

# CHURCH ALIVE

May 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 5*

**St John's Church Garden Team**



As I look out from our house, it is a pleasure now to see how the churchyard has improved over the last year. The garden team from St John's has worked really hard to make such improvements.

The badger mound has more or less disappeared.

Help was secured from the pay-back team who all worked really hard.

Of course, we owe a huge thank you to the Broadway family who keep the grass mown, without this help we certainly could not afford to ensure that the churchyard is a pleasant and peaceful place to visit.

Carol Moore.

\* \* \* \* \*

From April until October, the Gardening Team meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday's of the month, from 10am until 12noon.

If you would like to help you would be more than welcome, even on an adhoc basis.

## Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

Ah, May...my favourite month! Glorious springtime; the month of blossom and bluebells, May Queens and May poles, Morris dancers and deep-rooted folklore.

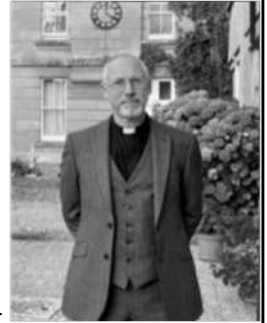
In March I wrote of how our Christian festivals reflect the movement of the Sun and Moon and the impact of our seasons. *May Day* is another of those old festivals that link us to the land and it's past. Midway between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice, *May Day* was yet another opportunity for feasting and bonfires in Pre-Christian times. Commonly known as *Beltane*, it is still celebrated today.



Since Roman times the following month became known as *May*, taking its name from the Greek goddess of fertility *Maia*, whose festival was held during the following month. For our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church, May became the month of the *Blessed Virgin Mary*, the Heavenly May Queen.

Our lectionary – the calendar that guides our journey through the Christian year – opens the month of May with the feast of SS Philip & James. We go on to remember other heroes of the church such as Julian of Norwich, Dunstan, Helena, Bede and Augustine... What good company!

This year, because Easter was *early*, the month of May will see us complete our fifty day celebration of Christ's Resurrection, giving us the feasts of the *Ascension* and *Pentecost* and ending with *Trinity Sunday* – the beginning of a brand new season.



As a child I knew the end of May more as *Whitsun* than *Pentecost* – it was a time for bank holiday coach trips and an early taste of summer. In my teens the Whitsun holiday could feel a mixed blessing as it sat within hay fever and exam season. A bittersweet torture, it was also the time of my birthday!

This Whitsun will be especially memorable for me as it marks the end of my time serving at St John's. It will be another bittersweet time as I say thank you and look ahead to the next phase of my journey.

It has been five years since I arrived at St. John's to complete my curacy. The fit was perfect - I could not have asked for a better training incumbent or parish - *you have brought out the best in me*. Thank you! I will leave with so many treasured memories.

After a summer break, I shall be joining the volunteers at Wells Cathedral as a Day Chaplain... Maybe I'll see you there sometime!

With my very best wishes,  
**Fr Philip.**



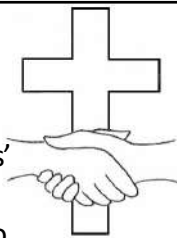
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO **ALISON DOWNING**  
WHO WILL BE 70 YEARS OLD  
ON 3rd MAY



## Ladies Group

*Report for April 2026*

For our April meeting, Ann talked to us about the Mothers' Union 'RISE UP' campaign. The purpose of 'RISE UP' is to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to encourage us to pray for victims of domestic abuse.



The Mothers' Union have chosen the dove as a symbol for this campaign. Doves appear many times in the Bible. They can symbolise peace, forgiveness, compassion and deliverance as when the dove returning to the ark signals the end of the flood. In the New Testament a dove is seen at Jesus' baptism symbolising new beginnings and God's presence with us always.

The Mothers' Union are circulating an origami pattern of a dove to promote their campaign and we all tried our hands at making one. After a couple of false starts we were all pleased with the results.



For our next meeting we will be having our annual evening meal at a venue to be decided upon.

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.

