

CHURCH ALIVE

June 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

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 6

INTO THE CHURCH ARCHIVES

Hilary Denning and I went to the South-West Heritage Centre near Taunton to look at some information about our church's history.

We found a churchwarden's book that was started in the year 1736. The two churchwardens for that year were Mr John Perry and Mr Sydenham Poyntz. New churchwardens were appointed every year and they are all listed in the book.

A lot of the names in the book can now be seen in the memorials inside our church or in the closed churchyard.

We continued our history day very happily and are planning to return again soon. It is pleasing to consider that when we come into church, we can think about those who have gone before and have left us a record of their past lives.

Pat Marriott

* * * * *

From the Editor:

I was given a '*Church Alive*' magazine a little while back, from *January 1968* and it made interesting reading.

The vicar at the time was The Rev. R.M. Fookes and lived at the old vicarage on North Road. There was an Assistant Priest: The Rev. Andrew G.B. Rowe, who lived in The Vicarage Flat.

Sunday Services were: 8am Holy Communion. 9:30am Parish Communion with Sunday School in the Church Hall and 6pm Evening Prayer.

On the **1st Sunday in the month** at 7am Holy Communion and at 3:30pm Holy Baptisms were held. I will include more snippets from the magazine throughout the year.

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

What keeps you going?

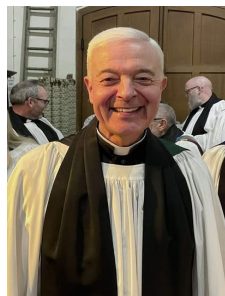
June sees us moving into that part of the Church's year which is called "ordinary time". We stay in "ordinary time" until All Saints' Day (1st. November), and then the emphasis changes to a time of celebration and reflection on the reign of Christ on earth and in heaven. This leads us up to Advent and a new year.

What keeps you going in "ordinary time"?

Clearly, our daily encounter with God, found in his creation and our relationships, keeps us going. As do our times of prayer, worship and praise, when we draw nearer to Christ and the mystery of God.

There is also the church's long tradition of commemorating and celebrating the Saints, those men and women, hidden and revealed, who, down the ages, have shown the capacity to "make God real" – a phrase Michael Ramsey often used. It is the lives and the example of the Saints which can encourage and inspire us in our own Christian journey towards Christ.

A good example is our own Patronal Festival on 24th June, when we thank God for the birth of John the Baptist. John was courageous, confident and hopeful. His life was one of witness to his cousin Jesus. He recognised that "one greater than I, is coming after me". What he said, and what he achieved, was for one purpose and one purpose alone, to point to Jesus the Messiah. "It's not me, but Jesus who you follow". What an example for us all.



So, in the long days of summer, when you are inclined to relax in the heat(!), what will keep you going? Perhaps the Saints will show you the way to Christ.

Let's keep going with Jesus and the great cloud of witnesses,

Guy



Extra Services in June

Thursday 4th June

Corpus Christi

19:30 Sung Eucharist with Incense

Wednesday 24th June

Birth of John the Baptist

19:30 Patronal Festival with Incense

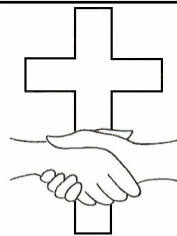


Happy Fathers Day
to all Fathers, both
living and those
that have passed
from this life.

Sunday 21st June



Ladies Group



The date for our May meeting fell on the same day as Ascension Day this year. Our meeting which was the Annual meal out, was brought forward to 7th May. However, shortly before that date, the Somerset Wagon Had to cancel our booking. Another date change to 21st May!! Most of the group were able to manage that date.

A very pleasant evening was enjoyed both for our food, which we had pre-ordered and for the numerous conversations covering various topics.

The daylight had just started to fade as we left with the moon shining, a nice end to a lovely evening.

Many thanks to Ann for organising this, especially as she had to deal with several changes to the original plan.

Our next meeting is a coffee evening on Thursday 11th June the home of Hilary Denning.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lynn and Steve Carpenter who celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary in May.

They had a lovely evening celebrating with family and friends.



