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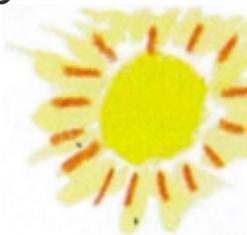
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**Items for inclusion in the
November 2013 issue are
to be submitted by:
Friday 11th October 2013**

Welcome...



I am writing this on the Autumn equinox. The days will now be shortening and temperatures

dropping. The picture on the front cover shows some beautiful autumnal colour, but of course we all know that soon enough all these leaves will have fallen and will need clearing. We have advanced warning on page 12 of the dates and times of leaf clearing in the churchyard. Please put these in your diaries and join in if you can - many hands make light work!

Have you ever considered becoming a City Pastor? These people provide a bridge between Street Wardens, business owners, the Police and the general public on Friday and Saturday evenings, being a Christ-like presence supporting and helping those in need. Gail Rogers (who writes our Children's Page) has been a City Pastor for a while and she has written an article on page 34 all about it, including how to get involved.

Thank you for reading.

Alan Haynes, Editor

From The Rector Coming home? Who with?



You may know the classic sketch from 'Goodness Gracious Me'. A group of young men are out on the lash. In true Friday night fashion, they finish off by going for a meal. But they are Punjabi. So there's no 'going for an Indian'. They go instead for an 'English'. The competition is not to see who can bear the hottest vindaloo. Their target instead is to see who can dream up and bear to eat the blandest.

Something like that seems to me to be going on with modern translators of a Gospel passage we used this October. Chapter 15 of St Luke's Gospel is a real Friday night out. Lost sheep, lost coins, lost sons, lost people: all brought home with rejoicing. Jesus gives us a stunning series of images of the depth, breadth, height and overwhelming generosity of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. What a joy to preach on it - but that was the week before.

But then we moved on to Chapter 16.1-13 - a complex demanding story about an

untrustworthy steward who worms his way back into his master's good books through dodgy ways with wealth. In it, Jesus seems to commend practices and motives we rightly find disturbing - and which seem to contradict much else he says. Jesus gives us so much teaching about riches and their use which is both blunt and clear. This passage is certainly blunt but it isn't clear. And it can feel as if modern translators are in competition to make the blandest version possible, almost as if, in smoothing them out, the difficulties might go away. They don't.

In 1526, William Tyndale translated the story much more strongly than we have it now. We have 'manager', just a position in an organisation, a job, with perks, overtime and holiday pay. Tyndale has 'steward', a 'never off duty' responsibility demanding all that we have all the time. To lose that meant losing all, home included, so that vagrancy, digging and begging were all that a dismissed steward had left to look forward to.

198th News



Three middle aged mates did.....

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Rhuddlan Castle
Ruthin Castle
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Whittington Castle
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Total 657 miles over 4 days, including the Horseshoe Pass and 1 in 4 hills all done on 50cc Scooters to raise money for 198th Birmingham Scouts.
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Paul Payne

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It gets worse. Jesus commends the steward's dubious friendship with riches. But we have 'dishonest wealth' which is so vague as to let off the hook all of us who feel we earn and spend honestly. Tyndale has bluntly 'evil Mammon', the gaining and worship of riches as an end in itself.

And William Tyndale is also more faithful in one more key translation. He tells us that the untrustworthy steward's scheme is a crafty way of ensuring that, when dismissed, others will still welcome him into their 'houses' (that is, their earthly, time-bound properties). In contrast, whatever Jesus means by 'making friends of evil Mammon' he clearly says it will be a means of being received into 'eternal habitations'.

Modern translations often smooth over this stark contrast and use 'homes' for both – even though Jesus puts them in clear opposition. An 'earthly house' is built from wealth in this life. An 'eternal habitation' is for ever.

And here I believe is a clue to what this parable may really be about. We have just had the stories of Luke 15 (the faithful shepherd, the determined housewife, the loving

Father). They all end at 'home' in its deepest sense – a place of belonging, of complete reconciliation, of boundless rejoicing. Crucially, 'home' in that sense can never be created by wealth or riches. It is wholly the gift of love. God's love in Christ, seeking, searching, bringing us home, just as Paul tells Timothy, 'For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all'. And that love, by God's grace is given to us to give to others, not least to the poor and the lost. Only love brings us 'home'.

It is therefore, as Tyndale knew, a delusion to think that we can be brought 'home' by wealth. But we do have it. And that this difficult passage has much to help us know what to do with wealth so that more and more may know that they - and we - are at 'home' in God.

We know that money is never an end in itself. It developed as a means of exchange. It grew as a means of investing in new things and as a measure, but never the substance, of how much stuff people have.

The Old Testament prophets condemned the way in which money

had ceased to be a fair means of exchange between those who produced goods and those who bought them and traded them. The poor and needy were trampled on by those who falsified the scales and yearned to set aside God's ordered provision of fairness and regulation. (2008 was not the first financial crisis to be created by unaccountable dealers in money and markets taking advantage of honest people. It will not be the last.)

