

CHURCH ALIVE



**St. John the Baptist
Midsomer Norton**

June 2019
Price 50p

THE PARISH OF MIDSOMER NORTON WITH CLANDOWN

Vicar

The Revd. Christopher G Chiplin, MA BSc

The Vicarage, 42 Priory Close

Midsomer Norton, BA3 2HZ Tel: 412118

Churchwardens

Mrs Shirley Blackbourn

18 Charlton Road

Midsomer Norton Tel: 413299

Mrs Carol Moore

1 The Dymboro

Midsomer Norton Tel: 412226

SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Said Mass

9:30 a.m. Family Sung Mass

6:00 p.m. Evening Service (As announced)

WEEKDAYS

Mass is celebrated on

Tuesday 12 noon, Thursday 17:00

Baptisms, Weddings etc. by arrangement with Fr Chiplin

Sacrament of Healing is celebrated during Mass on the first

Thursday of each month or privately by arrangement with the Clergy

Communion at home for those unable to attend church is easily arranged with Fr Chiplin



Church Alive
The Parish Magazine of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown
Volume 803 Number 6

Fr Christopher Writes

Celebrations and anniversaries can be like buses, you wait for ages for a bus to come along and then several come at once; that is certainly true for me personally. This month sees the feast of Corpus Christi, a day of thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist, which this year is on the 20th of June. As it is fixed in relation to Trinity Sunday, it is always the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday. It is not on a particular date like Christmas but moves backwards and forwards like Easter. For me it is always a special day beyond the general purpose of the feast but also because it was the day I was confirmed at the church of St Michael and All Angels in Northampton.



My father had moved from a teaching post in Leigh on Sea to become Headteacher of a Special School in Northampton, and that was where I had most of my primary and all of my secondary education at what was then proudly called the Town and County Grammar School for Boys. Also, and perhaps more significantly one of my brothers and I used to go to the church of St Edmund Northampton, where the priest, who had been there for many years, was Fr William Denny. It was here that I learnt about the Christian Faith and also learned to serve, though one of my proud boasts is that my earliest religious memory is being a boat boy at the Christmas Midnight Mass at St German, Roath Park in Cardiff. I was probably about five at the time. It was the church where my parents were married and all of my brothers and sisters and myself were baptised.

St German continues to prosper but unfortunately in the 1970's St Edmunds was declared to be in a dangerous condition and too expensive to repair, so although it was a very grand and big church it was demolished and there is now an open space where it used to be.

From Northampton I went to study Biology at Queen Mary's which was then a college of the University of London but is now a university in its own right. While I was there I lodged in house in Wanstead and that was important for two reasons. I joined the congregation of Christ Church Wanstead and was sponsored for ordination from that parish and there was also a young lady in the congregation who was to become very important in my life.

The system by which people are recommended for ordination has evolved over the years but I was recommended by the Parish Priest at Wanstead, Fr Paul Bowen, through my home diocese, which was Peterborough. The process was slightly complicated by the fact that St Edmund's had been demolished and Fr Denny retired while I was at University and my home was still in Northampton but I then had no attachment to a church there.

Having successfully passed a selection board I then went to St Stephen's House, an Anglican theological college, in Oxford, where for the first two years (of three) I was able to study Theology at the University while also preparing for ordination. It was a very different world compared to that of students today. In London I had a grant to cover living expenses and tuition fees had not been heard about. In Oxford, as for most ordinands at the time, the church paid for full time residential training: student loans were far in the distance.

In those days it was usual to have two curacies. The first or title, had a first, very probationary year, as a deacon, and if that year was successful then ordination as a priest followed. Then after a suitable time a move on to another parish to gain more and wider experience followed. As a deacon you were able to perform limited functions: it was only after ordination as a priest that you were able to celebrate the Eucharist.

My title parish was Our Lady and All Saints, Chesterfield, famous as the church with the crooked spire and locally called "The Spire."

Chesterfield was then a very industrial town with coal mining, although the pits were closing, and heavy industry - a great deal of which has now disappeared. Chesterfield was a very busy town centre church with lots going on and a very strong choral and musical tradition. My ordination as both priest and deacon took place in Derby Cathedral by the Bishop of Derby, Cyril Bowles, who although a very grand figure was a most kindly person and took a keen interest in the welfare and well being of his clergy.

