

# CHURCH ALIVE

May 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

## Associate Priest

Revd: Philip Hopper

Tel: 07596 759 584

Email: frphiliphopper@gmail.com

## Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

Tel: 411216

Email: msnparishoffice@gmail.com

## Churchwardens

Mrs Pat Clynes

37 Staddlestones

Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

Tel: 412528

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 5*

**NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

Congratulations to Heather & Tony Hill on becoming Great Grandparents for the first time to Alfred George born on the 1st April.

\* \* \* \* \*

Carol and David Moore would like to thank all those who very kindly sent cards and good wishes on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They appreciated your kindness very much.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A message from Beth**

Beth wishes to thank you all for your best wishes to her when she moved to live closer to her son near Romsey, where she is starting a new church life at Romsey Abbey. They are making her most welcome.

A big 'Thank you' too for the lovely rose and gift tokens given to me on your behalf which I will really enjoy using in my new little garden that really needs bringing to life.

I will of course miss you all and the memories we have shared together but I welcome the challenge of new beginnings and friendships.

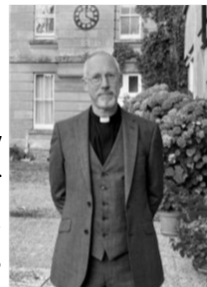
With love and God's blessing to you all.

Beth

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note the Editor no longer has a landline telephone. Please use the mobile number if you need to contact me. Thank you.

## Reflections from the Ministry Team



Dear Friends,

During the *Great Fifty Days of Easter*, from Easter Day until Pentecost, we celebrate the transformative power of God's love, its ability to bring triumph from disaster, hope from despair. On Good Friday all is lost, Jesus dead, his disciples hiding and dreams of the coming Kingdom shattered. Yet here we are today, two thousand years later, followers of Christ, Easter people. Good Friday was not the end, though at the time it must have felt as though it was.

One of the Christian values which underpin our school's ethos is *hope*. Each year pupils hear reflections and stories that demonstrate that hope is *the belief that things will get better*. Our hopes may not be fulfilled in the way we had imagined but as Easter shows, disastrous starts are misleading. As *Easter people* Christians are called to live hope-filled lives, demonstrating our faith, our faith that things will get better, no matter how it may appear.

And that can be a severe challenge. Many of us have come to limit our intake of daily news, so much is the despair that regularly pulls at our hearts. Images of limp young bodies being pulled from rubble in Gaza, reports of another roadside shrine for a victim of knife crime, charity advertisements revealing the cruelty inflicted on our fellow creatures.

But Christians are *people of hope*. As Easter people we know that things can be transformed. We are called to be part of that transformation, through prayer, through hospitality and generosity, and through social action.

The Christian season of Easter comes to an end at Pentecost, and eleven days later the month of May nears its end with the feast of Corpus Christi where we give thanks for the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrament that makes Christ tangible for many. Until then the month of May calls us to share our springtime Easter hope.

The May trees that seem to blossom rather earlier each year, have long been associated with hope. Hawthorn flowers have been symbolic of hope since ancient times. What greater symbolism can there be that such blossom springs amid such vicious thorns, thorns suitable for a Saviour's crown. And in time this spring blossom will fruit with winter sustaining berries.

This month, as we enjoy the lengthening days and warmer temperatures, let us be like the May blossom, flowering amid life's thorns and heralding hope.

Fr Philip



**Date for your Diary from the Social Committee.**

On Saturday 22nd June at 3 pm  
there will be an afternoon tea with Prosecco  
in the garden of Carol & David Moore,  
1 The Dymboro.

If the weather is inclement we will  
meet in the Church Hall  
The cost will be £10 .



## Ladies Group April Meeting



In April Ladies Group held a 'Room 101' evening. We shared the things that annoy or irritate us with the idea that, if we could we would like these things put in Room 101 never to be seen again. Some of us found aspects of modern life frustrating, the difficulty of rejecting cookies when browsing the internet was one example. Although we didn't have a vote about which of our peeves was the most deserving of being banished to Room 101 there was a universal dislike of pigeons. Hopefully by talking about the things that annoy us they will cease to bother us as much when we next come across them.

