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## Hawkesley Church Primary School

**W**e have now received the final reports from our OFSTED Inspection on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> February and the required Church School Inspection in March. Both were very thorough. They found strengths in the school in the care that children receive and in the commitment of many children, parents, staff and governors. They also tell us that we have much to do as we work together to improve our school in the months and years ahead.

The Church School Inspection commended the quality of RE and Collective Worship, the strong relationship of school, clergy and church and the clear way that, in Hawkesley School, "Every Child Matters to God".

The OFSTED report, however, says that our school needs special measures. These will build on the improvements already made and also bring new resources and initiatives to ensure that Hawkesley is a good school. School staff, governors and children are already working hard at the key tasks identified in the report, especially in raising standards and ensuring good quality teaching and progression throughout the school.

The key issue is that we have not yet been able to appoint a permanent Head Teacher to replace Mr Dobson, who left in April 2009. Mrs Garratt and Mrs James have worked very hard as interim Head Teachers and given us new focus and direction. But, as the report says, we need a permanent Head Teacher here. We continue to do everything we can to make this happen.

We have already prepared a new School Development Plan. We are benefitting from the local authority's Improving Schools Programme. We have already made good progress on many inspection concerns.

We are confident that by working together, as Hawkesley has so often done in the past, the necessary change will happen. We are committed – and hope that you are too.

Thank you to all who work and learn at Hawkesley and to governor and volunteer colleagues from church who serve faithfully and quietly in so many fruitful ways. Hawkesley is a true partnership of Anglicans and Methodists, of children and adults and of community and church. In Christ and with your prayers, it will flourish.

Canon Rob Morris - Chair of Governors

### Magazine Editorial Team

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- Jim Clarke
- Revd. Jayne Crooks - Chair
- Evelyn Finn - Advertising
- Alan Haynes - Editor
- Susan Haynes

#### CONTACT US AT:-

Kings Norton Parish Office  
St Nicolas Place  
81 The Green, Kings Norton  
Birmingham B38 8RU

0121 458 3289

e-mail:-  
editor@kingsnorton.org.uk  
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk  
website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

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**Items for inclusion in the June 2010 issue are to be submitted by:-  
Friday 14th May 2010**

### Welcome.....

There is plenty happening this May. We get to exercise our right to vote in a General Election on May 6th. The Church of England have published some prayers to help us decide where to put our cross.

It is also Christian Aid Week and collectors will be out door to door up and down the country. We have an article describing how the money collected will go to help those in need so please give generously, whether financially or in the time spent collecting.

Once again, we look back as well as forward and there are some memories of the Confirmation service held in April. The next day we were back in Church again for the Annual Parish Church Meeting. You can read the Annual Report on page 7.

During Lent there were a number of groups who met to study and pray. They were quite varied and you can read about their experiences on page 34. Thank you to all those who contributed.

Our Church School in Hawkesley had its OFSTED inspection last month and there is a report on page 46. Please remember to pray for the school, its teachers and pupils.

Alan Haynes, Editor

## From The Rector

*Growing in good times and hard times...*

**B**usy isn't the word. The last month in the parish has taken us through the wonder of Holy Week and Easter, the joy of Confirmation on 18<sup>th</sup> April and the delights of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Alongside all these, we have been responding to a tough OFSTED report on our church school at Hawkesley and making plans for Saint Nicolas Place as our two managers, Graeme Clarke and Emma Banks, have deservedly found new posts nearer their homes. And the usual round of worship, ministry and mission hasn't stopped either.

It has been intense – but I have been very conscious of the upholding prayer of so many, especially those whose years or frailty don't let them roll up their sleeves on practical matters as they would prefer. Without their prayers and God's faithful answering, those of us in the middle wouldn't last very long. Please accept a very large thank you from all your clergy and lay leaders. We would be lost without you.

But Christ's life is about much more than just hanging on in times of great pressure – although that, thank goodness, is part of it. Christ's life is about growing in good times and hard ones alike. Holy Week and Easter renew us in the transforming love and

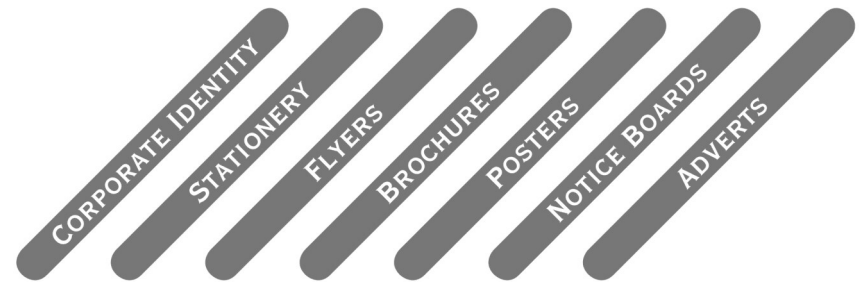
power of Jesus' Cross and Resurrection. And it happens so gently – with the Risen Lord meeting his friends in quiet gardens, small rooms and on the weary road to Emmaus – as he still does here.

**'It has been intense – but I have been very conscious of the upholding prayer of so many..'**

Yes, great things followed, but they all began with the too easily overlooked small things of faithful seeking, meeting and loving. Without the quiet beginnings in which we discover that we are loved and prayed for – for ever – the rest would never happen. May we know them more in Kings Norton as we struggle with our praying, searching and working in love together in the Good News and promise of Christ, Crucified and Risen. It is for us all, the strong and the frail!

With my deep thanks, prayers and good wishes.