From Chesterfield I then moved across country to East Anglia to Norwich and the parish of Thorpe St Andrew, a predominantly residential parish on the outskirts of Norwich, on the Yarmouth side of the City. Norwich was and is, as it advertised itself, a very fine city. For Diane and myself it was also the place where we started married life and Diane worked as a ward sister at the Jenny Lind Children's Hospital which was part of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

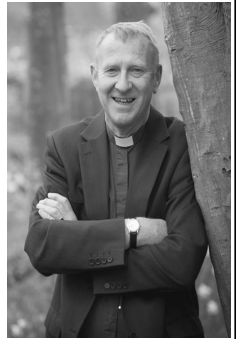
After four years at Thorpe, we then moved to Highbridge where I was vicar for ten years and Diane worked again as a ward sister at the Bristol Children's Hospital. It was in Highbridge that all of our four children were born and so life changed greatly with Diane giving up paid work to become a mother and great support in the parish.

Then 25 years ago in June on Midsummer Day I was instituted as Vicar of Midsomer Norton. It has been a very busy time with the inevitable ups and downs, successes and failures, but all in all been a very fulfilling time personally, family wise and parish wise. I have been very fortunate to have in Diane someone who has been totally supportive of my life as a priest and a great asset to the parish, and I have been very fortunate to be in place with a very generous, committed and welcoming congregation. It is a great joy every Sunday to share in the Eucharist with you and to do that in a building which is beautiful and up-lifting.

So a very personal anniversary, and two more public ones. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join Diane, our family and myself at the Eucharist on the 23rd of June as I celebrate my fortieth anniversary as a priest and twenty-fifth anniversary as Vicar of Midsomer Norton.

***Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock,
Bishop of Bath and Wells***

We all have something to offer



There is a story told about Sir Michael Costa who was an Italian-born conductor and composer who became well known and popular in England during the nineteenth century. It is said that one day he was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the rehearsal, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might just as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments, the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" Michael Costa could tell that the piccolo was not playing. Something was missing and because of that the performance was incomplete.

I am sure there are times when we can all identify with that piccolo player. There are times when we may feel insignificant and useless. Whatever age we are there is the temptation to look at other people who seem to have more talent than we have, who are better at things than we are, who are more confident or skilled than we are - and to think we don't matter or that our contribution doesn't count. Perhaps we are tempted sometimes just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway, or that because other people can do it much better than we can, that there is no point in us joining in.

I take heart from the story of the feeding of the five thousand. In the middle of that story we read of Andrew, Peter's brother saying: 'There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?' (John 6:9). This is a story of someone giving what he has to the Lord and about Jesus then using what is offered to feed a multitude of hungry people (John 6:1-14).

What do we learn from that? Surely one thing we learn is that each of us has something important to offer which God can take and bless and use. Whether our talent is great or small, the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have and until we offer our lives and our gifts to God and ask him to use us for his glory and to serve others.

With warm greetings,

The Right Revd Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells

Ladies Group Meeting

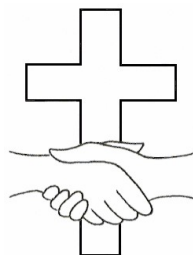
Our May meeting was at Daphne's house. At this time of year when the gardens start to bloom and show a mass of colour we talked about our favourite flowers.

Lily of the valley, carnations and primroses were among those that were mentioned as being special favourites.

People like different things about flowers. Some people like the scent, some like the form and others like the profusion of colour. Of course roses were mentioned as they score highly on all of these features.

Some people like wild flowers and talking about these reminded us of our childhood. Many of us could remember going out to gather wild flowers, for example primroses for the Easter garden. This is something that would be frowned upon these days even supposing you could find enough to pick. Thank you Daphne and Sally for hosting our meeting.

Our next meeting is a joint meeting with the Mother's Union which will be held at Pat Daniel's house on the 13th June.





ST. JOHNS MOTHER'S UNION May Meeting

For our May meeting we had our Annual bring and buy afternoon, raising funds for MU Overseas Projects. We welcomed members from our own congregation and Westfield Mother's Union. We had lots of lovely items for sale and a raffle. Everyone enjoyed catching up with each other over tea, coffee and cake.

Our next meeting which is our cream tea is Tuesday 11 June from 3pm. I will look forward to seeing you all then.

Sally

Profile:

- Previously shed the blood of hundreds on 3 Continents.
- For 40 years lived off others misery and pain
- Came to this country and lived for 3 years as an illegal immigrant
- Currently registered as homeless and living off the benefits system.