What do these manipulators have in common with those who today create worlds of strange investment vehicles, those who see the generation of money as an end in itself, those who see the law and taxes as something to be got round while the rest of us obey?

They all, just like the untrustworthy steward in our story, ignored the simple fact that in God's ordering of the world, money is first, last and always a means of relationship. Well used, a stimulus to growth for the benefit of all. They thought they were, and always would be, in control, to do just as they wished. But they, in the end, never are. We are always in relationship. In his own

pathetic and shabby way, this is what the untrustworthy steward at last remembered. He remembered his talent for shrewdness, for connectedness, his relationship with his master and his master's trading partners. And he tried, late indeed, to make them work.

This grubby compromise is what his master commends. And Jesus approves! He has more to say! 'The children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. If then you have not been faithful with the evil Mammon who will entrust to you the true riches?

Why did Birmingham grow so rapidly as a home of dazzling innovation in a thousand trades? Because our 19th and 20th forebears and those who followed them from South Asia and the Caribbean were so energetic and shrewd in making money work. We give thanks for that and that so many of them cared that their industry and growth carried a civic duty to others, in an ordered society in which relationships of rich and poor were central.

Our Place Kings Norton's Events Forum (Eventful) has registered to take part in The Birmingham Mail's Wish Campaign, which could see us take a share of £25,000 so that our team of volunteers can continue to develop and deliver more community events in the future (including potentially relaunching the 3 Estates Festival).

Wish tokens will be printed in The Evening Mail from Tuesday 1st October until Saturday 30th November and the more tokens a group collects, the bigger the share of the £25,000 they will receive.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR TOKENS FOR US!

Just drop them off at our office at The Fold or post them to this address: Our Place, Kings Norton, 10-12 The Fold, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 9BL. Thank you.

Our Place King's Norton is the central community point for Pool Farm residents, in particular, but also serves many from the Primrose area and further afield. The office is based on The Fold, Pool Farm. They are wonderful at signposting people onto the correct help, giving information about local services and initiatives, supporting people searching for work and in solving of problems. They network with other agencies and support groups, and one of their long running projects has been to develop a team of people who are skilled at putting on events or supporting events run by others (like our very own Kings Norton Festival, where they helped tremendously with the clear-up at the end, and loaned us some large gazebos which were much needed in the sunshine). Extra funding would enable this dedicated group to develop more community events, and it would be especially good if there were sufficient funding to re-establish the 3 Estates Festival. Please collect as many of the tokens as you can. They can be dropped off in St Nicolas or brought to the Parish Office. I will ensure they reach Our Place King's Norton. Their own description of themselves is "the best place to get information and news for the residents of Primrose, Hawkesley and Pool Farm" and that is true.

Sylvia Fox

B30 Food Bank

A food bank has appeared in King's Norton, through the hard graft of many local people. It is at Cotteridge Church - at the hub of public transport from local areas, including our parish and its needs.

From September 17th it will open on Tuesdays and Fridays between 2.30 & 4.30 pm each week.

There will be various ways in which you can help and support this. All the churches of Churches Together in B30 - which includes us - are hosting collection bins. There is one in St Nicolas. You may discover ones in local supermarkets and they are supporting us with collections in their shops too.

If you would like to support the food-bank financially (to cover overheads and food purchases); then there are standing order forms and gift aid forms available near the wheelie bin in St Nicolas

If you would like to support the food-bank by regularly buying one extra item in your shopping, then please do, and place it in the special bin.

Suggested items are:

Milk (UHT or powdered); sugar (500g); soup; pasta sauces; tinned tomatoes; tinned sponge pudding; cereals; tea bags; instant coffee; rice/pasta; tinned meat/fish; tinned vegetables; tinned fruit; jam; biscuits; snack bars; long-life fruit juice (cartons). Occasional gifts of toilet rolls (4's or 2's), nappies, shampoo or tin openers also very welcome.

Food must be in date and non-perishable please.

For more information or to offer as a volunteer greeter, packer, warehouse-person, etc please contact Roger Collins on 07582143972 or roger@rrcollins.freeserve.co.uk or ask Sylvia

For those who may need to be a user of the foodbank, a voucher is needed before arriving at the foodbank. Our three clergy will have access to these, as will many local GP's, neighbourhood offices, Our Place King's Norton and other agencies.

But we need to ask, 'Why are the innovations which alone make for growth so much fewer in our city now? (We have some good stories like the new Library, JLR and Longbridge – but where are the rest?) Because we have let banks sit on mountains of cash as an end in itself – and let the rest of us, innovators, makers, producers, carers – and the poor – fend for ourselves.

This parable is difficult because it must be. It takes us out of cosily spiritual comfort zones. It's not actually very nice. But through it, Jesus tells us that in business, government – the use of the things of creation – bland naivety is not an option. For all to hear, know and live that they can be truly 'brought home' for ever through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's people the Church must be as shrewd, competent and connected as those whom Jesus calls 'the children of this age'. Because in Christ, we are as Paul says in Romans 12, not merely friends or well-wishers – but 'members, one of another' in utter relationship with all in the love, justice and purpose of God.

