

CHURCH ALIVE

September 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 9

Licensing of Innocent Ogbidikhe

We are delighted to announce that Innocent Ogbidikhe has been approved by the Candidate's Panel and that he will be licensed as Assistant Curate to the Benefices of St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton with Clandown and East Mendip Trinity.

Bishop Michael will be licensing Innocent at St John's on **Thursday 3rd September at 7pm**. We hope that as many people as possible will attend to welcome and support Innocent as he begins the next step in his ministry with us and that you will stay and enjoy some celebratory refreshments after the service.



You are invited to our Monuments and Memories Exhibition
on Sunday **20th September**
from 1200 to 1700

with Tower Tours from 1400 to 1700.

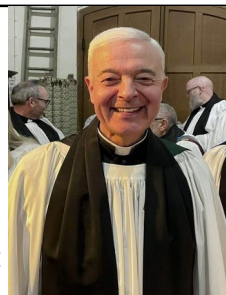
Refreshments will be available.
We would be pleased to welcome you.

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

September is here!

The summer season is drawing to a close, and the academic year is about to begin. There is a sense that life can get back to a routine, especially if you have children. But the routine may well be different, new school or university, new job or role. There is also a real sense of fresh starts and new beginnings even though it is not Advent or the New Year!



For some, moving into our town and making their home here, it's a new beginning. It is a new beginning for us too as we welcome new neighbours into our town. For our schools, it is a new year to welcome new pupils and adjust to new teachers.

It has been a long hot summer, our lawns are parched, hardy perennials are suffering, the greenhouse became too hot! For those involved in agriculture, horticulture or forestry it has been difficult, if not devastating! Harvesting has come early this year and yields have been low. As September begins those involved in the production of crops will take a moment to reflect on the summer just past. I am sure that they are considering, with care, what to plant for the coming year. Their routines are having to adapt to climate change. Can they risk another year of low yields? Difficult decisions are having to be made!

As we look forward to the autumn, to a new academic year, to a new beginning which we meet every day, take a moment to reflect on the blessings which we receive from God, and please pray for those who are in anyway involved in food production and distribution.

Yours in Christ,

Guy

A Message from Fr. Philip

Dear Friends

I have now started my fortnightly Day Chaplain duties at Wells Cathedral and just look who I've been spending time with! This cheery beast has been the star attraction this summer at Wells... It was part of the Cathedral's summer activity programme..



Mythical Creatures ... and it seems to have drawn in many curious visitors.

Between saying the hourly prayers at the clock, as Day Chaplain I am available to listen and pray with those who request it. I also get to have a natter, so producing hot air is not just the dragon's preserve!

Since retiring from St John's I have relished time away particularly by the coast. I have also had time to reflect on the wonderful experience of being an associate priest at St John's. Your good wishes and kindness have given me so much to be thankful for.

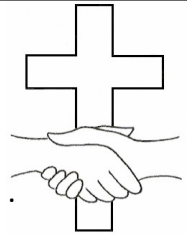
Being back at the Cathedral, where my vocation was first discerned has been a home coming of sorts. I have returned enriched by my time with you all and for that I am very grateful. Thank you all!

Best wishes
Philip

Ladies Group

There was no meeting in August,

For our September meeting, we will be discussing the chosen book "*The Marriage Portrait*" by Maggie O'Farrell .



This meeting will be hosted by Lynn on Thursday 10th September

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.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

I hope you have all managed to keep yourselves cool and well! The Friendship group will come together on Tuesday 8th September, to enjoy a Cream Tea. I have invited friends from Holcombe, Coleford, Kilmersdon, with Babington Churches to join us.

We start at 2:30pm as usual.

Although I cannot guarantee monthly lifts, for this occasion, Tony can offer to be a taxi to enable anyone who otherwise cannot get to the hall. Please let me know by Sunday 6th.

I am hoping to buy in the teas, so if anyone knows they are not going to be at the meeting, please let me know by 1st September at the latest, not for me to over order.

Thank you very much.

Love and blessings

Heather xx

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE. Date for your Diary:

Saturday 31st October; 10am until 12 midday
St John's Church Hall

We welcome Men's, Ladies and children's clothes. Please bag separately and label which will be a great help.

Shoes, boots, hats scarves and gloves. Bedding, blankets, sleeping bags, towels, pillows, toiletries, candles, toy and cookware are also welcome.

A Christmas present for a child, wrapped. Bag of Haribo sweets.

As the deliveries to Ukraine are personally taken, nothing to do with an organisation, anything deemed a blessing is packed into the van.

As usual, our two home collectors, Gloria and Ken from Frome, will be storing everything in their home and making sure every little bag is safely handed to the "Angel" drivers delivering to Ukraine.

If you have any questions on the collection morning, they will be around to give answers.