Manna Mailing June 2026 from the Diocese

Celebrating our volunteers

Where would we be without our volunteers? The first week in June is National Volunteers Week, which is described as ‘a UK-wide celebration recognising the contribution of volunteers’. There may be a ‘week’ or a ‘day’ to celebrate a whole host of different things, but one in which we can say a big ‘thank you’ to all those that enable the Church of England to be all that it is in our Diocese of Bath and Wells is one not to ignore. So, if you are one of those volunteers, thank you!

As well as the many people in our churches who provide such valuable support, we also have a host of volunteers that help our diocese function, serving on a range of committees and groups.

The Finance Group is one of those groups that ensures the diocese meets its legal obligations and enables it to function effectively. Long serving member Mal Lee, says, “Being part of the Finance Group is a great privilege and is really interesting.

“The Group is part of the governance framework by which our diocese is directed. Bath and Wells is very much a people organisation, and the Finance Group recognises the importance of the work undertaken by individuals and benefices that form such an essential part of our diocese.”

There are at least 21 formal diocesan committees, not to mention more informal groups supporting different areas of activity, such as our Year of Prayer and lay ministries development. Some volunteers are members of clergy, but the majority are lay. If you want to know more about our different committees and consider whether you could join one of them, go to our diocesan website:

bathandwells.org.uk/how-our-diocese-works.

Bishop's Letter

Transforming our communities through the
love of Christ

By Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

In the early days of the Ukraine war, the Diocese of Hereford, where I was then serving, I was approached by Herefordshire Council. They had been so impressed by the work of church members during the pandemic, who stepped up to support their communities in practical ways, that they asked if the diocese could take on organising homes for Ukrainians fleeing the war. Yes, of course, we said. And so began an ongoing partnership, where hundreds of Ukrainian guests have found homes in the Welsh Marches, and hundreds of tonnes of aid has gone across to Ukraine.

That's just what we do as the church, isn't it? We see a need in our communities and, motivated by Christ's love and teaching, we try to meet it. And we do it out of love, not seeking any reward. We are volunteers.

The word 'volunteer' comes from words meaning, 'of a person's free will.' Volunteers serve willingly. Freely. Out of love. So many in across our diocese serve our communities willingly, freely, out of love. We are deeply grateful. There are Foodbanks, lunch clubs, debt counselling services, mental health first aiders, bereavement cafes, after-school clubs, and youth drop-ins. That barely scratches the surface. All of this is done in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who came and gave himself for us willingly; freely; out of love. And it's transformational.

One of the areas of our common diocesan life which I'll be involved with is our work around Transforming Communities. There will be a lot more to be said in the coming months, but for now, I simply want to thank all our volunteers who serve willingly, freely, and out of love and say how much I'm looking forward to celebrating what we have, and building on it together, transforming our communities through the love of Christ.

Jo Stobart to be next Archdeacon of Wells

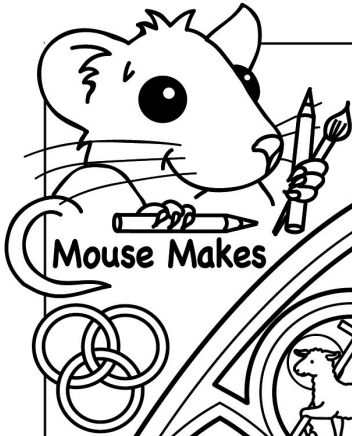
The Revd Jo Stobart is to be the next Archdeacon of Wells and Residentiary Canon of Wells Cathedral. She will succeed Anne Gell who stepped down earlier this month after nine years in the role.

Jo will be returning to Bath and Wells in the late autumn.



Speaking on her appointment, Jo, who is currently Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter, said, "I am overjoyed and honoured to be the next Archdeacon of Wells and Residentiary Canon of Wells Cathedral. The call to serve in this role was a tug at my vocational heart strings that I could not ignore.

"There will be much for me to learn, but I am looking forward to supporting the parishes of the Wells Archdeaconry, getting to know its people and places, and joining in with the joyful mission of the Cathedral. My husband Ian is a Reader and, as someone whose ministry began as a lay chaplain, I am a passionate advocate for shared ministry and finding ways in which we can further enable all God's people to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The golden thread running through my whole working life has been teaching and learning, especially with children and young people, so I'm looking forward to finding ways to bring that focus to my new role.



