

CHURCH ALIVE



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
November 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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Assistant Curate

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87 Nelson Ward Drive
Radstock, BA3 3FS

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SERVICES

SUNDAY

8am Said Eucharist 10 a.m. Parish Eucharist

WEEKDAYS The 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 11

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.

Also, "Years Mind forms" are 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

INFORMATION FOR SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

November 1st **All Saints' Day** 7:30pm Sung Eucharist with incense.

November 2nd **All Souls' Day** 12 noon : Holy Eucharist
with Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.
7:30pm: Sung Eucharist
with Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.

November 12th **Remembrance Sunday**

Please note that the **Parish Eucharist will begin at 9:30am**

10:55am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

11:30am Remembrance Service in Parish Church

Dear Friends,

Autumn colour and fruitfulness comes with much to celebrate. This year's Harvest Thanksgiving was particularly joyful as we were joined once again by pupils from St John's School. They helped tell the story of a foolish farmer and led our prayers of intercession beautifully.



As the season progresses the mood pauses to look back. November brings a long look over our shoulders to times of loss and sacrifice. Nature retreats before our eyes as autumn speeds toward the darkest time of the year. For some this time brings a heaviness of heart. The joy and light of December, crowned by our Christmas festivities is still some time off as a reflective mood takes hold.

That heaviness of heart can be deepened by the tragedies and suffering we witness daily on the news. Our hearts can break at the suffering we witness. Feelings of powerlessness can confound us as we struggle to see what we can do to make things better.

Our faith calls us to action, to be the hands of Christ in the world. But for many the ways and means to act feel insignificant or at best limited. We may donate what we can spare to good causes and to those who can act on our behalf, but what else can we do? Well we can pray. In company or alone, we can articulate our pain and hopes, beseeching strength, expressing our love and giving thanks. Each Sunday members of our congregation do just that by leading our prayers of intercession at our Parish Eucharist. They are an important part of our collective prayer life. They are particularly enriched when they reflect a range of voices. Shared widely, they reflect our community and our diversity, as we come together before God, expressing our hopes and thanks each week.

On Saturday **4th November** we will be having a refresher meeting for those who currently lead our Sunday intercessions. It's also a chance for those of you who may be thinking of joining our regular team to find out what it entails.

So if you would like to find out more please come and join us in church between **10-11.00am**. Refreshments will be provided.

Our collective Intercessory prayer is but one way that we communicate with God. There is far more to prayer than a shopping list of hopes. Our words, our thoughts, our requests, our thanks and praise, are all important but they also need to be balanced by times of listening to God. In any conversation we need to speak and to listen.

On Sunday 15th October a small group of us met together for a time of silent prayer. Sat in a circle we relaxed in God's presence, opening ourselves to Him and waiting on Him. Nourished by stillness our silence can make us more aware of God's presence.

Each time we come out of the silence we bring a little more stillness into our world, a little more of Christ's love, a little more peace. And of all the gifts we and our world need at this time, surely peace is most needed.

Our next Silent Prayer meeting will take place at **4pm on Sunday 19th November**. Held in God's loving embrace, we will rest and listen, exploring the silence together. Why not come and join us?

Fr Philip.

Leading Intercessory prayers

Our Sunday intercessory prayers are an important part of our collective prayer life. They are particularly enriched when they reflect a range of voices. Shared widely, they reflect our community and our diversity, as we come together before God.

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HARVEST LUNCH

Thank you to all who joined together for a very tasty lunch.

We gave thanks to God for all His goodness and blessings and enjoyed a very friendly and happy occasion.

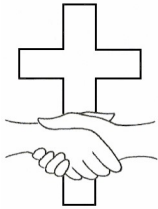
With Father Jim our auctioneer, encouraging us all to buy the donated Harvest produce, a generous donation was raised and will be given to the local Food Bank.

We look forward to sharing lunch again with you all, very soon.

'Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all His love.'