That's why we give thanks for all whose shrewdness keeps churches, charities and local institutions alive and outgoing. And that's why we pray and work as Paul tells us, for all and for those in high positions – not least for bankers.

And that is why we as Church gather in Christ in Holy Communion. We are members through him of one another, fed together so that all our gifts of shrewdness, prayer, creativity and hard work may together serve his purposes, so that all may come 'home' for ever.

Rob Morris

Meet the Wardens

As we were elected Church Wardens in April, we thought it was about time that we introduced ourselves.

Church Wardens are elected at an open meeting by the people of the Parish and we have to carry out the duties of Wardens as laid down by the Church of England rules.

In co-operation with Rob, we are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish. These responsibilities include various aspects of administration and personnel. Our work is not just the maintenance of the church building, but the smooth running of the church. As Wardens, we are considered the representatives of the lay members of the congregation.

Our responsibilities are connected with building maintenance, such as temperature control, roof repair, seating, lighting, etc. We are also responsible for carrying out (or at least organizing) an annual inspection of the church building. We hold a key to the church and are entitled to access at any time.

We are also responsible for the Sunday services and for keeping order in the church. We have a duty to make sure that the clergy can conduct their services and other meetings without hindrance. This requires that any visitors or newcomers are welcomed and assisted, that there is adequate seating, proper lighting and heating, and that all other facilities required are in place, including safety requirements.

We are required to respond to 'official' questions about the parish, and have to make various reports each year to the annual parochial meeting and to the Archdeacon. We may also be asked to be trustees of some charitable trust connected with the church and are required to keep detailed records of all property, professional inspections, alterations and repairs. We are expected to attend all the meetings of the parish council and the standing committees

Next month and beyond

Sat 12th October: Eroica Camerata Orchestral Concert
7.30 pm in St Nicolas
Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in A minor
Vivaldi: The Seasons: Spring and Winter
Schoenberg: Verklärte Nacht
Tickets £9 (£7 concessions; £3 under 16's)
Available on the door or at www.eroica.org.uk

Sat 12th October
Book Sale 10-1pm; Farmer's Market (9-2pm); Coffee Morning, Knit and Natter, & Messy Church in St Nicolas (10-12 noon).

The African Space Trust (charity 1142524): in Saint Nicolas Place
12noon talk about the Itete Medical Centre Project,
in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania.
Light lunch following.

Sat Nov 2nd: Lego Night: 6pm in St Nicolas: Fish and Chip supper
(cost for supper TBA)

Sat 9th Nov: Christmas Craft Fair: St Nicolas Place & St Nicolas

Sat 23rd Nov: St Cecilia Crafts and Music afternoon for all ages
2-4pm in St Nicolas with High Tea to close (£2 to include tea)
Early evening : Thanksgiving Supper : details to be confirmed

Sat 30th Nov: 10.30 - 1.30 pm : Hawkesley Christmas Bazaar

Messy Church Mornings

Sat 12th Oct, 9th Nov and 14th Dec in St Nicolas Church :
10 - 12 noon

Kings Norton Parish: Coming Soon!

Life in God

A Christian Nurture Course for All
Wednesday at 10.30am and 8pm
in St Nicolas Church

from 11 September to 20 November 2013 (no meeting 30th Oct)
The course will run for ten sessions, beginning on Wednesday 11 September.
Come along whenever you can. Don't worry if you can't make it every week,
although of course it would be lovely if you can!



Sat 14th Sept: **National Heritage Open Day**
Free Taster-Tours of Saint Nicolas Place
at 11am, 12.30 pm and 2pm

Also Craft Fair and Book Sale 10-1pm; 100th Farmer's
Market (9-2pm); Coffee Morning, Knit and Natter, & Messy Church in St
Nicolas (10-12 noon)
Organ Recital - St Nicolas—12.30– 1.15pm

Mon 16th Sept: **Handbell Ringing** restarts: 3-4.30 pm
Evening sessions beginning October 14th 6.30-7.30 pm
Speak to Sylvia for more information.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Fri 27th Sept: **MacMillan Coffee Morning** in Saint Nicolas Place 10-1pm
Sat 28th Sept: **MacMillan Coffee Morning**: 10-12 noon in St Nicolas

Sat 28th Sept: Harvest Supper

5.45 for 6pm

Fair Trade food and drink (including wine) tasting; mocktails and fruit-skewer
creation (for the young or young at heart).

Supper at 7.00 pm

Talk about the Church Urban Fund (one of our charities) at 7.45pm

Tickets for the whole evening £6 a head (7's and under for free).

For food tasting/crafting only (£3 a head).

Harvest Services

Hawkesley and Immanuel : 22nd September at 10.30 am

St Nicolas: 29th September at 10.30 am



As we are a Team Parish, we have a responsibility to our sister churches, not just St Nicolas. We would like to start visiting our sister churches on a regular basis. However, due to a shortage of Deputy Wardens at St Nicolas, this is not currently possible.