"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
 love of **GOD** and the
 fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
 with you all."

2 Corinthians
 13:14

Mouse Makes



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 PBREADW
 HLALPHA
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 RMEHOEK
 DMIRSST
 SAVIOUR
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 KEOMEGA

JESUS • CHRIST
 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
 EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
 SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
 TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
 BREAD • WORD • HEALER
 VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

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GOD • FATHER
 ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
 YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
 HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
 ETERNAL • CREATOR
 KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
 SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

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 OSPOWER
 ULFLIFE
 POWYNDR
 AWISDOM
 DBEPBVC
 VWTIREO
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 CTRIAIF
 ANNTTRO
 TEACHER
 ESLGIFT
 DSGUIDE
 THELPER

HOLY SPIRIT
 GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
 COMFORTER • GUIDE
 ADVOCATE • WISDOM
 POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
 LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
 WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



Activities that happened at St John's School In May



At the beginning of May, the Reception children had a wonderful time exploring and playing in the mud kitchen. They loved getting creative, using their imaginations and enjoying hands-on outdoor learning together.

At the Art Club this term children have been making a piece of art inspired by Monet. They used collage and oil pastels. The children enjoyed gluing, sticking, layering and adding details with lines.



Also early in May Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 had an exciting morning, when Actor and Author Emma Swan visited to talk about her series of books called 'Cruise Ship Kid'.

The children had an amazing time learning all about Emma's childhood and how she grew up living on cruise ships, which inspired her current writing of the Cruise Ship Kids series of books.

Emma's books are based on her diaries that she wrote as a child. She inspired and encouraged us all to keep writing and reading and never give up on our dreams.

Despite the rain, Year 3 had a brilliant day at Stonehenge! They learnt about Neolithic food, clothing, homes and how Stonehenge may have been built.



The Church of Saint Ildefonso *(The Picture on the front Cover of this magazine.)*

The Igreja de Santo Ildefonso is an eighteenth century church in Porto, Portugal. It was 30 years in construction and is named in honour of the 7th century Bishop of Toledo, Ildephonsus.

Completed in 1739, the church was built in a proto-Baroque style with a façade of 11,000 azulejo blue and white tiles, which were added in November 1932. The tiles depict scenes from the life of Saint Ildefonso and figurative imagery from the Gospels.

The two bell towers outside are topped with stone crosses, masonry spheres and flag poles, normally flying the flags of Portugal.

You can see the white cloth draped on the cross at the entrance to the church which, as we were still in the Easter season, signifies the triumph of the Risen Lord and the white burial linens left in the empty tomb. (We saw this at most churches during our visit.)

The Retable, behind the altar, shown here, was designed by an Italian artist and installed in 1745.

The church also has some beautiful stained glass windows and a pipe organ dating from 1811.

This information is provided by Linda and Andy Broadhurst, who visited this church in Porto on a recent holiday.



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

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

An award-winning youth group production by Merriman Theatre Group

Merriman Theatre Group
NODA South West Youth Advisors
Award winners 2025

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

10th May Jude Joseph Paddock

17th May Matilda Florence Morgan

BAPTISMS

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

15th April Sylvia Palmer

23rd April David Bresnan

1st May Michael Powell

6th May Barbara Powney



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/Intercessions	Sides person
7th June	Hilary Denning	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
14th June	Lesley Garvey <i>Ann Munton</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
21st June	Heather Hill <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
28th June	Carol Moore <i>Kay Harvey</i>	K Gay, L Powell
<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 is the Church of Saint Ildefonso
In Porto, Portugal
See page 12 for more information on this Catholic Church
The Picture was taken by the Andy Broadhurst.***

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: stjohsmagazine@aol.com

Parish Directory

		Telephone
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
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).**



June 2026

Thursday 4th	19:30 - Corpus Christi	Sung Eucharist
Friday 5th	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Sunday 7th	1st Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 9th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 11th	19:30	Ladies Group
Sunday 14th	2nd Sunday after Trinity	
		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Tuesday 16th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 19th	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Sunday 21st	3rd Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 23rd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 24th	19:30 Patronal Festival	Birth of John the Baptist
Sunday 28th	4th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 30th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church