

CHURCH ALIVE

November 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>



Church Alive

The Parish Magazine of

Midsomer Norton with Clandown

Volume 809 Number 11

ALL SOULS' DAY 2025

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.

As All Souls' Day falls on a Sunday this year, a Remembrance Service will be held in church at 3pm on that day. During this service there will be the opportunity to remember those who have died by name.

Also, 'Years Mind' forms are available to complete, should you wish your loved ones to be remembered on the anniversary of their death during the calendar year 2026.

OPEN CHURCHYARD UPDATE

The Community Payback team that have been working in the open churchyard have completed the task of removing one of the spoil heaps that was detracting from the general appearance in the area currently being used for new graves. They will continue to work for us doing general tidying work in the open churchyard as well as around the church.

The small Gardening Group will continue to work as necessary supporting these tasks.



Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear friends,

As autumn reaches its peak and edges ever closer toward winter, the liturgical year and our cultural calendar turns our minds to the people and events of the past; the heroes we celebrate on *All Saints Day*, the souls we commemorate on *All Souls Day*, the audacity



of the *Gunpowder Plot*, and the fallen and sacrifice of *Remembrance*.

The end of the month prepares us for the start of a new liturgical year as we celebrate Christ's Kingdom before Advent turns the page.

But this month is far more than an exercise in looking back. November is a closing act that invites us to *come together* and see ourselves as part of something far greater than ourselves. This is no time to recall in isolation. This is the time to join with others, those in our here and now, and those who have gone before and are yet to come. This time reminds us of our mutual belonging. As Christians we are reminded that we are not solitary. From baptism we become part of the body of Christ on earth and members of a body of faith that transcends time and space.

All Saint's Day and All Souls Day both celebrate this mutual belonging. Remembrance explores this further, as our corporate and personal memories turn to issues of war and peace, loss and self-giving, memory and forgetting. The feast of Christ the King closes our liturgical year with the reassurance of Christ's ultimate victory over all that mars God's creation.

This is the time to *come together*, to draw strength from one another, to be one body. That call to unity as the body of Christ is particularly resonant for us here at St John's.

This month's magazine includes the rationale recently presented to our PCC and the PCCs of the Benefice of East Mendip Trinity (Holcombe, Coleford and Kilmersdon with Babington) which outlines a way forward for us all, in what are challenging times for individual churches.

The proposal was accepted by all of the PCCs and in the New Year our parishes will begin a new journey together. It will no doubt be a time of challenge as well as opportunity. But let us listen to the season and remember that we are called to *come together* and to be part of something far greater than ourselves.

This time of year naturally gathers us as the body of Christ, so let us draw strength from our shared inheritance as we close one page and prepare to open another.

Fr Philip.



**This proposal was unanimously accepted
by our PCC at its last meeting.**

***Proposed ministry arrangement for
St John's Midsomer Norton & East Mendip Trinity Benefice
(Coleford, Holcombe and Kilmersdon with Babington)***

For consideration by the PCCs of these parishes. 24th September (joint meeting for East Mendip Trinity) and 1st October (Midsomer Norton)

Since the retirement of the Revd Clarissa Cridland, East Mendip Trinity has been in a clergy vacancy while the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG) considers the future shape of ministry in Midsomer Norton.

After careful and prayerful consideration, the DMPG now proposes that: East Mendip Trinity joins with Midsomer Norton Parish under the ministry of the Revd Guy Scott.

The DMPG and the Archdeacon did weigh up a number of possible options before making this proposal. This option was chosen because:

- ◇ A good fit between the tradition and style of the two benefices. Other possible partners would be a less obvious fit.
- ◇ Some members of the St John's clergy team have been taking services in East Mendip Trinity this year, so this will give continuity.
- ◇ This allows other reorganisations to take place elsewhere in the Deanery in the future. It's important to understand that this is part of a whole deanery review which will affect other parishes too, and is intended to put all the churches of the Deanery on a sustainable footing.
- ◇ There are also financial benefits which are explained in more detail below.

How this will happen: It is proposed that Guy will be licensed as Priest in Charge of East Mendip Trinity, in addition to his existing role as Vicar of Midsomer Norton. This is quicker and simpler than going through a full pastoral reorganisation. It does mean that we will continue with two separate benefices for the time being, sharing an incumbent. In the event of a future clergy vacancy, if the arrangement is working well, it is envisaged that we would join the four parishes into one benefice.

In the immediate future, it is expected that the four parishes will work “as if” a benefice, building up a relationship and exploring the benefits of being part of a bigger group.

How ministry will be shared across the whole group: This is the most obvious change that people in the churches will experience, and we can share some initial thoughts about this at the PCC meetings. In practice though, this is something to be worked out between the incumbent, the ministry team and the churchwardens once we agree to go ahead.

