

CHURCH ALIVE

October 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

Assistant Curate

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Radstock, BA3 3ET

Tel: 07423 187333
Email: msncuratestjohns@gmail.com

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Liz Casson

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Churchwardens

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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 10

Songs of Praise at Babington

As well as our celebration of Harvest at St John's on October 4th, we are invited by the Trustees of St Margaret's, Babington, to a Harvest Celebration in the beautiful rural setting of St Margaret's on **October 11th at 4pm.**

This will take the form of a 'Songs of Praise' and all will be most welcome.
(There is a poster in church for more details)

Harvest Thanksgiving and Family Service

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on **Sunday 4th October** with a Family Service.

All Harvest offerings of **canned goods** will be gratefully received and forwarded to the Food Bank.

Sadly, we are unable to accept fresh produce.

Harvest Lunch will be taking place on **Sunday 11th October** at 12.30pm.

The cost will be £10 per person and there will be a cash bar.

Please pay Pat or Hilary before Friday 9th October if you would like to attend.

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

On Sunday 13th September 13 pilgrims set off from St. John's Church for the Shrine of Our lady of Walsingham – England's Nazareth - which has been a place of Pilgrimage for a thousand years.



After sharing together in Worship at 8a.m. we left Midsomer Norton in the very capable hands of Peter, the driver of our minibus: we arrived safely in lovely sunshine and in time to have a very welcome meal. Our accommodation was allotted to each of us and by the end of the evening we were all ready to sleep.

Other groups of pilgrims came for the week, and there were always visitors coming and going. Some services were shared by all, and led by Fr Ben, the priest in charge of the Shrine. Each group then arranged their own services and activities as well, led by their own priests – in our case Fr. Guy, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Tony. During the week we had ample time for Re-Creation (in the form of worship and prayer) and Recreation, in the form of fun and fellowship shared together.

Before breakfast on Monday and during the following days, we shared Morning Prayer together.

In the afternoon some took the bus and the more energetic of us walked to the Slipper Chapel at the Roman Catholic National shrine a mile outside Walsingham, and the place where, in olden times, Pilgrims took off their shoes and walked barefooted the last 'Holy Mile' .

On Tuesday afternoon Fr. Guy led us in Stations of the Cross. The 14 stations are spread around the lovely grounds and each pilgrim took turn to read a passage from Scripture.

In the evening we had a liturgy of Healing when we were to receive holy water at the Well from which water is drawn from the sacred spring over which the original shrine was built. Finally we were able to receive the laying on of hands, or anointing.

Wednesday was Recreation. Fr. Guy took the wheel of the minibus and we drove to the pretty town of Sheringham – Fr Guy went for his annual paddle in the sea while others stood and watched from a distance eating delicious ice-creams! In the evening all pilgrims came together for a very moving procession with everyone holding a candle and singing the Walsingham Pilgrim hymn, which tells the story of Walsingham from its very beginnings.

Thursday was Party day! Organised by Pat, Carol, Michael and Janet. Lovely food and drink were bought and shared among the 13 of us – but most of all much laughter and chatter made the last day very special.

Later, in the evening, we came together in the Holy House – the heart of the shrine church, to offer our thanksgivings for all the week had meant to us, and to pray for our concerns for the Church and the World, and those in special need.

Friday morning: luggage onto the minibus; our 'last visit' (for this year), in the Holy House, a group photo; and all aboard for Midsomer.

Pilgrimage is very good for the soul!

Mary Wilds

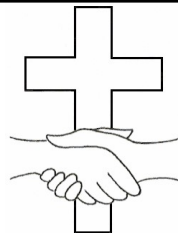


Ladies Group

For our September meeting we had a book group meeting, where we discussed the chosen book *"The Marriage Portrait"* by Maggie O'Farrell . Since there were differing views and opinions on it, it was a very interesting discussion.

Thank you to Kay for hosting the 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.



ALL SOULS' DAY 2026

All Souls' Day, on November 2nd, gives us all the opportunity to join in worship for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. A time to remember those we have loved but see no longer. A time to reflect on all who died, on all who mourn and to offer our prayers to God.

As All Souls' Day falls on a Monday this year, a Remembrance Service will be held in church at 12 noon that day. During this service there will be the opportunity to remember those who have died by name.

If you would like your loved one/s to be remembered by name during this service please add their names to the list in church, which will be available from Sunday 11th October.

Also, from 11th October, 'Years Mind' forms will be available to complete, should you wish your loved ones to be remembered on the anniversary of their death during the calendar year 2027.

Please note, the years mind list is revised each year. To ensure names are read out in 2027, a new form must be completed in 2026.

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE

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

EVERY STORY HONOURED

By Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

In August I had the immense privilege of meeting Lynette Richards-Lorde who came to Flourish House with her daughter Chrissy Richards-Levi and Susann Savidge, Chair of Somerset African Caribbean Network. Hearing Lynette's story of faith, courage, and public service was a joyful and humbling experience. She came to Taunton, aged just 19, in 1959 in answer to an invitation from the British government to come to the UK to work in the NHS. Initially training as a nurse at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, Lynette then became a midwife and, during a distinguished career in hospitals across the UK, became the UK's first Black divisional nursing officer for midwifery. And it all started right here in Somerset!

You can read more about Lynette's story on the diocesan website but, for me, the most moving part about meeting Lynette was seeing how extraordinarily humble she is, and what a great impact she has had on the lives not just of the mothers she helped during pregnancy and delivery, but on British society as a whole.

October is Black History Month. It's easy to think it's solely about learning more of the history of Black people across the world, and that's an important part of it. But more than that, it's about acknowledging and celebrating the history of those of Global Majority Heritage who have played, and continue to play, an integral part in British society and churches for centuries. Black History Month teaches us all more about our collective story.