The solution is to recruit more Deputy Wardens for St Nicolas. The role of a Deputy Warden only entails duties at the service they are Wardening. Training and support will be given to ensure new deputies are able to carry out their role with confidence.

We hope you may be encouraged to contact us. If you are interested in becoming a Deputy Warden please contact us via the Parish Office.

Anne Hughes & Phil Burton

Bishop's Comment

Kingdom and Cross

'How God became King - Getting to the heart of the Gospels' (SPCK 2012) is NT Wright's summary of his passionate argument that the Kingdom of God and the Cross of Christ are inextricably combined. Taking the four gospels seriously in their historical, eternal and present contexts, he combines themes that might be summarised as: rescue, the Gospels describe the climax of the story of Israel; revelation, God himself is the saviour of his people; renewal, the launching of the renewed people of God; regime, God's kingdom confronting Caesar's victoriously.

In addition to refreshing our understanding of Jesus and the practice of our own discipleship, Tom Wright tackles the Church's response to modernity, with an inspiring call for a rediscovery of Christian confidence, 'to read the New Testament afresh and to try to discern the deeper and more powerful pathways it offers through the morass of social and political uncertainty.' (p168)

There are plenty of opportunities for Christians in Birmingham and region to engage theologically and practically as we seek out people who are responding personally to the saving work of Jesus Christ and, at the same time, participate publicly in his creative redemption of the living world. In every local community there are examples of this transforming mission, glorifying Jesus Christ, in well-known and in unrecorded action. Strengthening the people of the church in their various places for the service of God the King is a major priority for the next few years.

Further afield, part of the land of the Biblical narrative focussed on today's Syria, is in the news daily. Keeping in mind Archbishop Justin's themes of prayer, reconciliation and evangelism, let us hold together a passion for the Kingdom of God and the Cross of Christ as we remember the suffering of civilians, the power struggle amongst competing tribes, and the need for discernment in exercising international intervention. With my prayers as we set out on the adventure of a new season,

+David Birmingham

Source: birmingham.anglican.org

WHAT DO CITY PASTORS DO?

A City Pastor is a volunteer from the Christian community in Birmingham who is willing to be on duty once a month on a Friday or Saturday evening, from 10:00pm to around 2:30am.

We work as two mixed pairs patrolling the areas where the night-life is most active.

We provide a friendly, caring, helpful presence.

We help people with directions and information.

We provide support for people in vulnerable situations.

We assist people in getting home safely.

We help keep the street clear of glass and bottles.

We gently remind people that they cannot drink alcohol on the street.

We assist the Street Wardens and Police in any way we can.

We advise the Street Wardens or Police camera team of dangerous or criminal situations that we observe.

We are polite and respectful to everyone we meet.

We always ask for help or advice from a Street Warden if in any doubt.

City Pastors are currently recruiting. If you feel you may be interested in joining this team and require further information, please do ask Gail in person or at rogette@hotmail.co.uk. Leaflets are also available from the table at St Nicolas Church.

Alternatively, you can contact Jo at City Pastors directly at citypastors@gmail.com. Full training is given and will take place on the evenings of 5th and 7th November.

Please do pray for your city and for the work of City Pastors.

Check out our short film
on you tube at
[http://www.youtube.com
/watch?v=Q1MMLF33F-w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1MMLF33F-w)





'For a year now, I have been a volunteer for City Pastors. This is an initiative which aims to bring a Christian presence to the streets of Birmingham, namely Broad Street and South Side, which is situated around the Arcadian and China Town. I work on Broad Street and can honestly say that I

love being out with this group and feel privileged to work alongside the various organisations, i.e. the street wardens, door staff, police officers and paramedics. Through this work, I have encountered many people; some of whom we have helped, for others we have been a listening ear and some have even asked for prayer. God is at work in our city and the City Pastors are responding to the call to be God's caring presence on the street.' Gail Rogers

WHAT IS CITY PASTORS?

City Pastors is an initiative involving volunteers from local churches of mixed Christian denominations, working in partnership with the Broad Street & Southside BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) in Birmingham City Centre to ensure that the city's night-life provides a safe, vibrant environment for everyone who visits.

City Pastors provides an essential pastoral bridge between the street wardens, business owners, door staff, police, taxi marshals and the general public.

City Pastors help clubbers, diners, concert go-ers, homeless people, tourists and anyone else we encounter on the streets. We also work with vulnerable or marginalised people providing a caring face and signposting support to other agencies.

Our core values are:

- Providing a helpful, supportive and Christ-like presence
- Being an expression of a united church community in the city of Birmingham
- Working in partnership with existing services and agencies
- Treating everyone we meet with care and respect

Saint Nicolas Place

The Tudor Merchant's House and the 17th century Old Grammar School set around the Norman foundation of St Nicolas Church and containing the 18th century Saracen's Head. The finest collection of mediaeval buildings in Birmingham, owned and managed by Kings Norton Parish church for all to discover, enjoy and use
81 The Green Kings Norton Birmingham B38 8RU
www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk email: andrew@saintnicolasplace.co.uk
0121 458 1223 or 0121 458 3289

Café and Gift shop: Tuesday to Saturday 10am-3pm
Morning coffee, light lunches, afternoon tea.