LADIES GROUP



Attendance at the October was affected by both illness and the fact that another event was held on the same day. In the event it was decided to postpone the planned talk to next year. Instead we had tea and biscuits and exchanged our news.

A pleasant evening of fellowship was had by all.

Our November meeting the AGM which will be held at Lynn Powell's house. If there is any activity that you would like to see in the programme for next year please let the committee know.



CHRISTMAS SHOP

We will be holding a 'Christmas shop' stall during the Christmas Tree Festival where we will be selling Christmas items. It is hoped that we will continue to open the 'Christmas Shop' on Sundays during Advent after the 10am Sunday Parish Eucharist.

We will gladly accept any **new and unused gifts** and other items to sell but please ***no bric-a-brac or used goods*** and all proceeds from this stall will be for Church funds

There will be a box at the back of the church for your kind donations during November.

Advent Service by Candlelight 4pm on Sunday 3rd December



If you are intending to come to this Service,
please can you bring a Lantern with a battery candle if possible.

Welton Primary School Visit

It was wonderful to welcome Y3 pupils from Welton Primary School's Kingfisher Class, on Wednesday 4th October to visit our Church.

Following a talk about Baptism they explored the church looking at the stained glass windows, the Lady Chapel and even got to ring a bell.

Time to re-member

I am shortly leaving Bath and Wells for a time to serve as interim Acting Diocesan Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry. You may know that the city of Coventry saw some very heavy shelling during World War 2, which resulted in the destruction of the Cathedral.



A new Cathedral has since been built and stands alongside the old ruin as a testament of hope. Though different in style, there's a harmony of old and new. It shows us where conflict can destroy, peace can be found as we seek to live together as the people of God.

This marrying of modern and traditional styles of architecture, helps us to consider how we fashion the life we are called to live as Christians in our communities. It is not that we put aside our differences nor require others to conform to our own shape or form. Rather we recognise the value of listening fully to others and learn to hear the voice of God. Determining to value the worth of each contribution and discerning together a faithful walk with God.

This season of Remembrance encourages us to look back and to value the contributions of those who have gone before us, giving their lives in the service of others. It is not about glorifying the concept of war and conflict but the desire to establish a peaceful world for all. As we look back, so we are invited to look forward and commit to establishing a world where all have a place and where the Prince of Peace, Jesus, is our example.

Coventry is the home to the Community of the Cross of Nails. A community of reconciliation based around the cross fashioned by iron nails found within the ruins of the Cathedral following the fire. Its mission is to live out the practice of peace-building, encouraging people across the world to learn to be reconciled with themselves and one another, as they find reconciliation with God, through Christ.

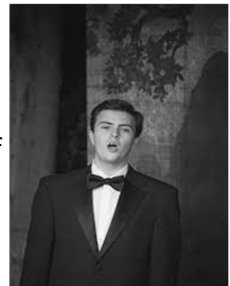
As I leave here, I do so with plenty of memories, many happy, occasionally sad. Often the latter are those where I have got things wrong and failed to live up to my calling to be the grace-filled child of God I long to be. So, if I have let you down, I am sorry and please pray for me, as I will for you, that God continues to reconcile us to Himself and to one another.

And as we hold our acts of remembrance this month, may we become **re-membered** (put back together), as the people of God.

Bishop Ruth

Concert by Gregory Steward

On Sunday 8th October we were entertained in Church for two hours by Tenor, Gregory Steward. Gregory graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music with a First Class Honours Degree in Music. Prior to this he was a joint specialist vocal and trumpet scholar at Wells Cathedral School.



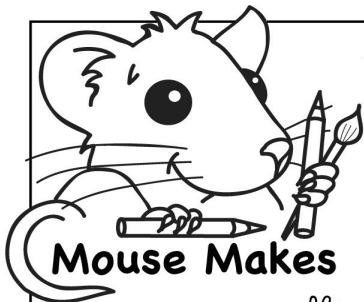
Gregory's passion is opera and he hopes to pursue this as a career along with performing recitals as he did for us.

