

CHURCH ALIVE

View from the top of St John's Church



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

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

The Revd: Guy Scott
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Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ

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Mrs Hilary Denning
87 Nelson Ward Drive
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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 10

ALL SOULS' DAY

All Souls' Day, on November 2nd, gives us all the opportunity to join in worship for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. A time to remember those we have loved but see no longer. A time to reflect on all who died, on all who mourn and to offer our prayers to God.

During the Holy Eucharist on Thursday 2nd November at 12 noon and 19:30 there is the opportunity to remember those who have died by name.

If you would like your loved one/s to be remembered by name during this Eucharist please add their names to the list in church, which will be available from Sunday 15th October.

Also, from 15th October "Years Mind forms" will be available for completion, if you would like your loved ones remembered on the anniversary of their death during the calendar year of 2024.

With Resurrection hope.

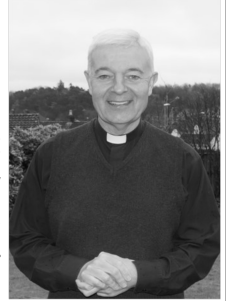
Guy

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH Sunday 1st October
12:30pm followed by an Auction of Harvest Gifts



Tickets available from the
Social Committee

Reflections from the Vicarage



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate and share in Harvest Thanksgivings at church and elsewhere in our community. It is vitally important that we take time, formally, once a year, to reflect on all God's goodness to us and to thank him for all his many blessings to us. We are so blessed in so many ways, and there is a real danger that we just take it all for granted. Nowadays, even in a place like Midsomer Norton, most of us have lost the vitality of the link between Harvest and survival/prosperity in the year ahead. Maybe that is why we have also lost some of that sense of living gratitude for what we have. I well remember during my years in farming the feelings of exhaustion, relief and gratitude as we brought the Harvest home, knowing that its success or otherwise could make or break us the following year.

Farming, of course is never about the 'one-off' or short-termism. Planning, preparation and sheer hard-graft all have vital parts to play in maximising the potential for a good return. After that though we really do have to leave it to God, praying that he will take our planning, our preparation and our work and will multiply them and bless them, so that our harvest will yield plenty for us and for others.

Harvest is a time for each and every one of us, to be encouraged first to 'count our blessings', to give thanks for them and then to think seriously and prayerfully about what our response as Christians, as followers of Christ, should be. How do we use the money, time and talents that have been given to us? Does our gratitude overflow and make us generous in our giving? How does what we give to God through the work of his church compare to other things we spend our money on? A loaf of bread, a pint of beer, a meal out, a weekend away? It is said that a quick look at our bank statements shows what we value and find important in life!

What would a stranger looking at ours conclude about our lives, our priorities and our beliefs? It's a question worth asking. There should be a clear match between what we say we value and believe and where our money goes!

Now I know as well as anyone that not everyone has limitless incomes and that times are hard. But we can be too cautious in our giving! Part of our calling as Christians is to give sacrificially, to make (sometimes hard) choices about where we spend our money. To go without something we'd like, so that others may have what they need. This is an important part of our calling to live in faith. Living in faith also encourages us not to be anxious about our lives. What we have and don't have can so easily take over our lives. Jesus tells us not to worry, to leave it to our heavenly Father who does and will provide generously for us.

God gives us everything we need in extravagant abundance. Let us give in the same way!

Yours in Christ, Guy

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

"May they live together in joy and peace"

Weddings


- 9th September Andrew Cox & Lucy Gay
- 14th September Alasdair Melville & Jennifer Gilliam
- 16th September William Abbott & Zoe Townhill

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our October 10th meeting, we will offer a warm welcome to Father Philip who will be talking to us on a subject of his choice.

Please remember, subscriptions are due - £5, thank you.

Please join us from 2:30 - 4pm in the Church Hall.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

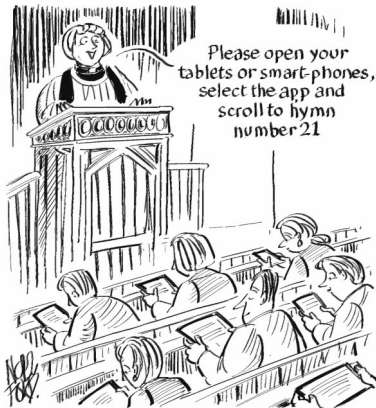
DECEMBER 1st - 3rd

To be held in CHURCH

We will be inviting businesses, Churches, organisations within our Town and of course, an invitation goes out to anyone of the St John's family and friends and all church organisations.

More details will be in the November magazine and letter invitations will be shared at church

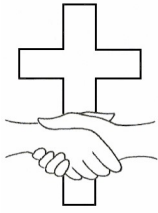
Please mark this event in your diary.



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows



LADIES GROUP

In September, Ladies Group held a 'Beetle Drive'. Some of us were very familiar with the game of 'Beetle' whilst others in the group had never played before.

