

CHURCH ALIVE

June 2024



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

Revd: Philip Hopper

Tel: 07596 759 584

Email: frphiliphopper@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Liz Casson

Tel: 411216

Email: msnparishoffice@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Mrs Pat Clynes

37 Staddlestones

Midsomer Norton, BA3 2PP

Tel: 412528

Email: patclynes@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Hilary Denning

87 Nelson Ward Drive

Radstock, BA3 3FS

Tel: 07828 550006

Email: hilaryjohn87@gmail.com

SERVICES

SUNDAY

8am Said Eucharist

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 808 Number 6

News from the Tower

On Saturday 11 May, the AGM of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers was held at South Petherton.

The Association, which was founded in 1890, is headed by a Master. In other associations this position can be titled Chairman or President.

The present Master, Rev Mark Jackson, had indicated he would not be standing for re-election in 2024. It has been a tradition since the Association was founded that the Master has been a clergyman. Some years ago, a proposition was put forward that the position could be held by clergy or non-clergy, however, this was voted against overwhelmingly!!

Father Guy had been approached about taking on the position and he was voted in as Master. He becomes the fifteenth Master in the history of the Association.



The outgoing Master handing over to the new Master.

Reflections from the Ministry Team



Dear Friends,

Following our Annual Parochial Church meeting on the 21st April, I offer you the 'report' I made in the context of the sermon I preached that day. So here we go.....

From our Gospel reading today, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold." (John 10:16)

I ended my report at last year's APCM saying "I am confident we have the green shoots of emerging hope. With that hope in mind, we step forward into God's future as a modern catholic worshipping community seeking to be inclusive, intergenerational, diverse, caring for creation, and striving to worship God in the beauty of holiness."

The green shoots of hope I mentioned last year continue to emerge. With Philip's enthusiasm, and his teaching background, our Launchpad initiative started at the beginning of this academic year. Every half-term both year six classes from our church school, come into church for a time of reflection, activity, and learning. Each session lasts between 1½ to 2 hours, and they draw to a close with drinks, cakes, and fruit – all eagerly consumed by the children! Our aim is to build our relationship with the children so that they know their church is a safe place for them, and that we are here if they need help as they transition to secondary school, or just need a space to meet old friends.

Our relationship with St. John's School has improved no end, and it's a real joy to welcome children, with their families, and staff members to our Sunday worship. It is also heartening that links with MSN Primary School, Welton Primary School and Norton Hill Primary School continue to grow in positive ways.

Please be assured that our ministry with children is growing and we welcome them all into their Parish Church several days a term.

There are green shoots of growth within our worshipping as well. It is good to see we have young families with children joining us at the Parish Eucharist regularly. We also see some younger faces, which are encouraging signs of diversity and a blend of generations.

With these evolving signs of growth, I would suggest that in the months to come we introduce a Family Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month. This service would be geared to involve all ages, it would be more interactive, a bit less formal, but remain Eucharistic at heart.

We are also engaging with “folds” in the wider community. We are now offering seasonal worship (Service of the Word) to clients of Age Concern at the Orchard Community Centre and at Greenacres sheltered accommodation. And we are holding monthly services at Combe Lea residential home.

It is also encouraging to welcome the wider community into their Parish Church. These events include the monthly lunchtime concerts with Trio Paradis, the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival, the Carol services for Rotary Club and Probus, musicians and singers for concerts. These connections with the wider community are important and show that our doors are open, please come in.

Despite these green shoots of hope, we have a nettle to grasp!

Our Diocese is facing an annual deficit of well over £1 million.

Our Diocese is grappling with the nettle of a significant fall in parish share receipts into the Common Fund. This fall makes it difficult for the Diocese to cover the cost of paid ministry and the associated support costs for parishes, schools, and chaplaincies. This fall in parish share receipts comes against a backdrop of the COVID pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis.

Based on the parish share currently paid, only 20% of benefices cover the cost of paid ministry and associated support, with the remaining 80% of benefices having their paid ministry and associated support subsidised through the Common Fund.

This is not a sustainable financial position. So the Diocese has tried to “cut its cloth” where it can. Posts have been paired back at Flourish House, but significantly it is now cutting back Parish Priest posts by 28.

So, the nettle we have to grasp is a 15% increase in the request for Parish Share, which for this year is £54,543. Last year it was £47,429. However, we must recognise that our Diocese has not increased our Parish Share request in line with inflation since COVID, recognising the financial strain many parishes were experiencing.

