

CHURCH ALIVE

December 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 12

Guy's Licensing Service

The Licensing Service for Guy, who is to become Priest in Charge of East Mendip Trinity benefice in addition to remaining as Vicar of St John's Midsomer Norton, will take place on Tuesday 6th January at 7pm.

Bishop Michael will preside at the service in St Peter and St Paul church in Kilmersdon

All connected with the churches of the new benefice are warmly invited to attend.

Christmas Cards in Church 2025

We will be using the same system for distribution of Christmas cards brought to church as in the last few years.

The box for depositing cards will be placed in church on Tuesday 2nd December and removed on Tuesday 16th December.

The cards will be sorted and made available to pick up at the services on Sunday 21st December including the Carol Service, also on 21st December at 4pm.

Please note, this facility is just for **regular** attenders at St John's. Cards in the box for **non-regular** members of the congregation will not be delivered.

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear friends,

When does Christmas begin? A week ago I was in a café, and a mother and small child sat at the next table. The child started singing 'Jingle bells', accompanying himself with a spoon banging on the table. The mother, embarrassed, tried to shush him. Wanting to spare her blushes, I said: 'I think he's getting us all ready for Christmas'. 'Well', said Mum, 'they started at playgroup about a month ago: I shall be worn out with it before it arrives!'



The Church perhaps has got it right! We are given the Advent season – one month, as a time of preparation, and I suggest we should see it as a time of HOPE. There will no doubt be parents who, fishing for ideas, ask their children: 'What are you hoping Father Christmas will bring you?' (As they do so, hoping in turn that the answer will not be something they can't afford.) The Advent hope is something deeper than this. It is the Christian virtue of hope which St Paul mentions in his letter to the Corinthians when he writes "Faith, hope and love abide, these three". The hope mentioned here is not just a wish for the future, or an optimistic attitude which expects that 'it will all turn out all right in the end'. It may come out of a deep longing, set within the context of faith, and born out of love for God, who reciprocates by giving hope. This hope – not wishful thinking – is based on what we are preparing to celebrate at Christmas. We celebrate the birth of the One who came to be as we are, that we might become as He is. This may sound complicated, but it is expressed beautifully in a song/hymn that I came across when, in one of the parishes I served in, I was involved in a special school for children with behaviour difficulties. The song begins:
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we,

Let me live with my brother, in perfect harmony.

We cannot truly hope for peace on earth, unless we accept the challenge for it to begin with us.

The song concludes :

‘let this be my solemn vow, to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me’.

May the world take a step nearer to peace this Christmas, beginning with each one of us.

A sharing opportunity

In last month's magazine we were given the news of our link with the benefice of Coleford, Holcombe and Kilmersdon with Babington. Babington House has the lovely Georgian church of St Margaret's in its grounds, and on Sunday December 14th at 5 pm we are having a Carol Service to which we are all invited – a first opportunity to meet and share with people from those three villages (also a first opportunity for them to meet with Fr Guy). Do come along if you are able.

PS Directions to St Margaret's church will be available at the back of St John's Church if required

The Venerable Anthony Wilds



Ladies Group

Our meeting in November was our AGM.
Thank you Lynn for hosting.