Rob



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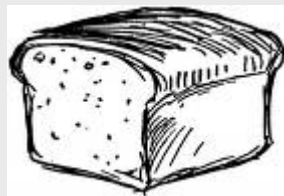
## CAFÉ TOPICS

27 <sup>th</sup> April	– St Mary's Hospice - Esmie Kirk
4 <sup>th</sup> May	No Café T
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Meals with Jesus 2 - John 21:1-17 - John White
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Who was Pontius Pilate? - Jim Clarke
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Dancing with God - Jess Bolton
1 <sup>st</sup> June	No Café T
8 <sup>th</sup> June	In praise of the Messianic secret - John White
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Angels - David Chadderton
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Godly Play - Jayne Crooks
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Discipleship in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century - Donald Sampson
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Faith in Education - Beverley Maynard

## BREAD



One of the weeks in *Lentwise* we were bidden to think about the sustenance that Jesus brings. The Bible passages we were asked to look at were, on the face of it, very familiar ones - Exodus 16 (Manna from Heaven), John 6: 1-14 (the Feeding of the Five Thousand) and John 6: 25-35 (“I am the Bread of Life”). Reading them together like this put them into much greater context. I was then made to ponder further on “bread” during the Eucharist in Holy Week (on Tuesday) when the Gospel Reading was the second of the John passages.



I realised afresh that this bread wasn't the stuff we might have as a side dish (think “garlic bread”), but absolute staple food of less affluent societies, who rely completely on the grain harvest to provide staple food... bread...be it made of maize or wheat or rye or whatever grain is grown locally. I enjoy making bread, but it is a pleasurable cooking activity, not the daily grind of making that day's food without which there is nothing else to eat. My bread is good to eat (well, I think it is anyway!) but there are plenty of alternatives if I run out of time or don't feel like it or some other similar excuse.

I thought again about the way we use food in the West when I created a visual for the Holy Week services. Which of our African or Indian neighbours would use two loaves of bread as a visual aid? As an offering maybe yes, but not just in a visual that wasn't going to be eaten or wasn't in a fit state to be eaten after several days in church.

I re-thought some values and understood those passages in a different light.

Sylvia Fox

## Holy Week and Easter

Thank you to all who shared in our keeping of this precious time in Kings Norton. All that we did and discovered, in sorrow and joy, grew out of our common life. So many people contributed in worship, word, music and arrangements of spaces and signs, from the smallest Beaver bringing up the Cross on Palm Sunday to our oldest members wrapping the rest of us in their faithful prayer. Thank you. It was real.

## Confirmation

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April was a lovely sunny day for us to welcome Bishop Maurice Sinclair to confirm nine members in the grace and fire of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for them – and for all of us in growing. We were worried that there were some empty seats at the back – but this was because the front seats were full! This in turn made a large difference to our being able to pray and sing more deeply together. Can we do this more often on in ordinary occasions? (Just a thought!)



## Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> April

We gathered for heartfelt thank you's, reports and questions on the whole range and future of our Parish life. Full reports will be on our parish website (to be wholly renewed from May 1<sup>st</sup>, thanks to David Ash who has built on the sure foundation laid by Graham Boulton).

We also elected Alison Blumer and Crystal Hughes to the Church Council and re-elected Alan Haynes, Jon Crooks and David Smith.

Stephen Plant was chosen as Churchwarden for the coming year, to our great relief and gratitude – but we still need another one. Do be stirred to offer or to encourage someone else to share this key role in the lay leadership of church and parish. The weekly workload has eased somewhat, but the need for wisdom and leadership has grown. Please pray and act on this – with urgency!

Rob Morris

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### What's your favourite holiday place?

Anywhere with more trees than people.

### If you went on Desert Island Disks, what would be your luxury and book?

If I understand this, I already have the Complete Works of Shakespeare and the Bible, correct?

Picking only one book would be agony. Probably something by Carl Sagan or Stephen Jay Gould.

Hmmm...my luxury would have to be my husband (he may read this!) Or if it cant be a person, I would vote for another book! I suppose a laptop would be cheating.

### What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

I would hope that awareness in the congregation starts to grow of the desperate need for everyone to get their hands dirty - so to speak. So many issues need addressing and so many people need help, its time to stop wishing "somebody" would do something and become that somebody.

I also hope that I am invited to the hundredth anniversary of the present clergy team. I'll even bake!

**Do you know anyone who would make a good 'Parish Person'?  
If so, please pass on their contact details to me  
[editor@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:editor@kingsnorton.org.uk) or at the Parish Office. Thank you.**



## 'Parish People' *People from all walks of Parish Life.*

This month we hear from Judy Ash who I met staffing the Fair Trade stall in St Nicolas Church.



### **Where were you born?**

Chicago, Illinois USA.

### **What is your occupation?**

Administrative Assistant for Saint Basils.

### **Why Kings Norton?**

Because David was here.....which worked out very well!

### **Why is your Christian faith important to you?**

It is what the rest of my life balances on. Without the basics, the essential truth of God, there would be nothing to build anything else on. "All other ground is sinking sand..."

### **What are your hobbies and interests?**

Cooking, reading, admiring my beautiful and perfect grandchildren, hiking, history, my grandchildren, architecture, old movies, I have recently discovered Dr. Who and.... have I mentioned my grandchildren?!

### **What are your best memories?**

All of them.



## **Parish Report for Annual Parochial Meeting**

2009 was another year of changes, some long prayed, hoped and planned – and some unexpected. They bring us to what in many ways is a new beginning for Team, Church and parish. But, as ever, we are God's pilgrim people – and can trust God's grace and purpose in all that lies ahead.

**We now have a full ministry team** – working collegially across the parish, rather than dividing the parish's work among us. We are now growing together in **Enriching Ministry and Mission** within the diocesan Transforming Church programme and our own Mission Statement.

**The long work of Restoration is now complete** (40 years – not only the last intense six!). Kings Norton Restoration Trust is at last a separate body. We are now growing the ways in which KNRT and Church can work together for all in our communities.

**Long-standing financial issues have been resolved.** The climate in which we had to do this has meant that our assets and reserves are reduced – but they are also free for us to make wise and prayerful decision about their growth and best use.

**Hawkesley Church Primary School**, our church school, has had a particularly difficult year – but is now ready for change.

