

CHURCH ALIVE

November 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

Rev'd Innocent Ogbidikhe
Wycliffe, Tynning Hill
Radstock, BA3 3ET

Tel: 07423 187333

Email: msncuratestjohns@gmail.com

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 11



A Reminder that a COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE
Will be held on **Saturday 31st October;**
10am until 12 midday at St John's Church Hall

**LIGHT UP
MIDSOMER NORTON**

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
4.30PM-7.30PM

CANDLELIT
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
OPEN FOR
FREE HOT CHOCOLATE
AND MINCE PIES

Reflections from the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

Remember, remember the 5th November, gunpowder, treason and plot.



November is the month for remembering. From the 1st, when we recall and celebrate the lives of all the Saints, living and departed, to the 30th, when we celebrate the call of Andrew, to become an Apostle of Christ. On All Souls' Day (2nd) we commemorate the Faithful Departed; on the 5th we remember Guy Fawkes. Then, this year, come Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, when we remember all those who gave their lives in war and conflict, past and present, in the hope that we may live in peace.

It is right that we should remember, because it makes sense of who and where we are in the present. As Christians we constantly remember the redeeming work of God, achieved through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist, when we "do this in remembrance of me", that past, present and future become one in sacrament.

As I say, it is right and proper to remember, but we should do this remembering in a positive way. Not harking back to old times, not raking over the past to open again old wounds and resentments, not returning to things which should be left with God. All our remembering, personal and corporate, should be exposed to the searching love and light of God, who is God of all time and eternity, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts. It is only when we remember in God's light that we can make any sense of what has past, offer it to the present and so look to the future.

When we remember in the pure searching light of God and hold our memories before him, we will then find the wisdom and strength to let go of past hurts and failings and perhaps encounter healing of those things which prevent us from being the people God would have us be.

It is when we allow God to search and cleanse our hearts and souls, that we as disciples of Christ today, and a community of faith today, can embrace the present and look forward to God's future

In this month of remembering we will recall the lives of loved ones we have known with sadness and joy, and the lives of those not known to us at all. And, in this remembering, we will carry the gifts of the past into the future. It is by remembering what Christ has won for us that we can step into the future with hope and confidence.

With hope in God's future,
Guy.



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.

'Years Mind' forms are 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.

Bishop's Letter

A journey with God

One of the most significant places in the UK for me is the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, and the pilgrimages I've made to and from the island walking barefoot over the sands have been holy moments.



Unlike other journeys, pilgrimages are deliberate journeys of transformation. I went on a pilgrimage from Watchet to Stogursey this year with a group of laity and clergy from Quantock Deanery. It had moments of challenge, and moments of joy. We were definitely changed as we travelled. It was a holy time.

In Christian teaching, pilgrimage has long been seen as a form of martyrdom. Not the martyrdom of shedding our blood, but the martyrdom of shedding our preferences, our self-centred desires.

The psalmist wrote, "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on a pilgrimage." Those words show a yearning to be with God in his dwelling place, and that's a yearning we can all mirror in our prayers, whether we can physically undertake a pilgrimage or not.

One of the most famous stories of a pilgrimage is, of course, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. I find the closing words of the book among the most moving in literature, as they link our lives in this world to our journey's end with God. "I cannot describe what Christian felt when he came face to face with the King ... I woke too soon. And besides, no one can dream the Unimaginable. I shall have to cross the River myself before I can say exactly what the City of Gold contains. I would not have chosen to wake. But I did. I am awake now. Time to get up, then, I suppose, and continue the journey. I am on a pilgrimage, too, you see. Everyone is."

May God bless you on every step of your pilgrimage, and may you find your rest in him.

Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton

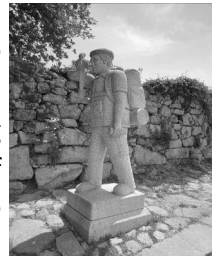
Exploring the ‘great tradition’ of pilgrimage

For centuries, pilgrims have left home to walk with others, pray and encounter God beyond the walls of the church. Today, people still follow many of those ancient paths, discovering faith, fellowship and the beauty of the natural world along the way.

Pilgrimage is the focus of this year’s diocesan Rural Forum. The annual gathering which brings together clergy, lay leaders and others involved in rural ministry from across the diocese, will explore what pilgrimage means today, and how journeying with others can become part of our shared life with God.