Guided Tours: Friday and Saturday at 11am and 2pm.
Group tours can be booked at various times through the week.

Craft Market: 9th November (Christmas Fayre) 2013

St Nicolas Church is also open for visiting, services permitting:
Wednesdays 10am-1pm and 6.30pm-9pm; Saturdays 10am-12

Booking events and functions

Visit www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk to see our facilities for wedding and family functions and for corporate and community events and training – and our wide range of catering options. Viewing of rooms for any booking is warmly welcomed at a convenient time for you.

Just call 0121 458 1223 or Parish Office on 0121 458 3289.
Marriage and baptism enquiries for St Nicolas Church: Thursdays 6.30pm-8pm

Activities

Saint Nicolas Place is home to a wide range of activities every week alongside the full programme of activities of St Nicolas Church, including: Uniformed Groups, Seniors' Club, Community Choir, Social Support Groups, Zumba, Rhythm Time, Slimming World, Dance and Fitness Groups, Kings Norton History Society, heritage group events - and we have room for more!

We are also developing rich local archive and study resources.

Just call 0121 458 1223 or 458 3289 for details.

Churchyard Leaf Clearing Autumn 2013

This year we will be clearing up the leaves in the Churchyard on:

Saturday 2nd November
Saturday 16th November
Saturday 23rd November
9.30am to 12.30pm

Please come along to help with this large task, with stout footwear, gloves and a rake if possible.

New rakers, both young and not so young will be welcomed

Richard and John



Mike Baker



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everyone at the moment and it can be easy to think that we don't have much, so we'd better keep hold of what we do have.

But at home the other day, we read this:

"If we have food in our fridge, clothes on our back, a roof over our head and a place to sleep, we are richer than 75% of the world.

If we have money in the bank, our wallet and some spare change, we are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If we woke up this morning with more health than illness, we are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week.

If we have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture, or the horrible pangs of starvation, we are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering.

If we can read these facts, we are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

So, compared with many people in the world, we are rich. We need to share what we have with people who have less. This doesn't have to cost a lot of money. We could:

- ◇ Give a tin of food to the Foodbank; or
- ◇ Donate clothes we don't use anymore to the SWEET project or other charities; or
- ◇ Share our time with people who are sad; or
- ◇ Give friendship to people who are lonely; or
- ◇ Share our faith with people who don't know Jesus; or
- ◇ Send a card to someone who's having a hard time; or
- ◇ Pray for people we don't know in countries who are struggling; or
- ◇ Teach others some of the skills we have; or
- ◇ Share our talents to help people; or
- ◇ Be kind and thoughtful to everyone, not just to people we get on well with.

At Harvest time, we think about how God has given us so much and how we need to thank him and share it well.

Let's pray:

Thank you, Lord, for all the things you have given us - our food, our homes, our families and friendships, our talents. Please help us to share these things with others. We want to serve you in helping them.
Amen.

By request from Immanuel, here is the talk from the Harvest service that Immanuel's Oasis children's group planned and led. The talk was written and presented by Sam Haynes (age 10).



Matthew 25: 31-40

I've brought my sweets with me this morning.
These Jelly Babies are my favourites.

Does anyone else like these?
They're lovely aren't they?

But I'm not going to share them.

I'm going to eat them all myself. (*Eats one - congregation groaned!*)

How does that make you feel? (*Congregation responded - upset, angry, jealous, cross, sad, hungry, etc*)

Oh alright then, I will share them.

(*Put them in a bowl.*) Would someone pass them round for me please?

Thank you.

Sharing is quite hard. Little children argue over things they want, and even grown-ups hold onto things that they want for themselves or their own families.

But we have heard in our reading today that God wants us to share with others. At the end of the world, Jesus is described as the king, sitting on his great throne. He separates people according to whether they have shared with others.

He chooses people who have given food and drink, given company and friendship, given clothes, given care to the sick or visited people in prison. And he explains to them that when they have done that, even for the least of people, they had done it for him.

So this passage is saying that when we do good things for other people, we are doing them for Jesus as well.

The passage suggests that rewards in heaven are given to those who serve others and give to others without looking for something back from them. James 2 talks about the same theme and says that our faith without actions is dead. Faith has to be lived out to be true.

But what if we don't feel that we have anything to share? Money is tight for

A musical score for a violin concerto. The title 'EROICA' is written in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below it, 'came\ata' is written in a cursive script. The score is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The background of the entire page is a grayscale photograph of a violin and its bow.