Fortunately 'Beetle' is a very easy game to learn and the only requirements are paper, pencils and dice.

After a few games we shared coffee, biscuits and conversation.

Our next meeting will be at Ann Munton's house when she will talk about 'Minding the Gap'.

Ladies Group welcomes new members. If you would like more information about Ladies Group please pick up a programme from the back of church or speak to a committee member.

Clandown Church Memory

Colin Hunt writes:

This photograph of Clandown Church priest and choir was taken, I believe, around 1880.

The crucifer is my great-grandfather, John George Almond (*b. 1859*).

He lived in Clandown for almost his entire life, passing away in Mount Pleasant on October 29th, 1923. The flowers in St. John's on October 29th, 2023 are to be given in his memory to mark the centenary of his passing.



What an opportunity!

This week I was on a Zoom chat with some of our chaplains around the diocese. I meet regularly with eight or nine of them alongside our Chaplaincy Development Adviser Mike Haslam. These are only a few of the more than 300 chaplains we have, of all ages, lay and ordained, across Bath and Wells.



There are more and more enquiries about chaplaincy from a wide range of communities. They are seeking a chaplain to offer pastoral care and well-being support for an increasingly stressed and anxious workforce. One particular enquiry caught my attention this week.

A local Further Education college has been saying that their first concern is for a chaplain to address the spiritual exploration of its students. What an opportunity! We know from the Talking Jesus research (2015 and 2022) that most practising Christians come to faith before the age of 18. Several of our schools, including primary, have pupil chaplains now and this is a great way of recognising that you are never too young to start in living and telling the story of Jesus!

As a child I was always struck by the Old Testament story of the unnamed little slave girl who served Naaman's wife, (2 Kings chapter 5). Taken from her home to another country, and placed in an alien environment, she was the one who introduced Naaman to Elisha the prophet in Israel. As a result, Naaman overcame his scepticism, was healed from his leprosy, and discovered a faith in God.

Chaplaincy opens up a diversity of contexts in which we can share our faith and I invite you to pray for those here in Bath and Wells who are treading new ground to open up the way for others to discover the love of Jesus for themselves.

However, each one of us has our own possibility of being a chaplain, coming alongside another in our daily life and community. Sometimes our timidity prevents us from speaking up about faith and our personal spiritual journey other than in church where we are known and on familiar territory.

How about taking some time to reflect on where you might live and tell the story of Jesus outside of church, in your everyday context? Is there someone, like a Naaman's wife who is desperate to find help and hope for a loved one but doesn't know where to find it? Maybe you are the only one who could tell them!

With love and thankfulness for you all!

+Ruth

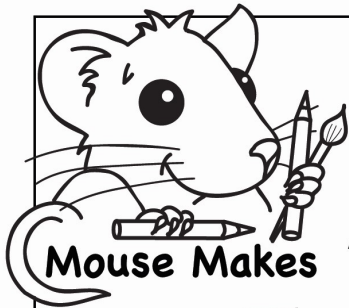
From the Diocese— Manna mailing Beach baptism for Jacob

On a sunny Sunday in the summer, the community of St. Peter's, Portishead gathered for the baptism of youth member Jacob.

Jacob explained his choice of the beach by saying, "I wanted to do it like they did in the Bible. Someone else did it and I thought it sounded really cool, also being on the beach is really cool."

The open setting led to conversations with some members of the public, providing an opportunity to share their beliefs with others in the community.





What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?
 _____ and _____

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?
 _____ and _____



1 Kings 17:14



What food did the ravens feed Elijah?
 _____ and _____

1 Kings 17:6



What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?
 _____ and _____

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?
 Five _____ and two _____

John 6:9

CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| MANNA | HONEY |
| OIL | WINE |
| WATER | FISH |
| LOCUSTS | QUAIL |
| LOAVES | FLOUR |

What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU
 MJWF PO CSFBE
 BMPOF, CVU PO
 FWFSZ XPSE UIBU
 DPNFT GSPN UIF
 NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

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

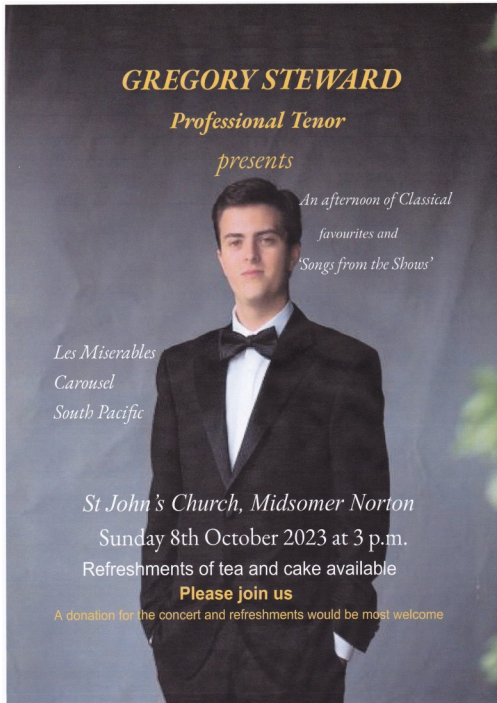
Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

- OLIVES • CHEESE
- FIGS • DATES
- MUSTARD
- RAISINS • WHEAT
- SALT • GRAIN
- FRUIT • GRAPES
- VEGETABLES

GREGORY STEWARD

Gregory Steward, a professional tenor and first class graduate from The Royal Welsh College of Music Drama will perform an afternoon concert at **3p.m. on Sunday 8th October** at St John's Church, Midsomer Norton.

