

CHURCH ALIVE

August 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 Clandown
Volume 810 Number 8

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

I am appealing to anyone who has photos or documents to do with church life in the past.

Perhaps they concern days out, church events, choir functions or bellringer occasions.

I believe some of our congregation used to belong to a football team!

The items can be donated to our archive or just borrowed for certain events. I need any donations by Sunday 30th August 2026

Thank you
Pat Marriott

NEW DAYLIGHT BOOKLETS

I shall be doing an order for the New Daylight Books this month (August), If you would like to order one or see a copy to have an idea of what is available, please let myself know.

Each book provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. It is ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

Linda Broadhurst

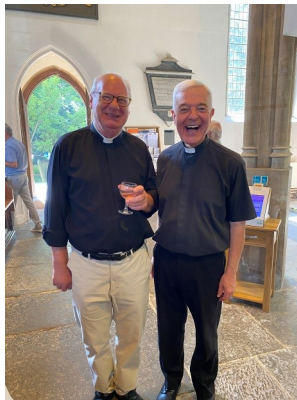
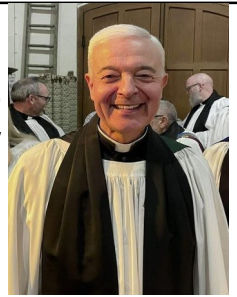
Reflections from the Ministry Team

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who joined us as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of my ordination as a priest.

Thank you all for your support, good wishes, cards, gifts, wine and tasty nibbles and love.

With my sincere thanks to you and God

Guy





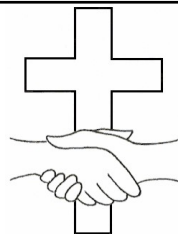
Here are a few photographs
from Guy's celebrations for his
25th anniversary on his
ordination as a priest.

The photographs were taken by
Tom Boyle.



Ladies Group

Due to the extremely hot weather, the planned visit in July to Somerset Lavender, did not take place.



There is no meeting in August, but the chosen book for Discussion at our September meeting is *"The Marriage Portrait"* by Maggie O'Farrell . This meeting will be hosted by Lynn.

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.

MSN
DEANERY



Around and About the Deanery.

This year St Mary's Timsbury celebrates the 200th anniversary of rebuilding, with a year-long schedule of events including a thanksgiving service which was held in June, attended by Bishop Fiona during her benefice visit, and a special Patronal evensong on the 6th September, at 4pm, to which all are invited.

As part of this historic milestone, Timsbury Parish Council generously funded the complete refurbishment of the church clock. The scale of the restoration was a huge undertaking, requiring specialist ropework to lower the massive clock face and hands to the ground before safely reinstalling them high on the tower.

PAULINE CHORLEY R.I.P
1936-2025

In June this year, as PCC Treasurer, I received notification of a bequest from the estate of Pauline Chorley who had lived in Long Ashton. The name was unfamiliar to me and the solicitor handling the estate was unable to help with any connection to St John's.

No one in the parish recognised the name. However, Margaret Marshall mentioned the mystery in conversation with a friend who was familiar with Long Ashton and she remembered a shop there called "Chorley's". Further investigation revealed that Pauline was unmarried and that her father was Percy Henry Chorley. He married Evelyn Attwood at St John's in 1933. Pauline's mother and grandparents lived in Rock Road, Midsomer Norton and her grandparents were also married at St John's.

This explained Pauline's connection to St John's, but through a family tree I compiled for a great friend of my father's, Edwin Attwood, I was able to establish that his father and Pauline's mother are brother and sister. Edwin remembers Pauline with affection and was very pleased to hear the story!

Kay Harvey



Bishop's Letter



What we treasure reveals where our heart really is

This month, the Church will mark the feast of St Laurence. If my calculations are correct, there are seven churches dedicated to St Laurence/Lawrence in our Diocese of Bath & Wells, so happy patronal festival to all of them!

We don't know a lot about Laurence, but what we do know is impressive. He was a deacon martyred by the Romans in a particularly violent way, during a time of brutal persecution of Christians.

It's said that the Emperor ordered him to hand over all the treasure of the Church. He refused. But not in the way you might think. When he was asked to gather and display all the treasure of the Church, he called together the poor of the city to pray. And when the soldiers came to collect the treasure, and found only the poorest of the poor, Laurence declared, "These are the treasures of the Church." For that defiance in the face of tyranny, he was killed.

Laurence's worldview was in complete contrast to that of the ruling powers. Where they saw the poor as worthless and to be despised, he saw them as precious. He valued people above possessions in a way the authorities found baffling, maybe even threatening.

Jesus famously taught that what we treasure reveals where our heart really is. In our society there are so many competing demands for our hearts and minds. It can be hard to work out where to place our loyalty. If you were asked to gather all your treasure, I wonder what you'd bring, and what that would reveal? If we analysed how we spend our money as individuals, PCCs, and a Diocesan Board of Finance -the body that manages the assets and finances of our diocese - what would that show about our priorities?

Those are provocative questions to ask, and tricky to answer. But in an area where St Laurence is so honoured, maybe we should try.

Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

News from the Lewis Family

Some of you will remember the Lewis family, Gary, Sarah, Alice and Theo who were considerably involved with church life at St John's before their move to Clevedon.