**Quinquennial Inspection** of St Nicolas and its steady growth as the parish's church building enables us to look afresh at how we care for it.

**Some pilgrims have moved on.** To our human sense, the passing of Ted Bonner, Leonard Miskin, Gwen Fox, Olive Massey and many others feels wholly like loss. In Christ, it is not loss, it is fulfilment of their life, faith and gifts.

It is the same with those moving to new things on earth: Pat Linton, Olive Hill, Deb Buckley, Sian Smith, Jess and Graham Boulton, Karen Urwin - and Graeme Clarke and Emma Banks from KNRT. All take our deep thanks and prayers. We are now discovering the new gifts and directions which God has for us so that we can build on all their work and love among us here.

**Communications are being renewed** with new patterns for weekly newsletter, monthly diaries and notice boards and from May, a complete renewal of the parish website. Do visit and tell us what you think.

Continued on page 9

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**CALOR**

didn't want to be near me (I wonder why?!), I did manage to get the harness on her and off we went to Derbyshire.

9<sup>th</sup>

Returned back home after a lovely break. The weather had been fab and I had caught up with my family and some of my friends. Needless to say there was the usual post- holiday sort out of washing, ironing and catching up on phone calls and emails. The dog meanwhile just curled up and went to sleep!

13<sup>th</sup>

Received a phone call to say one of my favourite people in the world (a 93 year old gentleman) had been taken into Selly Oak Hospital and was quite poorly so I went off to see him. I spent time with him and his family and was relieved to see he was looking a little bit better by the end of my visit. I then went off to another ward to see a church member who had been in hospital for quite a while. She too is in her 90's and she takes a great pride in her appearance so I offered to go in later in the week and do her nails. This particular lady loves to see my variety of shoes with the different colours I wear. She is very lovely and a bit special.

15<sup>th</sup>

Today I found myself reflecting on some of the visits I have done over the past few months and remembered one when I visited a man and his son. I had taken the funeral of his wife last year and kept in touch. During my visit he gave me a cup of tea and offered me a rather nice cake. The son then said, just as I was about to take a bite out of it, "That's a Weight Watchers cake!" We all laughed, especially when his Dad said to me without thinking, "Do you have problems in that area?" meaning my weight!!!! He was so embarrassed, especially as his son and I laughed again. What wonderful people I meet when I'm out and about. They are just great!



# Rebecca's Diary...



Extracts from Rebecca's April Diary.

4<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day:

I went into St. Nicolas Church to take the 8.00 Holy Communion service and the church was lovely and quiet. It looked so beautiful with all the flowers, the decorated Easter tomb, the banners and the Pascal Candle. It was stunning and I felt a deep sense of thanksgiving for all those who had used their gifts over Holy Week and Easter Eve to bring so much to so many. Ministry is about each one of us using our gifts and talents for God and for others and that certainly was the case at St. Nicolas, Immanuel and Hawkesley churches over Holy Week and Easter. How fortunate I am to be in such a parish as this for my curacy amongst so many gifted folk.

6<sup>th</sup>

Packed up the dog's belongings and my own and headed off to see my family for my Easter break. I decided to put a harness on the dog so I could attach her to the seat belt in the car so as to keep her secure while I was driving. As usual with these things, it wasn't as simple as the picture on the front showed! Poor Zooka ended up with it around her head, under one leg and not the other and even round her two back legs and not her front! Eventually, having chased the dog around the house for the umpteenth time, who for some reason



## Where next?

**We must ensure that in every change in society, we continue as the very rooted, inclusive parish church of Kings Norton – in our life and mission across the parish and in St Nicolas, the parish's church building, and through Hawkesley Church/School.**

There are threats to be faced, new and old.

**There is growing division in the Church of England and the world-wide Anglican Communion – but not here!** In response, we are utterly committed to truly collegial and inclusive ministry and mission. We have differences, but the heart of Christ's Church is not that one side "wins" any argument. It is how we grow in our differences in mutual respect and encouragement. That is love! I am delighted at the new growth in common feeling for our common worship, mission and ministry and that we talk much less about "United Services" than about "Parish Services". St Nicolas Day, Holy Week and Confirmation are not the only examples.

**There is a wide feeling that "traditional" church is in decline and that only new ways of being church will survive. Local experience tells otherwise.** We need to hold our nerve in Christ as parish church for an area of great richness and great deprivation and grow in openness to all the unlikely ways in which God turns believing into belonging. Thousands here seek and trust God. Far fewer seek to belong to God's church. We need faithful imagination so that we recover our older parish history and let God re-shape it for present and future, in church and outside. And we need richer confidence of God's graceful purpose for us now and in the future.

**Financial pressures increase and a parish church open to all has to renew vision and appeal in its funding. We can.** We need to be honest about need for more "friends" to become supporters.

**We must make wise decisions about our newly-freed assets to grow new mission and ministry and also ensure that St Nicolas Church, Hawkesley and Saint Nicolas Place are sustainable for at least the next 25 years.**

Spiritual truth and earthly realities are not to be separated if the Word made flesh and dwelling among us is to be served and God's Kingdom enlarged. In God's grace, they go together.

Canon Rob Morris, Team Rector of Kings Norton



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**CONFIRMATION**  
18th April 2010



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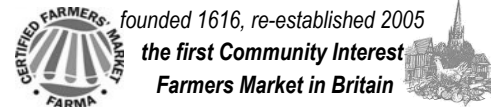


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## Messy Mornings

We held our first Messy Morning for adults and children of all ages in St Nicolas Church on 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10 am until noon. There were four activities loosely based upon the story of Abraham:

Filling bottles with coloured sand  
Making star mobiles  
Making Ziggurat sandwiches  
Making cards for family members.

Those that came had a wonderful time. We hope to run Messy Mornings on most Farmers' Market days and over the next two months we will be having activities associated with the stories of Moses and Joshua. Do come and join in the fun.

