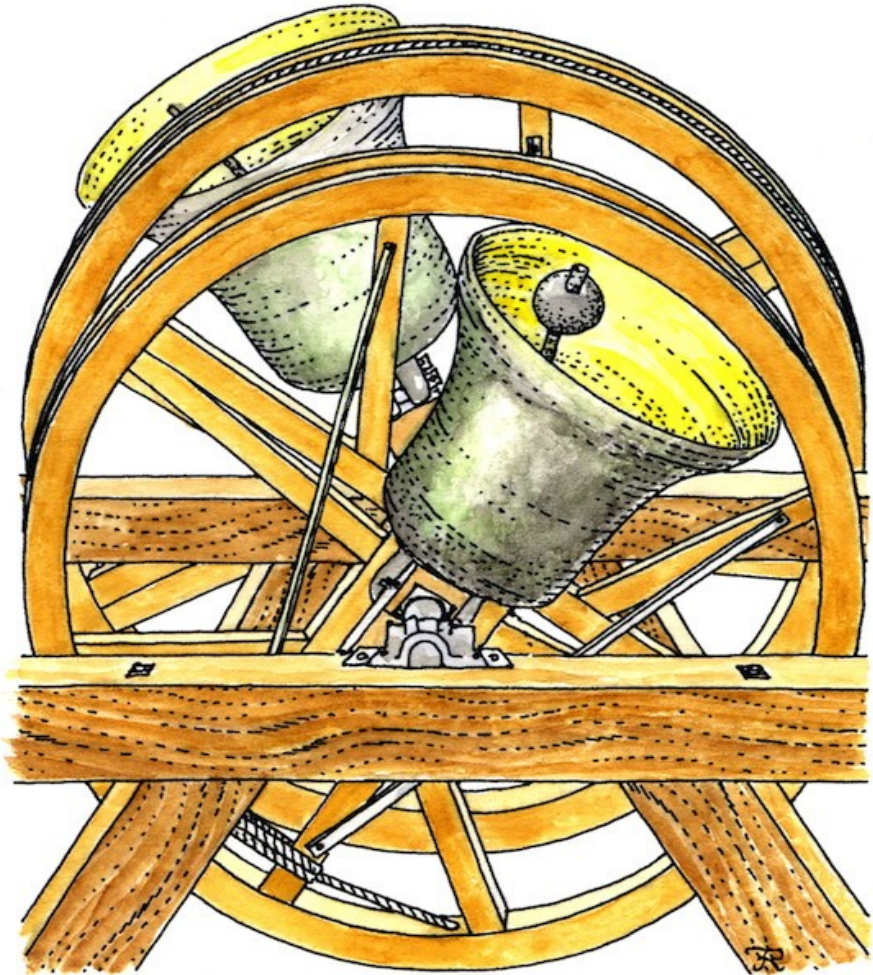


# CHURCH ALIVE

January 2026



**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: 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

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 810 Number 1*

### **Guy's Licensing Service**

Everyone is welcome to attend Guy's licensing as Priest in-Charge of the Benefice of East Mendip Trinity at Kilmersdon Church at 7pm on Tuesday January 6th.

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

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are coming, so that those catering the evening will know how many of us to expect.



On 6<sup>th</sup> January we celebrate Epiphany – the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings – by a church father, Tertullian.

## Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear friends,

I wonder how you begin each New Year? There was a time when I would stay up late to raise a glass and welcome it in. But these days I am more likely to be tucked up in bed hoping not to be woken by fireworks or late revellers wandering home.



As a young man New Year's Eve invariably meant celebrating. New Year's Day brought a stark reality as rash resolutions were immediately tested. I lost count as to how many times I gave up smoking!

Resolving to make change is one of the many traditions of this time of year. It is the natural counterpart to the pull of the past that many feel as the year comes to an end in December.

Our Christmas festivities are loaded with memory, they stir them and bring them back to life. It is also a time when many treasured memories are made. But of course memory can be selective. Often we edit what we carry. For many the call to look back is not so welcome. The past can hold untold pain as well as joy. The future offers welcome opportunity. A chance for transformation.

At this time last year I wrote about the Roman God Janus, from whom this month takes its name. Images of him show him with two faces, one looking to the past, the other seeing the future. He was associated with beginnings and endings, with transformation.

The start of each New Year is traditionally seen as an opportunity to effect change. Looking back honestly, awake to the pain as well as the joy, brings a welcome reality, a counter balance to any excess of nostalgia. Taking stock we can resolve to transform circumstances or set out on a new path.

For us at St John's this January is a new beginning. The benefice of East Mendip Trinity will share our vicar with us as we begin a new phase in the company of our new sister churches. Last month's decision to journey together was a positive response to the reality that our parishes face in challenging times. It is our hope and prayer that the resolution to journey together brings great opportunity and transformation.

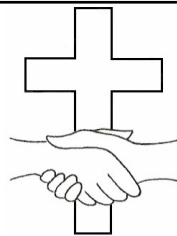
These days I may not stay up late and dance into the night. Or wake the next day with a heavy head! But I still take time to reflect on the past year, identifying the good and not so good and looking to see where change is needed. Preparing the new diary and calendar can be a sobering experience... for me a significant birthday awaits!