Among his very professional performance he sang for us a varied selection of music including:

Vaga Luna by Bellini, *None But the Lonely Heart* by Tchaikovsky, *Be My Love* & *'The Toast of New Orleans'* by Brodsky, *You are my Heart's Delight* by Franz Lehar, *Torna A Surriento* & *Non Ti Scodar* by Ernesto de Curtis and from the Musicals he sang *If I Loved You*, from *Carousel*, *This Nearly Was Mine* from *South Pacific*, *Bring Him Home*, *Empty Chairs at Empty Tables* & *Stars* from *Les Miserables* .

Gregory ended the concert with a lovely rendition of *O Sole Mio* by Eduardo Di Capua

A wonderful afternoon of song was enjoyed by all who attended and we look forward to welcoming him again in the future.



"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by
_____ and

with thanksgiving, present your
_____ to God."

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

"The _____

is _____

to all who _____

on him in _____"

Psalm 145:18

"For where two or three _____

in my name, there
I am with them."

Matthew 18:20



SAV SORRY

PRAY FOR OTHERS

PRAY FOR YOURSELF

THANK GOD

FOR MY FAMILY

PRAY FOR FRIENDS

PRAY FOR THE NEEDY

PRAY FOR THE SICK



PRaise GOD



NIV



Look up the
Bible verses,
fill in the
blanks then
find them in the
word search

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

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH



Find these
words too:

APPROACH
MEDITATE
HEAR • LISTEN
BLESS • PRAISE
FORGIVE • NAME
CRY OUT • AMEN

" _____
always, _____
continually, _____

in all circumstances."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



"Therefore, _____

your sins to one another and
_____ for one another,
that you may be healed."


James 5:16

" _____
yourselves _____

to prayer, being
watchful and
thankful."

Colossians 4:2





This year, instead of a Christmas Fair, we are organising a Christmas Tree Festival. To celebrate the community of Midsomer Norton. St. John the Baptist Parish Church is at the heart of Midsomer Norton and we hope very much that you will consider taking part by decorating a tree of your choice.

Please feel free to decorate a tree in any way you choose. Once in place, the trees will reflect the richness and diversity of Midsomer Norton, whilst supporting local organisations and businesses.

The festival will take place on:-

Friday 1st December. 10am - 4pm and 6 - 7.30pm

when the lit trees will look wonderful in a candlelit church. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served during this evening.

Saturday 2nd December 10 - 4pm Refreshments available

Sunday 3rd December 12.30 - 3.30pm

Refreshments available followed by our beautiful **Candlelit Advent Carol Service at 4pm** with refreshments served afterwards.

We are expecting an enthusiastic response to this event and hope that any members of the congregation who would like to decorate a tree will do so, as an individual or as a family. If you would like to take part then please contact Heather Hill . Tel:- 07882 734507 or email heather.hill264@gmail.com to book your place by 30th October 2023.

We really hope you will take part in this exciting project and to help you in the meantime, here are a few pointers:

You may provide a tree as a business, family or group.

The church will be open for setting up on Wednesday 29th November 3 - 6pm and Thursday 30th November. 10 - 2 pm.

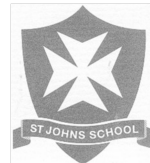
The tree can be artificial or real (but please no taller than 6ft/ 183 cms).

The tree can be decorated in any way you wish.

If you wish your tree to be lit, then we ask you to use battery operated lights. Once the festival is over you will be able to take your tree home and enjoy it over the Christmas season.

The church will be open for you to collect your tree on Monday 4th December between 3 -7pm

Some news from St John's Primary School & Nursery



At Next Steps Nursery we love to read!

This term we have been learning about autumn and have shared the story 'Pumpkin soup.' This is a lovely story about friendship and how important it is to work together. The children then explored real pumpkins, scooping out the seeds, mixing other 'ingredients' from the mud kitchen and pretended to make their own pumpkin soup!