Jayne Crooks

## CRIME SCENE IN CHURCH

A dramatic moment from a nursery rhyme comes to St Nicolas on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May, as the Queen of Hearts discovers the theft of her tarts. She and the Knave are represented in a large free-standing work by local textile artist Hilary Clinton.

Visitors of all ages are invited to sit on the seats, which are part of the installation, and to use it as a meeting place for a chat and a cuppa. A comments book invites feedback, drawings, reflections and favourite tart recipes.

"There's something comforting in realising that royalty sometimes face the same challenges that the rest of us do," says Hilary. "Also, this theme reminds me to pray when things start to pile up."

The Queen of Hearts she  
made some tarts  
All on a summer's day;  
The Knave of Hearts he  
stole those tarts  
And took them all away.

In retirement, Hilary became a student at Bournville School of Art, part of Birmingham City University. "It's been a great course for me and I really appreciate this opportunity to exhibit my work," she says.

The Queen of Hearts is in the North Aisle at St Nicolas from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May.

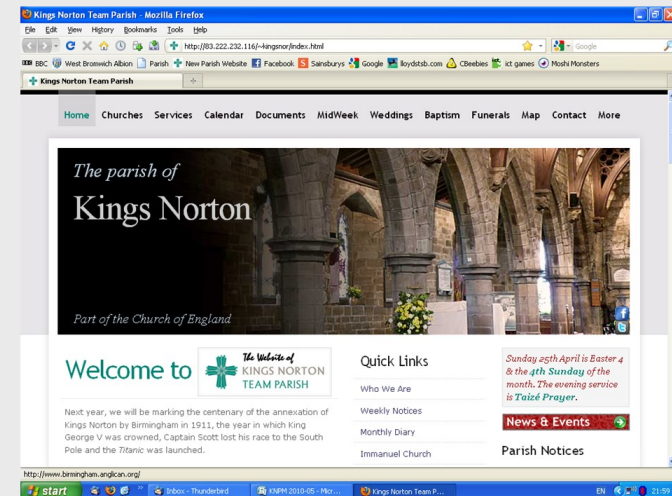
On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April, Doreen and I were confirmed at St Nicolas Church. We went not really knowing what to expect. But what a surprise! We found the service beautiful and so full of meaning. It has left both of us firmly back on track with our journey through life with our Lord.

A big thank you to John and Jayne for their guidance through the confirmation course and a big thank you for the cake. Most of all, a big thank you to everyone who was in Church and helped to make it such a lovely day.

Doreen and Eric Davis

## New Parish Website

From the 1st May, the updated Parish website will go live. Our new Webmaster, David Ash, has been working away to create a fresh look with lots of new content. Please click on [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk) and have a look at all his hard work. There is even a way to provide feedback and ideas of what else you would like to see there.



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**MESSY CHURCH**

We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church. The next one will be on Saturday 8th May. These will be craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages—a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

St Nicolas Church will be open 2-3pm every third Tuesday of the month for those who have experienced loss through bereavement. There will be the opportunity to light candles, be quiet and reflective, chat to Rev. Rebecca and others, and be amongst those who themselves have had or are in the process of bereavement.

In May, this will take place on Tuesday 18th .

Tea and coffee will be available. Come as and when you feel the need. For more information, please contact Rev Rebecca on 458 2950.

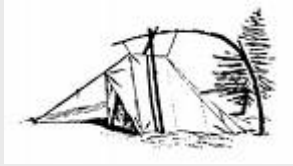
**KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

The last meeting in the Society's 2009/2010 Lecture Programme will be the AGM on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, followed by a talk on "Mills on the River Rea" given by George Demidowicz, joint author of 'King's Norton a History'.

Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings. Doors open at 7.00p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7.30.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

Altogether we found doing the course a very moving experience as we explored the various themes through movement, creativity and intensely personal exchanges. The weekly topics were direction, nourishment, light, water and shelter and using materials and resources from Christian Aid and Water Aid, from the wider created world (eg. the lightless winters in Scandinavia) and 'festivals of light', we tried to think of



what life would be like without these things. We followed this by looking at ways in which Christ brings water to the thirsty; how light comes to the darkness and direction to the lost.

We used creative writing, personal accounts, life stories, displays, presentations, books, pictures, candles, different types of lighting, symbols, visual aids, imagery and imagination. We also used several movements around the church and even a couple of trips outside to the Lych Gate. It was designed to appeal to all the senses and also to enable us as a group to experience different frameworks, different seating arrangements, different outcomes and ways of doing things. This was intended to acclimatise us to the nature of 'journeys' and, in particular, the strange disorientation of the Lenten journey and the change that this brings. Our aim was to try and bring everyone in the group to a better understanding of their own journey and the intimate closeness of God within it.

One very moving and inspirational aspect of our Lenten journey was to record, week upon week, our experiences in sand trays. We did this both pictorially, with words and by sculpting with pebbles, feathers, glass beads, photographs and candles. Each week these were photographed by Graham, before being wiped out, helping to emphasise the transitory nature of a Lenten journey and even of the Christian life. The results of this are to be found in our Easter Garden.

If I have a regret about the course, it is that it did not contain a component about forgiveness. Forgiveness is such a huge part of our religious conviction and of Jesus' story and journey. I could not have continued on mine without it.

For me personally, these weeks were a particularly poignant journey because it is Graham's and my last Lent, Holy Week and Easter here in Kings Norton. The solidarity and intimacy that the course developed is something I will cherish and remember in the years to come.

Jess Boulton



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 9th-15th May 2010



**C**hristian Aid Week this year is 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May and again we have a team of volunteers taking part in house-to-house collections around Kings Norton. Thank you to all those involved. The collections raise funds and also raise the profile of this very worthwhile organisation.