Equip

SATURDAY BREAKFAST

8.30am - 10am 8th June 19

Our Story His Story

Speaker: Rob Munday

Upstairs in Wetherspoons

PEW CUSHIONS

Are you sitting comfortably.... We have had some lovely positive comments about our new pew cushions and Shirley and I would like to say a huge thank you to all those members of the congregation who so generously contributed towards buying them.

Helen Bond, from Past and Present Upholstery, has made them beautifully. The covers have been fitted with zips so that they can be washed if necessary and Helen is always on hand should there be any problems.

Again many thanks,
Carol and Shirley



Flower Festival - Friday 21st June to Sunday 23rd June

During the Flower Festival we will be serving refreshments and selling cakes, if you are able to make cakes for the refreshment or cake stall then please do so and bring them along to church on the Friday or Saturday.

Also if you are able to spare some time to help serve the refreshments or to help with the stewarding of the church, this will be much appreciated. Lists for both will be in church from Sunday 2nd June.

So please keep these Flower Festival dates free and be part of this wonderful celebration.



The Summer Lunchtime Concerts Continue

Below is the programme of Recitalists for June

Wednesday 5th June Norton Hill School

Music-making ranks high in the achievements of these talented students and we can look forward to an enthusiastic and entertaining concert

Wednesday 12th June St John's C of E Primary School

We are always delighted to give a platform to young performers. The enthusiasm of these budding musicians, under the direction of their Music Teacher, Mrs Naomi MacLeod Jones, will make this a wonderfully endearing concert.

Wednesday 19th June Naomi MacLeod-Jones - *Soprano*

Naomi returns in her own right to sing for us today. Widely recognised for her beautiful voice she is in high demand as a soloist and as a member of the highly acclaimed Wellensian Consort.

Wednesday 26th June Somer Valley Singers

This group of enthusiastic ladies sing for pleasure and generate pleasure with their varied repertoire of light music and occasional topical verse. An enjoyable hour guaranteed.

Wednesday 3rd July Mendip Quartet

**Carol Jenner-Timms - *Flute* Simon Naylor - *Oboe*
Neil Moore - *Clarinet* and Jacuelyn Bevan**

It is a pleasure to welcome these well loved and highly regarded musicians back to St John's. Neil joins them this year on Clarinet adding another dimension to this already magical group of musicians. A fitting finale to the summer season.