On the 9th May, Kate will be talking to us about church vestments. Her talk will be held in church immediately after the Ascension Day Service.

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.

## Friendship Group

At our April meeting, we welcomed Father Philip who spoke about Saint Francis of Assisi, who responded to the call of God, to 'Rebuild my Church' by founding a religious order. Today, within the Anglican Church, there are three related Franciscan Orders.

There are nearly 2000 members of the Third order, whom are called Tertiaries, of which Father Philip is one.

Sincere thanks were given to Father Philip for his very interesting talk, which obviously means so much to him and was very enlightening to all of us.



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th May at 2:30pm in the Church Hall. New members are welcome. It will be a Cream Tea and a musical sing-a-long. See you there!

## Collection for Ukraine



I would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who brought clothes, shoes, bedding and candles for the people of Ukraine. The collection was a huge success with half of the Church hall floor covered in bags! The sorting of bags into men, ladies and children etc. was a mammoth task but with Beryl and Kate's great enthusiasm, sorted bags were labelled and stacked ready for Gloria and Tony who were coming from Frome to collect them. They were both, so grateful for everyone's kindness.

We had donations totalling £50 and although free, people paid money for a cup of tea which amounted to £32. £82 was therefore given towards the transport costs which was so gratefully received.

My thanks to Carol, for welcoming everyone who walked through the door and pointing them in the right direction, to Hilary and Teresa for serving the teas and to Father Guy for spending all morning moving from table to table, conversing with our visitors.

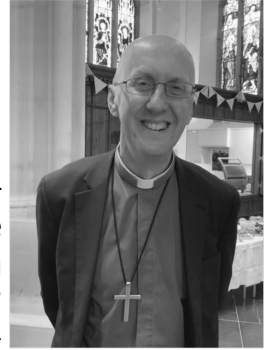
People asked if we are going to hold another collection!!  
Possibly later on in the year?

May God bless all people in Ukraine and may peace soon ensue.  
Heather Hill



## **Bishop's Letter**

### **A Challenge Offered**



#### **Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath & Wells**

There's a fascinating exercise I've often undertaken with roomfuls of church members. I've asked them the question 'To what age do you trace back the beginnings of your Christian faith?' The results are almost always the same. About 40% of us think that our Christian journey started at some point before the age of four. Another 40% of us trace the beginnings of our faith back to when we were less than eleven. A further 20% say before we were eighteen. While only one in five of us report having embarked on the journey of faith as adults.

The findings I've described should give us all pause for thought. For most people, the start of our Christian journey (even if we've dropped out for a while in adolescence and early adulthood) starts in childhood.

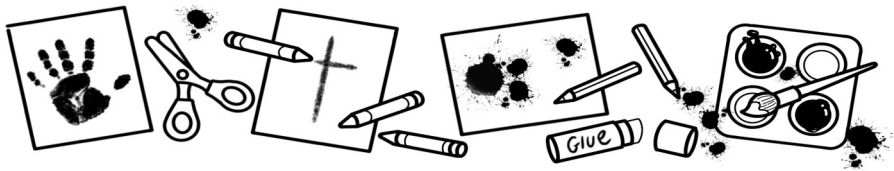
So if we want to grow our churches and transform our communities this suggests that it's into the faith development of children and young people that we should be putting our energies, priority and resources.

Our data suggests that more than half our churches have no young person worshipping with them on a Sunday morning. I realise, of course, how hard it is for churches to compete with the demands of football, seeing the extended family, doing any of the many things that are otherwise crowded out of busy family lives. Yet experience shows that when we offer worship at other times and in formats that are attractive to children, young people and families they do come.



This year I'm challenging all our benefices to grow their average weekly attendance by one child (net). If we could sustain such an achievement over a number of years the impact would transform our churches, our lives and our experience. The support services of our diocese offer extensive assistance to enable local churches to think what could work with the resources you have, the passions and skills you possess and the reality of the situation where you are. Do ask for their help.

Are you willing to take up the challenge I've offered?

