVELIN,
 a _____
 and a _____
1 Samuel 17:45

How many stones did David take from the stream?

_____ *1 Samuel 17:40*

Where did David's stone hit Goliath? On his

_____ *1 Samuel 17:49*

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

ISRAEL • SAUL • DAVID • LORD • GOD • PHILISTINES • BATTLE • CAMP
 CHAMPION • GOLIATH • HELMET • ARMOUR • JAVELIN • SHIELD • FIGHT • BEAR
 LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND

GIFT DAY
Friday 14th July 2023
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 a chat over
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

Pat and Hilary.

Cheques should be made out to
PCC St John the Baptist.

The PCC would really appreciate your generosity.

Annual Deanery Service

On Sunday 30th July, St Johns will be hosting the
Annual Deanery Service.

The Service will start at 10:30

From The Registers

Baptism

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

21st May

Charlie Edward Docherty

BAPTISMS

CALLING ALL GARDENERS..... YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

The Midsomer Norton Fayre takes
place on
Saturday 8th July 2023
from 12pm-4pm
at the Town Park & Leisure Park.



Once again Fr Philip will be running a small plant stall
and he needs some colourful stock!

So if you have any unwanted summer bedding, spare
seedlings or plants in need of a new home, why not pot
them up and bring them along to the **church car park** on
the morning of

Friday 7th July between 10-12.00.

Date	Reader/<i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
2nd July	Heather Hill <i>Kay Harvey</i>	K Gay, L Powell
9th July	Les Martindale <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	J Shears, M Small
16th July	Carol Moore <i>Sally Curtis</i>	D Winter, J Winter
23rd July	David Moore <i>David Moore</i>	N Barnett, P Clynes
30th July	<i>Heather Hill</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
If you have to swop or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		

A little about this months front cover picture.

Santiago de Compostela is the capital of northwest Spain's Galicia region. It is known as the culmination of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage routes (of which there are many) and the alleged burial site of the apostle St. James. His remains reputedly lie within the Catedral de Santiago de Compostela.

The cathedral was consecrated in 1211, and its elaborately carved stone facades open onto grand plazas within the medieval walls of the old town.

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
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	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
PCC Vice Chairperson	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...).**



July 2023

Sunday 2nd	4th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 4th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 7th	10:00	Gardening Group
	12 noon	Trio Paradis Concert
Sunday 9th	5th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 11th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
Thursday 13th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
	10:00	Gardening Group
	10:00 - 12 noon	GIFT DAY
Sunday 16th	6th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 18th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 21st	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
	19:00	Cheese & Wine Evening
Sunday 23rd	7th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 25th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 28th	10 :00	Gardening Group
Sunday 30th	8th Sunday after Trinity	08:00 +
	Annual Deanery Service	10:30 here at St Johns

***This month's front cover was taken by Linda Broadhurst
The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela***