

The Parish of Kings Norton

KINGS NORTON

PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2006
30p



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gift at Christmas

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A Church of England Team Parish
incorporating the churches of
Druids Heath - Hawkesley - Immanuel
The Parish Church of St. Nicolas

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Items for inclusion in the *January 2007* Issue to be submitted by:-

Monday 11th December

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 it's *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.

From The Rector

We all have a gift...

*"the peace of God which passes
all human understanding..."*

What do we wish others at Christmas? In the land of Jesus' birth, we would say "Christmas Shalom" or "Christmas Salaam". Here, is it Happy, Merry - or what?

Shalom is the Jewish word for peace. Salaam is the Arabic. Both have the same root. They are still so close in sound - and in the yearning of so many who live there, of all faiths and none. For Christmas, what richer greeting could there be than the wishing of Shalom, Salaam, Peace for family, friend and neighbours?

And what could be stranger? Everything then, just as now, was as far from Christmas peace as we can imagine. Busy streets and markets; hotels and pubs overflowing; shoppers and party-goers now; people gathering for census then; political uncertainty and fear of strangers as strong then in different guise as it is now. The strife and pressure - of their travelling back home for census or in our travelling away for Christmas or in welcoming others - is not so different either.

For some, Christmas is not Happy - or Merry. Old or recent grief; a sense of being on the outside of others' merriment or of not having what others seem so easily to enjoy; the long list of tasks to be done; all make it hard for so many.

Yet we all have a gift - the peace of God which passes all human understanding. Peace, Shalom, Salaam is not a wish for a good rest (although it might include it!) It is deep prayer that others may know - and we with them - the confidence that, in all the pressures, God is with us. Shalom is not the absence of strife. It is the state in which all things may become fruitful, generous and loving as God intends - a harmony of heart, mind and spirit whether in silence or in noise.

And it comes incomplete, ready for us to grasp and grow in. A perfect Christmas may be beyond us - but God in human form, the Christmas Child, brings something even better; love overflowing and waiting to be discovered in our stillness and in our turmoil..



Canon Rob Morris

May I wish you all a very Peaceful Christmas - one of Shalom and Salaam - in all the joy, pressure, memory and hope it brings. Do share with us in this story.

Canon Rob Morris

A Very Happy Christmas To You All



The editorial team would like say a big thank you to all who have supported us throughout 2006 and to wish all of our readers, our advertisers and our colleagues throughout the Parish of Kings Norton a very

**Joyous, Peaceful
and Happy
Christmas**

COVER PHOTO:-

A section from the stained glass window in the Lady Chapel in the South Aisle of St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton

Photo:- Graham Boulton



Parish of Kings Norton CHRISTMAS SERVICES

A list of Christmas services in the Parish is available on the back page of this issue of the magazine.

ALSO ON THE WEB

You can also see the list of the services on our sister website - just go to:-
www.kingsnorton.org.uk/christmas.

The parish website Christmas page lists times, dates and types of services that are taking place throughout the Parish over the Advent period. On this page there is also a Christmas Services glossy flyer to download and print-off.

Kings Norton Farmers Market

The Green Kings Norton Birmingham
2nd Saturday each Month

Next Market

Get FRESH Sat 9th December
9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

with 'Carols on the Green'

between approx 11.00 and 12 noon - lead by members of the Church Choir and friends... wrap up warm and come and join us



Christmas 'Craft Fair' a Success

Kings Norton's annual Christmas Craft Fair on 11th November attracted a larger number of visitors than ever; with over 500 attending the event at St Nicolas Church. We made £1600 for Restoration Fund and the day's success has had an impact across the community. The church nave was built to house community life as well as worship and was clearly a home for all who came, many for their first visit to our church.

A record number of stalls, in total 34, including some first time attendees and many old favourites filled St Nicolas' Church. The Saracen's Head closure ready for the restoration work prompted the move to the church as an alternative venue. Stall owners really liked the different surroundings. The large visitor numbers show that the local community did too.