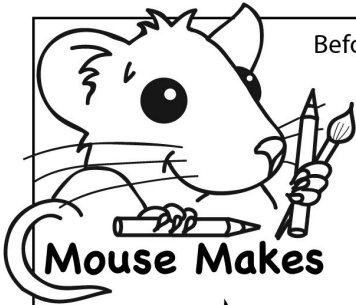


### **News in Brief from the Diocese**

#### **Week of Prayer for Children and young People: 1 – 7 July**

During the first week of July, the Go Team are hosting a week of prayer for children and young people and are inviting churches across our diocese to join in. A Prayer Guide for the week will be available on the diocesan website. There are themes for each day plus creative prayer ideas for using at home, in small groups and in church services.

Go Team Adviser, Andy Levett commented "We'll be gathering to pray for half an hour each day and we'd love you to do the same wherever you are and at a time that suits you."



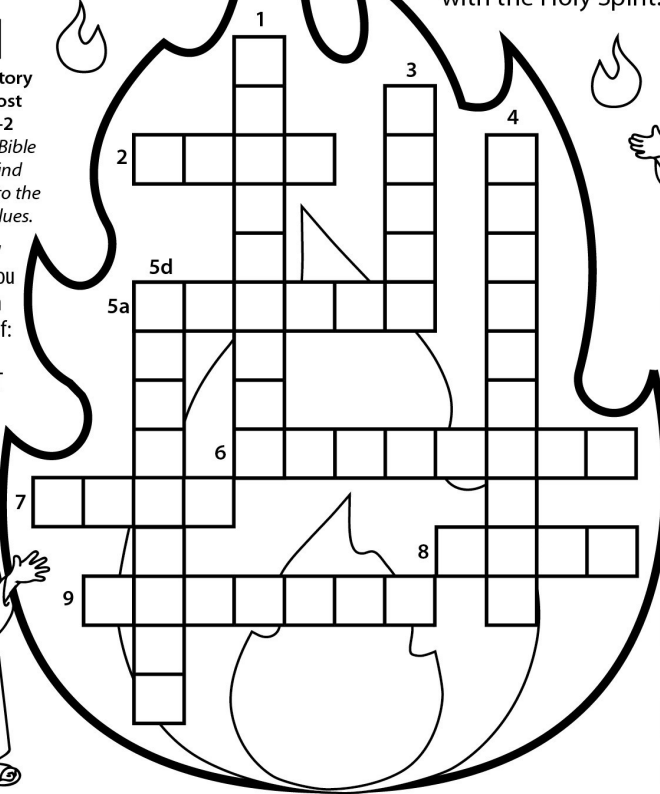
Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples  
*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit  
 has come upon you, and you will be my  
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...*

*...When the day of Pentecost arrived,  
 they were all together in one place,  
 and they were all filled  
 with the Holy Spirit."*



READ the story  
 of Pentecost  
 in Acts 1-2  
 Look up the Bible  
 verses to find  
 the answers to the  
 crossword clues.

How many  
 words can you  
 make from  
 the letters of:  
 DAY OF  
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*

## **Christian Aid Week 2024 – 12-18 May**

**Seven days, so many ways to make a difference.**



Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from 12–18 May and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa.

Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides.

The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict.

**Envelopes, Prayer sheets, and Daily devotional booklets will be available to support Christian Aid**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10-00 to 12-00 Midsomer Norton Methodist Church, Coffee and Chat:**

**there will be tables for donations of Cakes and Plants to bring and Buy**

## **Father Philip's APCM Report on School work 2023-4**

**In the past year** we have developed an increasingly close relationship with our church school, St John's CE Primary. The familiar pattern of term-time, whole-school, week day services in church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter has continued, each time the church is filled with children, staff and parents/carers. At the Easter Service Reception children now regularly present us with an Easter garden to be placed in our altar.

Clergy from St John's also lead regular weekly collective worship in school on Wednesdays. With such a large school, (400+) this weekly commitment makes for a substantial part of our outreach work.

Last year's Patronal festival kick-started school involvement in the church's festival worship. We were fortunate to be joined by the new school choir. During the year the school choir has been developing a repertoire of powerful songs that they perform with gusto. We are delighted that they will be performing a lunchtime concert in church in the summer term.

Since last year's Patronal Festival the school's Ethos Committee and staff have contributed intercessions and readings at Harvest, Fr Philip's Licensing and on Mothering Sunday. This year children from the school came to church to make and distribute the posies.

At Christmas, children from the school contributed a tree for our Christmas Tree Festival, at its close all came to the church to see the wonderful display. Our regular Christmas Crib Service numbers have continued to increase each year. This year we led a Christingle Service in church after school for families from St John's School. Money was raised for The Children's Society. The Christingles were lovingly made by church volunteers at our Tuesday Coffee morning.

St John's is not the only school we now have involvement with. We now make termly visits to Midsomer Norton Primary to take assembly and Norton Hill Primary regularly invites us to teach pupils about Christmas and Easter. Classes at St John's also receive teaching from us at these times. This coming year we would like to increase contact with Welton and Longvernal Primary Schools. Welton and MSNP regularly visit the church as part of their RE studies.

An important part of our focus this past year has been through involvement with a diocesan initiative called *Launchpad*. Through it we hope to develop some kind of support for pupils moving on to secondary school. What shape that takes will be up to pupils in Y6, who we are currently working with in church twice every term. They come to spend time in their church, to talk and share, to reflect and learn, and experience our hospitality...especially cake! Mrs Marshall's baking has found a new and enthusiastic market! Staff and pupils have valued the sessions and we hope to make this a regular part of each pupil's final year at St John's.

At the end of the year, our Y6 children will prepare to move on to secondary school. Our hope is that in some way St John's remains their church, and that some kind of regular contact can be fostered. What form that will take, whether it involves us visiting them, or vice versa will be up to them.

Other recent developments have included the start of a school based afterschool drama club, the appointment of a new school governor (Fr Philip) and a new school librarian (Pat Marriott).

And finally a request, please be wary of judging our work with young people purely by what you see in church between 10-11am on a Sunday morning. Things are happening, seeds are being sown and progress is being made. Thank you.

Fr Philip

*From The Registers*

**Christian Funeral**

*"May they rest in peace"*

9th April

Matthew Jan Oles



**Holy Baptism**

*"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"*

7th April

Alana Daniel

**BAPTISMS**

**St John the Baptist Church Midsomer Norton**

**Has a Vacancy for a part time  
Church Hall Cleaner and Booking Secretary**

**7 Hours per week**

(5 hours cleaning 2 hours bookings, this is a combined role).

Salary - £12.00 per hour to reflect Living Wage

Location – St John the Baptist Church Hall,  
Church Square, Midsomer Norton

Note – Applicant must complete a DBS  
Disclosure Barring Service check.

**TO APPLY:** Applications and further details are available from the  
Parish Administrator [msnparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:msnparishoffice@gmail.com).

Applications should be marked "Confidential" and  
returned via email to the Administrator at the above email  
or by post addressed to:

Reverend Guy Scott, The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close,  
Midsomer Norton BA3 2HZ.

The closing date for applications is May 8th 2024.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader/<i>Intercessions</i></b>	<b>Sides person</b>
5th May	Linda Broadhurst <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
12th May	Lesley Garvey <i>Kay Harvey</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
19th May	Heather Hill <i>Sally Curtis</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
26th May	Les Martindale <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
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 the Pentecostal dove 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: 07941 204179      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	07941 204179
Flower Rota	Mrs Carol Moore	412226
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Head Server	Mr Matthew Livsey	07971231363
St John's School	Mrs Danielle West-Gaul	412019
Ladies Group Leader	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Magazine Distribution	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Organist	Mrs Margaret Whatley	418072
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Ann Munton	07895 038871
PCC Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
PCC Vice Chairperson	Mrs Hilary Denning	07828 550006
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/channel/UC...).**





# May 2024

Friday 3rd	12:30	Trio Paradis Concert
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 7th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
Thursday 9th	19:30	<b>Ascension Day Service</b>
		Ladies Group
Friday 10th	10 – 12 noon	Gardening Group
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 14th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
		<b><i>Magazine Copy Date</i></b>
Friday 17th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
	10am to 12 noon	Coffee & Chat at the Methodist Centre for Christian Aid
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>Day of Pentecost</b>	
Tuesday 21st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 24th	10 – 12 noon	Gardening Group
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	
Tuesday 28th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church