

CHURCH ALIVE

January 2024



St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton
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
Email: curatemsnstjohns@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

Tel: 411216
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Churchwardens

Mrs Pat Clynes Tel:
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Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

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

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 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 808 Number 1

Wishing you all a
Happy New Year
&
Welcome to the first edition
Of Church Alive for

2024

News from the pews

Congratulations to Kay & Dave Harvey on becoming grandparents for the first time.

Alfred was born on 6th December and we wish him and his parents all the very best for the future.



Reflections from the Ministry Team

Happy New Year!



Dear Friends,

2024 has arrived amid celebration and some trepidation. Many will be glad to see the back of 2023, a year where many basics became the price of luxuries and bloodshed dominated international news. It is our most sincere hope and prayer that those least able to cope in our world will have a more secure and comfortable 2024.

Unlike the world around us, our church's liturgical New Year began back in November, when the season of Advent began. And unlike the world around us, we continue our Christmas celebrations until the feast of Candlemas on 2nd February. Only then will our beautiful Christmas tree and our altar crib scene be packed away for another year. So Happy Christmas everyone!

For most of January our Christmas celebration is known as the season of Epiphany. The day after the 12th day of Christmas, on 6th January, we celebrate the feast of Epiphany, when we recall the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. Only then do the crib scene kings finally make it from the back of the church to our stable within the altar.

For many Christians in the world, especially for the Eastern Churches, Epiphany is the time for gift giving and celebration. And we would do well to spend time this Epiphany thinking of what gifts we bring to Our Lord at this time.

Many of us offer the gift of our time and talents. We are blessed with volunteers who clean the church, arrange flowers and tidy the churchyard. There are those who volunteer in our community. And others who welcome, sing, pray and read in our weekly worship.

We also have all those who assist Guy in bearing the responsibility for the running of church. All offer gifts - gifts without which our Christian presence in the community would be severely diminished.

Like the world about us, one of the most pressing issues facing us as a church is the cost of living. Unlike many parish churches, St John's is blessed to have one dedicated stipendiary parish priest. Sadly our ability to maintain this ministry and serve our community would be in question if we were unable to pay our financial contributions to the diocese each year.



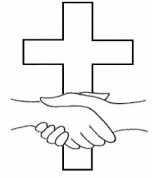
Our treasurer has set out our considerable challenge in this edition of Church Alive. Please do spend some time this Epiphany thinking of the gift of our witness in Midsomer Norton and please do consider if you may be able to increase your regular giving. We would be hugely grateful if you could help us in these difficult times. Thank you.

We all have something to bring, it may not be gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but we all have gifts or talents we can bring to serve Our Lord. Money might be tight but as a well-loved carol reminds us...*but what I can I give Him?...Give my heart...*

With every blessing for the year ahead,
Fr Philip.



Ladies Group December Social



Our December meeting was held at the home of Sally, Where we enjoyed mince pies, mulled wine and non-alcoholic drinks for those driving.

Lots of conversation took place, catching up with all our preparations for Christmas and how we all enjoyed the Tree Festival. Margaret shared the news of her lovely day at the Children's Hospice and meeting Queen Camilla.

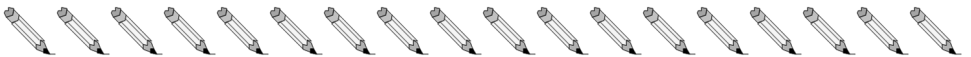
Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th January where we will be discussing films.

Children's Hospice South West



children's hospice
SOUTH WEST

Please can you save the stamps from your Christmas card envelopes and deposit them in the box at the back of church. The money raised from the stamps helps further the work of the hospice.
Thank you



Social Group News



The next Social event at St John's will be a quiz night on Friday 16th February at 7pm. The cost of a ticket will be £5.00 which includes light refreshments.



THE PARISH SHARE

Please take a moment to read this explanation of the Parish Share and its relevance for our parish.

The Parish Share is the amount paid to the Diocese of Bath and Wells common fund and it is designed to cover parish and school support, vocation training and the stipend of a full-time priest, together with housing and pension costs. The amount requested from St John's towards these costs is £55000 for 2024 and the PCC is committed to making this contribution in full. If St John's does not meet the full cost, we run the risk of amalgamation with another parish and/or the loss of a full-time priest.

The PCC is very aware of the tremendous generosity of our congregation, in giving both money and time towards the upkeep and running of the church. In 2023, the Parish Share paid by St John's was £47500, which means we need to find an additional £7500 to cover the amount requested for 2024.

To be able to cover fully the cost of our parish ministry, the PCC needs your assistance. Please consider how you could help: -

- If you are already a regular giver by bank standing order or through the envelope scheme, please increase the amount per month or week, if you can.
- If you contribute through the envelope scheme, please consider setting up a bank standing order.
- If you are not yet part of the planned giving scheme, please consider setting up a regular contribution, either by monthly bank standing order or the weekly envelope scheme.

The amounts given are strictly confidential and the Treasurer is happy to answer any questions you may have.

