

CHURCH ALIVE

July 2026



St. Swithin's Day, 15 July
Saint for rain

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>

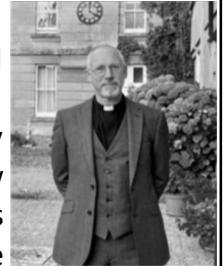


Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 810 Number 7

Rev. Philip Hopper : An Appreciation.

St John's congregation were very sad to have said goodbye to Fr. Philip.

Fr. Philip's time with us at St John's has been very successful as curate and Priest. Philip brought a new dimension to our pastoral life and his commitment has been much appreciated. I think that Philip could be considered as our St Barnabas, as his encouragement, particularly to the young has been outstanding. Philip re-established our connection with St John's school and gave a good deal of his time to the school. Many pupils experienced attending church where they were often involved in services. Encouraging new young servers has been a real benefit to St John's.



Whilst Philip has done well in seeking to ensure that his schoolwork will continue with support from teaching staff, however the essential priest's involvement with our Church school may be significantly reduced given that Fr. Guy now has additional responsibility for other parishes

Another of Fr. Philip's achievements was in his ministry at our 8am Sunday service. This service was sometimes attended by non-regular church goers who perhaps were experiencing difficult times in their lives and wanted to just return to church for some comfort and quiet prayer. After the service Philip always made time for such people and this meant a good deal in ways we may never know.

Continued overleaf

Philip has been such a popular priest, it is difficult to imagine St John's without his personality. However, all good things come to an end and we wish Philip well in his retirement, although it would be good to see him again from time to time if possible.

Thank you Philip for all your kindness and support for St John's in so many ways and for just being "you"

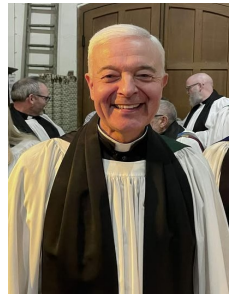
Colin Tincknell OBE

Churchwarden at St John's Church for 18 years and Chairman of Governors at St John's School for a similar period.

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

Just as the natural year is broken up into the four seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter, so the Church's year is broken up into seasons, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and so on.



Just as each season of the year has its own feel to it and its own activities associated with it, increasing warmth and sunshine in spring and summer to allow planting and growth, colder weather and a natural dying off period in autumn and winter to give the ground a rest after harvesting, so too the Church's year follows different patterns and colours.

Christians have times of waiting and preparation, times of feasting and celebration, times of thoughtfulness, times of mourning, times of joy and renewed hope built into the Church year, just as we all have periods like these in all of our lives, whether we have faith or not.

We all experience times of waiting (exam results, job interviews, illness, pregnancy), times of celebration (new birth, marriage, success), times of sadness and failure, times of joy and hope. It's all part of being human.

So, where are we now in the Church's year? What's happening? Well, in one sense the answer is "not a lot"!

We are now in what the Church refers to as "ordinary time".

We have entered a great long stretch of "ordinary time", going right through to the Kingdom Season at the beginning of November, with very few breaks in it. We have the odd feast day to celebrate, but other than that, not a lot is going on.

In every human life there are long stretches of time just like that; "ordinary time". Most of our lives are "ordinary time" – no dramas, no crises, no great ups, no deep lows, - just "ordinary".

I believe it is far better to see "ordinary time" as growing time, time to grow in faith. We can be distracted, perhaps comfortably so, by all that the summer can offer – Cream teas, holidays, Church fetes, Sunny evenings with a glass of Pimm's. But all our 'doing' can overshadow taking time to 'be' at our Lord's feet and listening to what he has to say.

If we squeeze out our "ordinary time", our "growing time", or consider it unimportant, we stand in danger of getting the balance wrong. That would be a shame, for we are all called to enjoy life in its fullness. After all it is only by 'being' that we can 'do' anything!

I hope and pray that during this "ordinary time" you may find time to "be", to grow in faith, and be the human **being** God wants you to be.

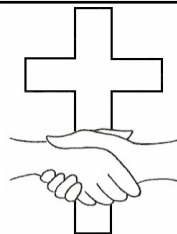
Yours in Christ

Guy

Ladies Group

Meeting June 2026

With some members having other commitments, a small number of us met for the coffee evening at Hilary's.



Conversations covered many diverse topics including funerals, grandparents and grandchildren, holidays and Christmas.

Thank you to Hilary for hosting the meeting.

