

# CHURCH ALIVE



**St. John the Baptist**  
**Midsomer Norton**  
**August 2023**  
Price 50p

# THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

## Vicar

The Revd: Guy Scott  
The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close  
Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ

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Email: vicarmsnstjohns@gmail.com

## Assistant Curate

Revd: Philip Hopper

Tel: 07596 759 584  
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## Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

Tel: 411216  
Email: msnparishoffice@gmail.com

## Churchwardens

Mrs Pat Clynes Tel:  
37 Staddlestones  
Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

Tel: 412928  
Email: patclynes@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Hilary Denning  
87 Nelson Ward Drive  
Radstock, BA3 3FS

Tel: 07828 550006  
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## 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 8*

**GIFT DAY**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Gift Day on Friday 14th July.

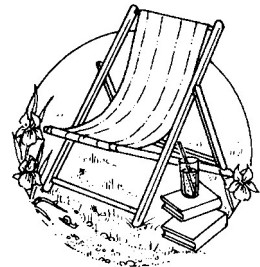
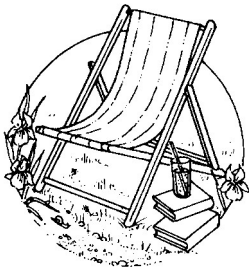
The church was a height of activity from 10am until 12 noon. There was lots of chatter and catching up with people we hadn't seen for some time, or people we don't get to talk to during the Services on a Sunday.

The delicious home made cakes went down well with the tea & coffee available. Thank you to all who provided the cakes and to Hilary and Pat for serving the drinks.

At the time of printing this magazine we do not have a total of the amount raised, as donations are still coming in.

As soon as it is available we will let you know how generous you all were.

Thank you all again for your continued support.



Dear Friends,

August is here, the academic year is at a close and the school summer holidays are underway. With such a hot dry June and then such a soggy July, I wonder if there will be much holiday weather left for the staff and pupils of our local schools to enjoy. We certainly hope there is. Whatever the weather we wish them all a restful and happy break.



Of course in times long gone the beginning of August would have seen the start of the corn harvest after the early summer haymaking. All hands would be called for, children included. All would gather together on the local farms to bring in the crop, to reap the rewards, before the downpours that would mark the end of the season.

Our climate and our harvests seem to work to a new rhythm these days. The scorching dry heat seems to come earlier and the damp soggy weather often sets in for the school holidays!



At the beginning of July we had great pleasure in selling our beautiful home grown plants at the Town Fayre, mostly grown during the dry and sunny spring. We had an attractive stall full of colour, on what turned out to be a day of heavy showers. But the rain didn't dampen our spirits or our sales, and we were delighted to make twice as much money as last year, alongside many new friends.

We also got a ringside view of our friends from our Church school as they competed in the Maypole Dancing. It was good to see them going home with yet another trophy this year! St John's CE Primary is our Church school and it is always a pleasure to see them doing well.



We were especially pleased for them to join us for our Patronal Festival in June when the Bishop of Bath and Wells came to preside at our special service commemorating the Birth of St John the Baptist.



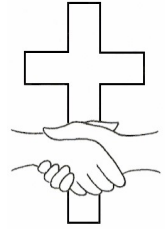
The school led our prayers wonderfully and sang beautifully as all received Holy Communion. It was a very special day. Coming in the final term of the year it was a harvest of sorts, as we came together to reap the rewards of our growing ties.



The sowing of seeds, the nurture of crops, the gathering in and reaping of rewards is not only the preserve of those on the allotment or in the fields! Roll on the new academic year, and another growing season.

Happy holidays everyone ,  
Fr Philip.

## JULY LADIES GROUP REPORT



After a showery day, the weather cleared up in late Afternoon so, as planned, we were able to meet at Carol's to play lawn bowls. Ann, who organised the Event, guided us through the rules and acted as scorer.

There were sighs and laughter depending on where the balls landed. A tape measure had to be used when the distance from the jack could not be decided just by looking. After several rounds had been played, Hilary was declared the winner and we then moved on to the terrace to chat, drink coffee and admire the garden.

