

# CHURCH ALIVE

April 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 Cladown*  
*Volume 810 Number 4*

**BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP - New Daylight Booklets.**

After many years of ordering and distributing the New Daylight Booklets, Angela Fitch is standing down from this position.

Linda Broadhurst is happy to take over this position, but because of changes that BRF have made we are no longer able to have them delivered unless we order a minimum of 7 copies. (We only order 5 at the moment) If we continue to have them delivered there would be a significant increase in the cost unless more people are interested in having a copy. Linda is looking into getting the books from a different source to keep the costs at the current rate, if no other requests for books comes forward.

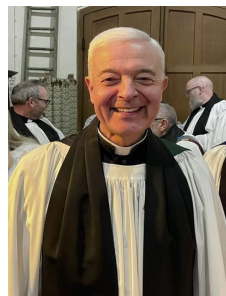
The booklets are produced 3 times a year and contain daily bible readings and reflections from various writers. With regular Bible reading they provide an impact on your faith which the daily notes guide, inform and inspire you. If you would like to look at the current edition as an example or are interested in having a copy three times a year, please speak with Linda.

Thank you to Angela for providing this service over the years.

## Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I can see all around me the evidence of new life; bulbs flowering, trees and shrubs budding, birds pairing up and nest-building. Spring is a wonderful season, full of hope and optimism for the future. Gone (or going!) is the coldness and darkness of winter. We welcome the warmth and light of the longer days and the signs of renewal all around us.



The way that the liturgical year within the church and the natural world are in tune with one another is no accident. They both reinforce and point to the other in a wonderful way. And so, we come to the end of Lent, and look forward to the Easter joy of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

But, let's be honest! The eager awaiting and the enjoyment of Spring wouldn't be nearly as intense without the harshness of winter. If we didn't experience the cold and dark, then the warmth and light wouldn't thrill us as it does. It's the same with our faith. Whilst Easter Joy is a wonderful and vital part of our faith, it can fade if we don't allow ourselves to experience the colder and darker sides of our existence as well.

That is why the church doesn't **just** celebrate Easter with a big party (although it does rightly do that!) It realises the importance of the whole story, the big picture, the full range of emotions. And it invites Christ's followers not **just** to celebrate the joy and hope of Easter, but also to share something of the Passion and death of our risen Lord.

Throughout Lent, and most especially during Holy Week, we have the opportunity to get closer still to Jesus, and, through him to our heavenly Father, by accompanying him on his final earthly journey from his triumphant arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to his trial, desertion, betrayal and death on Good Friday.

We can share, as did those first disciples, his friends, in his Last Supper, his farewell to them. We too can hear his words of love, compassion, faith and forgiveness from the Cross, and we too can mourn his death. For, I believe, if we don't do that, disturbing though it is, we won't get the full joy and impact of Christ's glorious resurrection and what it means for us.

Now I know that when we accompany Christ in his Passion, we have the benefit of hindsight. We know how the story played out, what happened next, and that means that, unlike the first disciples, we do not in the same way experience the total despair that they felt. However, we do all go through times of utter desolation and misery, when God seems distant or absent, and it is at these times in particular that journeying to and beyond the Cross with Jesus can strengthen us.

And so, I encourage you all to watch and wait with Jesus throughout his final earthly journey, so that you too may be strengthened and challenged by the cross, and arrive at Easter filled with overwhelming, heartfelt, 'knock you sideways' resurrection joy.

May I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Yours in Christ,

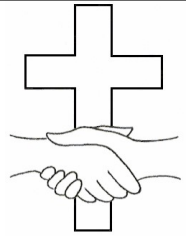
Guy



## **Ladies Group**

*Report for March 2026*

This month the Ladies Group met at Linda Broadhurst's House for a slide show and talk on Linda and Andy's Trip to Scotland to walk the West Highland Way.



The walk in its entirety, from Milngavie to Fort William is nearly 100 miles long and takes on average 8-10 days to complete (depending on your fitness!!) Despite the occasional rain and rugged pathways, the photographs of this glorious landscape showed just why Linda and Andy had enjoyed the trip so much.