So this New Year all of us at St John's send our very best wishes and offer the following prayer....

*God of all time and seasons,  
We thank You for the year that has passed —  
for moments of joy, for lessons learned,  
and for Your presence in times of challenge.  
As we step into this new year,  
grant us hearts open to Your leading,  
courage to follow where You call,  
and compassion to serve those in need.  
Bless our homes, our communities, and our world  
with peace, justice, and hope.  
May we walk each day in the light of Christ,  
trusting in Your unfailing love.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.***

## Ladies Group

Our final meeting for 2025 took place at Rebecca's, In Radstock. Some members made a Christmas wreath while others made a Christmas table decoration.



We were welcomed into the back of the shop by Carol, the owner and once she had set us up she provided us with tea, biscuits and mince pies.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all with some of us learning a new skill.



Our next meeting on the 8th January will be a coffee evening at the home of Kay Harvey.

If you would like to find out more about Ladies Group, please speak to Kay Harvey or Ann Munton.

The new programme for 2026 is now available from the back of church.

New members are always most welcome.



children's hospice  
SOUTH WEST

Registered Charity No. 1003314



# Charlton Farm

## Hospice Tour Dates 2026



**Thursday 15 January**

**Thursday 19 February**

**Thursday 12 March**

**Thursday 16 April**

**Thursday 14 May**

**Thursday 18 June**

**Thursday 23 July**

**Thursday 13 August**

**Thursday 17 September**

**Thursday 15 October**

**Thursday 12 November**

**Thursday 10 December**



If you would like to book a tour please contact either

Jen Nicholls or Paul Mundy for more information:

[jen.nicholls@chsw.org.uk](mailto:jen.nicholls@chsw.org.uk) or [paul.mundy@chsw.org.uk](mailto:paul.mundy@chsw.org.uk)

or call 01275 866600

Margaret Marshall will be a guide on some of the Tours .  
Please contact the people named to book your place, or have a  
word with Margaret for more details.

## Bishop's Letter

### Time to Learn to Pray



‘Lord, teach us to pray.’ In Luke’s Gospel it’s these words, spoken by the disciples, that cause Jesus to give them the Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus says to his friends ‘When you pray say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

Many of us think that we should be able to pray automatically. And that if we can’t, it’s either because ‘it’s not our thing’ or because we’re failing. Yet in Luke’s Gospel, the disciples still need to ask Jesus how to pray, even after they’ve been knocking around with him for ages. So maybe we should give ourselves a break and accept that working out how to pray is not obvious and that all of us need to learn.

In 2026, I’m asking all of us across our diocese of Bath and Wells to make the year one of especial focus on prayer. I’m hoping we’ll all be able to say the words ‘Lord teach us to pray’ and that together we’ll all grow in our experience, understanding, insight and practice.

How can we learn about prayer? We have to make a start. We need to make some mistakes. We need to learn from others. It doesn’t happen in the abstract. Prayer is a ‘learning by doing thing’ where if we stick at it, we grow and change.

How might you learn to pray more this year? There isn’t a master plan designed to get everyone on their knees. Most action will happen locally where we can identify what we need, work out who can help us, and then get underway.

Some simple resources designed to be helpful are being made available. More importantly, please do talk to your vicar or other church leaders about what might be possible where you are.

Together, let's say these words in the year that is to come:

***'Lord, teach us to pray.'***

A very happy New Year to you all.

Bishop Michael



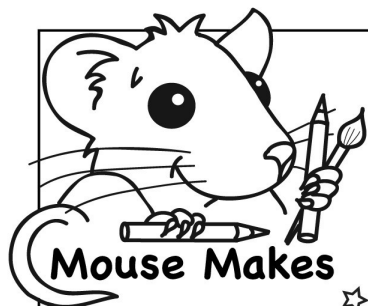
### ST JOHN'S SCHOOL NEWS

In December the school choir were invited to sing at Ammerdown, Carols by Candlelight.

They sang beautifully, and a wonderful evening was had by all.



On the 4th December Year One sang, danced, boogied and brought the Christmas story to life with so much joy and confidence. Every smile, every wiggle, and every line spoken was pure magic.



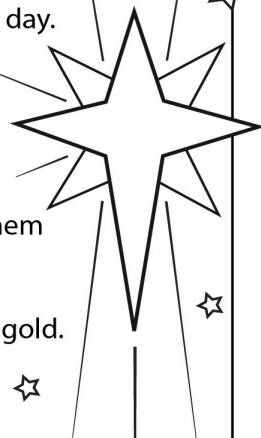
## WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came  
from a land far away,  
they had seen a star  
that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign  
of the birth of a king,  
so they followed that star  
to pay homage to him.