Thank you to Carol for hosting the meeting and especially thank you to David for allowing us to use the lawn as a bowling green, which didn't appear to suffer any damage from our actions.



There is no meeting in August. Our next meeting will be in September when we gather at Ann's for a Beetle Drive.

## Exciting developments at Next Steps Nursery!

Next Steps Nursery, based at St. John's Primary School in Midsomer Norton, has welcomed children to a new custom-built building.

Now offering a free-flow environment to both inside and outside equipment, focussed activity areas and a new dedicated sensory room, the nursery's light and airy rooms provide a safe and secure environment where children can follow their interests and access a woodland area for dedicated forest school sessions.

Throughout the building works, the children have been following progress with keen interest particularly watching the crane at work and inspecting from a safe distance. The children have been busy looking after the outdoor area, replanting flowers and keeping the strawberry plants well-watered during this hot weather.

Next Steps Nursery is open for 2-5 year olds and is now taking bookings for September. For further information and to arrange a tour, the nursery can be contacted on 01761 205657 or e-mail [nextstepsnursery@stjohnsmsn.co.uk](mailto:nextstepsnursery@stjohnsmsn.co.uk) or visit the website: [www.stjohnsmsn.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsmsn.co.uk)



As you read this you may well be putting your feet up and having a well-earned rest from school, work or even church! Summer is a time for taking things a little easier and making space for rest and relaxation. But of course, many continue to work hard to make such recreation possible for us!



We may want to take a moment to value all those who make our holidays possible. There's always room to say, 'thank you!'

You will be aware that I recently had the opportunity of taking a little time out for some sabbatical. Howard and I spent a month walking the Via Di Francesco, a pilgrimage walk, in the footsteps of St Francis, in Italy. We walked some 140 miles from Rome to Assisi, using local transport for the other 40 or 50 miles along the way. We took our time, not least because of the wear and tear on our hips and knees as we went up and down steep gradients. In addition, it gave us room to notice things along the way.

It is often the small, seemingly insignificant things which can get overlooked as we travel through life isn't it. How many of us make the time to 'stand and stare' as William Davies puts it in his poem, 'Leisure'? So, I found myself discovering new meaning in the unexpected moments of pause that the walk brought us. The brief conversation with Destiny, a refugee, whilst we waited at a bus stop, who generously shared his bus tickets with us. The awareness of the world of creation around us – birdsong; the quill of a porcupine on the path; a family of wild pigs running through wheat fields. The kindness and hospitality of strangers. Encountering God in new people and places.

During this month, when perhaps the business of your life is stilled a little, are you expecting to encounter God? Will he need to break in or interrupt you, or how might you intentionally make time for him? Where might you notice the glimpses of God in the world around and hear his voice speaking into your experience?

I hope that this summer you will experience not only the rest and recreational power of a good holiday but also the space to renew your relationship with God. Along with the writer to the Ephesians, I pray 'that you may have the power to comprehend, ...what is the breadth and length and height and depth,' of God's love for you.

With love and prayers  
+Ruth

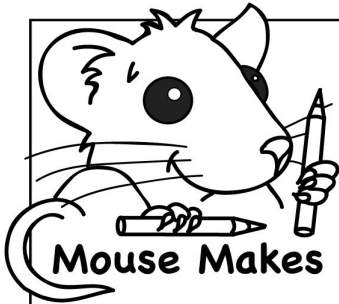
### **Diocese Manna News**

#### **A visible presence**

The Church Tent has been at two of our largest gatherings in the diocese this year, the Bath and West Show and Glastonbury Festival. The tents were manned by ecumenical teams and served a steady flow of visitors.

At the Bath and West Show, the Yeast Scrapstore from Glastonbury created a display on the theme of The Servant King. A series of questions; 'what are you worried about?', 'Who has been your greatest influence?' 'What are you thankful for?' and 'How do you serve?', prompted people passing by to add their thoughts, comments and prayers to a board outside the tent.