I have people who say they cannot find goods to provide, but we do take money? Any donations are passed on for fuel. The quicker the van is filled with fuel, the quicker the vans set off on their journeys. I know from experience, how moving an experience this collection day can be to so many of you. I thank you all in anticipation, for your time, energy and generosity for this collection. I remember so clearly, one little family, last October, having been led and helped by mum, to each sort one of their toys out to be sent to a child in Ukraine. It must have been difficult to make a decision from loved toys, but each child placed their gift on the table, no fuss, no tears and walked away (after being thanked and praised by us!) hopefully knowing that their toy would be loved, possibly in another way, but as a treasure in their arms and hearts. How wonderful was that! A memory to treasure.

Tea and Coffee will be available. Hope you can make the collection and please let all your friends know. Thank you.

We can arrange collection if you cannot deliver or too heavy etc.
Please ring Heather Hill on 07882 734507

Bishop's Letter

Called to care for God's earth

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' (Genesis 1:26).



These words come from the account of creation found in Genesis Chapter 1. I'm often asked about this text. Is it true? How do I square its words with my understanding of science? Do I believe this is how the world was made?

I don't think Genesis 1 is a literal account, a description offered in the style of a David Attenborough documentary. Rather I suggest that this account is so stuffed with truth that it's hard for us to deal with. Truth that's not about factual deception but that's about meaning, purpose and value. Genesis 1 asks 'How do we understand the world?' and 'How should we live in it?'

Take for example the words 'have dominion' to be found in Genesis 1:26 given above. These words, an interpretation of the Hebrew word *radah*, have been understood very differently.

Some would say that 'have dominion', *radah*, has been understood as harsh domination, treading down, and using raw force; a justification for treating the non-human world as an expendable resource for human consumption that has led to our destruction of so much of the natural world around us.

Others suggest that the true meaning of radah is service and care. This sees 'have dominion' as a call not to crush, but to protect, nurture, and provide justice. This view sees humankind invited to act as deputies for God, called to cultivate the earth responsibly while preserving its health and flourishing.

Arguments about the interpretation of a Hebrew word may seem specialist. But how we read one of the most important passages of the Bible can shape our whole world view. Service and care or domination and destruction? These differing ideas lie at the very heart of the arguments we have about how humankind should treat our earthly home that God has gifted us. What steps will we take, however small, to protect it?

News in brief from the Diocese

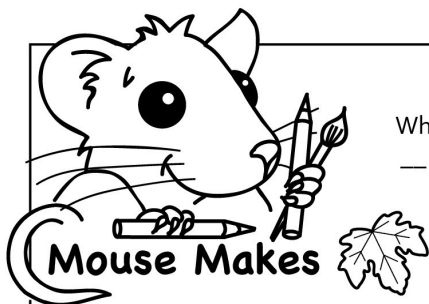
Gold Award!

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has become the first in the country to receive a Gold Eco Church award for diocesan offices. Eco Church is a programme run by A Rocha UK to equip churches to care for creation.

Commenting on the award, Bishop Michael said, "In a summer when we have seen wildfires spread across the UK and Europe and heard of the struggles farmers are having as they try to produce the food we all need, I was delighted to learn that we have been awarded a Gold Eco Church award for our diocesan offices. I hope it is an encouragement for us all as we do what we can to care for creation."

Pilgrimage to the Holy Wells

On a hot summer's day, a group of pilgrims set out to walk between the Holy Wells in the Quantock Deanery. Joined by Bishop Fiona, church members set off across the deanery taking in coast and country along the route. Together they sang, prayed, chatted and admired the beauty of their surroundings. Speaking afterwards, Bishop Fiona said, "I really enjoyed experiencing the varied coast and countryside as well as meeting and talking to those who walked with me on the journey and to those who met us along the way."



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?
"Go and bear

John 15:16"

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?
Thrown into the

and

John 15:6



READ
John 15:1-17

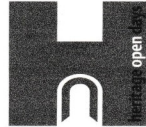
How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?

What does Jesus command?
To _____
one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY



Downside Abbey

will be taking part in Heritage Open Days

on

Thursday 17th September 2026

Timings

10.15	Guided tour of the Abbey Church
11.45	Guided tour of the private Monastery Gardens
12.30-13.15	Recital by renowned Cambridge organist Nigel Kerry
13.15	Guided tour of the Abbey Church
14.45	Guided tour of the private Monastery Gardens

***Each tour will last approx. 1 hour and will be booked on the day
(Max. 40 per tour)***

Please note: The gardens are only accessible on a tour. The ground is uneven in places and appropriate footwear is recommended.

Our exhibition 'Everyday Lives' will be open to visit. This exhibition provides a glimpse into the lives of people who worked for, or provided goods and services to the Downside Community, and looks at how the monks' presence affected the lives of local villagers.

Tea & Coffee will be served in the Visitor Centre 10am-4pm.



