

CHURCH ALIVE

February 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

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 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
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 Clandown
Volume 808 Number 2

Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton
with Clandown



Come and join us on **Friday 2nd February at 6.30 pm** as we
celebrate **Candlemas**, The Feast of the Presentation of
Christ in the Temple.

During the service **Rev'd Philip Hopper** will be licensed as
Associate Priest by The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott,
Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

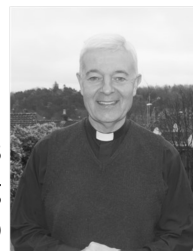
Refreshments will follow.

Please pray for Fr Philip, Fr Guy and the people and parish
of St John the Baptist, amongst whom Fr Philip continues
to serve.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Reflections from the Ministry Team



Dear Friends,

When it is cold outside and daylight hours are short, it is wonderful to see people helping each other out, looking after family members, friends and neighbours. It is also good that we can offer help within our wider community, so I am delighted that we, as a church community, are able to support our local food-bank. It is good to see a steady flow of food items coming in week by week to help those who need support in our local community. May our generous response last as long as the need! It's a good example of how our individual efforts, which wouldn't make much difference on their own, can be joined to something bigger and make a real difference.

Lent begins quite early this year, with Ash Wednesday falling on the 14th February. I hope that you may consider joining our Lent Course, which will run on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm in the choir vestry. This is an opportunity, alongside whatever else we may offer to God in terms of self-denial or discipline, to take on the chance to meet with other members of our church community to study scripture, pray and talk about the ways our Christian faith can be a source of blessing, not just to us, but to each other, and the wider world. It will provide us with the opportunity to work out together how our faith shapes our decisions and our lives, so that, we can allow our faith to determine and dictate our actions. It may lead us to 'take on' something within the church or our wider community, even something apparently small, which can have a big impact on others. These small acts of kindness can have a huge effect on both giver and receiver, and we should all try hard to encourage one another in all that is good. That is how the kingdom is grown and God is glorified.

This mutual working out of God's purpose in our lives, this grappling with how to be more effective witnesses to God's love in our community and the wider world, this mutual respect and encouragement for each other in our quest to serve God and neighbour better is at the heart of our Christian life together. We have much to learn from each other, and much to offer each other in our Christian discipleship, if we can be encouraged to share. We are all pilgrims on the same journey. Let us travel together in love and peace, supporting and encouraging each other along the way as best we can, hearts open to God's Spirit and each other, until we all reach our heavenly Father.

What better way to keep a holy Lent!

Yours in Christ, Guy

Ash Wednesday 14th February

12 noon Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

19:30 pm Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes



Lent Course



Our Lent Course this year will be held on Thursday evenings, in the choir vestry, beginning at 7:30pm. We meet on 15th, 22nd & 29th February and 7th & 14th March

Please consider joining us as we journey through Lent, Guy.

Ladies Group January Meeting



In January we met to discuss our favourite films. The films we talked about were an eclectic mix, varying from the 1958 Japanese film 'The Hidden Fortress' (a film thought to be an inspiration for Star Wars) to 'One Life' which is currently being shown at cinemas. Whilst some people spoke about their enjoyment of recent films like 'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer' others were fond of older films like 'Rebecca' and 'Gone with the Wind'. Many of us had memories of the experience of going to the cinema including 6d seats for Saturday cinema, the intermission with queues for ice cream and the Pathe news reels. Most importantly we remembered all the people who had gone to the cinema with us.

Our next meeting will be at Linda Broadhurst's house. Linda will be telling us about her walk with Andy along the Camino de Santiago from Porto in Portugal to Santiago in Spain. The Camino de Santiago is a 'Pilgrimage of Compostela' or in English 'the Way of St James' a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the apostle James in Galicia north-western Spain.

Ladies Group always 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.

News from the pews

Thank you

Jane Astill would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers and best wishes, given to her following her recent hip operation.





Retirement

Staff and pupils at St. John's Primary School have said 'goodbye' to Mrs Annette Stearn who has retired after 36 years of teaching at the school. She had an incredible impact on the school community, working with and inspiring hundreds of children - including generations within the same families.

Acting Headteacher, Mrs Rosie Monks said, "Mrs Stearn has been an exemplary educator, a pillar of support, and a guiding light for both children and staff alike. We are grateful for the invaluable experience and wisdom she brought into our classrooms.



Reading in Year 5

As we waddle into the new year, Year Five have become experts on Emperor penguins. We have encountered the feathered creatures in nonfiction, narrative and poetry!

In our English lessons, we are producing a non-chronological report full of interesting facts.

Learning & Reading in Year 6

This term, our Year 6 students have immersed themselves in World War II. During Guided Reading lessons, we have discussed evacuation, rationing and propaganda to discover what life would have been like for a child during the war. In our recent Art classes, the pupils have begun crafting personalised World War 2 scrapbooks. The intricate process involves collaging both front and back pages over the upcoming weeks, blending their creative expression with historical knowledge. Having recently completed their first History lesson within the pages of these scrapbooks, the Year 6 pupils are very excited to continue their learning of World War II.

Bishop's letter - Our precious gift

***By Alastair Redfern, Assistant Bishop for the
Diocese of Bath and Wells***



As Christians, while we may look to reduce our own carbon footprint, we are called to be stewards and witnesses of a much more radical resource. The clue is in the word 'ecology'.