I am aware that many of you are generous in your giving of time, talents, and treasure. But I have to ask you all to prayerfully consider the level of your current regular giving, and if at all possible, to increase your regular giving please. If you are a tax payer, can I encourage you to join the Parish Giving Scheme, which claims the Gift Aid on your donation every month. If you are not a tax payer, can I encourage you to increase your regularly giving by Standing Order, or if you use the weekly envelope scheme to increase your donation as much as possible. And if you are not currently giving regularly to please consider doing so. This may seem daunting, but as Easter people we give to express our love and gratitude to God for all that He is and all He has done for us. The generosity in our response enables our church to outwork its mission and ministry, living and telling the story of Jesus and transforming the community in which live and serve.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus describes his ministry as that of the shepherd. This metaphor is one that has inspired countless sermons and works of art. From my experience in farming, I find it hard to block out the picture I have of a shepherd I worked with, one who was far from good! Yet when I hear Jesus described as the Good Shepherd I am taken back to my ordination as a priest in Peterborough Cathedral. During the Ordination the Bishop says, “Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent.” What a responsibility, what a calling!

As the flock of Jesus in this place, and at this time, we are all called to shepherd one another with love and compassion, and we are also called shepherd those beyond the “fold”.

I hope and pray that we continue to follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and inspired by his example open the gates of the fold to share God’s love with all those from the wider community.

Yours in Christ, Guy

St John’s Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts

This year’s series of free Wednesday 1pm lunchtime concerts at St John’s begins on 12th June with the Mendip Ensemble (Carole Jenner Timms-Flute, Simon Naylor-Oboe & Jacquelyn Bevan-Piano) playing music from the Baroque to present day.

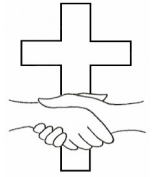


On 19th June violin virtuoso Matthew Taylor will perform an all-French programme including Saint-Saens’ stunning Havanaise.

Other concerts include an organ recital by David Bednall on 26th June and St John’s Primary School on 3rd July.

Entrance is by donation with a retiring collection and refreshments will be on sale half an hour before the concert.

Ladies Group May Meeting



As the date of the meeting coincided with Ascension Day, we attended the Ascension Day service before gathering at the front of the church. Kate (assisted by Guy) had laid out an assortment of vestments used for different services during the church year which she then proceeded to explain when and how they are worn.

Choir Dress is a black cassock with a white surplice over. This is worn for Morning & Evening Prayer. The cassock may have 39 buttons which represent the 39 Articles of Religion. A cotta, which is similar to a surplice can be worn as an alternative to a surplice, usually more ornate with lace trimmings.

For Celebration of the Eucharist an alb (white) is worn under a chasuble. The chasuble is a seamless garment which comes in several different styles and can be of different colours some according to the church season.

A cope is a long cloak, open at the front and fastened at the breast with a band or clasp. It may be of any liturgical colour and can be very ornate. Guy modelled a cope which was a family heirloom, handed down to him from a relation of his maternal grandmother.

Kate then showed us her collection of stoles and explained the significance of them. Her ordination stole has a tree on one end designed by Alice, the boat on the other end was Clarrie's design. Others had connections with her ordination training and some in colours for the seasons of the church.

Numerous vestments have been in church for many years. We went into the Vicar's vestry and the contents of various drawers in the chest were revealed. One chasuble, (an ornate purple one) had a name tape in it. It looked like new. Kate had done some research and traced the history of the person who had owned it. He was a curate at St John's and left in 1968.

We see these vestments been worn at services and it was good to have them named and to be told how and when they are used.

Kate was thanked by us all for giving us such an enjoyable and informative evening. Thanks also went to Guy for assisting especially for moving the heavy vestments.

News from the Diocese

Archbishop joins us for Diocesan Day of Prayer

On Saturday, 7 September, everyone across our Diocese of Bath and Wells is invited to join in a Diocesan Day of Prayer for the communities we serve. Bishop Michael will be hosting a gathering in each of our archdeaconries, alongside Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Churches across the diocese are also invited to hold their own prayer gatherings with a focus on their local communities.

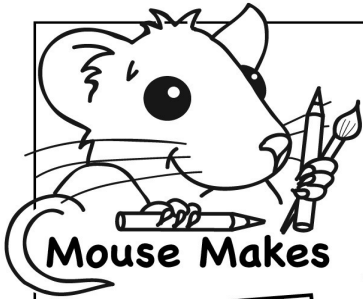
Bishop Michael says, “As churches we pray in and for our communities each and every day, but for this diocesan day of prayer I am encouraging every church to look afresh at the communities we serve and the multitude of ways we can and do pray for them. As well as being an opportunity to help us seek God’s transformation for the communities we are a part of, I hope this will provide us with a chance to deepen our own faith and strengthen our church communities through prayer.