Sunday 4th October

HARVEST THANKSGIVING and FAMILY EUCHARIST

Please join us at 10am

NEWS FROM COLIN HUNT

Dear friends at St John's

I thought it was about time I wrote a few lines about how things are going here in La Belle France.

Firstly and thankfully, those terrible fires which the news was full of were a long way further south, so we were spared that. However there is still a hosepipe ban in force around here, so watering the garden requires use of a watering can and it takes about 15/16 trips to do everything. The heat has of course had a pretty devastating effect on things. A lot of the carrots and lettuces bolted, the peas and runner beans came to nothing - in the case of the latter precisely ONE bean has set! The sweetcorn looks slightly more hopeful and the beetroots have done pretty well. The success appears to have been the squashes which are growing well. The disaster on the other hand has been the brassicas, devastated by the flea beetle infestation which a lot of people have experienced this summer. I have yet to check the potato sacks, so here's hoping!

The house itself continues to challenge me. On the very day I arrived a blocked drain flooded part of the kitchen. Since then I've had to replace the fridge/freezer and washing machine - the tumble dryer expired a while ago and that has been replaced by that most vital of domestic items, a dishwasher! The latest disaster was the immersion tank giving up the ghost, so that also had to be replaced. A forthcoming challenge is to sort out the bathroom floor which has a large dip thanks, we think, to many years of dampness seeping through to the substructure (which appears to be soil, even on the upper floors!) and consequently rotting the joists. I've been looking into the possible solutions and the most obvious seems to be something called a 'sister joint'. And no, dear reader, that is NOT an illicit substance smoked by a nun!!

Lucie, my advisor, took me through my initial visa application and more recently its renewal for a second year. She has also sorted out the re-registration of my car, an issue with the property tax, my personal registration with the French tax system and gaining my Carte Vitale which give me access to the health system over here.

Most of France seem to be on holiday for much of August, but I have an appointment on 26th to begin investigating the grants available to property owners for insulation, heating and other issues relating to the house. France seems quite generous with such things!

My linguistic efforts crash on the square wheels... I am now on day 945 of Duo Lingo, still making mistakes in supermarkets etc, but I think something must be going in, as when at church I am beginning to hear words rather than noises!

I attend Sunday Mass in Pre-en-Pail (*picture on front cover*) where if it wasn't for the valiant band of volunteer singers and the lady keyboard player there wouldn't be any music at all - the pipe organ in the gallery seems to be sadly forgotten. There is also a Tuesday morning Mass which rotates around some of the villages in the benefice (of which there are over 20!). Attending those is helping me to build up a bit of a rapport with some of the clergy and leading lights in the benefice. It amuses me that for a technically secular country, there are so many wayside Calvaries as you drive around. There are 3 on the roads into this village, plus a central one near the Mayor's office. We also have St Julien's well in the village, said to have been given its name after a deaf-mute child was miraculously healed there in 1264, although the well itself is 19th century.

The village church, dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady is sadly only used for funerals as it has structural problems - the north aisle is entirely filled with internal flying buttresses which is a slightly alarming sight!

So that's about it to date. I occasionally drive past funeral parlours but have so far resisted the temptation to introduce myself (!) and a curious thing was that recently within one and a half hours I had 2 inquiries about giving piano lessons. The basis of my visa is as a retiree which under French law means that I am not permitted to work, so possibly I may need to renegotiate if I was to go down that path and register as a micro-entrepreneur. But I would need to get the piano properly refurbished first!

Anyway - for now, best wishes to all. Maybe once the house is finally sorted I will be able to welcome visitors!

Colin Hunt

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

5th August Janet Millard



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

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



JK Mobility Stairlifts

Affordable stairlifts for Bristol and all surrounding areas

Rented stairlifts from £250

Reconditioned stairlifts from £800

New stairlifts from £1400

Tel: 01179 198 211

Mobile: 07817221475

Email: john@jkmobility.co.uk

Web: jkmobility.co.uk

(call today for a free quote)

Breakdown and servicing for all makes and models carried out.
Barn Cottage, Old Bristol Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2AH

JANE PRICE FITSTEPS

Dance based exercise
Suitable for all ages and abilities

@ St John's Church Hall

MONDAYS AM/PM

Contact for more details:

Jane: 07961 056700

Hobbs Marble & Granite

*Craftsmen in Marble,
Granite & Stone*

MEMORIALS & RENOVATIONS

Kitchen Worktops in granite & quartz

Showrooms, at

RADSTOCK ROAD

MIDSOMER NORTON

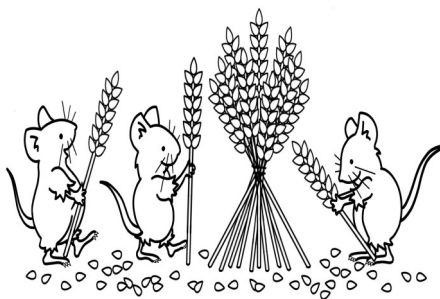
Telephone 01761 412934

info@hobbsmarbleandgranite.co.uk

B.H. MEARS FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Pows Orchard
Midsomer Norton
Tel: 01761 412160



FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

PENNY WARREN

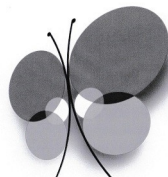
Dip CFHP,MPS Pract

FOR Friendly & Professional
Foot care in the comfort of your
Own home

Gift Vouchers are available

Tel: 01761 410465

Mobile: 07769 797815



CARPET AND FABRICS DIRECT

**Units 7, 8 & 9, Old Mills,
Paulton, Nr Bristol. BS39 7SU
01761 414069**

**info@carpetandfabricsdirect.co.uk
www.carpetandfabricsdirect.co.uk**

H. H. EVANS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

(Andrew, Jonathan & Claire Preston)

TYNDALE HOUSE, WINTERFIELD PARK, PAULTON, BRISTOL

Tel/Fax: 01761 412364 www.hhevans.co.uk

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST



Beechcroft Residential Home

Day Care & Residential Care

Comfort, companionship and
support for the elderly in a warm,
family setting

75 North Road, Midsomer Norton,
BA3 2QU. Tel: 01761 419531
www.Beechcrofthome.co.uk

Avon & Wessex

Motor Factors Ltd.

"for all your motoring needs"

31 First Avenue
Westfield Industrial Estate
Tel: 01761 414474

**St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton
Hire of Church Hall**

The hall can be hired for £13per hour for regular or one-off bookings
There is disabled access and toilet facilities, along with a baby
changing area. A fully fitted kitchen, table & chairs and will fit
a 15x15 bouncy castle for children's parties

Please contact: Caroline Thatcher on 07591 557578

Email: stjohnschurchhallbookings@gmail.com

BRYAN G. BISHOP

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICES
MEMORIALS

Farrington Road, PAULTON.

01761 412046

www.bryangbishop.co.uk

**Private Chapel of Rest | Memorials | Traditional Funerals | Direct
Cremation | 24 Hour Personal Service | Advanced Funeral Planning**



Bryan G. Bishop Independent Funeral Directors

@bryangbishop



MOTOR & HOME INSURANCE

**Tony White Insurance
Brokers Ltd**

24 Church Square
Midsomer Norton
Radstock, BA3 2HX
Tel: 01761 418202 / 412078



Dress & Curtain Fabric
Curtain Making Service,
DMC & Anchor Embroidery,
Tapestry Threads & Kits
Haberdashery, Knitting Yarns,
Trims, Fur & Felt
Craft & Artist Materials,
Card making Materials
Sewing Machine repairs,
Picture Framing Service

**123 High Street,
Midsomer Norton
01761 414390**

DUSTLAND FAIRYTALE ANTIQUES & RESTORATION

Antique & Furniture Restoration,
French polishing,
30 years experience

129 High Street, MSN
Opposite St John's Church
& next to One Stop

An Aladdin's cave of Vintage
Memorabilia inc.

Furniture, Toys, Jewellery, Glass,
Coins, Military items, Silver,
Ceramics

Unusual & Rare Collectable Items.

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5:30pm

Free valuations

Contact Sean on 07454 972 973

Date	Reader/ <i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
6th September	Pat Clynes <i>Sally Curtis</i>	J Shears, E Densley
13th September	Hilary Denning <i>Tom Boyle</i>	D Winter, J Winter
20th September	Lesley Garvey <i>Kay Harvey</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
27th September	Heather Hill <i>Augustina Ogibidikhe</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		



Good luck to all the young people starting in a new school, college or university this September. Make them brave if they are worried and may they do their best.

We also think of the teachers and staff in education. May they be refreshed from the summer break. And inspire, teach and guide the students in their care.

This month's front cover is the Church of Église Sainte-Thérèse, in Pre-en-Pail, in the Mayenne region of France.
Kindly sent by Colin Hunt.

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.

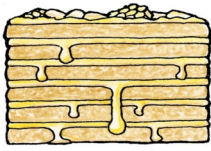
The Friendship Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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](#).**



September 2026

Tuesday 1st	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 3rd	19:00	Licencing of Innocence Ogbidikhe
Friday 4th	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Sunday 6th	14h Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 8th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
Thursday 10th	19:30	Ladies Group
Sunday 13th	15th Sunday after Trinity	
	08:00	Walsingham Pilgrimage
		Holy Communion
	10:00	Parish Eucharist
Monday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Tuesday 15th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Sunday 20th	16th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 22nd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Sunday 27th	17th Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 25th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	19:00	PCC Meeting