Our next meeting on the 9th July is a visit to
Lavender Farm in Faulkland

It was agreed that *"The Marriage Portrait"* by Maggie O'Farrell was the book to read for the book discussion evening at our September meeting.

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.



GIFT DAY

On **Wednesday 22nd July** the church will be holding a **GIFT DAY**.



Between 10am and 12 noon you are invited to visit church with your donation.

Refreshments will be available.

FROM THE PARISH PUMP

15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.



That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Bishop's Letter

Human flourishing for all

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

'Tell me about your school days' is a deeply illuminating question to ask. Our experience of school shapes us deeply our whole lives long. Schools mould our character and values. They develop our skills and expectations. They influence our relationships and our life chances.



Rooted in our understanding of the Bible, Christians have been involved in schooling for many centuries. In the nineteenth century, the Church of England's National Society set up thousands of schools all around our country, established principally for the benefit of the poor. It is largely out of this heritage that our Diocese of Bath and Wells continues to have a stake in so many of Somerset's schools today. We have 180 Church Schools, the majority of which are for primary aged children, with nine middle, upper or secondary schools and one specialist provision. Big and small, and found in all kinds of communities, our schools educate around 60% of Somerset's primary school children.

Our schools are Church Schools, they are not faith schools. We are open to everyone, of all faiths and none. Our schools are guided by our Christian ethos, manifested in their engagement with the Bible and worship, in prayer and Christian ethics. More recently, this is expressed most fully in the Church of England's Vision for Education. This understands our schools' mission to be 'deeply Christian, serving the Common Good'. Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. Our vision is of human flourishing for all.

As bishop, I am privileged to spend lots of time in our Church Schools. The most fun I have is being grilled by young people who pose me questions about ethics and doctrine, our Church's life and faith. I'm certainly kept on my toes! What I value most is seeing played out in our young people the four main elements of our Church's vision - wisdom, hope, community and dignity. These commitments are reflected in the stories told in this edition of Manna. I hope you'll enjoy reading them as they illustrate our vision for education in the schools of our diocese.

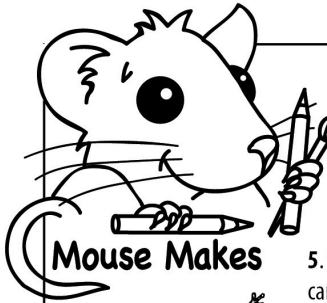


**Deanery Service with Bishop Fiona
Sunday 26th July at 10:30am**

St John's in Chilcompton will again be hosting our Annual Deanery Service. This service will replace other parish services on the 26th July.

The theme this year is 'New Birth'. An exciting morning is planned including testimonials following recent Alpha courses and our special guest this year it to be Bishop Fiona.

As last year there will be plenty of parking in the adjacent Manor Farm, activities will be provided for children who need them and the service will be followed by generous hospitality in the church hall



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

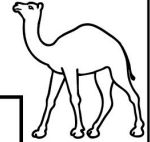
7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



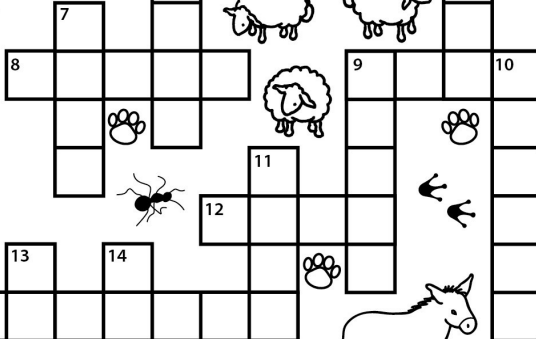
9 across. In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



CREATURES

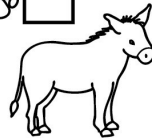


9 down. What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



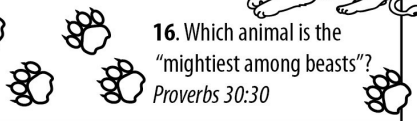
14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30





MIDSOMER NORTON *Town Fayre*

Art & Craft
activities

Music &
performances

Town
Competitions

Local food
& drink

Market &
community stalls

Bouncy
castles

School Maypole
Dancing

Games &
Activities



Midsomer Norton Town Show
Midsomer Arts Festival

Town Park, Somer Centre, BA3 2UH

SATURDAY 11th JULY 2026
12.00 to 5.00pm



**TRIBUTE TO LES MARTINDALE (former Churchwarden)
WHO PASSED AWAY ON 13th MAY 2026**

Les was the most honest, trustworthy and respected person I have ever known. Les was a good man of great faith, which he demonstrated in his everyday life.

