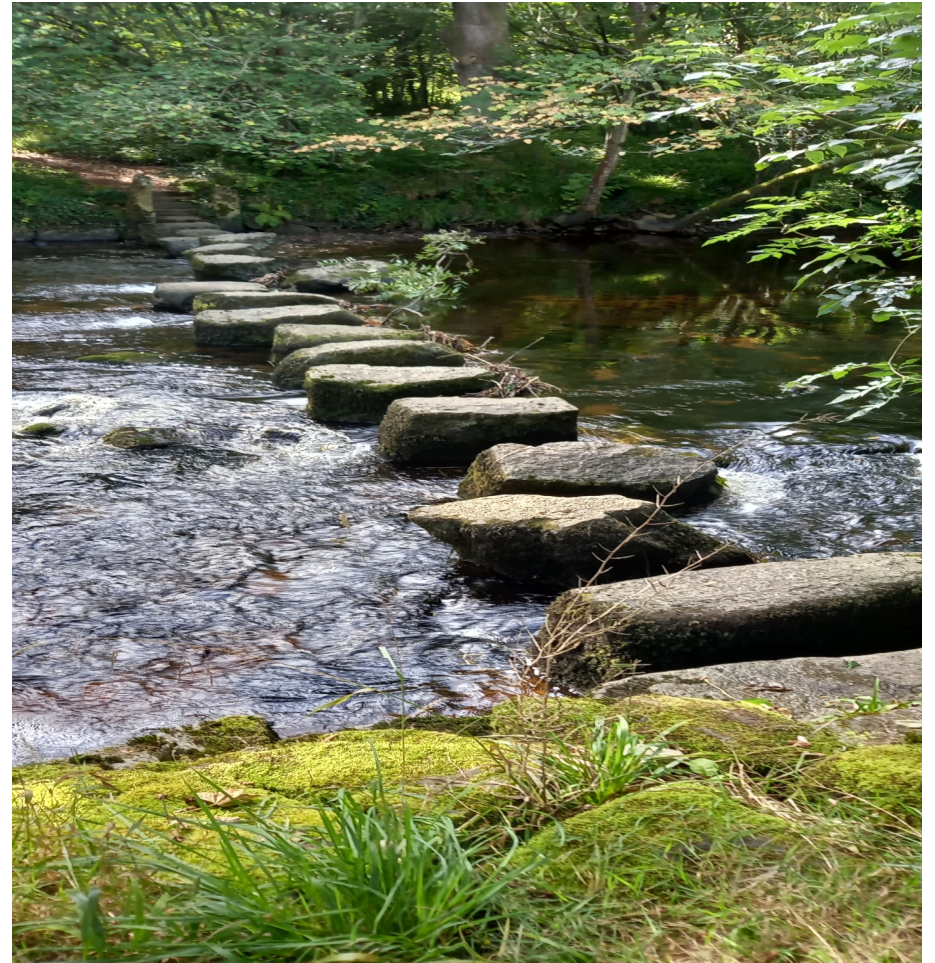


CHURCH ALIVE

September 2025



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

Tel: 412928

37 Staddlestones

Email: patclynes@hotmail.co.uk

Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

Mrs Hilary Denning

Tel: 07828 550006

87 Nelson Ward Drive

Email: hilaryjohn87@gmail.com

Radstock, BA3 3FS

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>



September 2025

Tuesday 2nd

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 5th

12:30

Trio Paradise Concert

Sunday 7th

12th Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 9th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

14:30

Friendship Group

Thursday 11th

19:30

Ladies Group

Friday 12th

10 - 12noon

Gardening Group

Sunday 14th

Holy Cross Day

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

Saturday 20th

12 noon until 5pm

Monuments & Memories

Plus Tower Tours

Sunday 21st

**Matthew, Apostle
& Evangelist**

Tuesday 23rd

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 26th

10 - 12noon

Gardening Group

Sunday 28th

15th Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 30th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Parish Directory

Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Angela Fitch	Telephone
Choir Leader	Mr Geoff Miles	413636
Church Cleaning	Mrs Pat Marriott.	01761752546
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs Caroline Thatcher	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
 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/UCStJohn's%20MSN).



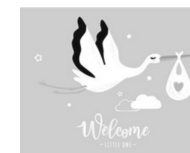
Church Alive

*The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown*
Volume 809 Number 9

News from the Pews

Congratulations to Christopher & Diane Chiplin
on the birth of their first Granddaughter.

Alice and Hilmar welcomed into the world Eldey Bora Bergmann
(pronounced El-day Thor-a).
Born in Iceland on 6th August 2025,
weighing 8lb 3oz.