“I am always struck by how many people, even if they are not regular churchgoers, are pleased that they are being prayed for, and so this may be an opportunity to let our communities know that we are praying for our life together and how it might be transformed for good, as well as giving thanks for all that is good already.”

As well as the gatherings across Bath and Wells, there will be resources and suggestions for more local prayer gatherings, on that day, and into the future.

‘Unless the Lord Builds the House we build in vain.’ Psalm 127:1
Find out more about the Diocesan Day of Prayer and sign up to receive resources when they are available at

bathandwells.org.uk/day-of-prayer



Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
 MPWF UIF GBUIFS
 IBT HJWFO UP VT
 UIBU XF TIPVME
 CF DBMMFE
 DIJMESFO PG HPE
 POF KPIO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

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

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

R	O	T	A	S
O	P	E	R	A
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
S	A	T	O	R

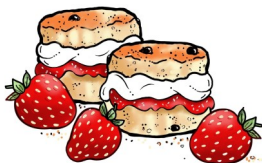
If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O
O

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
 SON • DAUGHTER
 JOSEPH • ISAAC
 MOSES • JOB
 SOLOMON
 ZECHARIAH
 ZEBEDEE

The Social Committee invites you



On Saturday 22nd June at 3 pm
to afternoon tea with Prosecco
in the garden of Carol & David Moore,
1 The Dymboro.

If the weather is inclement we will
meet in the Church Hall

The cost will be £10 and tickets are
available from members of the Social Committee



The gift of prayer

By Toby Wright, who will be installed as the Dean of Wells on Saturday, 15 June.

It is a great joy and privilege to come and join you here in Bath and Wells as the new Dean of Wells, to serve the Cathedral, the diocese and the county. This is an area with strong links on my maternal side, with my grandparents being married in Bath, and many relatives from around this patch.

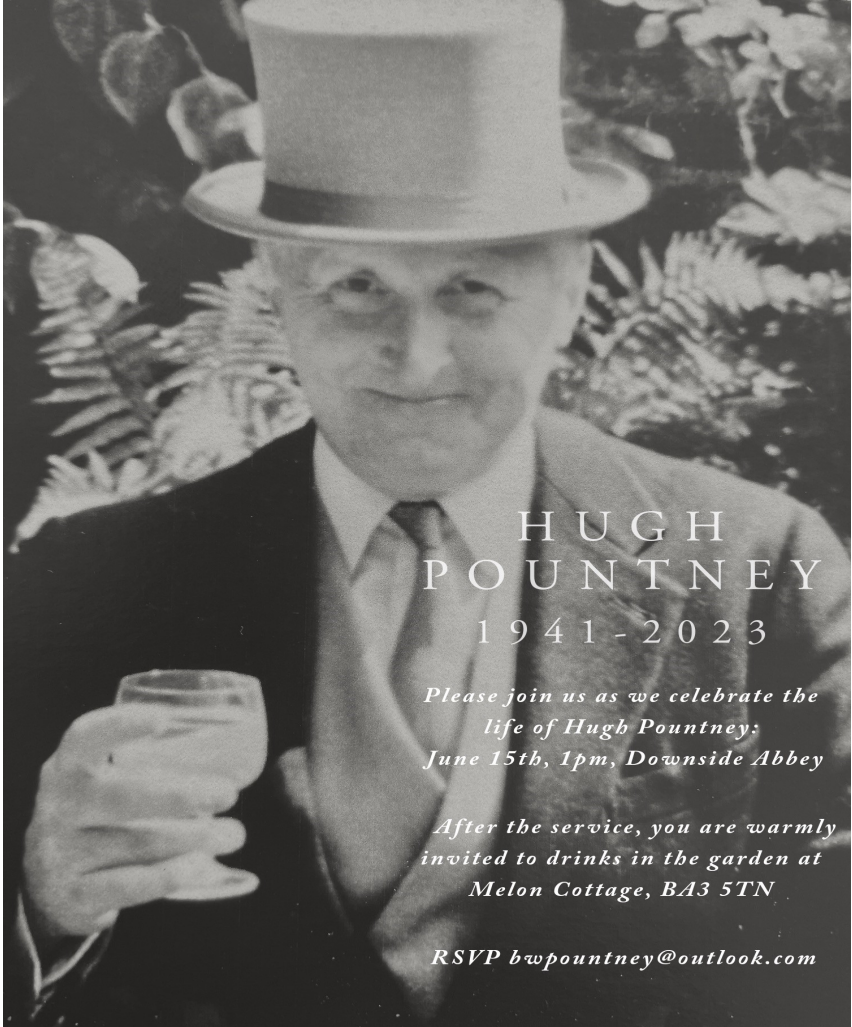


One of the many things which drew me to this role is the privilege of prayer in your beautiful Cathedral Church. Each morning we gather and pray for the life of the diocese, and give thanks for that same life in the evening. Please be assured of my prayers for you in your mission and ministry and I warmly look forward to getting out to explore the diocese.