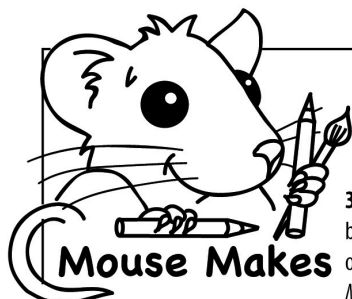
As well as being Safeguarding Officer, Gary put a lot of effort in helping to compile the Parish Profile and was on the interviewing panel when Guy came for his interview. Sarah was Sunday School leader, Alice & Theo were acolytes. Alice is now a qualified doctor & training to be a GP. Theo is teaching maths.

Gary & Sarah have settled into church life at St John the Evangelist in Clevedon with Gary now a churchwarden.

Gary has just been accepted for training for ordained ministry which he will be doing on a part time course. Bishop Fiona, Bishop of Taunton is his sponsor.

Quite a milestone year for them as Alice was married earlier this year.





Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JERUSALEM

JOURNEYS

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4



8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1



JUDEA



Here are a couple of events taking place at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Kilmersdon, this month.

You are welcome to join them if you are free on these dates.



Vicars' Close Project

If you have visited us in Wells over the last few months and taken a stroll down Vicars' Close, you may have noticed the arrival of scaffolding. This marks important progress in the building works, a key element of the Vicars' Close Project.

The Vicars' Close Project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to save the oldest medieval street in Europe, still used for its original purpose. As the scaffolding gradually makes its way down the street, the conservation work is revealing fascinating insights into these remarkable buildings. Alongside a carefully managed programme of conservation work, including ecological protections and the necessary bat licences, the project team is making exciting discoveries that are shedding new light on the site's medieval past.

Bringing 700 Years of History to Life

In 2027, a new visitor experience will open, sharing the almost 700 year story of Vicars' Close and the many people who have been part of it. Numbers 12 and 22 will house two distinctive interpretive experiences, guiding visitors on an immersive journey from the Close's medieval origins to the present day. Other spaces such as the remarkable Vicars' Hall will be open to the public for the first time.

We are developing an engaging creative programme shaped in partnership with our communities across Somerset to remain relevant and inspiring. Working with community choirs, supporting young people into the heritage sector through paid placements and delivering artist residencies, workshops and wider activity.

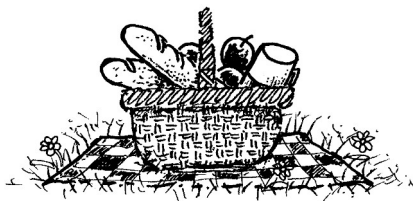
One way you can support this work is by sponsoring a piece of the Close, from roof tiles to chimneys. But you do not have to Sponsor a specific piece to make a difference. Any gift, whatever the size, will help save Vicars' Close and bring to life centuries of incredible history. **Will you consider giving a gift today?**

Thank you for being part of this incredible story.

Yours ever,

The Very Revd Toby Wright, Dean of Wells

To find out more or if you have any questions please contact Sarah Purdon: sarah.purdon@wellscathedral.org.uk



From The Registers

Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

28th June Ivy Mae Skidmore

BAPTISMS

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

23rd June Paul Marchment

3rd July Barbara Ashman

3rd July Malcolm Simmonds







TRIO PARADIS

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

Friendship through music

FRIDAY 7th AUGUST
Shall We Dance?
Music to get your toes tapping

FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER
Tango!
A celebration of the iconic dance

FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER
From Dawn to Dusk
Grieg, Mel Bonis and Turina

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER
What's in a Name?
From unfortunate to inspiring...

FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER
Winter Landscapes
Snow, ice and sleigh rides

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each month
at 12.30pm

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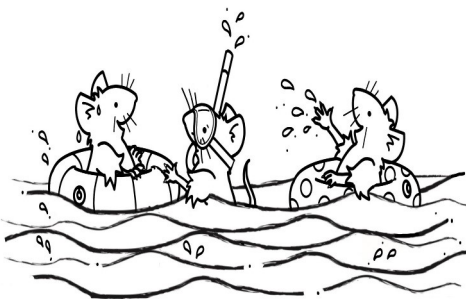
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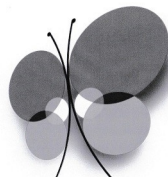
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Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
2nd August	John Shears <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
9th August	Margaret Small <i>Kay Harvey</i>	A Broughton, S Broughton
16th August	Linda Broadhurst <i>Augustina Ogbidikhe</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
23rd August	Robert Broughton <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	K Gay, L Powell
30th August		Benefice Service Venue to be advised
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

This month's front cover is the Duoro River in Portugal
Taken by Andy Broadhurst on a recent holiday there.

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](#), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](#)
 and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](#).**



August 2026

Sunday 2nd

9th Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 4th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 7th

12:30

Trio Paradis Café Concert

Sunday 9th

10th Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 11th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 14th

Magazine Copy Date

Sunday 16th

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 18th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Friday 21st

11:00

St Johns cell of Our Lady
Of Walsingham - Eucharist

Sunday 23rd

12th Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 25th

10:30 - 11:45

Coffee in Church

Sunday 30th

13th Sunday after Trinity

Benefice Service
Venue to be advised