Learning in Year 1

As part of our learning in English in term 1, Year 1 visited Midsomer Norton Library. We enjoyed two lovely stories being read to us by the librarians. Both stories were about libraries and how fabulous books are. They made us laugh! After the stories, we each spent time choosing a book to borrow and take back to school for the rest of the term.

It has been lovely hearing all the different stories during story time in class and sharing facts from the non fiction books too! We have also been basing our writing on the book 'The Train Ride' by June Creebin. We have been learning how to use adjectives and how to expand our sentences to add interest by using the conjunction 'and'.

Learning in Year 2

In our English lessons in term 1, our Year 2 children have been exploring the story of 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. To immerse them in the story we have researched the common barn owl, created our own fireworks pictures and even had our very own campfire, complete with toasted marshmallows, hot chocolate and campfire songs!

The children have used all of these experiences to help them in their independent writing with some fantastic results.



FROM THE PARISH PUMP

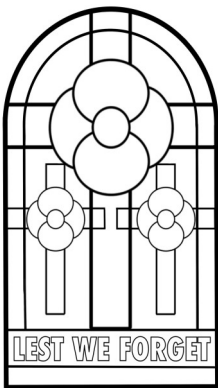
A new kind of Remembrance Poppy

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: “We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the Royal British Legion’s commitment to sustainability.”

Available from October 2023, the new poppy is made from an innovative blend of renewable fibres from responsible sources and can be recycled in ordinary paper recycling collections.

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to “be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment.”



The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it is made from “bespoke red and green paper.” The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury’s stores for recycling.

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

22nd October

Theo Haynes-Jenner

BAPTISMS

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

27th September

Pamela Mary Day

19th October

Barbara Bush



FROM THE PARISH PUMP

Happy Birthday, King Charles!

King Charles was born 75 years ago this month, on 14th November 1948, at Buckingham Palace in London. He was the longest-serving monarch-in-waiting in British history and did not ascend the throne until he was 73, following the death of his mother in September 2022.



Charles was crowned in the first coronation in seven decades, on 6th May 2023. His current title is King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

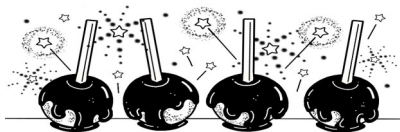
But King Charles has also become head of the Commonwealth, an association of 56 independent countries and 2.5 billion people. For 14 of these countries, as well as the UK, the King is head of state. These countries are known as the Commonwealth realms. They are Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

Date	Reader/<i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
5th November	Margaret Small <i>David Moore</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
12th November	Linda Broadhurst <i>Jim Ballistone Thicke</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
19th November	Robert Broughton <i>Carol Moore</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
26th November	Hilary Denning <i>Ann Munton</i>	K Gay, L Powell
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		

St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton Hire of Church Hall

The hall can be hired for £12per hour for regular or one-off bookings
There is disabled access and toilet facilities, along with a baby changing area. A fully fitted kitchen, table & chairs and will fit a 15x15 bouncy castle for children's parties

Please contact: Carolyn Wroe on 07591 557578



This month's front cover is taken from the Parish Pump

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
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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/StJohnsMSN).**



November 2023

Wednesday 1st	All Saints Day	19:30 Sung Eucharist
Thursday 2nd	All Souls Day	Holy Eucharist
	12noon & 19:30	
Friday 3rd	12:00	Trio Paradise Concert
Saturday 4th	10:00	Intercessory meeting
Sunday 5th	4th Before Advent	
Tuesday 7th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
Thursday 9th	19:30	Ladies Group AGM
Friday 10th	10am - 12noon	Gardening group
Sunday 12th	Remembrance Sunday	* Parish Eucharist at 9:30am
	10:55 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial	
	11:30 Remembrance Service in Church	
Tuesday 14th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Friday 17th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 19th	2nd Before Advent	
	16:00	Silent Prayer
Tuesday 21st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	19:00	PCC Meeting
Friday 24th	10:00	Gardening Group
Sunday 26th	Christ the King	
Tuesday 28th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church