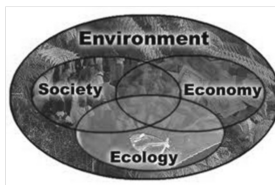
'Eco' comes from the Greek word oikos, meaning house, or dwelling place. Ecology is partly about our responsibility to recognise the precious gift of the Earth, as our dwelling place:

to be thankful, and play our part. God made humankind to care for the earthly world: Jesus amplifies the call, as He uses 'nature' as the sign of how we can live in order to flourish and to fulfil God's will.

'Logy' comes from a Greek word logos interpreted as reason, the ordering of knowledge, logic. In John's Gospel, logos is a word to describe Jesus – through whom all things are made and from whom all true knowledge comes. Logos is the word, the source of all goodness and grace, for every human life, and for all of creation.

It is the 'logos', the word, who inhabits our lives, our creation – inviting us to recognise His light, and allow it to overcome the darkness of our own limited concerns and agendas. We meet the logos in scripture, in worship, in prayer, and deeper reflection.

In Jesus, as logos, we can find the wisdom, the resources and the commitment to play our part in caring for creation.



We are able to invite others to recognise the deeper truths about Eco, our common dwelling place, and to see more clearly how we join with others to work out what to do, how to live, and honour the gift of life that we receive through Him. The Logos is the possibility of good news for humankind and for the Earth.

What a responsibility each Christian disciple is called to bear! And what grace can be ours to enable us to fulfil our calling, and help all of God's children become caught up in the praise and prayer that gives true life to our dwelling place, and to exercise our stewardship appropriately.

Read John 1v1-14. Become an ECO-warrior – committed our common dwelling place – through celebrating the power and presence of the LOGOS.

ECOLOGY: we know it makes sense.

Bishop Alastair

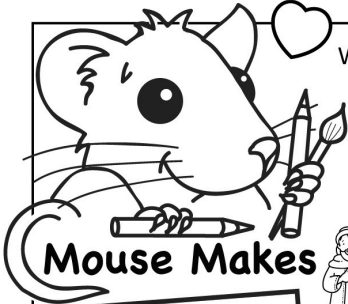
News in Brief from the Diocese

Caring for those working at sea

More than 400 gift boxes filled by church communities in Bath and Wells were shared with sailors who came to Royal Portbury and Avonmouth Docks near Bristol.

Chaplains from the Mission to Seafarers also gave out hundreds of warm hats, scarves and gloves, all knitted by volunteers in the diocese.

Fr Jeremy Hellier said, "95% of everything we use comes by sea, those who work on the ships that deliver the goods will be far away from their loved ones for many months at a time."



Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM | MARY |
| ISAAC | HANNAH |
| JACOB | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ | EVE |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH |
| ELKANAH | REBEKAH |
| AQUILA | RACHEL |
| JOSEPH | SARAH |

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

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

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH

Who were the first couple?
 _____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

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

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

Social Group

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.



Tickets available from the Social Committee

Social Group News

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 12th April

Italian night



Saturday 22nd

June Cream Tea



Friday 9th August

Fish & Chip Supper



Sunday 6th October

Harvest Lunch



Manna Mailing – From the Diocese

Making space for nature

Across Bath and Wells our churches are working with local communities and schools to care for the environment, with more than a third of churches in the diocese engaged with the Wilder Churches project. Launched in 2021 with Somerset Wildlife Trust, it offers free online training sessions to help communities learn more about the land in their churchyards and burial grounds, appreciate its wildlife value, and explore ways to enhance the biodiversity.

Churchyards are often the oldest enclosed parcels of land in a parish. Unaffected by agricultural changes, they often have diverse ecosystems containing wildflowers, ancient trees, a variety of wildlife, and provide habitats for numerous species. These natural ecosystems contribute to clean air and water, and often provide good carbon storage.

Sara Emmett, Climate Justice & Environment Adviser for the Diocese of Bath and Wells says, “Our churchyards form a network of pockets of space for nature within the heart of our communities and for our communities. They are vital for species and habitat survival as well as for people to connect with our world. Every churchyard that supports nature in its care and management is contributing to this bigger picture and even the smallest actions make a difference.”

Hundreds have taken part in the Wilder Churches online training sessions and get-togethers or watched the recorded sessions.

This year the diocesan Environment and Everyday Faith teams plan to hold interactive sessions in parishes, to provide young people with the opportunity to learn more about caring for God’s earth with practical sessions on constructing bird boxes, bug hotels, and more.

Find out more at bathandwells.org.uk/environment

FROM THE PARISH PUMP

‘Lenten Valentines’

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God’s love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

‘What, do you wish to know your Lord’s meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.’



From The Registers

Christian Funeral
“May they rest in peace”

5th January Rosemary (Rose) Stenner



SHROVE TUESDAY: Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be ‘shriven’, or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today’s pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she’d be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil’s Palin in 1619 runs: “And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.”

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
4th February	Linda Broadhurst <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
11th February	Robert Broughton <i>Kay Harvey</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
18th February	Hilary Denning <i>Sally Curtis</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
25th February	Lesley Garvey <i>David Moore</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 was taken at the beach at Beer in Devon
By Andy Broadhurst***

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).**



February 2024

Friday 2nd	12:30 18:30	Trio Paradis Concert Candlemas Eucharist
Sunday 4th	2nd Sunday before Lent	
Tuesday 6th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 8th	19:30	Ladies Group
Sunday 11th	Next before Lent	
Tuesday 13th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 14th	Ash Wednesday	12noon Holy Eucharist 19:30 Sung Eucharist <i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Thursday 15th	19:30	Lent Group
Friday 16th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 18th	1st Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 20th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 22nd	19:30	Lent Group
Sunday 25th	2nd Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 27th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 29th	19:30	Lent Group