Due to Les's appointment at Showering's in Shepton Mallet, Les and Joan moved from Yorkshire to Holcombe in 1983. Les told me that they attended many churches in the area before deciding that St John's suited them best, as it offered a similar pattern of worship to that which they had enjoyed in Leeds.



Les and Joan became regular worshippers at St John's and after a period, Les was elected as a churchwarden, a position in which he served for 18 years. Les loved St John's and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the church, taking an active role in looking after the church fabric and sorting out repair problems. As occasions arose, Les had the personality to gather around him a group of people when major jobs needed to be undertaken. Such as work on the church hall floor and its decorations.

Les played a leading role in the church's major refurbishment. He took charge of the Fabric Fund and working with Christopher, handled the extensive paperwork, including grant applications, meetings with the architect and resolving the many issues that arose. He was also closely involved in fundraising for the substantial cost of the work, helping to manage money raised through monthly events, supporting Diane and her ladies' social committee and assisting with special events by providing the wine and helping with set-up. His contribution to the refurbishment was invaluable.

A real Christian, Les's example is one we could all seek to follow and he will be sorely missed but fondly remembered by the church community at St John's and the wider community through his involvement with the Midsomer Norton & District PROBUS club, the Mendip Male Voice Choir, Mendip Golf Club and the U3A Wine Group.

Les will be with his Lord, having spent a wonderful life on earth. May he rest in peace.

Colin Tincknell OBE - Churchwarden with Les for many years.



FROM THE PARISH PUMP

Editor: For those about to go on holiday...

Holiday Soothies

For dealing with motion sickness, ginger capsules are your new friend. Available from any health store, they do a wonderful job in calming upset tummies.

For fever or frayed tempers, take some camomile tea bags with you. Camomile tea doesn't just calm your nerves; cooled down, the tea also soothes sunburn.

For banning mosquitoes & insomnia, take some essential oil of lavender. Mosquitoes hate the smell, so if you put a few drops around your pillow at night, you can help keep them at bay – and help yourself drift off to sleep.

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

14th June Theo Cliffe
Hunter Cliffe

BAPTISMS

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

29th May Leslie (Les) Martindale
4th June Geoffrey Broadway



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

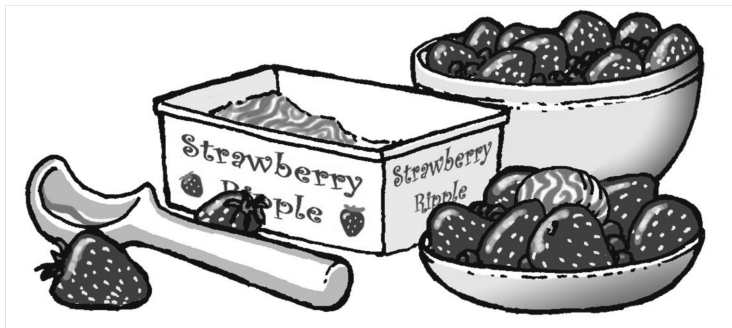
ST JOHN'S CHURCH

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
5th July	David Moore <i>Augustina Ogbidikhe</i>	J Shears, E Densley
12th July	Lynda Robertson <i>Sally Curtis</i>	D Winter, J Winter
19th July	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Ann Munton</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
26th July	10:30	Deanery Service @Chilcompton
	No 10am Service	At St John's
<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 a picture for St Swithin's Day
 Taken from Parish Pump
(editor's note: I am sitting here completing the parish magazine in the heatwave, waiting for some rain)

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 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.

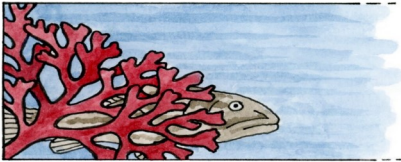
The Friendship Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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/channel/UC...).**



July 2026

Friday 3rd	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Sunday 5th	Thomas the Apostle	25th Anniversary of Guy's Ordination as Priest
Tuesday 7th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 9th	14:00	Ladies Group <i>Visit to Somerset Lavender</i>
Sunday 12th	6th Sunday after Trinity	
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
Sunday 19th	7th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 21st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 22nd	10am until 12noon	Gift Day in Church
Sunday 26th	8th Sunday after Trinity	10:30 Deanery Service @ Chilcompton <i>No 10am Service at MSN</i>
Tuesday 30th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church