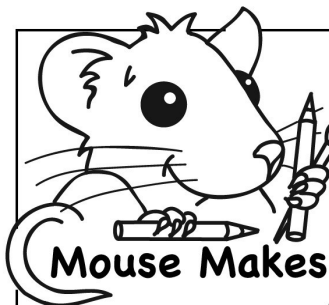
Rob Walrond, Rural Affairs Adviser for Bath and Wells said, “We’re excited to explore pilgrimage together at this year’s Rural Forum and discover how it can enrich the life of our churches and communities. We want to bring people together to share ideas and discover pilgrimage afresh.”

Across the diocese, churches and communities are finding ways to make pilgrimage part of their life and worship, whether walking between churches, following routes connected with saints, travelling to places of prayer, or simply making time to walk, pray and notice God along the way.



Rob said, “It is amazing all the new and inventive ways that people are exploring the great tradition of pilgrimage. It can be a wonderful and missional opportunity for churches to connect with their communities and further afield offering hospitality and sharing God’s love.”

The Rural Forum will offer an opportunity to hear more about pilgrimage, share experiences and consider how it might become part of the life of churches and communities across Bath and Wells.



Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
*"It is more blessed to give
than to receive."*
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
*"No one can have
greater love than
to give his life for
his friends."*
John 15:13

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

REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE



YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED
TO AN

Advent Carol Service

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER,
4PM

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDSOMER NORTON

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE SERVICE

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

29th September Maureen Boots



Ladies Group

A clash of events for some members meant our October meeting was just a small number of us meeting for the coffee evening at Lynn's.

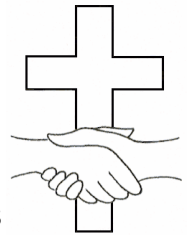
As usual for our coffee evenings, a wide range of subjects were discussed. One theme which was well debated was the problem with mail deliveries (or lack of them) in our area. Other topics included the Christmas Fayre in church on 5th December and ideas for the 2027 Ladies Group programme.

Thanks go to Lynn for hosting the meeting.

Our next meeting is the **AGM** to be held at
Carol's house on the 12th November

If you would like to find out more about Ladies Group, please speak to Kay Harvey or Ann Munton .

New members are always most welcome.





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

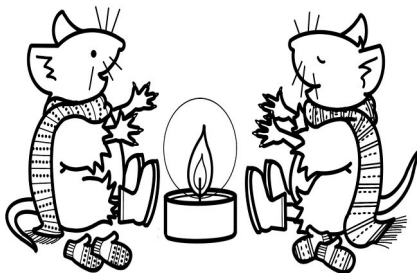
Telephone 01761 412934

info@hobbsmarbleandgranite.co.uk

B.H. MEARS FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Pows Orchard
Midsomer Norton
Tel: 01761 412160



FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

PENNY WARREN

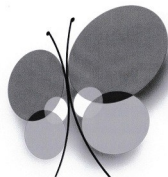
Dip CFHP,MPS Pract

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
1st November	John Shears <i>St John's School</i>	D Winter, J Winter
8th November	Margaret Small <i>Augustina Ogbidkhe</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
15th November	Robert Broughton <i>Sally Curtis</i>	R Broughton, S Broughton
22nd November	Linda Broadhurst <i>Ann Munton</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
29th November	<i>Benefice Service at St Andrews, Holcombe</i>	
If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you		



This month's front cover is from the Parish Pump

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

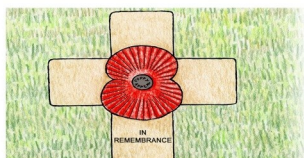
The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham meets every 3rd Friday of the month at 11am for Said Mass and the Angelus. The Cell takes an annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham in September. A warm welcome is extended to all who would like to attend the service or join us on Pilgrimage.

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](#).



November 2026

Sunday 1st	All Saints' Day	10 am Family Eucharist
	15:00 Service of Thanksgiving for the Faithful Departed	
Monday 2nd	All Souls' Day	12 noon Holy Eucharist
Tuesday 3rd	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 6th	12:30	Trio Paradis Café Concert
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Sunday	9:30 Parish Eucharist
	10:50	Service of Remembrance At War Memorial
Tuesday 10th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 12th	19:30	Ladies Group
Saturday 14th		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Sunday 15th	2nd Before Advent	
Tuesday 17th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 20th	11:00	St John's cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham—Eucharist
Sunday 22nd	Christ the King	
Tuesday 24th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Thursday 26th	16:30 - 19:30	Light Up Midsomer Norton Church open
Sunday 29th	10:30 - Joint Benefice Service at St Andrews, Holcombe	
	16:00	Advent Carol Service