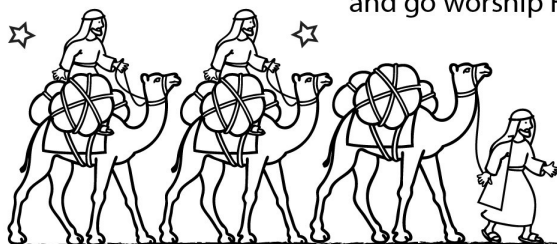
They found him in Bethlehem  
as the prophets foretold,  
they gave him three gifts:  
myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus  
our saviour and king,  
let us join with the Wise Men  
and go worship Him!



### DID YOU KNOW ?

*Stars shine different  
colours, the colour we  
see depends on the  
temperature of the star.  
The hottest stars shine  
blueish-white, then  
yellowish-white, then  
yellow, orange and the  
coolest stars shine red.*



Read the story  
of the Wise Men in  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

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

Can you find  
these words in  
the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI  
STAR • SIGN  
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM  
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH  
CHRIST • KING  
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH  
FRANKINCENSE  
WORSHIP • JOY  
EPIPHANY





## Christingle Service

On Wednesday 3rd December there was a Christingle Service in Church.

Children from St John's School, Ethos Committee visited the church the day before to help make the Christingles for the service .



Here are some of the children at the Service with their Christingles.

A couple more photos of the Ladies Group Wreaths made at their December meeting.



## **2026 – a year of prayer**

Across Bath and Wells in 2026, we are all encouraged to join in with a year of focus on prayer, however that works for us, in the hope that we will grow in prayer and faith as the year progresses.

Kate Scott, Bishop's Chaplain, and a member of the group drawn from across the diocese who are seeking to offer support and resources throughout the year says, "We do pray in Bath and Wells, but we want to encourage everyone in their prayer life, and perhaps to discover and explore new ways of praying. We also want to hear what others find valuable in their prayer life and to all learn together."

"As well as strengthening our personal connection to God as we nurture our prayer life, we hope that this will also be an opportunity to reach out to our communities to ask them what they would welcome prayer for, and to pray for and with them."

Following a meeting on prayer with Area and Lay Deans from across the diocese, a host of ideas for the year of prayer that may help nurture people's prayer life emerged – from exploring pilgrimage to simply learning more about prayer. One idea that bubbled up was the idea of a prayer box, full of various prayer items, that will be shared around deaneries throughout the year.

Caroline Deakin, Area Dean of Locking and also a member of the prayer group offering support, says, "We hope that every deanery will welcome the arrival of the prayer box for periods of 2026 as we seek to grow the wave of prayer across the diocese. The idea is that as the boxes travel the diocese they accumulate prayer. Along the way we hope to collect stories, answers to prayer, and find out how people are simply engaging in really different ways in prayer and what that meant them, how it's maybe developed their prayer life."

Find out more about the year of prayer at:

***[bathandwells.org.uk/prayer](http://bathandwells.org.uk/prayer)***



## More News from the Diocese:

### *Thousands gathered for online Collective Worship.*

More than 6,000 pupils and staff from schools across the region came together for a Collective Worship led by Bishop Michael. Joining together as one big family for a time of shared reflection and celebration Children from 47 schools right across the diocese - from Timberscombe to Combe Down in Bath united online to share in the good news of Christmas.

Bishop Michael's reflection focused on the Christmas message from the angels and to the shepherds gathered in the fields outside Bethlehem. He encouraged the children to consider what it means to be an angel today – a messenger of God, bringing God's message of hope, and love to the world.



## *From The Registers*

### **Christian Funeral**

**"May they rest in peace"**

4th December Christine Godsave

12th December Roy Harvey



### **FROM THE PARISH PUMP** **1<sup>st</sup> January: The naming of Jesus**

**Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?**

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. There is also the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'.

In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (*Iēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke (1:26-33) told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because He will save His people from their sins."

'Behold this child  
is appointed for the fall  
and the rising  
of many in Israel...'

Luke 2: 34



Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
4th January	Hilary Denning <i>Jim Balliston-Thicke</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
11th January	Lesley Garvey <i>Kay Harvey</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
18th January	Heather Hill <i>Sally Curtis</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
25th January	Carol Moore <i>Carol Moore</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		

2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR

***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](mailto:stjohnsmagazine@aol.com)

## Parish Directory

		<b>Telephone</b>
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](http://www.stjohnschurchmsn.org.uk)  
 Twitter: [@StJohnMSN](#), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](#)  
 and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](#).**

# 2026

## January 2026

**Sunday 4th**

**2nd Sunday Christmas**

Tuesday 6th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

12:30

Friendship Group

19:00 at Kilmersdon

Licensing of Fr. Guy

Thursday 8th

19:30

Ladies Group

**Sunday 11th**

**1st Sunday of Epiphany**

Tuesday 13th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Wednesday 14th

***Magazine Copy Date***

Friday 16th

11:00

St Johns cell of Our Lady  
Of Walsingham - Eucharist

**Sunday 18th**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

Tuesday 20th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

**Sunday 25th**

**Conversion of St Paul**

Tuesday 27th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Please save the stamps from your Christmas card envelopes (and any letters with a stamp on them) and deposit them in the box at the back of church.

The money raised from the stamps is for Children's Hospice South West and helps to further the work of the hospice.  
Thank you.