Finance: There is a financial benefit to this arrangement. As the common fund is now based on a “benefice share” system, St John’s is currently being asked to pay a whole share on its own, while East Mendip Trinity is also paying a share (albeit a smaller one, as Clarissa was part time). This new arrangement would mean a single share being applied across all four parishes. Exact numbers will be provided later by the diocesan finance team, but at 2025 figures, this would mean about £88,000 across the four, rather than £121,000.

Hopefully this will also help to answer the obvious question, “why can’t we just stay as we are?”. The DMPG has made these proposals in order to put the churches on the path to sustainability, to enable them to focus on mission and the growth of God’s Kingdom. The process: the PCC meetings on 24th September and 1st October are for questions, discussion, and information. The individual PCCs are then asked to meet again at a later date to formally agree that they are in favour of this proposal.

Ven. Charlie Peer, Archdeacon of Bath
Revd Matthew Street, Area Dean
Mrs Carol Moore, Lay Dean

29th August 2025

Let's walk into the light

Bishop's Letter

A story that's often told in our churches comes from the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. It tells of Jesus, in the blinding heat of midday meeting a Samaritan woman at the well in a town called Sychar. The woman is hoisting up heavy buckets of water in the hot sun. She's there because she's a woman with 'a reputation' and it's the only time of day she can avoid the muttering of her neighbours who meet at the well at cooler hours.



In an extraordinary encounter, Jesus sees deep into the woman's heart. Through their conversation Jesus brings about her healing and restoration into the community from which she is estranged. It's a story of life, possibility, new beginnings and forgiveness.

The woman at the well is not the only Biblical story set in Sychar. There's another, contained in the 34th chapter of the Book of Genesis. This is a tale of terror that's never heard in our churches; the rape of a girl called Dinah. It's a dark, nasty tale of violence that wrecks the life of individuals, families and the entire community. So we don't speak about it. We keep it hidden.

Sometimes people say to me of safeguarding 'It's just a tick box exercise', an onerous compliance requirement. Rather I would say that our work in safeguarding asks fundamental questions about the kind of places we want our churches to be. Just like the Bible passages I've mentioned, we can be places of hiddenness, silence, and hurt. Or places of life, new beginnings and restoration.

Accounts like the Makin review have shone light on our story. We've also been working hard to bring about change.

While we cannot be complacent, I am intensely proud of all that was revealed about safeguarding in Bath and Wells by our independent audit that happened earlier this year. This told us that we are moving towards a much better story. So let's build on the momentum we have created. Let's walk into the light.

Michael Beasley

Bishop of Bath and Wells

News in Brief from the Diocese

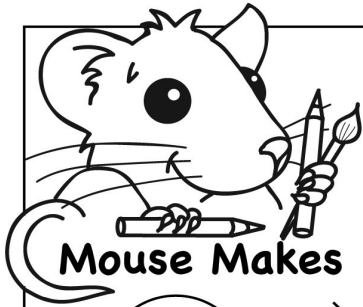
Coming together in worship

More than 2,500 pupils and staff came together to worship online recently. Led by Bishop Michael who opened the service by lighting a candle. The event brought Church of England schools together from Bath to Exmoor in song, prayer and reflection. Speaking with those gathered Bishop Michael spoke of Zacchaeus. He said, "It's a story that tells us that God never gives up on us, whoever we are and whatever we've done. All of us are always welcomed into God's family."

Director of Education Ed Gregory said, "The online gatherings will now be a regular opportunity for schools to worship together, celebrate faith and grow in community."

82 years of service to the church

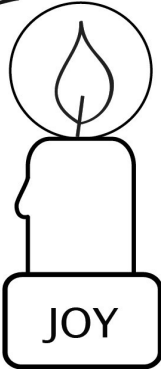
When 94-year-old Roy Jukes first began playing the organ in church, the Second World War was still underway. Roy was just 12 years old. Little did he know then that he would still be playing in his nineties. "By the time I was 10 or 11, I was playing short voluntaries before the morning service. Occasionally the organist failed to turn up, and I would play the hymns. Eventually my father came back from a trustees' meeting to tell me that I was appointed organist, that was on my 12th birthday!" Roy has no plans to draw the final stop, he says, "It's a way of life."



