

CHURCH ALIVE

February 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: 07802 580641

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 2

Thank you from Jane Astill

Jane would like to thank everyone for the flowers and cards she received for her special birthday in January.

They were lovely and very much appreciated.



CHURCH FLOWERS

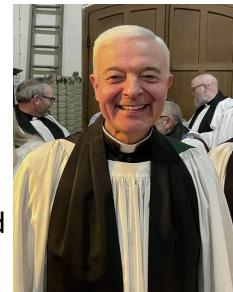
The flowers in Church over Christmas were beautiful. A small band of volunteers assembled on the morning of Tuesday 23rd December with armfuls of flowers and greenery and set to work making St John's ready for Christmas morning. Everyone was in good humour and as we worked we enjoyed cups of coffee or tea, mince pies and stollen. Within an hour or so the Church became alive with fresh roses, carnations, lilies and other fabulous flowers.

I would like to thank all of you who worked hard to achieve a stunning and welcoming picture for everyone who came on Christmas morning. Also, a huge thank you to those who so generously give money to go towards the cost of the flowers.

If you would like to join us in helping with the flowers or donating towards the cost, that would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps you would like to have flowers arranged for a special anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Just contact me at any time.

Carol

Reflections from the Ministry Team



Dear friends,

During the Christmas season you may have heard these spine tingling words from the prologue to John's Gospel. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

We are now in the beginning of a new year, 2026, with our hopes and dreams for the unfolding year ahead. For the Benefice of East Mendip Trinity and the Benefice of Midsomer Norton with Clandown we have reached a new beginning.

On the Feast of Epiphany, 6th January, I was licenced and inducted as Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice of East Mendip Trinity by Michael, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Charlie, Archdeacon of Bath, remaining Vicar of the Benefice of Midsomer Norton with Clandown. This licencing marked the beginning of a new chapter, not only for me, but for the worshipping communities of Coleford, Holcombe and Kilmersdon with Babington and Midsomer Norton with Clandown.

The licencing service was attended by parishioners from all four parishes and clergy from the Deanery of Midsomer Norton. A quarter peal of Cambridge Minor was rung on Kilmersdon Church bells before the service, and refreshments were enjoyed by all afterwards. I felt affirmed and supported as I took on these new responsibilities.

I made the following remarks during the service, which I offer to you at the beginning of a new month!

"As we begin our 'journey' together, I look forward to learning more about the worshipping communities of Coleford, Holcombe, and Kilmersdon with Babington, and the gifts we have to offer in our witness of faith. And it is with our variety of gifts that we seek to live and tell the story of Jesus with the communities of which we are part.

Our churches are “Cribs” witnessing to the communities that surround them. Our role is to invite and welcome all to come and see, to join us in worship, and catch a glimpse of God’s love for us all.

Such encounters with God’s love give our questing hearts a voice to seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.”

May the God of new beginnings bless us all,
Guy

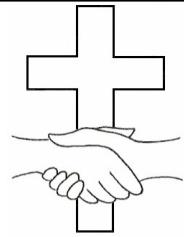


**photographs were taken by
Alasdair Melville.**



Ladies Group

January has been a month of cold temperatures and we weather. The date of our January meeting coincided with ominous weather warnings. Fortunately storm Goretti did not arrive until after our meeting.



We met at Kay Harvey's house for a coffee evening. We chatted about what we had done over the Christmas period and talked about our plans for the New Year.

Linda told us of her recent visit to Canterbury to celebrate her birthday and how interesting the city is. Whilst attending the 11am Eucharist in the Cathedral on Sunday morning, Linda and Andy were approached and asked if they would like to take the Bread and Wine Offering to the altar, which they were very happy to do.

Thanks to Kay for hosting and for providing cake.

Our next meeting on 12th February is a **Coffee Afternoon**, meeting at Farrington Farm Café, at 14:30.

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.

Friendship Group

On Tuesday 10th February, our meeting will be used to plan our programme, from March 2026—February 2027. Please come with plenty of ideas and between us, we will look to build a programme that suits us all.

We would warmly welcome new members to join us. We meet in the Church Hall, the second Tuesday of each month at 14:30 until 16:00.

We would love to see you!

Love and blessings,

Heather: 07882734507.

Licensing and Induction of Father Guy to the East Mendip Trinity Benefice.

On the evening of the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January 2026 in the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Kilmersdon which is part of the East Mendip Trinity Benefice, a service was held as celebration for a New Ministry of Father Guy Scott as Priest-in-Charge of East Mendip Trinity Benefice. The induction and installation was carried out by The Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells and The Venerable Charlie Peer, Archdeacon of Bath.