Everyone is warmly invited to

The preview

of

SACRED & SUBLIME
A Celebration in Flowers

Presented by

Farnborough Floral Art Group

in

St. John's Church

Midsomer Norton

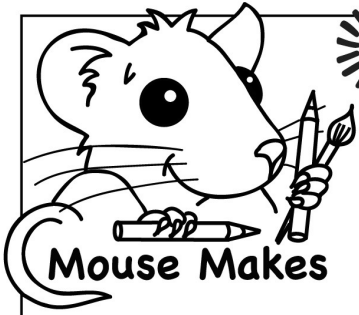
Thursday 20th June

7pm

Tickets £10 to include refreshments

RSVP Diane Chiplin @ The Vicarage by 10th June

dianechiplin@aol.com 01761 412118



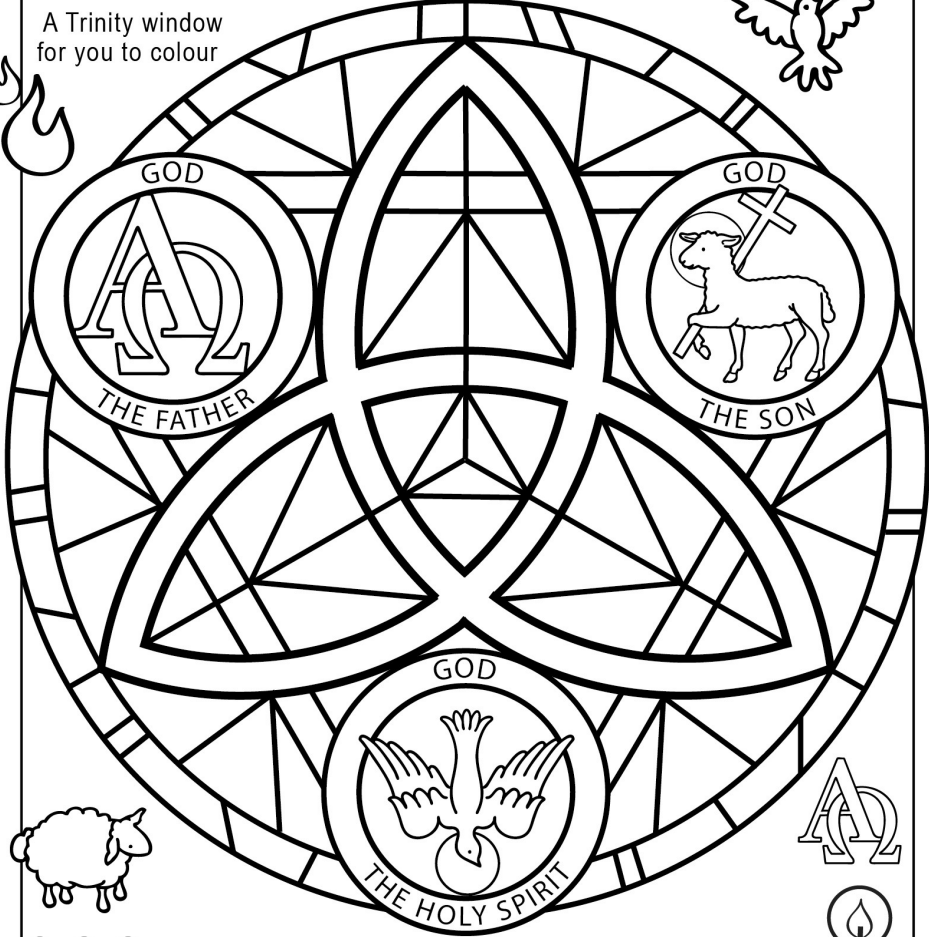
Mouse Makes

"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the *love* of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you."




2 Corinthians 13:13

A Trinity window for you to colour



The Bible teaches us that God is three persons in one:
GOD = FATHER and SON and HOLY SPIRIT





Farnborough Floral Art Group present

SACRED & SUBLIME

A Celebration in Flowers

Fri 21st & Sat 22nd June

10am - 5pm

Sun 23rd 2pm - 4pm

To celebrate Fr. Christopher's

40th Anniversary of Ordination

&

25th Anniversary as Vicar of
Midsomer Norton with Clandown

All Welcome ~ Free Entry

Donations Appreciated

Light Refreshments available all day

FROM THE PARISH PUMP

9th June Pentecost - Not a Ghost but a Gift

By Canon David Winter

We used to call it Whitsun - White Sunday because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It is now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

This year Whitsun/Pentecost is on Sunday June 9th. Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is a celebrated 50 days after Easter. On the year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

I realise many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

All in the month of JUNE

It was:

175 years ago, on 6th June 1844 that the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was founded in London.

125 years ago, on 30th June 1894 that Tower Bridge in London was officially opened.

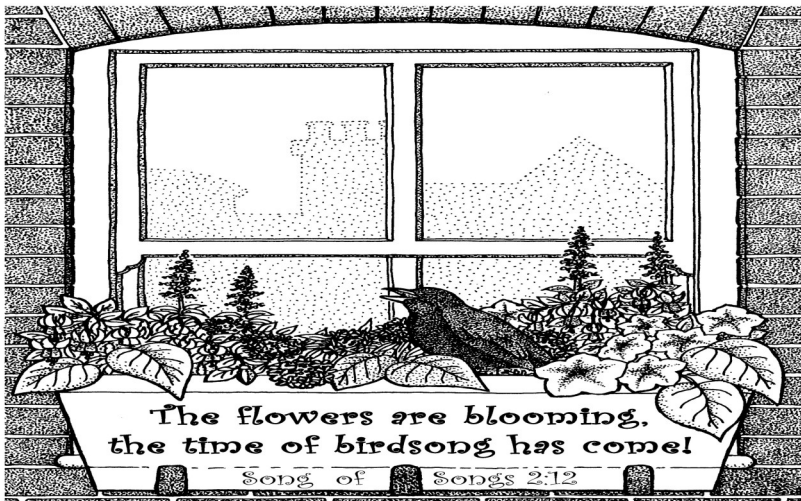
100 years ago, on 28th June 1919 that the Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Paris Peace Conference, marking the official end of the war.

90 years ago, on 12th June 1929 that Anne Frank, German Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, was born.

75 years ago, on 6th June 1944 that D-Day took place with the Normandy landings. Over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, at the start of the Battle of Normandy. The battle ended on 25th August and was an Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 8th June 1949 that George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-Four was published.

50 years ago, on 22nd June 1969 that Judy Garland, American actress and singer, died. Best known for her role as Dorothy in the film The Wizard of Oz. Mother of Liza Minnelli. Died of an accidental drug overdose, aged 47.