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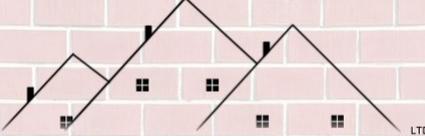
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others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him." Those Philistines gathered may well have used the words, "He trusts in God, let God rescue him now." With six thousand people crammed into the temple and on the roof, Samson is between the two main pillars and, with outstretched arms, like Jesus, calls out in prayer. With Samson's death it was noted '*thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.*'

Like the Crucifixion, it ends with a resounding blow to the enemies of God, a remarkable turn of events in the face of defeat, amazing victory over the enemy from within his own camp. Indeed the 'earth shook and rocks split'. Samson is there in the Hebrews 11 hall of fame, chosen in the work of God. As an angel appears to Samson's father, Manoah, announcing the miraculous birth of his son, so Samson prefigures Jesus Christ, God's champion for his people against the foe.

Frank Williamson is a Missionary with Birmingham City Mission and Pastor at Kings Norton Baptist Church.

An elderly resident in Kings Norton has been targeted by fraudsters and tricked into giving away her bank details. The scam involves someone phoning up pretending to be a police officer. This person then says that they have someone in custody who has been using your bank card to commit fraud. They need the bank card and PIN number as evidence and are sending a courier to collect the card. They may even ask you to cut the card in half. Someone then turns up at the door to collect the card and PIN number which are then used to empty your account. This is a scam. West Midlands Police do NOT collect evidence in this way. Please remember never to give anyone your card or PIN number. If you are called in this way please call WMP on 101 immediately.

August 2013 Baptisms

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

4 th August	Mason William Bradley
4 th August	Lawson Palmer
4 th August	Harper Sienna Jordan-Davis
10 th August	Madison Willow Cameron
18 th August	Miley Alma May Hart
18 th August	Adele Mullins Moyo
18 th August	Oliver Michael Phillips
18 th August	Zach David Izram Butler
18 th August	Katelyn Mary Grainger
18 th August	Poppy Rose Harman

August 2013 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

3rd August	Matthew Sparkes and Jessica Katie Wilks
3rd August	Alan David Bartlett and Emma Jayne Bowden
3rd August	Benjamin George Bannatyne Laws and Lisa Marie Gare
3rd August	Gavin David Williams and Lisa Jane Travis-Darby
16th August	Richard Graham Ell and Susan Dawn Elizabeth Nutt
17th August	Jiale Wu and Qing Li
17th August	Steven John Hart and Sharon Louise Hill
17th August	Karl Wayne Simmonds and Joanne Vida Smith
17th August	Scott Clive Pettigrew and Donna Louise Rippon
24th August	Ryan James Roberts and Sarah Louise Hines
24th August	Patrick Joseph O'Sullivan and Danielle Simone Evans

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to confront the Philistines who, though powerful with their iron weaponry, Samson overcomes when, as we read, *'the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power.'*

Space here hurries us to the final confrontation with the enemy. This begins with Samson just escaping the Philistines as they lay in wait for him. He had been visiting a prostitute. Samson, though physically strong, is morally weak. He does he not know himself to check his passions. Again he falls in love, with Delilah, a Philistine. Does he consider what common ground there might be, or what the Lord might think, of him uniting himself with a pagan worshipper?



He is in love with her while she is trying to trick him. Will she gain the secret of his strength? It is concealed as he continues to lie to her. Several times she has let the Philistines into their home only to be beaten back. Samson eventually reveals the truth as she wears him out with her persistence. As his head is shaved, his power goes. It was not the hair that was the power. It was the covenant between God

and himself which the hair represented. In his contempt and presumption, he discovered *'the Lord had left him.'*

With Samson captured, the rulers of the Philistines assemble to celebrate and offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god. Samson, now blinded, is brought before this packed temple for sport. They mock and taunt him "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." Samson appears defeated. 1100 years later, not that far away, there would be others hurling insults and shaking their heads and mocking. "He saved

For all the Saints

A Bible Character or a Christian from the pages of history, retold by Frank Williamson.

Samson



The mention of Samson often raises emotions, and not very good ones. Delilah comes to mind, as do some other of his risqué exploits. He is not the typical leader of God's people! He wouldn't pass muster before any Church Minister's recognition board. He displayed bizarre behaviour, was weak willed, immoral, carnal, impetuous, proud and vicious to name just some of his vices. Yet God used Him, and maybe because of whom he was, shone through Him. So let us pick up pen and paper and jot down Samson's good points! Quite ironic when we consider the word 'Samson' means awe inspiring! To learn of Samson is to learn about God. The account of Samson, the last of the Judges, is found in the book of that name chapters 13-16.

This book records how the people of God fell away, sliding into immorality and vice. The result, they were overrun and suppressed by their enemies. When they cried out to God in their misery, God would send a rescuer, a leader who brought freedom and restoration. When that leader died, they fell back again *'with everyone doing as he saw fit'*. Being overcome, they would, in their miserable state, cry out for help. So it happened again and again with depressing predictability, down and up like a saw tooth.