Thank you to Linda for the Tea, Coffee and biscuits afterwards and for a very entertaining evening.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th April at the home of Ann Munton. "Something Special"

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 most welcome.

## **Revision of the Church Electoral Roll**

A revision of the Church Electoral Roll takes place every year prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the PCC at the back of Church for 14 days.

If you would like to be included or removed from the Roll, please can you contact Mrs Linda Broadhurst, the Church Electoral Roll Officer Before Saturday 4th April.

# **MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

followed by

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)**

**will take place in Church on  
Sunday 19 April 2026 at 11-15**

The meeting to elect two churchwardens will be held immediately before the APCM.

The APCM is a chance for all church members to receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 and an opportunity for anyone to raise questions and to comment on what the Officers and PCC have done during the year.

Churchwardens are elected annually to serve for one year. The current churchwardens are both willing to stand for re-election.

PCC representatives are elected to serve a three year term of office. Three people need to be elected to serve from 2026 to 2029. There are usually six PCC meetings during the year held on a Tuesday evening in the choir vestry.

This year two Deanery Synod members need to be elected to serve a three year term

Please speak to Father Guy, the churchwardens or the PCC Secretary if you are interested in taking up one of these positions.

Nomination forms are available on request from the PCC Secretary.

## Bishop's Letter



Grace, truth, love and courage

Guilt, shame, mercy, and forgiveness.

Four words all linked with Easter, which we shall celebrate this month.

The last two of those seem to be in short supply at the moment. The 'gods' of social media are ready instantly to punish all offenders, now and in the future.

People often offer George Orwell's nightmare vision of Big Brother as a way to understand our times. I'm more drawn to the image of Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon – a building where a watchman could observe all the inhabitants at all times but without the inhabitants knowing whether or not they're being watched – which ensured compliance. When we hear about online data harvesting it can feel as if everything you say, or do, can be recorded and held against you, ready to be brought out and used if needed.

Where's the mercy or the forgiveness in that? Where's the grace that understands we all make mistakes and need second chances? There's no possibility of wiping the slate clean and beginning again. Which is where the astounding grace and mercy we celebrate on Good Friday and Easter Day comes in.

Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity highlights how the wonder of Easter speaks words of grace and hope to our unmerciful world:

All this judgement serves to highlight the majestic, counter-cultural grace of the Christian gospel. Yes, God is a God of justice, opposed to the degrading of any human on any grounds. Yes, he has seen our every furtive action, picked up every sly whisper, logged every darkling thought

... yet his mercy flows from the cross like an ocean, drenching the universe. As today's media Pharisees rage, God's offer is 'mercy, mercy, mercy' to all who would repent and receive him. And our watchwords: grace, truth, love, and courage.

May this encourage us all as we continue through Lent, experience Holy Week, and finally reach the joy of Easter.

+Fiona

### ***News in brief from the Diocese***

## **Helping bring the youth voice to General Synod**

Bath and Wells' Eleanor Motion has been selected as one of five Young Adult Representatives joining the Church of England's General Synod, giving young people a direct voice at the heart of the national church.

The new Young Adult Reps initiative is part of a pilot project running across five dioceses and follows a motion passed in February last year, to create a clear pathway for young adults to take part in Synod discussions, ensuring their perspectives and experiences help shape the future of the Church.

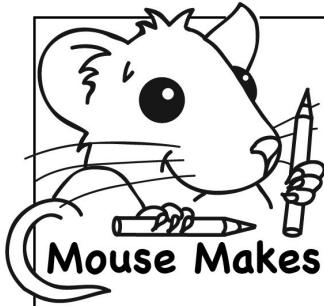


Archbishop Sarah Mullally getting her passport stamped following the completion of her six day pilgrimage of 140 km, from St Paul's Cathedral in London to Canterbury.

This was prior her Installation on the 25th March as the new Archbishop.