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

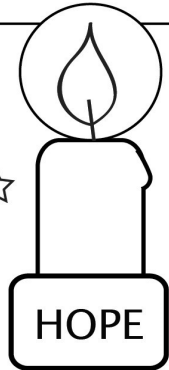
ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



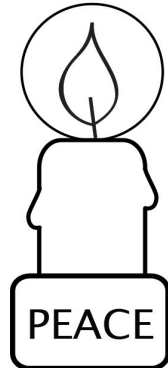
Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



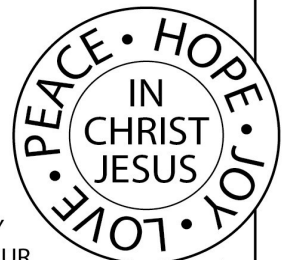
Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT





**A Collection for Ukraine.
Saturday 15th November
10am until 12noon
in St John's Church Hall**

We are now able to use the hall in the morning, so will start at 10am.

Please can you label the bags with 'men's', Ladies, boys, girls'. It will make sorting so much easier. Thank you

We welcome clothes, shoes, bedding toiletries, toys, baby clothes, candles. Anything but not large items.

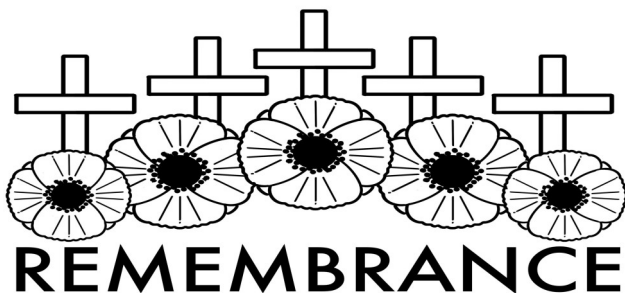
Tea and Coffee will be available

Offers of help will be gratefully received.

We hope you will find it in your heart to support the distressed people of Ukraine at this time.

Thank you all so much

Heather Hill
07882 734507



Ladies Group

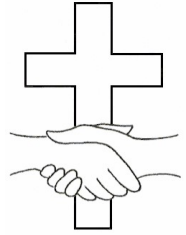
In October we met at Sheila's house for a quiz. Kay had organised the quiz for us. We found out that we knew quite a lot about the British Isles and Chocolate!!

However we were less good at working out anagrams. After the quiz we exchanged our news, had a drink and some cake made from Sheila's glut of apples. Thank you to Sheila for hosting our meeting and making cake and to Kay for arranging the quiz.

The next Ladies Group meeting will be our AGM. It will be held at Lynn Powell's house on Thursday 13th November.

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

We will be taking a trip to Farrington Inn for lunch on Tuesday 11th November. Meeting at 12:30pm in the car park

Please let me know, if you haven't given your name to me and would like to go, as soon as possible.

Thank you

Heather on: 07882 734507

HARVEST LUNCH 2025



A very enjoyable Harvest Lunch took place on Sunday 19th October 2025 in the recently decorated Church Hall.

A Ploughman's Lunch of cheese, ham, salad, bread and pickles was followed by apple crumble and cream.



A successful raffle concluded the lunch.

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

10th October Joan Norman



Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

BAPTISMS

12th October Dane Lori-Ann Strother Druce
 Douglas Joshua Jon Strother Druce
 Eliza Ivy-Joy Strother Druce
 19th October Alayia Ann Stevenson



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

Date	Reader/<i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
2 November	Hilary Denning <i>St John's School</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
9th November	Lesley Garvey <i>Ann Munton</i>	K Gay, L Powell
16th November	Heather Hill <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	J Shears, E Densley
23rd November	Carol Moore <i>Jim Balliston-Thicke</i>	D Winter, J Winter
30th November	David Moore <i>Kay Harvey</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		



***This month's front cover is from Linda Broadhurst
The War Grave memorial at Illogan Church in Cornwall***

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

		Telephone
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Angela Fitch	413636
Choir Leader	Mr Geoff Miles	
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.

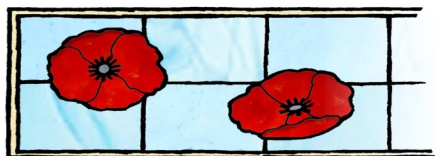
The Friendship Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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](#), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](#)
 and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](#).**



November 2025

Sunday 2nd

All Saints

15:00

All Souls Remembrance Service

Tuesday 4th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 7th

12:30

Trio Paradise Concert

Sunday 9th

Remembrance Sunday

Tuesday 11th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

12:30

Friendship Group Lunch

Thursday 13th

19:30

Ladies Group

Friday 14th

10am to 12 noon

Gardening Group

Magazine Copy Date

Saturday 15th

10 –12noon

Collection for Ukraine

Sunday 16th

2nd Sunday before Advent

Tuesday 18th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 21st

11:00

St Johns cell of Our Lady
Of Walsingham - Eucharist

Sunday 23rd

Christ the King

Tuesday 28th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Sunday 30th

First Sunday in Advent