***STOP PRESS:***

***The Ladies Group meal will now take place on Thursday 21st May***

## FROM THE PARISH PUMP

### The Nation's favourite churches and favourite stained-glass window

The East Window in Carlisle Cathedral has been declared the nation's favourite stained-glass window (in a recent survey by the Association of English Cathedrals).



There was no clear winner in the “your favourite church” category, but the following 10 churches were consistently high as among the most loved in the country, according to data from the National Churches Trust:

St Paul's Cathedral London; York Minster; Coventry Cathedral; St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol; Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham; Durham Cathedral; Lincoln Cathedral; St Bride Fleet Street; and Tundergarth Parish Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

#### *What is your favourite Cathedral or Church?*

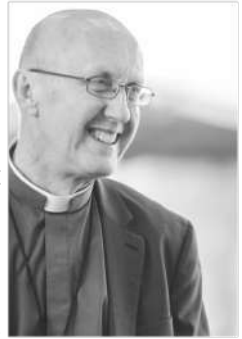
Obviously I am biased to Wells Cathedral, our local Cathedral.

However when it comes to churches, we have visited many on our travels, but one that stands out for me (along with our own church here in Midsomer Norton) is the Church of St Issui in Patrishow, in a remote hamlet near Crickhowell in the Black Mountains of Wales.

The church is most famous for its rood screen which dates from 1500. The church also has a significant collection of wall paintings .



## Bishop's Letter



### Called to care

*By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells*

I heard about one of the earliest scientists to get involved in climate change research. When he began, the researcher said, he'd believed that if we could just get the science right, all the challenges could be resolved. The best information would enable human-kind to find the right technologies and take the right actions to bring climate change under control. Twenty-five years on, the scientist said, he'd realised he'd got it all wrong. What we need to sort out, he said, is the human heart. We know what to do to address the climate emergency. Our challenge is that we're all too liable to place the actions we need to take into the 'too difficult' box, or just deny there's a problem altogether.

Yet whether we like it or not, the climate emergency is a reality that is advancing upon us. It's seen in rising sea levels and increased freak weather. Talk to our brothers and sisters in Zambia and they'll tell you that the climate emergency is upon them now in increased droughts and floods. Last year the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis saw leading experts brief an audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The Briefing outlined the implications of climate breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. If you've not seen it please can I encourage you to find out where you can watch it.

I invite us all to think too about the next steps we can take to address an issue we'd probably rather ignore. The Church of England has set the bold target of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030.

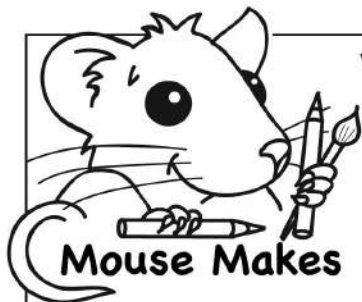
Our churches can make a difference in local communities towards achieving this ambitious goal. I urge you to fill out your church's Carbon Footprint return, sign up to achieve an A Rocha Eco Church Award, make whatever difference you can where you are. Such actions are a sign of us turning around – metanoia as the New Testament puts it – away from denial of what's wrong towards putting things right. Our actions can be signs of the change in heart that all of us need to make.

## Bishop Michael's pilgrimage



During Holy Week, Bishop Michael stepped away from his usual daily work agenda to undertake a pilgrimage across Exmoor and the Quantock Hills. As he journeyed through some of the most rural parts of our diocese, he was joined by members of the local church communities who walked and prayed with him.

The journey reflected the diocese's especial focus on prayer during 2026 - walking through the beautiful landscape, meeting with people, and sharing in prayer and worship together during Holy Week.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Genesis 1:2

The

\_\_\_\_\_   
 of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A \_\_\_\_\_   
 Romans 8:15

H \_\_\_\_\_   
 John 14:26

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_   
 John 16:13

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit   
 Galatians 5:22-23

\_\_\_ O \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_

\_\_\_ C \_\_\_

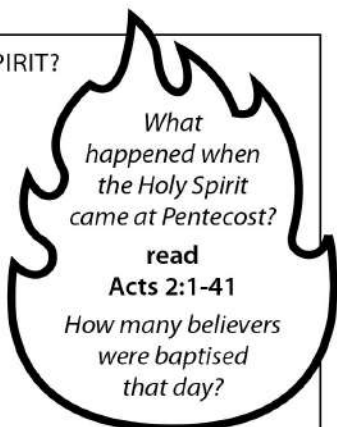
\_\_\_ T \_\_\_

\_\_\_ I \_\_\_

\_\_\_ N \_\_\_

S \_\_\_

N \_\_\_



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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER   
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE   
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND



Thank you to the Acorn Class at St John's School for creating three dramatic scenes in this year's lush Easter Garden.