After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27,*  
*Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21*

**What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?**

-----  
*Matthew 14:23*

**What was the boat struggling against?**

The ----- and  
the -----

*Matthew 14:24*



**What did Jesus say to his disciples?**

Do not be -----

*Matthew 14:27*

**What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?**

A -----

*Matthew 14:26*

**Who walked out on the water to Jesus?**

*Matthew 14:29*

**What did Jesus say to Peter?**

Oh you of little -----  
why do you -----

*Matthew 14:31*



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

JESUS • DISCIPLES • BOAT • OTHER SIDE • CROWDS • MOUNTAIN • EVENING • ALONE • LAND • NIGHT • SEA  
 WALKING • TERRIFIED • FEAR • COME • WATER • SINK • SAVE • INTO • CEASED • WORSHIPED • SON OF GOD

Answer the questions then find them in the word search

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## Churchyard Garden Working Party

The Churchyard working group have made great progress in both churchyards and the car park has been cleared of weeds.

A number of graves that were hidden in the undergrowth have been uncovered, bushes have been trimmed and the paths cleared.

The wildflower patch, which was created last year in the open churchyard is now in flower and looking much better than expected.



We continue to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month around the church and on the 4th Friday in the open churchyard.

Dates for August are the 11th and the 25th. You are more than welcome to join us if you are able. *Many hands make light work*, as the saying goes.





*From The Registers*

**Christian Funeral**

**“May they rest in peace.”**

20th June            Hugh Pountney (at Kilmersdon)  
21st June            Nina Marie Rowden  
4th July             Alan Edward Gregory



**Baptism**

**“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”**

2nd July             Mollie Imogen Hancock  
16th July            Robert Daniel Hooper

BAPTISMS



**FROM THE PARISH PUMP**

**A.S.A.P.**

Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P. (As Soon As Possible)? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives. Yet there is another way to think of A.S.A.P, a way which might help us deal with those difficult times in our daily lives.

When there’s work to do, and deadlines to meet, and your colleagues are rushing around, here’s what you can do to help: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer*. When your worries mount up and you don’t know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer*.

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So – call Him! A.S.A.P.!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader/<i>Intercessions</i></b>	<b>Sides person</b>
6th August	John Shears <i>Jim Ballistone Thicke</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
13th August	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Carol Moore</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
20th August	Margaret Small <i>Ann Munton</i>	K Gay, L Powell
27th August	Linda Broadhurst <i>Kay Harvey</i>	J Shears, M Small
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		

### **FROM THE PARISH PUMP**

#### **Being bored is good for you**

This will cheer you up this summer, when your children mope around the house saying that they are bored: apparently a bit of boredom is *good* for them.

So says a senior educationalist, Julia Robinson, who has encouraged parents NOT to force their children into too many activities. Instead, they must be allowed to become bored, so that they can have time to be reflective and calm. Too many pursuits such as music lessons, sport and online learning could result in a generation of manic, anxiety-ridden adults, she warns. She points out that happiness does not come from a “regime of unrealistic multitasking, running oneself ragged with an exhausting programme of endless...activities.”

Another educationalist urged that children need “downtime.... They have the right to be bored, to give them the stimulus to be inventive, resourceful and self-reliant – all important life skills.”

#### **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

		<b>Telephone</b>
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	Mrs Carol Moore	412226
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](http://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/StJohnsMSN).**



# August 2023

Tuesday 1st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 4th	12:00	Trio Paradis Concert
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	<b>The Transfiguration</b>	
Tuesday 8th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 11th	10:00	Gardening Group
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	<b>10th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
Tuesday 15th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
		<b><i>Magazine Copy Date</i></b>
Friday 18th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	<b>11th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
Tuesday 22nd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 25th	10:00	Gardening Group
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<b>12th Sunday after Trinity</b>	
Tuesday 29th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church

***This month's front cover was taken in Tamel, Portugal showing a Flower Festival display outside the Church, Igreja Paroquial de Gao  
The Picture was taken by Andy Broadhurst***