Kay Harvey
Treasurer
01761 416050

Hilary Denning
Pat Clynes
Churchwardens

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

It has been 5 years since the last Christingle service at our church.

On Wednesday afternoon on 13th December the church was filled with families, coming straight from St John's School.

They came to support our fundraising for The Children's Society and to create happy festive memories. The light and hope of the coming feast was all around.

Thank you to all who attended, all who participated and all those who worked so hard to make over 140 Christingles!



FROM THE PARISH PUMP

A simple way to help cut your risk of diabetes

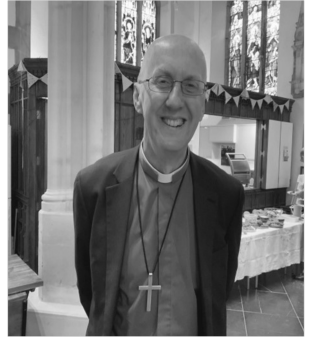
A recent study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine has found that your risk of diabetes falls for every kilometre per hour faster that you walk on average.

Put simply, if you walk at a pace of 3km per hour (1.86 mph) you may lower your risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by at least 15 per cent. If you can walk briskly at a speed of 5km to 6km an hour (3.1 to 3.7mph) than you may cut the risk by 24 per cent.

A lack of exercise and being overweight are among the factors that increase the risk of diabetes as someone gets older.

Bishop's letter - Hope in deed

I'd love to be writing a sunny New Year's article reflecting a boundless global optimism about the future. Yet the reality is very different. War in Ukraine drags on and tensions in the Middle East remain dangerous. The cost-of-living crisis continues and many are finding things tough. Pessimism rather than optimism is the order of our day.

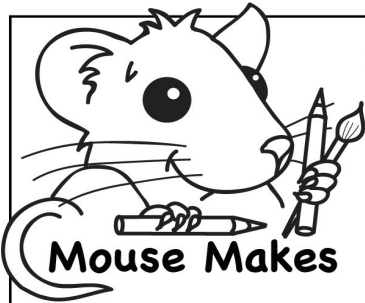


In such circumstances, where can hope be found? For Christians, confidence and assurance rest in the promise of the future that God has in store for us. In the Bible God says: 'See, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end' (Revelation 21: 5-6). Christian hope is that whatever may be happening to us now, God has a very different and favourable future in store for us.

Critically, the point of such hope is not just to enable us to say 'Well don't worry about present circumstances. It's all going to be all right eventually.' Hope's purpose is to shape how we live and what we do now. It's to enable us to live out the words of the old Christian Aid poster that said, 'We believe in life before death'.

Towards the end of last year, I had the privilege of visiting a number of the deaneries of our diocese. On those visits I heard at first-hand how through the work of our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, Christian hope translates into practical action for good amongst the everyday lives of local communities. We are offering debt counselling and food banks, support for families and care of the lonely and isolated. All these and many more were amazing examples of how we can join with God to 'make all things new' right here, right now.

So, as we start a new year, please can I encourage us all not to stare into our glasses, lamenting their being half full? Rather, through how we live and what we do, let us fill them with the new wine of God's kingdom – overflowing to the brim. For that is hope in deed.



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.



Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?

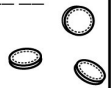


Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

and -----

 Luke 2:11



Where did the wise men come from?
 the -----

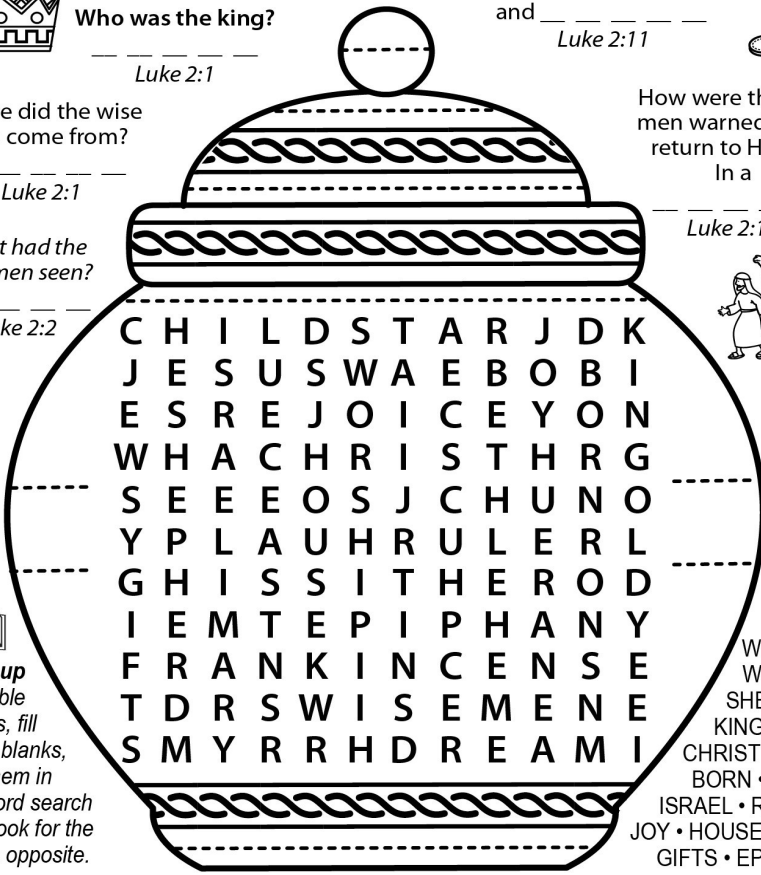
 Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
 In a -----

 Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----
 Luke 2:2



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



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

JESUS
 WISEMEN
 WORSHIP
 SHEPHERD
 KING • JEWS
 CHRIST • CHILD
 BORN • RULER
 ISRAEL • REJOICE
 JOY • HOUSE • MARY
 GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

Jan24 © Deborah Noble @parishpump

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Over the first weekend of December, after some years of absence, our Christmas Tree Festival proved to be a great success.

There was a display of 26 trees which were decorated by local businesses, organisations and individuals in wonderfully original and creative ways. From the witty, the pretty, the thoughtful and simply the twinkly, there was a tree for everyone to appreciate.



The Trio Paradis concert took place on Friday lunchtime and brought in a number of visitors who were delighted by the display of trees.

A programme of organ music accompanied people on Saturday morning and delicious cakes and rolls were provided by the catering team. The stewards were kept busy welcoming families and shoppers throughout the Festival.

A 'Christmas shop' proved to be a welcome chance to chat and buy some Christmas goodies whilst adding to the festive atmosphere.

The Festival closed with the Candlelit Advent Carol Service which was well attended and provided a perfectly peaceful and prayerful beginning to Advent.

Thank you to everyone who supported, donated and worked so very hard to ensure the success of the Festival which raised over £1700.



Concerts and Visitors in Church during December

What a wonderful range of visiting singers and musicians we had during December. We were pleased to welcome such a variety to perform and hold their Carol Services in our Church.

On Friday 1st the Trio Paradis had their monthly concert surrounded by all the lovely decorated trees from our Tree Festival.

Tuesday 5th in the morning we welcomed Probus for their annual Carol Service.

The following Tuesday (12th) it was the turn of the Rotary Club Carol Service in the evening.

On Saturday 16th the Midsomer Choral Society held their Christmas Concert here in Church.

Finally on Monday 18th we welcomed the Mendip Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert.

All were very well supported and from the feed back we have received they were all very much enjoyed.

Thank you to all the performers and visitors for all your support in visiting our Church. We hope to see you all again in 2024.



Manna Mailing from the Diocese

News in brief

The Souls of our Shoes

An exhibition by the Mothers' Union has been on display in Wells Cathedral, and at November's Diocesan Synod, to draw attention to the issue of domestic violence. It features shoes of all different styles, sizes, and colours along with a comment from those who have walked away from abuse and those who have journeyed with them.

Created by the Mothers' Union in Scotland, it is an extension of the Union's initiatives to highlight abuse, and the practical and prayerful support that is offered to families. It is hoped it can "provide a reminder that with timely help, many can escape from their abusive situations, rebuild their confidence and live in safety."

* * * * *

Sustainable flowers

More than 40 church flower arrangers from 15 churches attended St James' in Taunton to learn how to arrange flowers in a more environmentally-friendly way. Research suggests that traditional floral foam, also known as oasis, is non-recyclable and contains the same amount of plastic as 10 plastic shopping bags.

Angie Blackwell of Cottage Flowers, Ilminster shared her alternatives and Lyn from St James' said, "Angie shared lots of hints and tips... I for one certainly came away more confident in moving away from using floral foam and have taken another step toward an eco-friendlier ministry in flowers."



From The Registers

Christian Funeral

“May they rest in peace”

7th December Malcolm Allen Norman

11th December Charles Robinson



Holy Baptism

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

3rd December Annabel West-Gaul



St John’s School Y2 visit to the Christmas Tree Festival

On Monday 4th December pupils from St John’s School visited the church before our wonderful Christmas Tree Festival finally came to a close.

Pupils from Y2 took the opportunity to rehearse for their candlelight concert that took place on Wednesday 6th.



Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
7th January	David Moore <i>Carol Moore</i>	K Gay, L Powell
14th January	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Ann Munton</i>	J Shears, E Densley
21st January	John Shears <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	D Winter, J Winter
28th January	Margaret Small <i>Jim Balliston-Thicke</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>		



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 was 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
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/StJohnsMSN).**



January 2024

Tuesday 2nd 10:30 - 11:45 Coffee in Church

Sunday 7th Epiphany

Tuesday 9th 10:30 - 11:45 Coffee in Church

Thursday 11th 19:30 Ladies Group

Sunday 14th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Magazine Copy Date

Tuesday 16th 10:30 - 11:45 Coffee in Church

Friday 19th 11:00 St Johns cell of Our Lady
Of Walsingham - Eucharist

Sunday 21st 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Tuesday 23rd 10:30 - 11:45 Coffee in Church

Sunday 28th 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Tuesday 30th 10:30 - 11:45 Coffee in Church
19:00 PCC Meeting