He will perform some classical favourites as well as 'Songs from the Shows' featuring songs from Les Misérables, Carousel and South Pacific.



GREGORY STEWARD
Professional Tenor
presents
An afternoon of Classical
favourites and
'Songs from the Shows'

Les Misérables
Carousel
South Pacific

St John's Church, Midsomer Norton
Sunday 8th October 2023 at 3 p.m.
Refreshments of tea and cake available
Please join us
A donation for the concert and refreshments would be most welcome

Since graduating in 2022 Gregory has enjoyed performing numerous concerts in the South West as he embarks on his solo career.

Some of his most recent engagements were performing the role of the Evangelist in Stainer's Crucifixion at Taunton Minster and with Exeter Festival Chorus in Schutz' The Christmas Story.



FROM THE PARISH PUMP

Bible Sunday – 29th October

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words *'the most valuable thing that this world affords'*. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times).

Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.



TOWER TOURS

As part of the Midsomer Norton Heritage Open Days, on the afternoon of Sunday 10th September, the church was open for people to look around the building. Visitors were given the opportunity to climb the 100 steps to the roof of the tower.

The weather was good for the event, maybe a little too warm for Guy, Philip and Kate who did a tremendous job of escorting people on the journey to the top. Part way up, there was a pause for people to get their breath and also for them to view the bells.

Strict rules were in force with regard to health & safety. A group of hopefuls were disappointed when told they couldn't go up as they were not wearing appropriate footwear. Keen not to miss this chance, they went home and came back in suitable footwear!!

Pat Marriott had spent a lot of time researching history of the church (helped by the information from the book written by Tony Daniels) and had produced a time-line going back to 1086. This was accompanied by numerous photos many featuring incumbents.

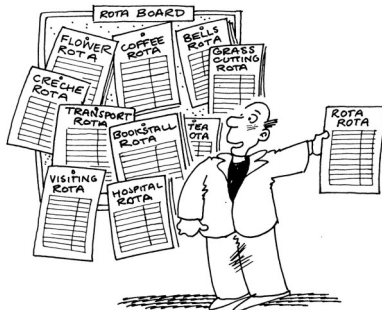
Refreshments were available and enjoyed by both the tower climbers and others who had come just to look around the building.

In total, 70 people were taken up the tower in 9 groups. Of these, 25 were in the 8-17 age range, 20 in the 18-50 and 25 over 50's.

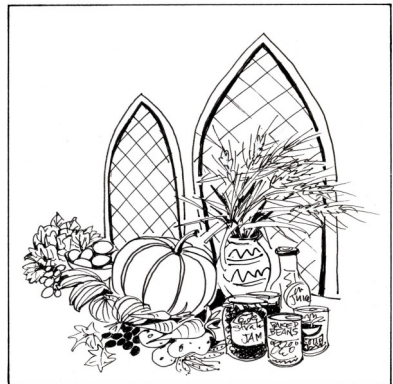
A couple of comments heard '*I was christened here*' and from someone who was in the over 50's age category '*I haven't been in here since I attended St John's School*'

The afternoon, although not intended to be a fund raising event, raised over £100 in donations. A big thank you to all who helped make the event such a success.

Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
1st October	Les Martindale <i>Ann Munton</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
8th October	Carol Moore <i>Kay Harvey</i>	K Gay, L Powell
15th October	David Moore <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	J Shears, M Small
22nd October	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	D Winter, J Winter
29th October	John Shears <i>Sally Curtis</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
<p>If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you</p>		



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"



***This month's front cover is a view from the top of the Church Tower
Taken by David Winter***

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	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
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...).**



October 2023

Sunday 1st October	Harvest Thanksgiving	
	12:30	Harvest Lunch & Auction
Tuesday 3rd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	19:00	PCC Meeting
Friday 6th	12:00	Trio Paradise Concert
Sunday 8th	18th Sunday after Trinity	
	15:00	Concert with Gregory Steward
Tuesday 10th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
Thursday 12th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 13th	10am - 12noon	Gardening group
Saturday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Sunday 15th	19th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 17th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 20th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 22nd	20th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 24th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 27th	10:00	Gardening Group
Sunday 29th	Bible Sunday	
Tuesday 31st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church