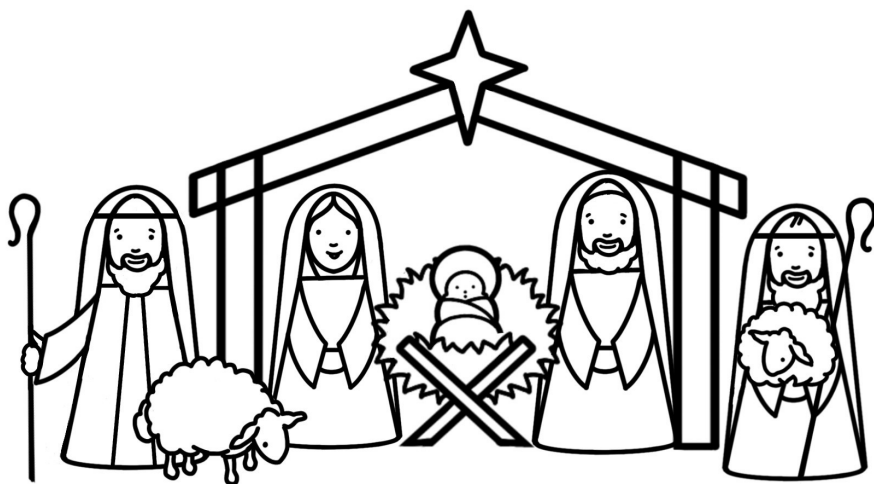
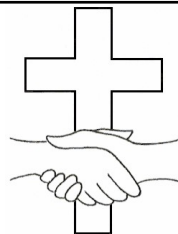
Linda opened the meeting with a prayer.
Business was dealt with quickly. Items included a review
of the year and Election of Officers (unchanged).
Finances were also examined.

A provisional programme for 2026 was discussed with various ideas put
forward.

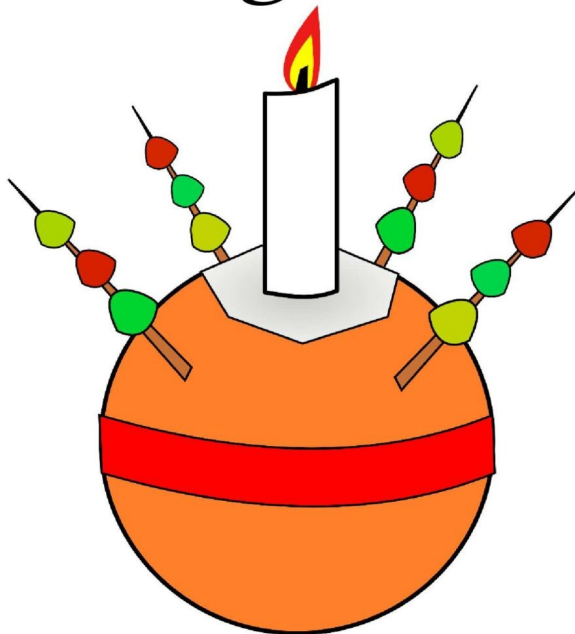
Our next meeting on 11th December is making a Christmas Wreath at
Rebecca's in Radstock.

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.



Christingle Service



Come and join us after school on
Wednesday 3rd December at 3.30pm
St John the Baptist Church,
Midsomer Norton.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bishop's Letter

TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY



We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help. Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes it feels like common ground is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide. In such a climate, it's good to return to the message that heralded the arrival of Jesus. 'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says that angel who announces the saviour's birth (Luke 2:10). Jesus's story quickly includes all types and sorts of humanity. From local shepherds to exotic visitors from afar. I wonder what the conversation was like as they all crammed into the stable to see the newborn child?

Jesus's story quickly shows that not only is he for all people but that he needs all people. His family must have needed assistance when they fled as refugees to Egypt. Jesus must have needed help when his parents left him behind on a family outing to Jerusalem aged twelve. Jesus was constantly calling on and engaging with others as he went about his teaching and ministry.

What might counter the polarisation of our day? Amongst our greatest resource is to seek out the emotion that accompanied the news of the saviour's birth – joy. When we encounter joy – from that cup winning goal to the marriage of much loved friends – such moments are never the time for division and enmity. We're all far too busy shouting and hugging each other!

The invitation of Christmas is to experience such joy afresh. Often, we see joy most obviously in children's experience of the season. Might we seek it for ourselves too? For joy breaks down divisions, overcomes barriers, reminds us that we are one. 'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says the angel.

A very merry and joyful Christmas to you all

Bishop Michael

FROM THE PARISH PUMP

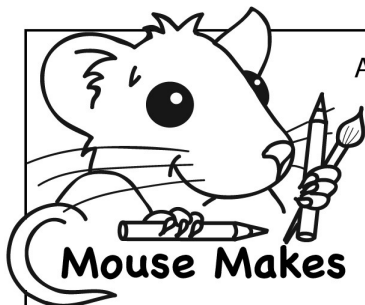
Archbishop Designate, Sarah Mullally, sets out her hopes for the Church



Shortly after the announcement of her nomination as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Sarah Mullally delivered an address at Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting on her calling, the challenges facing the Church, and her hopes for its future.