At a time of Philistine oppression God sends Samson. Samson was no courtier, nor a judge or minister it seems, nor a general, but a loner, very much the loose cannon. Samson goes to the Philistine territory and chooses a wife. Why a Philistine wife, a Dagon worshipper, for a Nazirite, a man set apart for God? Despite his parents' remonstrations, the wedding day comes. After slaying a lion, he confronts the Philistines with a riddle: *'Out of the eater something to eat. Out of the strong something sweet.'* Through trickery, they solve it. Amazingly, this is planned by God

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August 2013 Funerals

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

- 5th August May Phyllis Smith, 97. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 6th August Jacqueline Ann Williams, 57. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 6th August Sidney Randall, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 8th August Patricia Irene Hockey, 68. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Sutton Coldfield.
- 9th August Olive Audrey Waldron, 84. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Brandwood End.
- 12th August John Samuel Crook, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 13th August Joan Scott, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 14th August Dora Withers, 90. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 15th August Lauren Louise Need, 22. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 16th August Jean Foster, 72. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 29th August Janet Harris, 67. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.

This prayer is very inward looking. This means that this prayer is all about the person saying the prayer and not about God. It is the Pharisee who is placing himself in a position of righteousness; he doesn't need or even seek God to do it.

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

This is the prayer of somebody who is fully aware and honest about what they are. They may not have any faith in themselves at that particular time, but they do have faith and trust in the grace of God.

"I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

God is interested in you; in who you are and in what you are doing. God does want to share the whole of your life with you and wants to hear all about you from you. **You are important to God.** However, it is one thing to be confident of ourselves in God, but it is another thing to be confident of the lack of righteousness in others. By doing this we are elevating ourselves to positions of favour before God over others.

When I was thinking about this parable, I found myself wanting to place myself beside the tax collector, as this was the 'good' example of how to be before God. Then I came across the words of Elizabeth Bruce Whitehom, who writes...

"As with so many of Jesus' parables, I want to cast myself as the 'goodie',

the one who wins Jesus' approval – in this case, the tax collector. But perhaps that automatically puts me into the same category as the Pharisee!"

This parable is saying that we need to be 'fully' aware of ourselves before God, even the bits that we are not so proud of. We are not to compare ourselves with others in a way which makes us superior to them; instead we are to love our neighbours, extending the same grace that we have received onto them.

Faith and trust in God's salvation of grace means that we are all able to stand before God in the fullness of who we are.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.

Hello everyone!

Together, let's take a look at the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. It can be found in your Bibles at Luke 18:9-14.

Jesus taught in parables a lot. A parable is a fictional story used to teach us something very important about our relationship with God and with each other. In this parable, Jesus compares the prayers of two people – a Pharisee and a Tax Collector.

Verse 9 can easily be overlooked as it isn't actually a part of the parable. However, it is really important as it tells us who Jesus told this parable to –

'Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt.'

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Two men went up to the temple to pray...

A Tax Collector collected money from the Jewish people for the Roman government and were despised by the Jewish people.



A Pharisee was a member of the most dedicated of the Jewish groups in the First Century who were very strict observers of the law.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying, "God I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income."



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The Church in the Parish

We are a Church of England Team Parish in partnership with the Methodist Church, serving all in Kings Norton through St Nicolas Parish Church and Hawkesley and Immanuel District Churches.

We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists:
To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ
To live out God's radical hospitality for all
To be equipped for work in God's world

St Nicolas Parish Church *on The Green B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am Holy Communion Oasis for 5-11's
2nd Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship/Parade for all ages
4pm Holy Baptism (*1st and 3rd Sundays*)
6 pm Evening Worship

Every Sunday evening we offer prayer, music and quiet for all to share in as you wish. Do come..

1st Sunday: Taizé Prayer 2nd Sunday: Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday: Night Prayer and reflection 4th/5th Sundays: Special services/Evensong (BCP)

Mon, and Wed, 9am Morning Prayer
Thursday 11am Holy Communion (BCP)

BCP is the Book of Common Prayer from 1662. Other services are a mix of ancient and modern words and music, mostly from the Common Worship Service Book 2000.

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist)

at Hawkesley School on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Partway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Sunday 10.30am Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):

1st & 3rd Sundays Holy Communion;
2nd & 4th Sundays Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church

at The Fairway Centre on the corner of Wychall Lane and The Fairway, Kings Norton, B38 8XJ

Sunday 10.30am Worship - and Oasis for children of primary school age.

1st & 3rd Sundays Holy Communion;
2nd Sunday Joining with St Nicolas/Hawkesley
4th Sunday All Age Worship

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Women's Fellowship

Our October meeting is our Communion and Enrolment Service and is at our new afternoon time (2-3.30 pm) in St Nicolas Church. Please do join us if you can. Our regular meetings are in Saint Nicolas Place and have opening prayers, a speaker (a wide variety of topics) and then follow up with time to chat, share light refreshments and try your hand at the raffle. Our November meeting will be hearing about the work of the Mothers' Union and in December, we will be having our Christmas meal. Regular subscriptions are £10 each, with a small charge for refreshments and the raffle. Visitors are very welcome, with a small charge for refreshments and the raffle.