Father Guy was presented to Bishop Michael by the Lay Dean, Carol Moore and the Associate Priest at his current parish, Midsomer Norton with Clandown, Philip Hopper.

Many serving and retired clergy from the Deanery were there to support Father Guy. The congregation comprised parishioners from the churches that form the East Mendip Trinity Benefice, Coleford, Holcombe and Kilmersdon with Babington as well as those from Midsomer Norton with Clandown. Representatives from these churches and the community informally welcomed Father Guy to his new post.

Bishop Michael gave a sermon with focus on The 3 Kings and giving the opportunity for the congregation to recall their past roles in Nativity plays. Several Epiphany hymns were sung and a collection was made for the Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Kilmersdon. Father Guy's first duty was to toll the bell to signify his arrival in his new parish. He then read out Notices regarding forthcoming services in his extended Ministry.

Following the service, refreshments were kindly provided and there was the opportunity for those present to congratulate Father Guy as well as for the parishioners from East Mendip Trinity to meet with those from Midsomer Norton with Clandown.

Bishop's Letter

Generations growing in faith together

By Fiona Gibson, who will become the Bishop of Taunton on 8 February 2026



Our extended family recently got together for a celebration. We were nine adults from 24-68, one toddler, and one dog, and it was glorious! The joy was simply in being together, whatever our age.

I sometimes wonder what would happen in the life of our churches if we could adopt the same outlook there? Each generation glad that the other is there. Each generation contributing something to the whole. Each generation looking to the interests of the others, making sure there was something that spoke to the others even if not to them.

The writer of the Chronicles records something you could miss if you weren't looking for it. In 2 Chronicles 20, when Judah was facing attack from Ammon and Moab, King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and summoned the people. This is what it says in verse 13:

"All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children."

At a time of great peril, when the king was seeking the LORD, all generations came together to pray.

We often think of intergenerational meaning us older ones passing on wisdom to the younger ones, and that's certainly part of it. But a truly intergenerational family, which the church is, means all generations welcoming one another, valuing one another, learning from one another, and praying with and for one another. It's not a one-way thing.

Our younger generations are ambassadors from the future, with wisdom to give us about their culture, and how to share the timeless truths of the gospel with their peers. They are leaders and learners, just as we all are.

What might it look like across our diocese if we committed to making room for other generations? What might it look like if, like the people of God in ancient times, we came together in our year of especial focus on prayer - adults, young people, and little ones - and sought the power and wisdom of God together? I have a feeling we'd be surprised!

News in Brief from the Diocese

Ask the animals: And they will teach you

A new teaching programme for a group of rural churches in Bath and Wells has been put together to encourage parishioners to think about the significance of animals in the Bible and what the stories about them can teach us in 2026.

Churches in Peasedown St John, Foxcote, Shoscombe and Wellow near Bath, will delve into the Bible to look at what guidance the scriptures have for us in the 21st century. Sunday sermons from January through to December will look at a different topic each month. Below is an example:

Sheep: “I am the good shepherd”

Dove: “The baptism of Jesus”

Fish: “Jesus, the fisher of men”

Wolves: “Beware of false prophets”

Serpent: “The Serpent in the Garden of Eden”

Come and join us at our next Family Service...

Candlemas

**The Feast of the Presentation of Christ
in the Temple.**

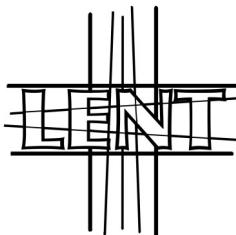


**Sunday 1st February at 10am
St John the Baptist Church,
Midsomer Norton**



All are welcome

LENT



Lent begins on Wednesday 18 February in 2026
The last day of Lent is Thursday 2 April.

When the Lent period ends depends on how you count the 40 days; eastern and western churches observe Lent slightly differently.

In Western churches, Sundays are excluded.
While Lent concludes on Maundy Thursday,
some Christians continue fasting until Holy Saturday.

Eastern churches include Sundays, meaning Lent ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week. Holy Week leads up to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

What does Lent mean?

The word “Lent” comes from the old English, “lenten,” which means “spring.” In Middle English is derived the words, lenten, lente, lent; related to the Dutch, lente, the German, Lenz, also rendered “spring.” In Old German lenzin, lengizin, and lenzo are related words, which probably comes from the same root as “long” and referring to “the lengthening days,” as the earth moves from the winter solstice toward the spring equinox.

What to do for Lent?

Some Christians denominations fast during Lent. They begin with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday and give up meat, fish, eggs and more for the 40-day period. Others choose to give up comforts or luxuries such as chocolate, treat foods, social media or television.

For many Christians, Lent is a time where they make space to pray, read the Bible and reflect on God’s love.

Trio Paradis - Monthly Café Concerts

CONCERT THEMES END JANUARY - JUNE 2026

FEBRUARY: Roots MARCH: Daughters of the Muse

APRIL: Spring Waters MAY: Folk Connections JUNE: Iberia

Who we are... Trio Paradis – Jacquelyn Bevan - piano, Ruth O’Shea - violin and Linda Stocks - cello – formed in 2009 and are based near Bath, Somerset.



We are a highly versatile piano trio playing mostly classical music, but also light jazz, folk, pop and songs from the shows. We have a particular interest in performing works by women and less well-known composers, and enjoy bringing these to a wider audience.

Café Concerts... our monthly daytime concerts with a café serving home-made cakes, tea and coffee, where you can meet friends and make new ones. Each month there is a different themed programme, and the music is introduced in an informative way. There’s no need to book, though an RSVP via our website is appreciated. Entrance is by donation, with a retiring collection. Disabled access is generally very good, though please check details with the individual venues.

Our aim... to cultivate *Friendship through Music* in a warm and inviting atmosphere. Audience members get involved by running the café, reading poems and more... In 2025 Trio Paradis performed c120 Café Concerts in community venues across Somerset & Wiltshire. For a list of funders visit our website.

To receive our monthly email with details of these and our other concerts, or to enquire about hiring Trio Paradis for your event, email trioparadis@gmail.com.

Concert details at www.trioparadis.com and Facebook @trioparadisbath

Cafe Concerts CIO registered charity no. 1213237



PHOTO CREDIT: Sebastian Frv Photography

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

18th January Lucas Cook



TRIO PARADIS

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

Friendship through music



FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY

Roots

Afro-American composers...

FRIDAY 6th MARCH

Daughters of the Muse

Music by women composers

FRIDAY 10th APRIL*

Spring Waters

Rivers, streams & the sea

FRIDAY 1st MAY

Folk Connections

Traditional song & dance

FRIDAY 5th JUNE

Iberia

Music of Spain & Portugal

* avoiding Good Friday

Monthly Café Concerts

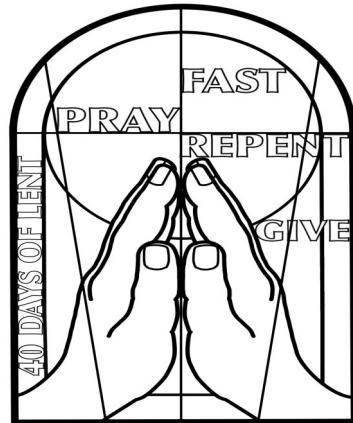
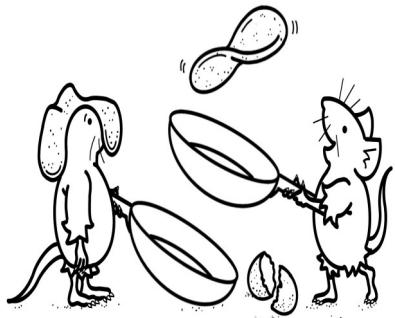
**First Friday of
each month
at 12.30pm**

**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
1st February	David Moore <i>St Johns School</i>	K Gay, L Powell
8th February	Linda Robertson <i>Ann Munton</i>	J Shears, E Densley
15th February	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	D Winter, J Winter
22nd February	John Shears <i>Jim Balliston-Thicke</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
<p>If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you</p>		



This month's front cover was taken by Linda Broadhurst on a recent visit to St Martin's Church in Canterbury.

It is the oldest church in the English-speaking world that still welcomes people for worship, prayer and visitors.

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	07792 708647
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/AtStJohnMSN), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsMSN)

and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](https://www.youtube.com/StJohnsMSN).



February
2026

Sunday 1st	Candlemas	Family Service
Tuesday 3rd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 6th	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Sunday 8th	2nd Sunday before Lent	
Tuesday 10th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
	19:00	PCC Meeting
Thursday 12th	14:30 (<i>note earlier time</i>)	Ladies Group
Saturday 14th		Magazine Copy Date
Sunday 15th	Sunday next before Lent	
Tuesday 17th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 18th	Ash Wednesday	19:30 Sung Eucharist
Friday 20th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 22nd	1st Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 24th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church