Thank you too for organisers of events during Christian Aid Week. Please support these events if you can. There's the cake stall in St Nicolas Church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May (at the same time as the Farmers' Market and Messy Church, so you can do your shopping and recover with a cake whilst being creative!) and the Coffee Morning at Hawkesley on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 11am to 1pm, which is always a great event to go to.

Christian Aid envelopes will be available in our churches on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Please be as generous as you can. Every penny counts.

There will be a Christian Aid themed service at Immanuel Church on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am. All are welcome.

If you would like to find out more about Christian Aid, who works with communities to help some of the poorest people in the world, please click [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk).

Susan Haynes  
Christian Aid Week Co-ordinator



### CHRISTIAN AID SUPER SOUP LUNCH!

Congratulations to Anne and Crystal Hughes who raised a fantastic sum of £62 for Christian Aid by organising a Super Soup Lunch in St Nicolas Church on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. All who went had a lovely lunch and a good chat whilst raising money. Well done and thank you!

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9–15 May 2010

Rosalind McLaughlin, a Christian Aid Week representative, travelled to Kenya with a group of other organisers and collectors. She saw the work of Christian Aid partner MNU in Kiambu slum, and discovered what life is like in Matopeni, where it has yet to start work. This is her story...



'The first things we saw when we arrived in Matopeni were the results of the "flying toilets". There's not a single toilet here, so people go, put it in a bag, and throw it over the wall. And there is no official tap or clean running water. People have managed to reach the water pipes below the ground – but the water is really filthy and carries typhoid.

'A lady called Catherine Kithuku (pictured below) showed us around. It was incredible. We were led along a walkway that runs alongside the houses. It was constructed of planks that were half-broken, and directly underneath it ran the community's drainage system. Catherine said when it rains her family home floods with sewage right up to the level of the beds, soaking the mattresses.



Catherine Kithuku shows the broken walkway over her community's drainage

### 'WHEN IT RAINS HER FAMILY HOME FLOODS WITH SEWAGE'

'The dignity of the people here and the sense of community are very striking. It's about we, not me. Catherine has already formed a group that has organised rubbish collections and educated people about health and other issues. Catherine said she dreams of an environment fit for humans to live in. She said she believes in change.

### Group 3

Easter marks a significant, if not one of the most important, time in the Christian calendar when we turn our thoughts to the passion of our Lord - His suffering and death. Later, His triumphant resurrection.



Our individual journey towards Easter may well be one of struggle, pain or some other similar situation.

But Our Lord Jesus promises to be with us in all situations. Doing the 'Lentwise' study at Cafe T was significant in knowing that other groups were on the same faith journey of discovery as we looked at the essentials needed for our spiritual journey. As we shared our thoughts, ideas and experiences, it seemed significant that prayer and a genuine concern for one another is crucial as we journey together in faith and trust in God. We hope that a very happy and blessed Easter was had by all.  
Fay Fearon

### Group 4

The younger choir members explored some of the sections of Lentwise on Friday nights, in particular, Direction and Nourishment. We used lots of different Bible translations and our Bible Storybooks to help get to grips with the "Bread" texts and sang songs about Trusting God to explore "I am the way".

We also found that one of our favourite songs, "Christ be our Light", talks of most of the travel essentials and calls us to be light, direction, refreshment and shelter to others. Some weeks we also sang a verse from One More Step and talked about Journeys with God. We had a Lent Calendar to open too, just like an Advent Calendar, but no chocolate till Easter Day!



Sylvia Fox

### Group 5

One of the first questions the course asked of us was, "What two essentials would you pack in your suitcase if you were going on an expedition?" I decided that laughter and companionship were my two essentials and these, together with some tears, were indeed a part of this group's journey through Lent. We found the course very bonding and a great deal of trust was engendered by the sharing of some very personal stories and this in turn cemented relationships between people from very different places within the parish.

# LENTWISE

Jayne Crooks

**T**his year during Lent, several groups met to follow the course, written by Paula Gooder, called **Lentwise**. Here are some of their reflections on the course:



## Group 1

I don't suppose many of the Lent Group discussions took place to the sound of Jingle Bells on the keyboard and the clashing of cymbals? But ours did! We were the Parent and Toddler Lent Group, offering the opportunity for parents to take part who might find it harder to go out in the evenings. We knew it would be informal as we had the children to look after at the same time...but we're used to multi-tasking!

It turned out to be just two of us in this group, plus three toddlers, who met on Tuesday mornings. We had a really valuable time. We followed the course material which triggered off lots of discussion about living out our faith. In some things we agreed wholeheartedly and could empathise with each other in the situations we face. In other things we had differing experiences and so listened and learned from each other. We particularly enjoyed the first session where we looked at Jesus being The Way and we reflected on the journeys so far that we have been on, seeing God's guiding hand in them and appreciating all that he brings to our lives. We both enjoyed journeying through Lent together and we look forward to more opportunities for Christian learning in the Parish.

Susan Haynes and Gail Rogers



## Group 2

At this time of year our thoughts inevitably turn towards our Lord and the journey he embarked upon. A journey that would lead to exhaustion, despondency, doubt and ultimately suffering and death. His path was never to be an easy one but he was prepared to endure this for love of us all.

As we journey towards Christ we may encounter times of exhaustion and doubt, we may lose direction, become disillusioned or wonder where we can find true security. The Lentwise course served as a timely reminder to us all of the spiritual essentials we need to take with us if we are to complete our journey of faith.

Carol Wozencraft

If MNU works in Matopeni, I believe she will see it.

'By contrast, the people in Kiambiu are living something like a normal life. With the help of MNU, they have built five toilet and shower blocks and they've employed people from the local community to clean and maintain them. They've also got clean drinking water now.

'But I've also seen that if we're willing to do something, to make an effort, to put other people first, we can make others' lives a lot better. We don't even need a huge amount of money. Relatively small amounts bring massive, massive changes to many, many people.'