ROTAS for JUNE
Coffee & Offertory Rota

| Date | Coffee | Offertory |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| 2nd June | Mr J Sheares Mrs T Ballistone-Thicke | Congregation |
| 9th June | Mrs J Hill Mrs M Maddock | Mothers Union |
| 16th June | Mrs M Wilton Mrs S Curtis | Congregation |
| 23rd June | Mrs E Marshall Mrs H Bailey | Ladies Group |

Reader *Intercessions* & Sides Persons Rota

| Date | Reader/<i>Intercessions</i> | Sides person |
|-------------|--|--|
| 2nd June | Jane Hughes | K Harvey, N Barnett J Martindale, J Shears |
| 9th June | Gary Lewis <i>Ann Munton</i> | P Shellswell, A Fitch R Broughton, S Broughton |
| 16th June | Carol Moore | T Marshall, E Marshall A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst |
| 20th June | David Moore | <i>Corpus Christi</i> <i>Thursday 12 noon</i> |
| 23rd June | Esther Marshall <i>Maureen West</i> | S Dryburgh, L Hughes P Daniels, T Daniels |
| | | |

Parish Directory

| | | Telephone |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Bible Reading Fellowship | Mrs Angela Fitch | 413636 |
| Choir Leader | Mr Geoff Miles | |
| Church Cleaning | Mrs Pat Clynes | 412928 |
| Church Hall Bookings | Helen Bailey | 07923 501966 |
| Coffee Rota | Mrs Margaret Small | 411474 |
| Electoral Roll Secretary | Mrs Christine Plummer | 416343 |
| Flower Rota | Mrs Jenny Barnett | 413319 |
| Gift Aid Secretary | Mrs Kay Harvey | 416050 |
| Head Server | Mr John Norman | |
| Head teacher (St John's) | Mrs Claire Mirams | 412019 |
| Ladies Group Leader | Mrs Diane Chiplin | 412118 |
| Magazine Advertising | Mrs Diane Chiplin | 412118 |
| Magazine Editor | Mrs Linda Broadhurst | 415562 |
| Magazine Distribution | Mr Ralph Plummer | 416343 |
| M U Branch Leader | Mrs Sally Curtis | 201435 |
| Organist | Mrs Margaret Whatley | 418072 |
| PCC Secretary | Mrs Margaret Marshall | 413895 |
| PCC Treasurer | Mrs Maureen West | 433784 |
| PCC Vice Chairman | Mrs Shirley Blackburn | 413299 |
| | Mrs Carol Moore | 412226 |
| Safeguarding Person | | |
| Tower Secretary | Mrs Margaret Marshall | 413895 |

Church Organisations

The Choir practise on Fridays from 6:30 pm until 7:50 pm.

The Mothers' Union: Prayer Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month except January and August. The Branch meeting is on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Ladies Group meets on the second Thursday of the month

Magazine deadline for copy is the 14th of the month

To: Mrs Linda Broadhurst, 43 Furlong Close, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PR
 Telephone: 01761 415562 Email: stjohnsmagazine@aol.com



June 2019

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Sunday 2nd | Easter 7 | |
| Tuesday 4th | 10:30 | Coffee Morning in Church |
| | 14:45 | M.U. Prayers |
| Wednesday 5th | 12:30 | Summer Concert |
| Sunday 9th | Pentecost | |
| Tuesday 11th | 10:30 | Coffee Morning in Church |
| | 15:00 | Mothers Union |
| Wednesday 12th | 12:30 | Summer Concert |
| Thursday 13th | 19:30 | Ladies Group |
| Friday 14th | | <i>Magazine Copy Date</i> |
| Sunday 16th | Trinity Sunday | |
| Tuesday 18th | 10:30 | Coffee Morning in Church |
| Wednesday 19th | 12:30 | Summer Concert |
| Thursday 20th | Corpus Christi | 12 noon Sung Mass |
| Friday 21st & | 10am - 5pm | Farnborough Floral Art Group |
| Saturday 22nd | | Present: <i>A Celebration in Flowers</i> |
| Sunday 23rd | Birth of John the Baptist | |
| | Please note: Sung Mass today will be at 10:30am and NOT 9:30 | |
| | 2pm - 4pm | <i>A Celebration in Flowers</i> |
| Tuesday 25th | 10:30 | Coffee Morning in Church |
| Wednesday 26th | 12:30 | Summer Concert |
| Sunday 30th | Trinity 2 | |