Sylvia Fox

The Seniors' Club

We meet every Wednesday from 1pm until 3pm in the Ashford Room, Saint Nicolas Place.

All retired folk are very welcome to come along and join us to make new friends. Our activities include: entertainment from singers, choirs and musicians, speakers who give interesting talks on a variety of subjects, quizzes, outings, games and raffles. It's a great place for meeting people and tea and biscuits are always served. All this for only £1. We look forward to meeting you!

Please contact Marlene on 459 1636 or Kings Norton Parish Office on 459 3289 for more details.

Men's Monday Nights Out

In October, we will be visiting Flavourz World Buffet on the Wolverhampton Road. Meet at 8pm on Monday 14th. For more details please contact Alan Haynes on 07534 615489. Thank you.

Open Church

We open St Nicolas Church as much as we can so that all may share God's peace and promise in a space where they have been found and trusted for centuries. There is a place for you within its story. Please pray that more will know it as a safe place for prayer and healing, where sorrow and joy are held in God's love.

We welcome volunteers to share in our offering of welcome, refreshment and care through St Nicolas, Hawkesley and Immanuel, to steward St Nicolas in Open Church times and care for our churchyard, flowers and brasses. Do ask.

Open Church times

Do visit, pray, light a candle or share quiet conversation over coffee as you wish

Wednesday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 6.30 – 9pm (Candlelit Church)

Thursday 6.30 – 8pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries

Saturday 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, prayer

with **Messy Church** for all ages every 2nd Saturday (Market Day)

Candlelit Church

Every Wednesday, 6.30 – 9 pm with informal learning together at 8pm.

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music.

Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time - as you wish.

Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

We are growing fresh ways for all to grow in faith – those making their very first step, those who have made many and those who are discovering God's love afresh after times of change. Please ask in each church for details.

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

It costs around £800 each week to keep St Nicolas open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, please ask how you may Gift Aid your offering.

Baptisms and Marriages

Please visit St Nicolas on Thursdays between 6.30pm and 8pm to ask any questions and arrange bookings with our clerks. One of the clergy is also present to help if there is a question over whether your service can be held in this parish.

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

Please use our website www.kingsnorton.org.uk, ask at services or Open Church times or at Parish Office on 0121 458 3289 (Tue-Fri 10am – 1pm). The weekly newsletter and monthly events diary have the latest information. Churchyard enquiries to Parish Office

MINISTRY TEAM:

Canon Rob Morris (Team Rector)	458 3289/459 0560
The Revd Dr John White (Team Vicar)	458 3289/07854 412949
The Revd Jayne Crooks (Team Vicar)	458 3289/459 3733
The Revd Donald Sampson (Methodist Minister)	458 3289/476 7223
Readers: Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, David Ash and Mandy Butler	458 3289
Children's Work Development Worker: Pauline Weaver	458 3289

WARDENS:

St. Nicolas	Anne Hughes/Phil Burton	458 3289
Hawkesley	Jim Clarke	550 3455 / 07939 838086
	Elaine Cooper	624 0933 / 07951 325704
Immanuel	Clare Dean	459 6185

PCC (Church Council) Secretary: Judy Ash Finance: Catherine Dehghani

Parish Administrators: Judy Ash, Sylvia Fox, Christine Gadd

Christian Giving Officer Jean Brownsword 458 3289

Churchyard Care Team Richard Harper 458 3289

Bible Reading Fellowship Julie Caley 458 3289

Flower Co-ordinator Alison Blumer 486 2837

Organist and Music Director Sylvia Fox 07778 449170

Tuesday: Training and groups 6-9pm; Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45pm; Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.

Handbell Ringers Mondays 3-4.30pm and some evenings (Please phone first to check we are meeting)

Immanuel Music Group Susan Haynes 459 4711

Oasis/ Sunday School

Immanuel Nicky Moorcroft (Oasis leader)

St. Nicolas and Hawkesley contact via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Magazine: Editor Alan Haynes 459 4711

editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

Treasurer (Subscriptions) Alison Blumer 486 2837

Advertising Manager Lynne Hayes-James via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Website David Ash e-mail: webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

Bell Ringers Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 pm in the Tower

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At Saint Nicolas Place

Seniors' Club (Over 65's) Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Marlene Collyer, Anne Dent & Janice Boyett.

Women's Fellowship 2-3pm 1st Thursday;. Secretary: Carol Devic

Guides and Brownies Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15-9.00 pm

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at *Hawkesley Church Centre* Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

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Bookings/Events: Andrew Driscoll

Kings Norton Parish Office

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e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Tuesday - Friday

Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Please use Parish Office to contact clergy and lay officers, to place prayers and notices in our weekly newsletter and monthly Events Diary – and for all churchyard enquiries.

Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School

Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

Headteacher: Mr Graeme Gill

School website: www.hawkesley.bham.sch.uk