**'SMALL AMOUNTS  
BRING MASSIVE  
CHANGES TO MANY,  
MANY PEOPLE.'**



Catherine Nyaata and her daughter Blessing collecting clean water from the sanitation block

£16 could buy the materials needed to build five metres of new drainage in Kenya, to prevent sewage flooding into streets and houses, protecting families from disease.

To find out more about how you can be part of these amazing changes, ask your Christian Aid Week representative or go to [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)

Together, we can bring an end to the scandal of poverty.

# POVERTY—LET'S END IT

Rosalind McLaughlin photo: Christian Aid/Antoinette Powell

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## A History of The Kings Norton Youth Fellowship

Following a very successful 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of the Kings Norton Youth Fellowship held in Saint Nicolas Place in May last year, Phil Haycock has produced his personal recollections of the early years of the organisation. The account recalls many of the post war years in Kings Norton and the way in which young people came together to create their own self-administered Youth Club. It contributed and related to every facet of life in the community and developed strong lasting friendships. It is a commentary on the social mores of that era and although it met in the Saracen's Head and the then Rector (Rev. E. G. Ashford) accepted an invitation to become its president, it was non-denominational and completely autonomous.

Copies of the booklet are now available in the Gift Shop at Saint Nicolas Place, price £4.99.



## Women's Fellowship

Our May meeting will be on Thursday 6th at 7.30pm. We shall be having a talk by our good friend Rebecca, which is always very interesting. We will also be holding a Bring and Buy so do support this as all monies raised will go to The Children's Society and the Haiti Fund. Please come along and enjoy an evening with us. You will be made very welcome.

Marlene Collyer Chairman

## GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

Following our Lenten activities, we had a thoughtful Good Friday service and a joyful Easter celebration! Here's a picture of Layah Maynard with the Easter Garden made by Immanuel's children at Oasis on Good Friday morning. It was beautiful and helped the children to think about the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.



We have had an extra excuse to be joyful as we have celebrated with Sarah and Jon in the arrival of their baby, Joseph Andrew Crooks, born on 13<sup>th</sup> April, weighing 5lb 7oz. Congratulations to them!

At the end of this month, we will celebrate Pentecost with a Family Communion service, including our Gift Day thanksgiving. As Pentecost marks the birthday of the worldwide Church, we take the opportunity to bring an extra financial gift as a present to mark the occasion. We will then have a shared lunch together. There's always plenty of food, so if you'd like to join us, you are very welcome to do so!



Susan Haynes

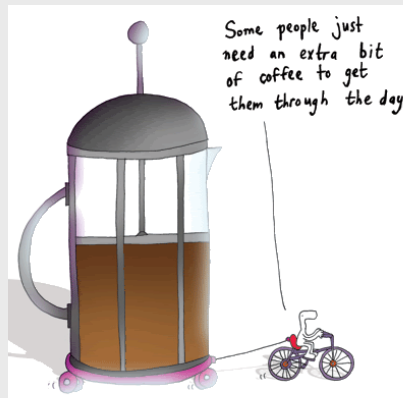


## EVENTS AT HAWKESLEY CHURCH

**Tuesday coffee mornings at 10.00am in the Pastoral Centre. All are welcome:**

4<sup>th</sup> May Quiz

18<sup>th</sup> May Annette Sampson



### CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

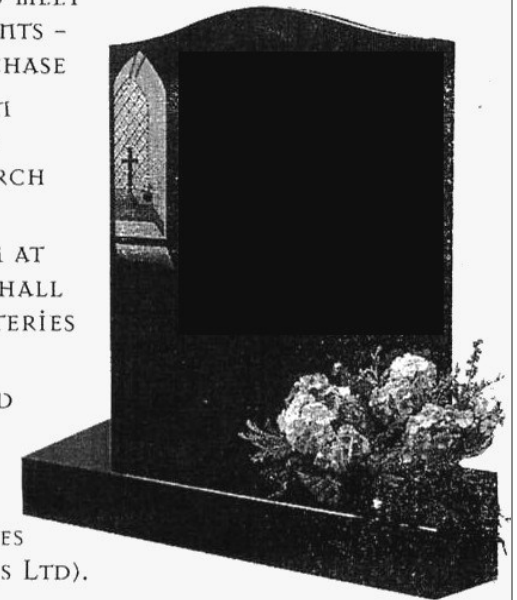
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 11.00am to 1.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. Please give this your support - books, bric-a-brac, bring and buy, cakes, toiletries, raffle, teas and coffees.



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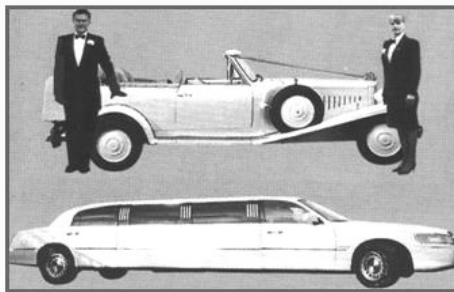
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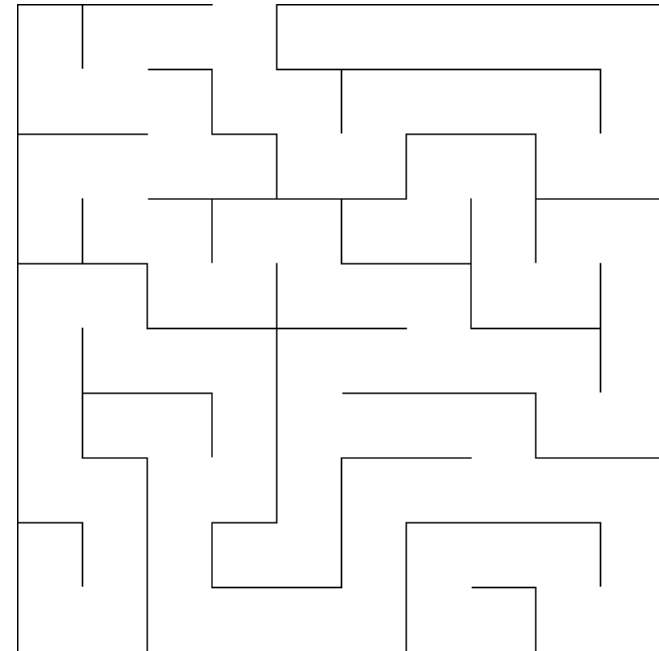


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Journey your way  
through the maze  
and follow Jesus!



# CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone!

Together let's go on a little journey ...

When setting out on a journey, what do you think we need to take with us so we know how to get there? Perhaps a map or a compass would be helpful. A map will show us which way to go and a compass will point us in the right direction. These may be helpful when we are lost or unsure which way we are going. But when we are trying to find our way through life's journey and the daily decisions that we have to make (especially the difficult ones), sometimes it is hard to know which way to turn.

We may chose to do what 'feels right' or just do whatever everyone else is doing, just to be popular or look 'good' in front of our friends. The trouble with these is that our feelings may change from day to day and tomorrow everyone will be doing something different anyway.

There is only one sure way to know that we are going in the right direction in our life's journey and that's to follow Jesus.

**Jesus said ... 'I am the way and the truth and the life'**

John 14:6

Jesus is the only way. If we follow him and his truth, we will be on the right path heading in the right direction, always journeying through our life with him.

Dear God,  
Help us each day to follow Jesus.  
May we know his way and his truth.  
May he be our life.  
Amen.

## March 2010 Baptisms

*"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"*

7 <sup>th</sup> March	Marcus William Hinks
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Georgia Violet Pollock
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Alexis Violet Pollock
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Matthew James Robert Pollock
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Daniel William Pollock
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Austin Frank Hamish Nichol
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Harry Christian Berrington
21 <sup>st</sup> March	James Isaiah Cartlidge
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Tyler John Stephen Fox
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Megan Emily Hooke
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Georgina Rose Snell

## March 2010 Marriages

*"Those whom God has joined together"*

6 <sup>th</sup> March	Roderick Paul Whittaker and Gemma Nadine Butler
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Daniel John Woodhouse and Emma Charlotte Baker

*Harry L Marks*

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Heavenly Father,

source of all truth and wisdom, who knows and loves the whole creation, watch over our nation at election time: that truth may prevail over distortion, wisdom triumph over recklessness and the concerns of every person be heard.

Lord Jesus,

who chose the way of the cross in the Garden of Gethsemane, help us to turn our backs on self interest and to support policies that sustain the poor, the vulnerable and the frightened people of this world.

Holy Spirit,

who brought understanding among myriad peoples and languages at Pentecost, give to all your people a passion for peace and inspire us to work for unity and co-operation throughout the world and in our political life together.

**Amen.**

Lord, we give thanks for the privileges and responsibilities of living in a democratic society.

Give us wisdom to play our part at election time, that, through the exercise of each vote, your Kingdom may come closer.

Protect us from the sins of despair and cynicism, guard us against the idols of false utopias and strengthen us to make politics a noble calling that serves the common good of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Church publishes prayers for voters ahead of the General Election

The Church of England has published prayers to help voters as they consider their options in the forthcoming General Election. These prayers remind voters that they can make a difference, ask that the concerns of all may be heard and seek protection from despair and cynicism.

Loving God,

Thank you for caring about how our country is run and that we have the right to vote for our politicians and government.

But in the run-up to this general election there are so many policies to understand and so many different points of view to consider.

Sometimes I wonder whether there's any point in voting, whether anyone cares what I think.

As I choose who I am going to vote for,

help me not to be cynical about politics and politicians,

help me to remember that my vote can make a difference

and help me vote for those people who will protect the poor and vulnerable and do all they can to make our nation a place of fairness and peace.

Because you call us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God.

**Amen.**

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## March 2010 Funerals

*"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord"*

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Kenneth Arthur Jones, 79. Service in St Nicolas Church with cremation at Lodge Hill.
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Joyce Mary Richards, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Keith Douglas Morbey, 67. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Edna Fisher, 74. Cremation at Robin Hood.
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Sidney Meredith, 82. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
5 <sup>th</sup> March	John Saunders, 78. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Victor Winston Cole, 68. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Barry John Hooker, 60. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Edna Holloway, 88. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial at Robin Hood.
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Colin Francis Bragg, 78. Interment of Ashes at Lodge Hill.
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Isabel Horton, 69. Cremation at Robin Hood.
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Wendy Elizabeth Jones, 50. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Patrick Matthew Finn, 62. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial at Westall Park, Redditch.
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Patricia Violet Frost, 62. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Ronald Edgar Curtis, 87. Interment of Ashes.
11 <sup>th</sup> March	David Andrew Curtis, 61. Interment of Ashes.
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Dressman Ikpeyani, 71. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Olive June Johnston, 76. Interment of Ashes at St Nicolas churchyard.
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Linda Margaret Moore. Interment of Ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Freda May Clews, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Derick Harry Flavell, 74. Interment of Ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Robert Charles Smith, 77. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Charles k/a Sam Antony Waller, 67. Service in St Nicolas Church with cremation at Lodge Hill.
25 <sup>th</sup> March	William Edward Bonner, 89. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Josephine k/a Marge Margery Blunn, 84. Cremation at Robin Hood.
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Doreen Wilde, 79. Cremation at Robin Hood.
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Dennis Robert Cottrill, 66. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial at Brandwood Cemetery.
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Arthur Ronald Brunn, 66. Service in St Nicolas Church with burial at Brandwood Cemetery.
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Violet May Rose, 86. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

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 Every Sunday – Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):  
 10.30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;  
 10.30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Morning Worship.  
 Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

### Immanuel Church

Meeting at The Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.  
 Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary school age.  
 10.30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;  
 10.30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Morning Worship;  
 10.30 am, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – All Age Worship.