As I reflect on this time of change, I am mindful of the importance of finding patterns of prayer to sustain our lives, and nourish our spiritual growth. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said many years ago, we must 'think of prayer as a relationship.' We are to invest in it, and to find space so that it can develop, and this takes time. Or as the mystic Evelyn Underhill put it, 'On every level of life, from housework to heights of prayer, in all judgement and efforts to get things done, hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur.'

We all know the importance of taking time to invest in relationships, and I love the challenge that hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur. As we reflect on our own prayer lives, I wonder if there are ways that we can deepen our relationship in prayer?

The Christian tradition is packed with ways to help people learn to pray. Maybe we can find ways to slow ourselves down and be more present to the gift of prayer, so that we may join in the Apostle Paul's prayer, 'we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding'. (Colossians 1.9)



HUGH
POUNTNEY
1941 - 2023

*Please join us as we celebrate the
life of Hugh Pountney:
June 15th, 1pm, Downside Abbey*

*After the service, you are warmly
invited to drinks in the garden at
Melon Cottage, BA3 5TN*

RSVP bwpountney@outlook.com

From The Registers

Christian Funeral

"May they rest in peace"

25th April

James Arthur



Holy Baptism

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

28th April

Myla Mae Paddock

5th May

Phoebe Campbell

Marley Campbell

BAPTISMS

St John's might not be able to compete with the Peace Doves art installation at Wells Cathedral, but in May, Y6 pupils from St John's School created their own flock of doves, each one dedicated to people in need of peace.



Date	Reader/Intercessions	Sides person
2nd June	Carol Moore <i>Carol Moore</i>	K Gay, L Powell
9th June	David Moore	J Shears, E Densley
16th June	Linda Robertson <i>Ann Munton</i>	D Winter, J Winter
23rd June	Kaj Scarsbrook <i>Jim Balliston Thicke</i>	N Barnett, P Marriott
30th June	John Shears <i>Colin Tincknell</i>	A Broadhurst, L Broadhurst
<p>If you have to swap or cannot do any of the dates, please can you let Pat or Hilary know. Thank you</p>		



St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton Hire of Church Hall

The hall can be hired for £12per 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: Carolyn Wroe on 07591 557578

***This month's front cover is the Midsomer Norton,
St John the Baptist Banner. Picture from the Editor***

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 Angela Fitch	413636
Choir Leader	Mr Geoff Miles	
Church Cleaning	Mrs Pat Clynes	412928
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs Carolyn Wroe	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	416050
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Magazine Distribution	Mrs Linda Broadhurst	07941 204179
Organist	Mrs Margaret Whatley	418072
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Ann Munton	07895 038871
PCC Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Kay Harvey	416050
PCC Vice Chairperson	Mrs Hilary Denning	07828 550006
Tower Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	413895

Church Organisations

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

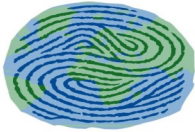
The Friendship Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

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](https://twitter.com/StJohnMSN), on Facebook: [@StJohnMSN](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnMSN)
and on YouTube: [St John's MSN channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).**



**June
2024**

Sunday 2nd	1st Sunday after Trinity	
Monday 3rd	19:00	Archdeacons Visitation
Tuesday 4th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Friday 7th	12:30	Trio Paradis Concert
Sunday 9th	2nd Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 11th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
	14:30	Friendship Group
Wednesday 12th	13:00	Lunchtime Concert
Thursday 13th		Ladies Group Meal
Friday 14th	10 – 12 noon	Gardening Group
		<i>Magazine Copy Date</i>
Sunday 16th	3rd Sunday after Trinity	
Tuesday 18th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 19th	13:00	Lunchtime Concert
Friday 21st	11:00	St Johns cell of Our Lady Of Walsingham - Eucharist
Saturday 22nd	15:00	<i>Afternoon Tea at 1 The Dymboro</i>
Sunday 23rd	Patronal Festival	
Tuesday 25th	10:30 - 11:45	Coffee in Church
Wednesday 26th	13:00	Lunchtime Concert
Friday 28th	10 – 12 noon	Gardening Group
Sunday 30th	5th Sunday after Trinity	