Rt Revd Tim Wambunya, Bishop of Wolverhampton, invites us all, however we mark Black History Month, to allow our celebrations to, “help us become more truly intercultural communities, where every story is honoured, every gift welcomed, and every person cherished in Christ.”

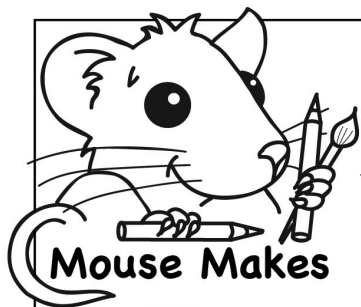
We’d love to hear about your plans to do just that, wherever you are across our diocese.

News in Brief from the Diocese

Taizé pilgrimage 2026

Young adults from Bath and Wells joined pilgrims from across the world for a week of prayer, reflection and friendship at Taizé this summer. Led by Bishop Michael, the diocesan group travelled to France to share in the rhythm of the Taizé community, with the opportunity to join in times of simple worship, Bible study and silence. Nineteen-year-old Charlie, from St Mary’s, Ilminster, said the experience had helped him to refocus his faith: “Being surrounded by people who live in the fullness of life really refocuses my mind on what is planned for me.”





The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.



5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like?

A _____
and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?



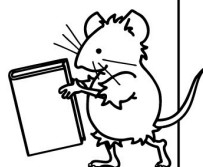
12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



13. The Bible is also known as the

_____ of God.
Hebrews 4:12

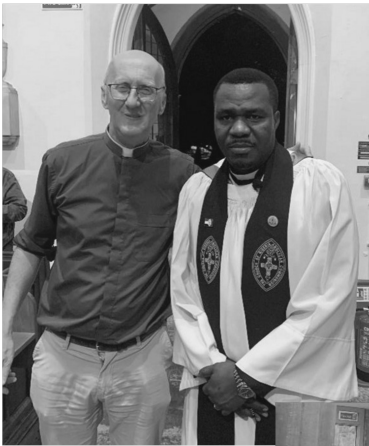
14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



Licensing of Innocent Ogbidikhe

On Thursday 3rd September we celebrated the New Ministry of Innocent as Assistant Curate of the Benefices of Midsomer Norton with Clandown and East Mendip Trinity.

The Right Rev. Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells Licenced Innocent and afterwards we gathered for celebratory refreshments to welcome Innocent to the Benefice.



FROM THE PARISH PUMP

23rd Psalm for the workplace

The Lord is my real boss and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without
murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my Source and not my job.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might
honour Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic
deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating
supervisors, and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning,
I will not stop -- for He is with me!

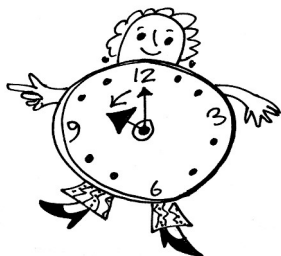
His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.
He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own,
even when the company threatens to let me go.

His faithfulness and love are better than any bonus cheque.
His retirement plan beats every 401K there is.
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer
and for that, I bless His Name.



Daylight Saving

On Sunday 25th October, clocks go back one hour at 2:00am giving you an extra hour of sleep!!



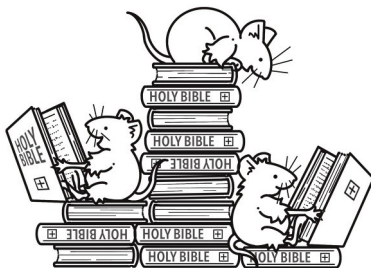
Bible Sunday

Sunday 25th October has been designated as Bible Sunday (although promoters point out it may be marked on any (or every) Sunday!)

This special Sunday in the church's calendar is an opportunity to stop and consider the enormous blessing that the Bible has brought to people down the centuries. Without the Bible we would know nothing about God our Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit. It is full of guidance to us. World history would have been radically different without it.

Of the more than 7,000 documented languages in the world today, over half do not have written Christian scriptures. This means that 209 million people do not, or cannot, possess any part of the Bible in their own language. Those of us who do are fortunate.

When we read the Bible we find out more about God, more about ourselves and more about the world.



From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

1st September Enid Cottle

4th September Paul Seymour



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

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each month
at 12.30pm**

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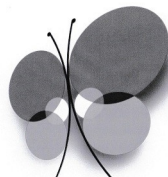
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Date	Reader/<i>Intercessions</i>	Sides person
4th October	Carol Moore <i>Sally Curtis</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
11th October	David Moore <i>Ann Munton</i>	A Fitch, L Hurst
18th October	Lynda Robertson <i>Tom Boyle</i>	K Gay, L Powell
25th October	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Linda Broadhurst</i>	J Shears, E Densley
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		



Sunday 4th October

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

and

FAMILY EUCHARIST

Please join us at 10am

This month's front cover is a picture taken by Carol Moore during the visit to Walsingham

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](#).**



October 2026

Friday 2nd	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
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Sunday 4th Harvest Thanksgiving And Family Service

Tuesday 6th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
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	14:30	Friendship Group
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Thursday 8th	19:30	Ladies Group
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Sunday 11th 18th Sunday after Trinity

	12:30	Harvest Lunch
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	16:00	Harvest, Songs of Praise at St Margaret's, Babington
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Tuesday 13th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
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Wednesday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
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Friday 16th	11:00	St John's cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham—Eucharist
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Sunday 18th Luke the Evangelist

Tuesday 20th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
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Sunday 25th Bible Sunday

Tuesday 27th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
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Saturday 31st	10:00 - 12 noon	Collection for Ukraine In the Church Hall
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