### Druids Heath

Special services are in Manningford Hall and other community buildings – watch out for details.

### Café T

Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group context. Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm.

### For Young People

**Oasis/Sunday School** at each Church (see above)  
**Uniformed Organisations and Choir**—see the 'Who's who' pages or contact the Parish Office.

## Baptisms and Marriages

Forms and particulars are obtained from St Nicolas Church on Thursday evenings between 6.30 and 8.00pm.

### All enquiries to:

The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,  
 Birmingham, B38 8RU 0121 458 3289  
 parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk www.kingsnorton.org.uk  
 The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.

## SERVICES

### St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP – a quiet service with traditional language).

10.30 am Holy Communion with activities for 5-11's at Oasis.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Parade Service – All Age Worship at 10.30 am followed by Matins – a traditional BCP service at 11.45 am.

6.00 pm Evening Worship:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Compline – a quiet and meditative service;  
1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, special services or Evensong (BCP).

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

### Tiny Tots

Thursdays, 9.30 am (term time) in St Nicolas Church for 0-5's and parents/carers for play, chat and a drink.

### Open Church

Wednesdays, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm  
and 6.30 – 8.00 pm (Candlelit Church);  
Thursdays, for all Weddings and Baptism enquiries, 6.30 – 8pm  
Saturdays, 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, quiet prayer or to look around.

### Candlelit Church

Meets every Wednesday, 6.30 – 8.00 pm in St Nicolas, with Bible Study (or, on selected Wednesdays, Taize prayer) 8–9pm  
*Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time; not a formal church "service"*. Candles, conversation, creativity, singing, quiet spaces.

### Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,

*When you need us,  
we'll be there*

## Co-op Funeral Services

1290 Pershore Road

**STIRCHLEY**  
**0121 458 5151**

828 Bristol Road

**SELLY OAK**  
**0121 472 2459**

24 hour service



# THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

A Church of England Team Parish serving all in Kings Norton and Druids Heath through the Parish Church of St Nicolas and the District Churches of Hawkesley and Immanuel

<b>Clergy:</b>			
Canon <b>ROB MORRIS (Team Rector)</b> , The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX		458 3289/459 0560	
The Rev'd <b>JOHN WHITE (Team Vicar)</b>			
The Rev'd <b>JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest)</b> 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP		459 3733	
The Rev'd <b>REBECCA PULLIN (Curate)</b>		458 2950	
<b>Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):</b>			
The Rev'd. <b>DONALD SAMPSON</b>		476 7223	
<b>Lay Staff:</b>			
<b>FAY FEARON (Reader)</b> ,		451 1914	
<b>RUTH HOWMAN (Reader)</b> , c/o Parish Office			
<b>Church Wardens</b>			
<b>St. Nicolas</b> .....	STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
<b>Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)</b>	JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or	550 3455	
	RAY DAVIS	458 5774	
	PETER SMITH	453 9931	
<b>Immanuel (Warden)</b>	GERRY MOORCROFT	243 0573	
<b>Candlelit Church Co-ordinator</b> .....			
<b>P.C.C. Secretary</b> .....	SYLVIA FOX c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
<b>P.C.C. Treasurer</b> .....	JONATHAN CROOKS, c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
<b>Parish Office:</b>	<b>81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU</b>	458 3289	
	(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 459 2529	
<b>Parish Administrator</b> .....	CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289	
<b>Finance Administrator</b> .....	CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289	
<b>Organist and Music Director</b> .....	SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA	07778 449170	
<b>Choir &amp; Orchestra Practices</b> .....	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.		
	Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.		
<b>Immanuel Music Group Leader</b> .....	SARAH CROOKS		
<b>Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:</b>			
<b>Oasis (St. Nicolas)</b> .....	contact via Parish Office	458 3289	
<b>Hawkesley</b> .....			
<b>Oasis (Immanuel)</b> .....	NICKY MOORCROFT		
<b>Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School</b> .....	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR		
<b>Headteacher</b> .....		459 6467 Fax: 459 6468	
<b>Bell Ringers</b> .....	Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower		
<b>Ringing Master</b> .....	JIM DUNN	744 6334	
<b>Secretary</b> .....			
<b>Kings Norton Handbell Ringers</b> .....	Practice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.		
<b>Secretary</b> .....	JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or	208 4013	
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary</b>	JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS.	458 3328	

The following activities are held at St Nicolas Place, unless stated otherwise:

<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. <b>Secretary:</b> CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
<b>Seniors' Club (Over 65's)</b>	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
<b>Scouts and Cubs (198th &amp; 129th Birmingham)</b>	Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. <b>Ahmeek:</b> PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. <b>Leader:</b> KAREN URWIN Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. <b>Leader:</b> ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 430 6005 244 0789
<b>Guides and Brownies</b>	Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
<b>Guides and Brownies</b>	<b>At Hawkesley Church Centre:-</b> Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
<b>Kings Norton Society</b>	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
<b>Kings Norton History Society</b>	Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
<b>St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup</b>	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.	
<b>Parish Magazine Editor</b>	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
<b>Parish Magazine Treasurer</b>	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	EVELYN FINN, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
<b>Parish Website</b>	GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	
<b>St Nicolas Place Staff:-</b>		www.saintrnicolasplace.co.uk
<b>Centre Manager</b>	GRAEME CLARKE	
<b>Financial/Administrator Asst</b>	KERRY HORSFIELD	458 1223
<b>Heritage/Learning Manager</b>	EMMA BANKS	458 1223
<b>Duty Supervisor</b>	ALAN KAVANAGH	458 1223
<b>Duty Supervisor</b>	BEN WADDINGTON	458 1223

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

**N.B.** If you or your group/organisation are featured in this 'Who's Who?' section of our magazine, please ensure that we have been supplied with correct information and inform Parish Office if and when contact details change. Thank you.

**Kings Norton Parish Office, St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU.**  
**0121 458 3289**

e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk