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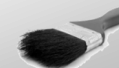
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World Leprosy Day 2010

Crowned with love
and compassion



'Praise the LORD, O my soul ... who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.'

Psalm 103:2-4

God's heart is to replace the despair, shame and alienation of leprosy with His crown of love and compassion; with life, health and self-worth. The Leprosy Mission seeks to continue Jesus' ministry of love and healing among the world's most rejected people.

In 2010 The Leprosy Mission is focusing on Nepal to celebrate World Leprosy Day (31 January). At Anandaban hospital, patients not only receive medical care, but staff also help them begin the slow process of emotional healing and release. The hospital's projects include medical treatment and surgery, counselling, education support, housing support and small business loans. The Christian staff also have weekly fellowship meetings in the hospital; other people are free to attend should they wish to, giving them the chance to hear about Jesus.

World Leprosy Day is a wonderful opportunity to join with people around the world in praying for those affected by leprosy and those working to eliminate the causes and consequences of the disease.



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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

Welcome.....

I hope you had a very happy Christmas and are looking forward to all that 2010 will bring. We too are looking forward in this issue of the Parish Magazine, not just to events in January but to Lent which will be upon us next month.

At the time of writing, Copenhagen and Climate Change is high on the agenda. Our Bishop has written about it and his article is on page 8.

I hope you enjoy the Parish mag this year and if you have any feedback or ideas for us we would love to hear from you.

Alan Haynes, Editor

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Thank you.

Items for inclusion in the
February 2010 issue are to be
submitted by:-
Friday 15th January 2010

The views, opinions and comments expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the *Kings Norton Parish Magazine*, the *Kings Norton Parish Team*, or its *Staff*. Material must contain the Name and Contact Details of the 'sender'. Wherever possible material submitted for inclusion will be produced in full, but the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit such items, whilst retaining the correct context. We entrust the 'submitter' to ensure that, where necessary, copyright permission has been received to use the material.

Towards 2010

Every New Year brings new hopes. We haven't been here before, so it's not yet filled with the usual round of disappointments and unexpected joys. We can seek again God's possibility of new beginnings. We need them.

We will all pray for a new beginning in the long process for peace and justice in Afghanistan and the Holy Land. We all urgently need the whole world to begin together, rather than separately, the common search for ways of reducing carbon emission, of reducing the effect of climate change and of ensuring through Fair Trade that we who have more are not gaining at the expense of those who have less and who seek only a fairly traded price for the food and goods they produce for us. It is God's world – placed in our stewardship.

And there will be a general election, the World Cup – and much else. Maybe somehow too the wider church will discover how to live and grow in our differences without fear or willful domination.

Here in Kings Norton, the long-sought housing regeneration of the Three Estates will begin. The New Deal for Communities programme will end in March and its successor, "Our Place Kings Norton" is already getting well prepared to build on all that has grown since 2001. On Druids Heath, we hope that PRODH will be handed over from church to community to continue its renewing work there. Saint Nicolas Place will, we pray, continue to grow and our church school at Hawkesley will begin a new and promising chapter. The faithful worship, prayer and work of each congregation at St Nicolas, Immanuel and Hawkesley will, we pray, continue to grow in their special ways and in discovering how even more of our life and work in God's name is best done and shared together.

And we will have a new Team Vicar. Their task is to be a faithful priest for all in the parish and to lead us in being equipped for faith, ministry and work in every part of our parish and our lives. It will be good. We really do stand on the edge of so much that is new, fresh and

We sing the glorious conquest
before Damascus' gate,
when Saul, the Church's spoiler
came breathing fire and hate;
the ravening wolf rushed forward
full early to the prey;
but lo, the Shepherd met him,
and bound him fast today.

O glory most excelling
that smote across his path!
O light that pierced and blinded
the zealot in his wrath!
O voice that spake within him
the calm reproving word!
O love that sought and held him
the bondsman of his Lord!

O Wisdom, ordering all things
in order strong and sweet,
what nobler spoil was ever
cast at the Victor's feet?
what wiser master builder
e'er wrought at thine employ
than he, till now so furious
thy building to destroy?

Lord, teach thy Church the lesson,
Still in her darkest hour
Of weakness and of danger
to trust thy hidden power:
thy grace by means mysterious
the wrath of man can bind,
and in thy boldest foeman
thy chosen saint can find.

John Ellerton (1826-93)

HISTORY OF HYMNS

On January 25th, we celebrate the Conversion of St Paul. St Paul isn't everyone's favourite Apostle as his letters included some difficult issues and one which can be quite controversial when placed in the context of the 21st

Century..... but, putting all that on one side, try to place yourself as a bystander and witness of the utterly amazing events that happened on the road leading into Damascus. It would have been a relatively ordinary day in the life of the infant church in that area, but as it became known that Saul (Paul's pre-conversion name) was on his way, deep fear would have spread amongst the small Christian community.

As they prayed to God for protection, they probably weren't expecting *quite* such an amazing response to their prayers! Re-read Acts Chapter 9 vv 1-20 (-25) [and maybe even chapters 6 & 7 as well as the rest of 9] to relive the events of that day.

John Ellerton's hymn is all about this amazing moment of challenge and majors on the conquest of good over evil. It is very much of its period – Ellerton was a faithful parish priest, known now mostly for his hymnody, although it is anything but fashionable in style now. As long as you take the hymn to be of its own time and place it still achieves reminding us of the enormity of power of God over apparently insurmountable evil.



Sylvia Fox

inspiring – and so I need to ask two things of you.

The first is your prayer.

All of us who share responsibility for leading and being the church here, in ways large and small, simply cannot ever do it in our own strength. God gives us all grace to do what Jesus did and does now – and that grace comes so richly through the prayer of all God's people. You do not have to be an expert (I'm not, for one) because prayer is not about technique or expertise. It is about faith, love and persistence – and in Christ we all have those to offer. If nothing else, the gentle offering of the Lord's Prayer each day for those on our hearts will bring a deep sense of God's presence and promise for all for whom we pray – and for us.

The second thing I need to ask is about money and time.

We are so used to our churches being here, open and ready for us and others to use that we can forget how it all gets paid for. There is no undercover state or church funding. In Kings Norton, the whole life of the church, including clergy, building and mission costs, has to be raised each year by our own church members and friends. Next year, we will need to find around £200,000 for

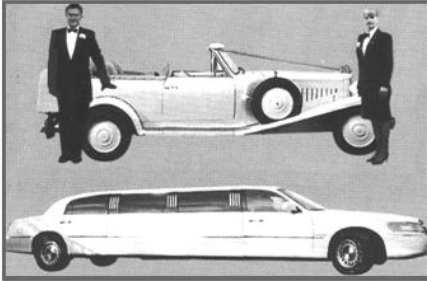
all these – about £400 each week. Our church and parish continue to grow and to serve at the heart of Kings Norton's richly varied life. We are here in times of grief and joy and in all in between, because God is. We have so much more in him to offer and discover for many more people. We want to open more and more to many more in their needs and hopes.

But all who love this place and its church need to remember how it is all supplied and feel able to offer of their substance. Many do not have much, and the current financial crisis affects all. But we each have something to give, large or small. Will you?

May your New Year be filled with God's hope and peace.

Rob Morris

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What are your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy cooking and doing anything creative, especially watercolour painting.

What are your best memories?

I have so many – but the ones that come to mind right now are the tremendous times I shared with the community that made up Hawkesley Mental Health Centre during the years I worked there. This was such a profoundly rich experience but when I reflect back, it's the fun that we had which stands out. These memories were brought to life recently when I attended a party that included a reunion of staff and service users.

What's your favourite holiday place?

I would have to say the Gower. Even though this has become a home from home place for us now, I never tire of its outstanding beauty.

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

For my luxury, I would like a very large refrigerated crate of *Hotel Chocolat* chocolate goodies to eat while I'm reading *Mr Pip* by Lloyd Jones.

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

That, in all things, it continues to be a bearer of God's love and hope within this community.



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

Fair Trade pioneer and member of the Prayer and World Needs group are just two of Deb Buckley's many contributions to Parish life, read on to find out more...



Where were you born?

I was born in Stourport – on – Severn, not because that's where my parents lived but because there were no beds in the local hospital. I was bought up in Bromsgrove.

What is your occupation?

I am currently a full-time student training for ordained ministry in the Anglican Church.

Why Kings Norton?

I worked at a mental health centre on the Hawkesley estate from 1986 – 1994. During this time I worked with a group of Christians, from a variety of denominations, who were experiencing mental health difficulties and who felt marginalised or excluded by the churches they had belonged to. A member of the Kings Norton clergy team offered to support the group by leading a service once a month. Through this I became involved in the parish and eventually started to attend St Nicolas.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

My faith is important to me because it sustains me in hope, it grounds me, it calls me into community and draws



LOOKING AHEAD

January begins in light with the great feast of the Epiphany – the revealing of the Light of Christ to all the nations. It ends in light with the great feast of Candlemas – the simple deep story of how that revealing begins with two wise elderly people and a young couple. When everything Christmassy has long been packed away, the church is still celebrating!

And on the way, St Nicolas Christingle is on 9th January. Light all round!

And then it will be Lent. It's not that far off! Ash Wednesday is on 17th February and a special journey will begin – inwards and outwards.

In Lent groups, we shall be inviting all to journey inwards. We are offering a simple deep course called **Lentwise**. Prepared by Paula Gooder, known to many here, it will take us on an inner journey of growing in confident faith.

On Sundays in Lent, the Gospel readings from Luke will invite us all to look outwards. They each tell a story which leads into other stories of Jesus's opening hearts and minds to the world which needs God's love. They each ask us to journey outwards with him.

Both Lent journeys matter. To help us prepare for them, there will be a **Getting Packed Time in St Nicolas Church - Saturday 6th February from 10am to 12 noon**, during Open Church and coffee. You will be able to see what **Lentwise** is offering – and have a brief introduction to Luke's Gospel and the stories we shall use in Lent. Do drop in!

Transforming Church: On **Saturday 6th March**, we shall be offering the same for our parish Transforming Church process. More later!

Be Green – Be Seen

In the last year, I have taken part in a green give-away, travelled across the city in a dustcart, visited our paper recycling plant, launched a campaign for more fuel-free journeys, held a service at a household recycling centre and hosted an art exhibition looking at the story of Noah's Ark from the perspective of climate change.

I have two responses for those who claim that we in the Church of England are giving up on the Gospel of Christ in order to proclaim the Gospel of Climate Change and both lead me to the conclusion that the two, in our contemporary culture, are inter-dependent.

The first is that seeking climate justice, challenging consumption and greed and developing sustainable lifestyles are at the heart of the contemporary proclamation and practice of the Gospel. Jesus is never slow to challenge sin while offering healing, redemption and wholeness. He calls us from a life of greed and dependency to a life of generosity and grace. He asks those who seek to worship him to stop colluding with injustice and by example he leads us to care for the vulnerable and needy. Caring about the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities is a central part of

our discipleship – concern for the integrity of creation is one of the five marks of mission recognised by churches across the world.

My second response to those who feel we have given up on the 'real' Gospel is to say that, from my experience, getting involved in environmental campaigning and action is one of the most missional things a Bishop, a church or any Christian can do.

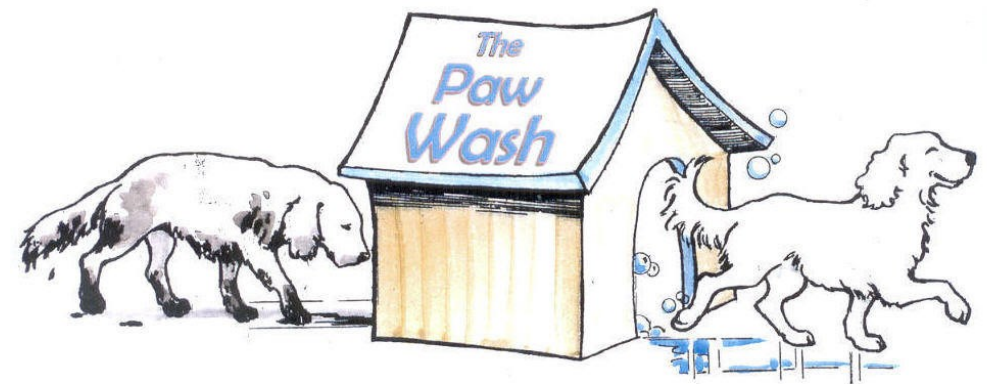
Not only do our Christian ethics have to be effective in thought, word and deed, but our practice in Birmingham of generosity and hospitality, especially around green issues, are providing an open door for people to visit our cathedral or churches and to begin to 'taste and see that the Lord is good.'

At last year's Advent give-away, 450 people came into Birmingham Cathedral and received a gift. Each person was touched in a different way by the generosity they were given that day. The process was simple. Christians from a few congregations and our diocesan office, were asked to look round their houses for gifts they had never wanted. We filled the cathedral with new bottles of perfume, nearly new books and CDs, bric-a-brac, clothes,

4th

Decided not to eat very much today because I was still full from all my Christmas meals. I took the Zooka, (the dog) for a very long walk. We managed to get mud just about everywhere! It's good being out with a dog, especially crossing the road, because people stop for you and a rather lovely older man, who helps the children cross the road has taken a shine to me and Zooka. When he sees us coming, he steps out and stops the traffic. I think Zooka thinks she is something special when this happens as she crosses the road with her head held high as if she is taking part in Crufts! I just trot along beside her!

Happy New Year everyone.



Rebecca's Diary...

Thank you to everyone who has caught me and said they have missed my diary. Here are a few extracts from December.

Dec 1st

Went along to a meeting of local clergy. It was really good to visit another church and see a different lay-out from ours. My colleague went and brought us both a sandwich from the local bakers. He brought me an enormous egg and bacon bap. He obviously knows me very well! Had a quiet evening and didn't need much to eat for the rest of the day. I wonder why!

2nd

Had a meeting in the morning over in Moseley and then got caught up in heavy traffic so was a little bit late for the Christmas lunch I had been invited to by the Seniors' Group. It was a lovely meal and very good company. In the evening, I was involve with the Memorial Service organised by the Midlands Co-Op Funeral Service over in Kings Heath. The Co-Op staff lead the service and invite various other people to help. I felt very honoured to be invited. It was a very moving and emotional occasion as many people gathered to remember their loved ones who had passed away during the last twelve months.

3rd

I stood outside the school gate at Hawkesley Church Primary School to chat to parents and the children. It was a cold, bleak day but I always enjoy seeing everyone. Many parents are used to me being there on a Thursday morning now so often catch me for a chat. After I had finished at school, I went off on a pre-arranged home visit, but the person had gone out! At lunch time, I was invited to another Christmas lunch, this time with the Women's Fellowship. All I seemed to have done all week is eat!



toys and games. People passing by were invited to come and choose a gift to take away. Homeless people came in for scarves, gloves and jumpers. Grandparents found gifts for their grandchildren, tourists chose a souvenir, students took books and children found a new toy. As well as being given a gift, each of those people were welcomed into a building into which they can return to pray, had a conversation with someone who was able to listen to them for a few minutes and each one took away the impression of a loving and generous God whose greatest gift to them was not gift-wrapped but was born in humility at Christmas.

Equally, this year during inter-faith week, we have hosted an exhibition made by pupils at a Birmingham school looking at the story of Noah's Ark. We invited the 30 children and their parents to the launch of the exhibition where they mingled with the city's faith leaders, ate some canapés and were given a certificate and a small gift. Within a few minutes the parents and the children felt at home, many said they would come back to the Cathedral and several conversations about Christ took place in one evening. Throughout that week another 120 children from 6 schools came to the Cathedral. Surrounded by iconography and imagery that is now rarely seen outside churches, they explored the story of Noah's

Ark and its relevance to 21st Century global issues. The positive feedback has been overwhelming.

Our faith is lived out in all spheres of life. We cannot put our Gospel in a neat box marked 'spiritual' and only get it out when we are all sitting comfortably in church. Jesus' parables and miracles engaged directly with contemporary issues and concerns. Green issues are Gospel issues. Poverty issues are Gospel issues. Immigration is a Gospel issue. These issues do not detract from the Gospel of Jesus Christ but help us to be alongside those who are questioning, struggling and campaigning and so share the life of Jesus in the real world in which we all live.

I am as excited as ever about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I want to live it, share it and nurture it in all its fullness. So let us all work and pray for a good deal at Copenhagen.

+David, Bishop of Birmingham
(source: birmingham.anglican.org)

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tummies are empty and we are hungry again.

Can you see a pattern here?

Whenever we eat anything, we are only full for a while. We are soon hungry again. It is important to eat so that we stay strong and healthy.

But Jesus says that food to fill our tummies isn't the only kind of food we need.

Jesus said that if we believe in him, he will be with us and give us life that will last for ever. That we will never again feel lonely, empty or hungry.

Believing in Jesus is like having a meal - a feast that leaves you feeling good and full up, a feeling that will last for ever.

The love of Jesus fills you up.



Jesus said,
'I am the bread
of life.'

Hope you have
fun colouring in
this picture.

Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus.
Thank you for feeding us with your bread of life.
Thank you for filling us with your love.
In Jesus' name
Amen.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.

Hello everyone! Happy New Year!

We have just celebrated Christmas. Christmas is when we remember the birth of Jesus. We know that Jesus was a special baby, that he was God's Son, but what else do we know about him? This got me thinking -



Who is Jesus?

Let's learn together...

In the Bible there are four Gospels. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Gospels teach us all about Jesus and his teachings. Jesus describes himself as many things throughout the Gospels.

'The Way, the Truth,
and the Life'
John 14:6

'Bread of
Life'
John 6:35

'Resurrection and the
Life'
John 11:25

'Good Shepherd'
John 10:14

'Light of the World'
John 8:12

Over the next few months we shall take a closer look at some of these so we can try and learn about Jesus and who he is.

Jesus Said: 'I am the bread of life'...

Have you ever been so full up that you can eat no more?
When we wake up in the morning we have breakfast, mid-morning we might have an apple, by lunch time we are hungry again, mid-afternoon we may have a biscuit, then come tea time our

Taizé Evening Worship New Year's Eve at 10.30pm

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

You may have noticed at the St. Nicolas Day United Service that those at Immanuel are passing Mary and Joseph around the congregation. Here is some information about what Posada means and what it involves.

POSADA
MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS

What is Posada?

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib.

Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Our church has chosen to engage with Posada this year. Will you join us in thinking about the journey that Mary and Joseph face?

What is involved?

All we do at Immanuel is add our names to the Journey Rota a few weeks before the start of Advent for a night that will suit us to 'host' Mary & Joseph. Another person from our congregation will make arrangements to bring the figures to our place at a time to suit both of us.

For the evening we 'host' Mary & Joseph we can choose to do what ever we like. Why not invite friends and family to sing carols and to talk about the meaning of Christmas?

The next day we need to take Mary & Joseph to the next host on the Journey Rota.

It's as simple as that!

Please consider Mary and Joseph during Christmas time and the hard journey they faced in travelling to Bethlehem, and for all who went to visit baby Jesus.

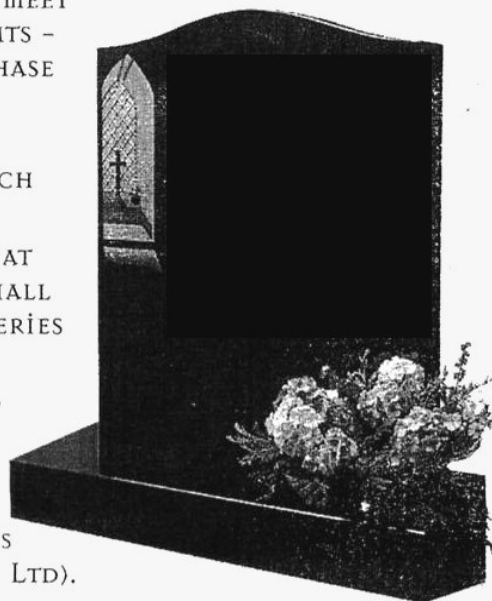
Immanuel Church hopes you had a very Merry Christmas and will have a peaceful New Year.

Sarah Crooks.

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Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th January at our usual time of 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, Saint Nicolas Place. We shall be having a talk by our Rev Rebecca who we always enjoy, so please come along and join us. New members will be made most welcome. So, start 2010 right and give yourself an evening out with a friendly get together with us all!

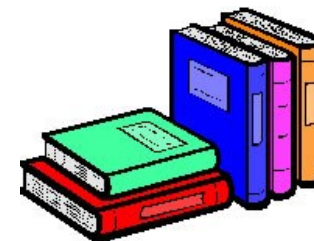
I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2010.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman.

Friends of Historic Kings Norton

The Friends of Historic Kings Norton will be running a book stall on Farmers' Market Saturdays (2nd Saturday of every month) in the Youth Room by the Saracen's Head Café from 10am until 1pm.

If you have any unwanted books at home, it would be much appreciated if you could donate them to the stall and if you are able to help to staff the stall, either for the whole time or just an hour or two, please contact Jan Treasurer by e-mail: jtreasurer@fsmail.net Thank you.



David Ash is willing to arrange a group trip, if people wanted to go, to the New English Orchestra and Singers concert at Birmingham Town Hall on 16th Jan at 7.30 pm. Tickets vary from £10 through to £25.

The programme is called *Recreatio!* And mixes classical, Gospel, spiritual and traditional music; with a promise to refresh and inspire.

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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 January, this will take place on Tuesday 19th.

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 Society's first meeting in 2010 will take place on Monday 25th January with a talk by Mike Hodder from the Birmingham City Council's Archaeology Department on "BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGY LATEST DISCOVERIES".

Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings. Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk will start at 7.30.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

Epiphany

The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th Century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6th January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter.

Other traditions, including the Roman Catholic tradition, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time.

The Epiphany is also known as *Dia de los Reyes* (Three Kings Day).

(Source: bbc.co.uk)



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November 2009 Baptisms

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

1st November Emily Jane Corley
Paris Michael Forde
Harvey John Smith
15th November Anastasya Kit Brigden
Lexie Edie Valerie May Collins
Niamh Scarlett Thatcher
Cole Matthew Thomas
Samuel Philip Max Wright

November 2009 Marriages

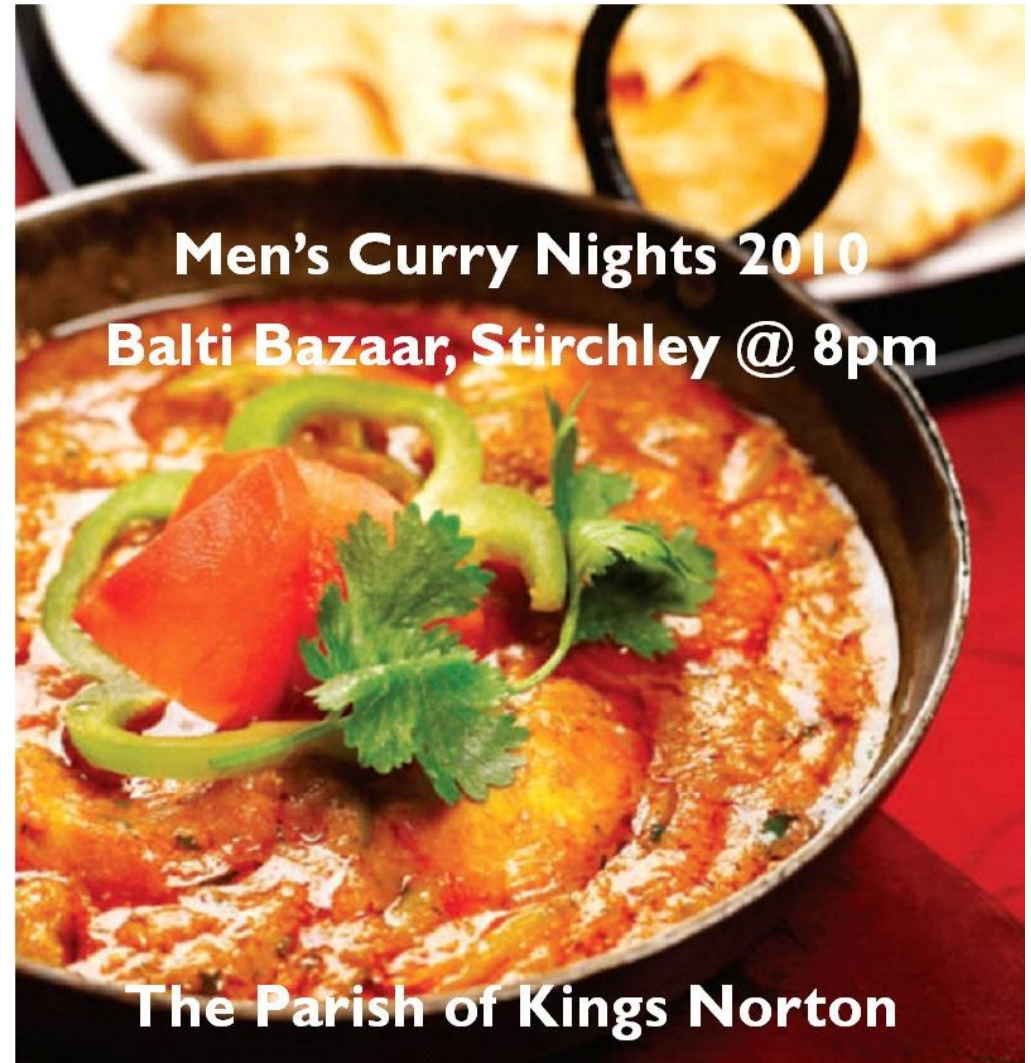
"Those whom God has joined together"

28th November Andrew Flynn and Alicia Simms

October 2009 Funerals

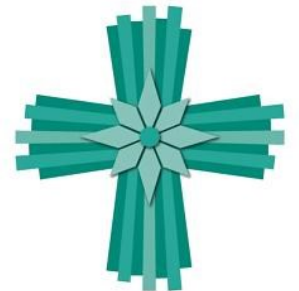
"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord"

23rd Betty Audrey Smith, 82. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
27th Linda Joyce Smith, 62. Service in St Nicolas, Cremation at Lodge Hill.
29th Diana Elizabeth Crofts, 89. Interment of ashes at Lodge Hill.