Did you find the hedgehog hidden amongst the vegetation?

Below are a couple of photo's from the School's Easter Service held in Church.



# Coat of Hopes



Churches in Bath and Wells have been hosting the 'Coat of Hopes', a special patchwork coat carrying the hopes of hundreds of people, which has been passing through our diocese as part of a nationwide pilgrimage responding to the climate crisis. It has been made, worn and walked by hundreds of people over a distance of 2,000 miles so far.

It carries an invitation to share our love and responsibility in facing the climate crisis together.

The coat was at St Mary's Church, Bruton and from there moved to Frome. The coat is staying in St Mary's Church in Frome until 3 May and will be visited by various groups as well as being tended and mended by local enterprise Everyone Needs Pockets.

Revd Liz Dudley, Vicar of Christ Church with St Mary's, says, "Seeing the coat means we will also see the hopes that people have sewn onto it as it has gone around."

4 & 5 JULY

Dragonfly Theatre,  
Writhlington School  
merrimantheatre.com

# JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyrics by TIM RICE Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER  
A MERRIMAN THEATRE / YOUTH GROUP PRODUCTION

Please support our local  
Youth Theatre Group.  
On 4th & 5th July at the  
Dragonfly Theatre at  
Writhlington School.

See Ann Savage  
for more details



JESUS CHRIST  
SUPERSTAR

Lyrics by TIM RICE Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER  
A MERRIMAN THEATRE / YOUTH GROUP PRODUCTION

Award-winning youth theatre company Merriman Theatre Group  
present the legendary rock musical this summer.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's **Jesus Christ Superstar**  
follows the events of the last days of the life of Jesus Christ, as  
seen through the eyes of Judas.

Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the  
legendary score includes *I Don't Know How to Love Him*,  
*Gethsemane*, *Heaven on their Minds* and the iconic title number  
*Superstar*.

4 & 5 JULY  
Dragonfly Theatre, Writhlington School  
merrimantheatre.com

Merriman Theatre Group  
NODA South West Youth Advisors  
Award winners 2025

*From The Registers*

**Holy Baptism**

**“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”**

12th April Otilie Sable Bridges

BAPTISMS



**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**

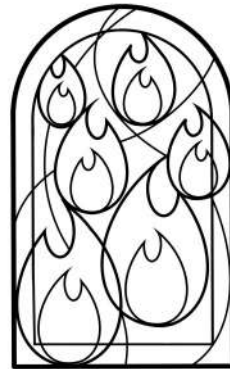
**First Friday of  
each month  
at 12.30pm**

**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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader/<i>Intercessions</i></b>	<b>Sides person</b>
3rd May	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>St John's School</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
10th May	John Shears <i>Kay Harvey</i>	K Gay, L Powell
17th May	Margaret Small <i>Augustina Ogbidikhe</i>	J Shears, E Densley
24th May	Linda Broadhurst <i>Sally Curtis</i>	D Winter, J Winter
31st May	Robert Broughton <i>Carol Moore</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 the Easter Cross  
From this year's Easter Service.***

**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 Linda Broadhurst	07941204179
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
	Mr Geoff Miles	
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 at 4 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/channel/UCStJohn's%20MSN).**



May  
2026

Friday 1st	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 5th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 12th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
<b>Thursday 14th</b>	<b>19:30 Ascension Day</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b> <i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Friday 15th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>	
Tuesday 19th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 21st	19:30	Ladies Group Meal
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	<b>Day of Pentecost</b>	
Tuesday 26th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	