Rooted in her early vocation as a nurse and shaped by her ministry in London, she spoke of "washing feet" as a guiding image of Christian service, and of finding hope in the quiet faithfulness of churches, chaplaincies, and communities across the Anglican Communion. She addressed the Church's responsibility in safeguarding, the need to confront power dynamics, and the importance of standing against hatred and antisemitism.

She said she would seek to be "a shepherd who enables everyone's ministry and vocation to flourish," and expressed her desire to nurture confidence in the Gospel. "Held fast by the Lord's hand," she concluded, "please pray for me as I will pray for you."



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....
read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 3rd December	15:30	Christingle Service
Saturday 6th December	14:30	Charity Christmas Choir Concert
Tuesday 9th December	10am	<i>Probus Carol Service</i>
Sunday 14th	17:00	<i>Babington Carol Service</i>
Tuesday 16th December	19:00	<i>Rotary Carol Service</i>
Saturday 20th December	18:00	<i>Male Voice Choir concert</i>
Sunday 21st December	16:00	Carol Service
Wednesday 24th December		Christmas Eve
	16:00	Crib Service
	23;30	Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th December		Christmas Day
	9:30am	Christmas Eucharist with Carols



Men of Chew & Cam Valley Choir



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Christmas Charity Choir Concert

6 DECEMBER 2:30 PM

Church of St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton BA3 2HX

TICKETS www.fromthetop.live/events

£10 ADULTS ■ £5 CHILDREN

Proceeds to Children's
Hospice South West



Diane & Christopher and all the family would like to wish Fr. Guy, Kate, Fr Phillip and all our friends in St John's a very blessed and holy Christmas and a very happy New Year.

We are spending early December in London with Laura and family celebrating Fred's first birthday, then going to Iceland for an extended Christmas and New Year, so will not be sending Christmas cards this year. Equally content not to receive as we will not be home, but very much look forward to sharing e-greeting.



Christopher had the privilege of baptising his grandchildren Alfred Kit Robinson - Fred and Eldey Thora Bergmann on the 16th November in Christchurch, Wanstead while Alice was over from Iceland.

The church has a special significance as it was where Diane was baptised, confirmed and married. It is where she met Christopher when he lived in Wanstead while studying at university in London. Christopher taught Diane Bellringing in the church tower for 'learning a new skill' for her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Giles and Emma are thrilled to be Godparents and the day was a joyous celebration.

We pray for Fred and Eldey as they start their Christian journey.

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

BAPTISMS

16th November Lilly Jayne Roberts



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/Intercessions	Sides person
7th December	Linda Robertson <i>Sally Curtis</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
14th December	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Carol Moore</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
21st December	John Shears <i>Ann Munton</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
24th December Midnight Mass	Linda Broadhurst	K Gay, L Powell
25th December	Margaret Small	J Shears, E Densley
28th December	Robert Broughton <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	D Winter, J Winter
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 '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

		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
	Mrs Kay Harvey	07792 708647
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](#).**



December 2025

Tuesday 2nd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 3rd	15:30	Christingle Service
Friday 5th	12:30	Trio Paradise Concert
Saturday 6th	14:30	Charity Christmas Choir Concert
Sunday 7th	2nd Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday 9th	10:00	Probus Carol Service
	12:30	Friendship Group
Thursday 11th	19:00	Ladies Group
Sunday 14th	3rd Sunday of Advent	<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
	17:00	Babington Carol Service
Tuesday 16th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	19:00	Rotary Carol Service
Friday 19th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 21st	4th Sunday of Advent	
	16:00	Carol Service
Tuesday 23rd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 24th	16:00	Crib Service
	23:30	Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th	Christmas Day	09:30 Christmas Eucharist
Sunday 28th	The Holy Innocents	
Tuesday 30th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church