Joined by her husband they walked along stretches of the Thames Path, the Via Britannica and the Augustine Camino, the group joined Morning and Evening Prayer services at churches, cathedrals and abbeys en route, as well as meeting with other pilgrims and visiting schools and ecumenical organisations.

Stops included Southwark Cathedral, Aylesford Priory, the Shrine of St Jude in Faversham, Lesnes Abbey and Rochester Cathedral.

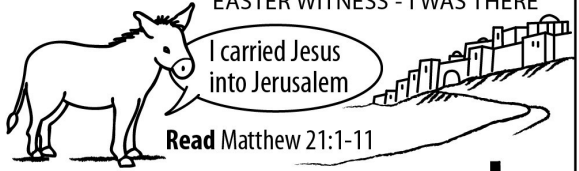


GOOD NEWS  
 OHOSANNA  
 DEATHQB  
 VNCOEUI  
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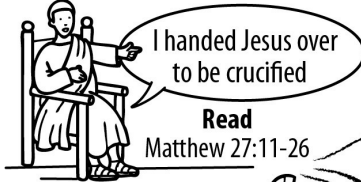
JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



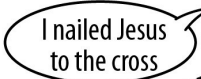
EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 27:11-26

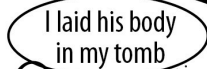


Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

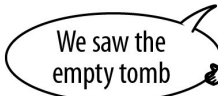


Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

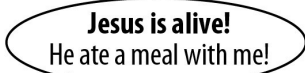
Read Matthew 27:62-66



Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke to the angel



Read Luke 24:13-35

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026

Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am Joint Benefice Service *Liturgy of Palms and Passion*  
at St. John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton.

Monday of Holy Week 30<sup>th</sup> March

11.00am *Stations of the Cross* at St. John's, MSN  
12 noon *Holy Eucharist* at St. John's, MSN

Tuesday of Holy Week 31<sup>st</sup> March

10.00am *Chrism Eucharist* at Wells Cathedral  
7.30pm *Holy Eucharist* at St. John's, MSN

Wednesday of Holy Week 1<sup>st</sup> April

11.00am *Stations of the Cross* at St. John's, MSN  
12 noon *Holy Eucharist* at St. John's, MSN

Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

7.30pm *Maundy Liturgy with foot washing* at St. John's, MSN

Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

10.30am *1 hour Meditation on the Cross* at Holy Trinity, Coleford  
12 noon *3 hour Meditation on the Cross* at St. John's, MSN

Easter Eve 4<sup>th</sup> April

8pm *Easter Vigil* at St. John's, MSN

Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am *Easter Eucharist* at St. John's, MSN

## ***Manna mailing March 2026***

### **He is risen!**

Across our Diocese of Bath and Wells, churches are preparing to celebrate Easter, this most important day of our Christian calendar. Throughout Holy Week and on Easter Sunday there will be sunrise services and church services, community meals and coffee mornings with hot cross buns, and so much more.

During Holy Week, Bishop Michael will be witnessing many of these activities as he undertakes a pilgrimage walk through Exmoor and the Quantocks, calling in churches along the way.

He says, "During this year of 2026, as a diocese together, we are having an especial focus on prayer. Pilgrimage is one of the most ancient ways that Christians have prayed, come closer to God and learned how better to walk with the Lord throughout their lives. I'm so excited that during Holy Week I'll be making this pilgrimage, meeting members of our churches, praying with them, and experiencing God in the beauty of His creation that's all around us. It's going to be an inspiring journey that I look forward to sharing with many different people."

One of the places that Bishop Michael will be visiting is Nether Stowey, where a large cross is placed on the mount there at the start of Holy Week. On Good Friday, Bishop Michael will be joining the Walk of Witness down from the mount, into the village and on to the church where many hot cross buns will be consumed.

The Revd Eleanor King, Rector of the Quantock Villages Benefice said, "This walk of witness is one of the three big outdoor services that we have during the year. It is a special occasion when we are joined by members of the community, as well as our Christian brothers and sisters from other local churches."

Find out more at: [bathandwells.org.uk/bishops-pilgrimage](http://bathandwells.org.uk/bishops-pilgrimage)

## **A Brief History of the Farthing** **(an article provided by Margaret Small)**

Going back to the Anglo Saxon times of Alfred (871-901), whilst there was no actual farthing coined, it originated from the fact that the smallest coin then used was the silver penny and for smaller change it was cut into quarters, “fourths”, or “fourthings”. Hence the origin of the word “farthing”.

This practice of cutting the penny continued until round coin silver farthings were introduced by Edward I in the year 1279.

Owing to the rise in price of silver, by the reign of Edward VI, the weight of the silver farthing had been reduced to 2 grams only. It was therefore almost impossible to coin the silver farthing and thus abandoned.

The Mint had not yet accepted the view that it should strike coins in other than gold or silver and the scarcity of small change led to the issue by shopkeepers of tokens in lead or tin. In 1613 James decided to stop this practice which was considered a breach of the royal prerogative and authorised Lord Harrington by letters patent to strike copper farthings in the King’s name.

In 1672, however, the official copper coinage was initiated by the issue of copper farthings. These coins bore on their reverse side the figure of Britannia, adapted from Roman coins of the second century, notably a bronze coin of Antoninus Pius and modelled from Frances Stewart, Duchess of Richmond, a favourite of Charles II.

Towards the end of the XVIIth century farthings were struck in tin, but this metal was abandoned in 1694 owing to its liability to oxidation. The figure of Britannia with modifications remained on the farthings until 1937, when a wren was adopted. This design, by Mr Wilson Parker, was retained for the coins of Queen Elizabeth II.

Farthings were withdrawn from 31st December 1960.



# *From The Registers*

## Christian Funeral

*"May they rest in peace"*

27th February June Brooks



# 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

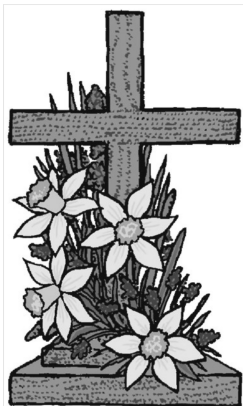
**Midsomer Norton** BA3 2HX

Café serving home-made cakes open from 12 noon. Concerts last c45 min.

Entrance by donation, with a retiring collection

[www.trioparadis.com](http://www.trioparadis.com) Cafe Concerts CIO Registered Charity no. 1213237

Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
5th April	Heather Hill <i>Sally Curtis</i>	D Winter, J Winter
12th April	Carol Moore <i>Carol Moore</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
19th April	David Moore <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
26th April	Lynda Robertson <i>Ann Munton</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
<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 in 2025 by Linda Broadhurst  
It is the Easter Garden at Salisbury Cathedral***

**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

### Telephone

Bible Reading Fellowship		
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
	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.

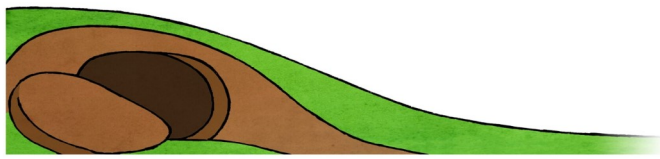
**The Friendship Group:** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

**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](https://twitter.com/StJohnMSN), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnMSN)  
and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](https://www.youtube.com/StJohnsMSN).**



# April 2026

Tuesday 31st March	10am	Chrism Eucharist in Wells Cathedral No Coffee in Church
<b>Thursday 2nd</b>	<b>19:30 Maundy Thursday</b>	Sung Eucharist with foot washing followed by the Watch until 10pm
<b>Friday 3rd</b>	<b>12noon Good Friday</b>	3hr Meditation on the Cross
<b>Saturday 4th</b>	<b>20:00 Easter Eve</b>	Easter Vigil
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>Easter Day 10:00</b>	<b>Easter Eucharist</b>
Tuesday 7th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 9th	19:30	Ladies Group
Friday 10th	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 14th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church <i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Friday 17th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b>	
	11:15	Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 21st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 28th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church