January 11th
February 8th
March 8th
April 12th
May 10th
June 14th

July 12th
August 9th
September 13th
October 11th
November 15th
December 13th



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November 2009 Funerals

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

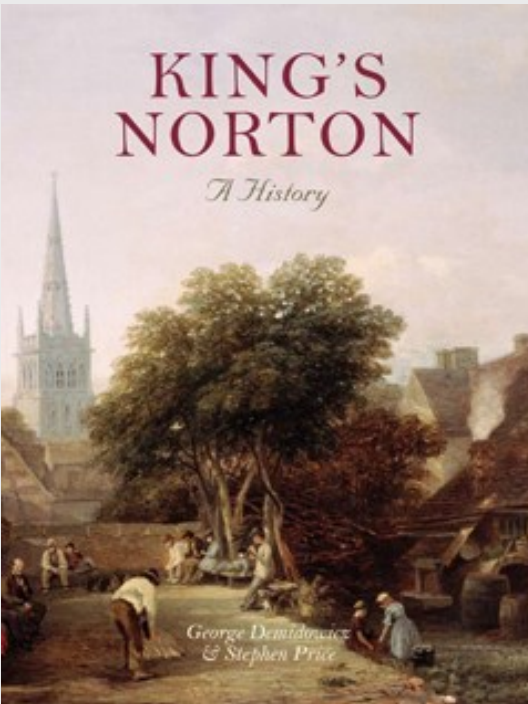
- 2nd Olive Sarah Massey, 87. Service in St Nicolas, Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 6th Barbara Pulfer, 68. Cremation at Redditch.
- 12th Doreen Annie Weston, 89. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 12th Gordon Carnegie, 82. Cremation at Yardley.
- 13th Audrey Eileen Harper, 79. Service in St Nicolas, Burial at Lodge Hill.
- 17th Laura Raybold, 67. Service in St Nicolas, Cremation at Perry Barr.
- 19th Brenda Mary Weaver, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 19th Edna Joyce Jacombs, 82. Cremation at Redditch.
- 20th Doris Lilian Maddox, 83. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 20th Winifred Harriet Wright, 101. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 23rd Marion Violet Hatfield, 91. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 24th Terence Ashington, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 25th Linda Margaret Moore, 65. Service in St Nicolas, Cremation at Redditch.
- 26th Robert Turner, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

KING'S NORTON – A History

George Demidowicz and Stephen Price (publ by Phillimore)
£20 from Saint Nicolas Place Shop (0121 458 1223)

Local history, like the church, is a funny thing. They both belong to us and we to them – but they also belong to many more other people who we do not and cannot know. They recover and re-tell past events and stories, but die if they are only nostalgia. They are also about the present day as we find and face it and about the future when (if you don't want to know the result, look away now) we too will be part of history and church tradition. And in local history, like the things of the church, there is always so much more to discover.

Our friends George and Stephen have therefore done something wonderful. With astonishing diligence, they have opened up for us landscape, records, buildings and events in King's Norton which we simply did not know about. They resolve many mysteries. They build on the labours of others with great respect and affection. They give us the fruit of their long years of study and fascination with King's Norton. They help us to see its present in the light of its long, richly varied and often misunderstood past. But they do not try to take over. With the generosity of the true student, they invite others to help fill in the gaps in their story (there are still many) and later historians to develop their own research and insights.



Continued on page 21

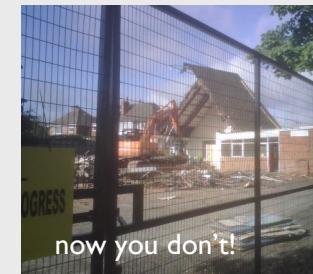
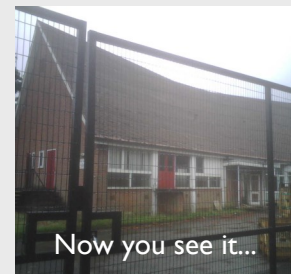
New building In Kings Norton Is On The Right Track!

It's full steam ahead for the new Kings Norton retirement development on the site of St Nicolas Church Hall following the announcement that it will be called Awdry Court, in honour of the creator of the Thomas the Tank Engine books.

To decide the name for the development in St Nicolas Gardens, McCarthy & Stone invited local people to submit their ideas. Kings Norton resident Roger Parker suggested honouring Reverend Wilbert Awdry, a curate at St Nicolas' Church who invented the characters of Thomas and his friends to entertain his son Christopher in 1943.

Roger, 58, collected his prize of £150 at the new development and said: "As soon as I saw the competition to name the new development in the local paper I immediately thought of Awdry. I have always been amazed at how much pleasure Awdry's fantastic books about a little blue steam engine have given to so many generations of children, but how little there is to commemorate him and his work. I was absolutely delighted to find out I'd won the competition to name the development after Awdry. Aside from being a bit of a railway buff, I am proud to live in a city which has been home to such literary talents and am thrilled that Awdry has been honoured in this wonderful way."

Reverend Wilbert Awdry lived in Kings Norton from 1940 until 1946. To entertain his son Christopher during a bout of measles, Awdry made a model of a tank engine from odds and ends and painted it blue. Christopher christened the model engine Thomas and the following stories he requested about his new toy were published in 1946.



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

Immanuel Church

Meeting at Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.
Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary school age.
10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;
10.30 am, 2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;
10.30 am, 4th 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 8.00 - 9.00pm.

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.
2nd 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:
2nd Sunday, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing;
3rd Sunday, Compline – a quiet and meditative service;
1st/4th/5th 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,

What do we discover? That some place-names (Lindsworth and Hawkesley) are very ancient indeed, that some roads (Green Lane, Icknield Street) have existed for over a thousand years, that everywhere ending in Heath really was waste and rough heath land for centuries and that The Green was a very different place until the last half-century. And we find that some settled roads are really new.

Most of all, George and Stephen help us to see inside King's Norton's buildings and land use and begin to grasp something of the people whose lives shaped them. What a varied crew they were - silent Cistercian monks, rowdy Mop attenders, buccaneering entrepreneurs, resilient farmers and peasants, craftsmen and women, shopkeepers, commuters to Birmingham, clergy (saintly and otherwise), pub-owners, nobles, MPs, destitute people – and a few ordinary ones as well. Has much changed?

George and Stephen's expertise as building historians also lets us realise how much has been lost since 1900 and how much is still there – but below the surface. They have unearthed new documents, and invited others to research them in detail - but these are nearly all for the last five hundred years. We still have much work to be done on the time when St Nicolas was built, extended and changed in its first four centuries. George and Stephen lead the way.

As with church, it's often tempting in local history to be most pre-occupied with the most recent past. George and Stephen's work tells us yet again that how we find our places and landscape now – and how we work to shape them for the future – depends as much on people and events from a far more distant past as on those in living memory.

There's much more to the past, present and future of King's Norton – and its church – than we think. Buy now through the Saint Nicolas Place shop – and be ready to discover.

Rob Morris

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

Clergy:		
Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector) , The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX		458 3289/459 0560
The Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN (Curate)		458 2950
The Rev'd. JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP		459 3733
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):		
The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON		476 7223
Lay Staff:		
JESS BOULTON (Hon. Lay Pastor) c/o Parish Office		
FAY FEARON (Reader) , c/o Parish Office or.....		451 1914
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader) , c/o Parish Office		
Church Wardens		
St. Nicolas	STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)	JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or	550 3455
	RAY DAVIS	458 5774
	PETER SMITH	453 9931
Immanuel (Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	243 0573
(Deputy Warden)	DEBBIE MALONE	
Candlelit Church Co-ordinator	JESS BOULTON	458 6925
P.C.C. Secretary	ISOBEL LEWIS c/o Parish Office	458 3289
P.C.C. Treasurer	JONATHAN CROOKS, c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Office:	81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU	458 3289
	(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 459 2529
Parish Administrator	CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289
Finance Administrator	CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289
Organist and Music Director	SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA	07778 449170
Choir & Orchestra Practices	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.	
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SARAH CROOKS	
Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:		
Oasis (St. Nicolas)	contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley		
Oasis (Immanuel)	NICKY MOORCROFT	
Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church		
Primary School	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR	
Headteacher		459 6467 Fax: 459 6468
Bell Ringers	Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower	
Ringing Master	JIM DUNN	744 6334
Secretary	CLAIRE CALVER	458 2342
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers	Practice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.	
Secretary	JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or	208 4013
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS.	458 3328

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

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

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