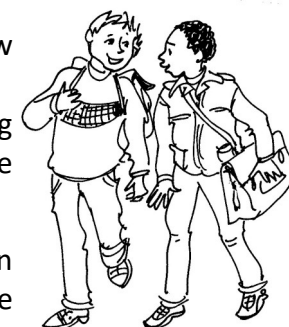


Start of a New Academic Year

Good luck to all the young people starting a new school this September.

Whether it be your first day at school, or moving up to a different chapter in your academic life, we wish you well.

We give thanks to all the staff who work in local schools and the education sector and hope you are refreshed from the Summer Break.



Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear friends,

Well, how was your summer? Writing in July, I spoke of the record temperatures and lack of rain. As one who struggles in the heat, I was relieved to see rain on St Swithin's day! It might not have rained for the following 40 days but it certainly cooled and made for a beautiful summer for many of us.



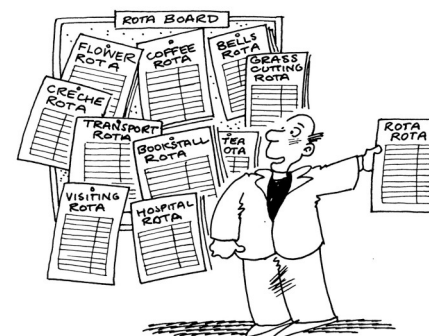
This month I shall be having a late summer holiday in Cornwall. The schools are back, the prices have dropped and the sea is warm. It's a favourite time for me, though it can be a bit of a long wait.

But my summer in Somerset has made the long wait easy. It has been so beautiful. With Ordnance survey maps on hand I've explored closer to home and seen what treasure our county has. The variety of landscape, from Mendip limestone uplands, to fen-like Levels is dramatic and so rich. The colour of building stone from Blue Lias and Sandstone to honey coloured Ham Stone is glorious. And that's not to mention the wonderful churches that pepper the landscape, telling their parish stories and speaking of God's glory.

Somerset has a wealth of churches and its towers are of particular renown. After the Black Death and during the 15th and 16th Centuries, much local money was spent refurbishing naves and building towers. The waterways of the levels made transporting stone and timber easy. The growing merchant class and the new money of the time were keen patrons.

John Betjeman described the towers of Somerset as the county's *great glory*. He identified three typical forms – the Taunton type with a staircase turret at one corner; the Bristol type with a prominent turret and a little spire; and the Wrington type with large belfry windows.

Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
7th September	Carol Moore <i>St John's School</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
14th September	David Moore <i>Ann Munton</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
21st September	Linda Robertson <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	K Gay, L Powell
28th September	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Jim Balliston-Thicke</i>	J Shears, E Densley
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		



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

***This month's front cover is Dunsford Mill Steps on Dartmoor
Taken by Andrew Broadhurst***

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

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

25th July Gary Horner
31st July Evelyn May Steel



Holy Matrimony

'May they live together in joy and peace'

9th August Kevin Neil Mitchell &
Rhiannon Kathleen Louise Clarke
16th August Luke Parsons & Sarah Daniels



Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

3rd August Enzo Joseph Cassar
10th August Charlotte Elizabeth Mary Franklin



He stressed that these towers were not built by the great monastic orders but by Somerset people for themselves. As such they enshrine in stone the endeavour, culture and history of each parish, its people and their story.

Our parish church is similarly endowed with the story of Midsomer Norton, its life and people.

On Saturday 20th September why not come along to the church to discover more about our beautiful parish church. Between 12-5pm the church will be open for guided Tower tours and talks about the monuments and associated memories.



Much research has been going on to make for a fascinating day. And as ever there will be refreshments and a very warm welcome for all.

Fr Philip.

Fitsteps Charity Event

When: Friday 17th October 2025, 19:15-21:45
Where: Congyre Hall, Timsbury
£7 per ticket: Available to buy from me

Following the success of our Charity event in 2023, I'm excited to announce another Charity Fitsteps Event!

FRIDAY 17th OCTOBER 2025, 19:15-21:45

While the chosen charity is yet to be confirmed, rest assured that all proceeds will go directly to a worthy cause. Everyone is welcome—just come as you feel comfortable and enjoy an evening of fitness and fun.

A bar will be available for refreshments, and there will be a raffle with fantastic prizes—**any donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated!**

Tickets can be purchased directly from me, so don't miss out on this opportunity to support charity while having a great time.



Contact: 07961056700
Jane Price Fitsteps/Fab/Broadway

Smile Lines from the Parish Pump

Hymns for people over 50

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

Blessed Insurance

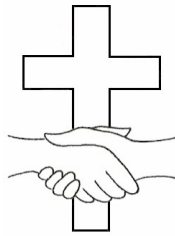
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

Ladies Group

There was no Ladies Group meeting in August, the next meeting will be a Coffee Evening at Sally Curtis' house on Thursday 11th September.

If you would like to find out more about Ladies Group, please speak to Kay Harvey or Ann Munton or pick up a programme from the back of church.

New members are always welcome.



Friendship Group

I hope August has been a good month for you all, with enough shade in your garden to sit under! I am looking forward to meeting up with you all on Tuesday 9th September, when Sue Holley will be leading us in a fun game of "Play your cards Right"



Just a reminder that it's September, when we pay our subscription of £5.

If you know of someone who you think might like to come along, please invite them. They will be warmly welcomed.

Sending love and blessing Heather.

For Enquiries telephone Heather on: 07882 734507



FROM THE PARISH PUMP 14th Sept Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32).




TRIO PARADIS

Jacquelyn Bevan - piano Ruth O'Shea - violin Linda Stocks - cello

Friendship through music

FRIDAY 1st AUGUST
Planes, Trains & Automobiles
 For young people of all ages...

FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER
The Music of Trees
 Handel, Massenet, Johann Strauss

FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER
Myths & Magic
 From Greek Gods to Ghosts

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER
Bohemian Rhapsodies
 Colourful East European nostalgia

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER
By the Fireside
 Warming seasonal music

Monthly Café Concerts

First Friday of
each month
at 12.30pm

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Midsomer Norton BA3 2HX

Café serving home-made cakes open from 12 noon. Concerts last c45 min.
 Entrance by donation, with a retiring collection

www.trioparadis.com Cafe Concerts CIO Registered Charity no.1213237

An important Collection for our 'brothers and sisters of Ukraine.

Just after our last LARGE collection on the 25th January, the organiser/driver, was told the garage she hired would not be available any longer.

This led to several months of small collections only taking place and stored in peoples houses. Amazingly and thankfully May saw an offer of another garage for storage.

As deliveries of badly needed goods have been delayed and with the blessing of Father Guy, I have decided to hold a collection on the **15th November** between 12 and 2pm in St Johns Church Hall.

Hopefully this will give us plenty of time to start sorting out clothes for MEN, LADIES, CHILDREN AND BABIES, Bedding, Toys, Books, Candles, Shoes, Blankets etc. They are desperate for Children's and babies clothes, equipment and toys.

Gaynor and her husband from Frome, who are my contact point for our collection, makes up Christmas gifts in old Sweet/Chocolate tins (like Roses etc.) including a soft or knitted toy, writing pad and pencils/crayons, picture book and a large packet of Haribo sweets. (This is nothing to do with the Shoe Boxes) Gaynor donates all her Christmas gifts! A very generous, caring and compassionate person. If unable to donate clothes etc. perhaps you would like to donate gifts to the Christmas tins!

Please uphold in Prayer, the people of Ukraine and all the volunteers who work hard to support them.

Thank you all for your consideration of donating what you are able, when the collection day comes.

Heather Hill
 07882 734507

Bishop's letter - September 2025

Generosity begets generosity

By Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells



In August I was privileged to dedicate the restored clock in the tower of Montacute church. It's not just any old clock. In fact, Montacute's is amongst the oldest in the country. Built in the village in around 1400, the clock is so old that it is held in place by iron wedges. At the time of its construction, the nut and the bolt wouldn't be invented for another hundred years!

The Montacute clock is an artefact that seems to generate generosity. In the 1980s the clock was restored by Humphrey Hamlin, for whom it is now named. Humphrey poured time and energy into its mechanism, preventing it from being scrapped. During the last two years, heroic efforts by the people of Montacute have led to its further restoration. All this was marked last month by a whole village gathering. The community choir sang, Morris men danced, the local pub provided a hog roast, cake was dispensed in huge quantities.

Montacute is a beautiful example of how generosity begets generosity. Like a chain reaction, one act of generosity, the restoration of the clock, led to another, another and another. As a result, a whole community was brought together in celebration and joy.

In his second letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul writes of the church in Macedonia that 'their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity' (2 Cor 8:2). Having nothing, the Macedonians discovered that they could still give. In turn, their generosity enabled Paul to challenge and encourage the church in Corinth to do the same. All to help the struggling Church in Jerusalem.

MONUMENTS & MEMORIES PLUS TOWER TOURS SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

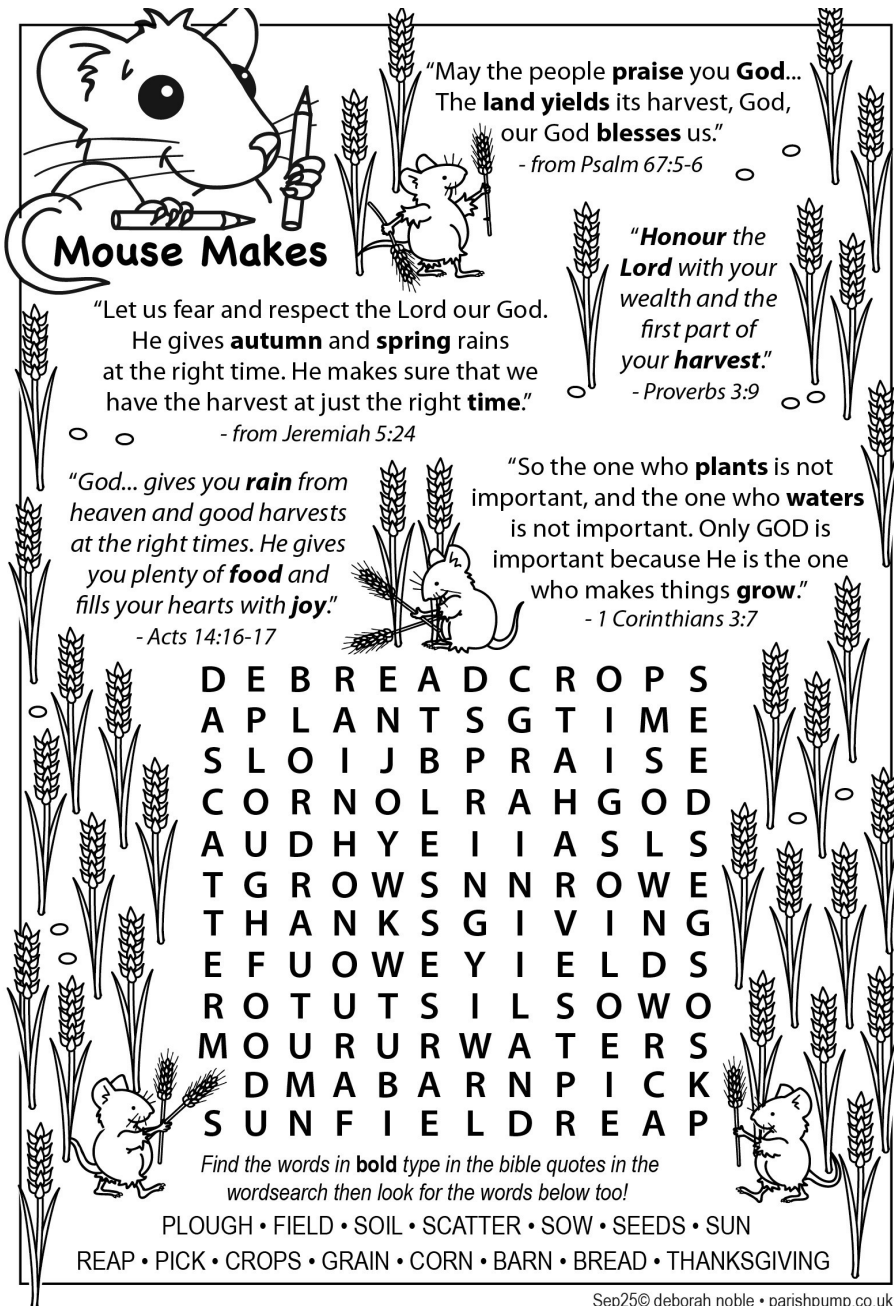
We have an exciting exhibition day coming up soon. It is called Monuments and Memories. Perhaps some of your ancestors are named in the church or you know a neighbour or friends who would like to find their long lost ancestors. Come and see.

Tower Tours are back again by popular demand. If you are fit and healthy perhaps you could climb to the top of our church tower and look at Midsomer Norton from a different angle.

We would love to have you join us on Saturday 20th September. The exhibition opens at 12noon with scrumptious refreshments available and the Tower Tours open from 2pm in the afternoon. The event will finish at 5pm.



This exhibition is for all ages to enjoy and perhaps learn something you did not know about our town and people past and present.



Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."
- Acts 14:16-17

"Honour the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

Sep25© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

As I travel around our diocese, I see this pattern of generosity begetting generosity happening in so many places. One person starts, another adds their contribution, more join in and soon we learn that together we are so much more than the sum of our parts. This is the economy of God. It's an economy that all of us are invited to join.

MANNA MAILING FROM THE DIOCESE Bringing Somerset's waterways to life through art

An eco-arts festival celebrating the vital waterways of Somerset and the rich tapestry of plant and animal life they support took place in Shepton Mallet. Flock, a growing creative Christian community in the town, organised the event in collaboration with Somerset Wildlife Trust to highlight the importance of water ecosystems.

Pioneer Priest in the Arts, Revd Gill Sakakini, said: 'At the heart of the event was the Water Life Trail, which featured 50 striking sculptures made by local artists from recycled materials.'