Visitors came from the 3 Estates and many areas of Birmingham, with some even travelling in from as far away as the Cotswolds. Stalls sold a large variety of gifts, the event having attracted entrepreneurs, artists, crafts people and small businesses offering jewellery, crystal, paintings, carvings and woodcrafts, games, cards and fashion accessories. For some stall owners the local craft fairs have turned into a valuable

business opportunity with some leaving their jobs behind to focus full time on what had previously been hobbies.

Barbara Hedgeland, Craft Fair organiser, said: "I was amazed at the variety of high quality, individual pieces on display and it's been wonderful to see so many visitors again this year. I know many people will have come for a look around and instead have sorted their Christmas gift shopping early! It has been a hugely successful event and we are proud to support local craftspeople and at the same time enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the medieval church of St Nicolas."

Despite the event being at its busiest at 11 o'clock, the two minute silence for Remembrance Day was fully observed. The bustling and jostling quietened in an instant as we remembered together.

The next event planned by the Friends of Historic Kings Norton, also to raise money for the Restoration buildings is a 'Christmas Celebration' with Bournville Young Singers on Saturday December 16th, 2006. Proceeds in aid of the Bournville Young Singers and Kings Norton Restoration Fund.





Have you got a licence for this event madam?

Barbara Hedgeland (organiser) is 'collared' by members of the local constabulary at the recent Christmas Craft Fair

We Greet Our New Bishop

“a wonderful occasion, growing from stillness to Godly noise”...



**Bishop of Birmingham,
The Rt. Rev. David Urquhart**

On 17th November, with bagpipes, trumpets, applause, love and prayer, we welcomed the Rt Revd David Urquhart as the 9th Bishop of Birmingham. It was a wonderful occasion, growing from stillness

to Godly noise – and including a challenging address from our new Bishop, who warned us all as a man who takes God and Birmingham very seriously – but not himself. He kept hammering away (literally at one point!) that, following Paul in 1 Corinthians 4, the church is but a fragile clay jar to contain the treasure which is God alive in love in God's people. We must not be afraid of our fragility – but trust in the difference that God will make in the whole life of the people of Birmingham and its region.

Bishop David will be with us for Confirmation on 14th May – and there will be many other opportunities to meet him and share his vision and faith in God's purpose for all. We can look forward.

Rob Morris

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Golden Box

Some time ago a mother punished her five year old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and she became even more upset when the child used the gold paper to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift box to her mother the next morning and then said, "This is for you, Momma."

The mother was embarrassed by her earlier over reaction, but her anger flared again when she opened the box and found it was empty. She spoke to her daughter in a harsh manner. "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

She had tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Momma, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full."

The mother was crushed. She fell on her knees and put her arms around her little girl, and she begged her forgiveness for her thoughtless anger.

The years passed and the little girl grew into a woman, married, and had little girls of her own.

But the mother kept that gold box by her bed for all the years of her life. Whenever she was discouraged or faced difficult problems she would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.



In a very real sense, each of us, as human beings, have been given a Golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and GOD. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Adaptation by Chris Holmes

COFFEE MORNINGS IN CHURCH Saturday Morning Opening

St Nicolas Church is now open on Saturday mornings and we are enlisting at least 50 people to be a welcoming presence during coffee morning between 10 - 12.30 pm. This would mean being in the church on a Saturday morning of your choice for 2½hrs, cup of coffee in hand, once a year on a date which suits your lifestyle. If you are interested and feel that this is something you could realistically do please contact 0121 458 6925 and talk to Jess Boulton.

National Blood Service

The National Blood Service Team will be visiting St. Nicolas Hall, Westhill Road, King's Norton, from 12 noon until 8.30 p.m. on

Thursday
7th December



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HAWKESLEY CHURCH

Anniversary Success



"we were grateful for the support of members of St. Nicolas and Immanuel congregations"

Our service of Thanksgiving for Harvest and for 30 years of Hawkesley Church, which took place on Sunday 1st October, was a great success.

Over 120 people attended, and many stayed after the service for an excellent lunch, and shared memories of the early days at Hawkesley.

We were grateful for the support of members of St. Nicolas and Immanuel congregations, and their help in washing up and the preparation of the harvest parcels, which were collected the following day by the FSU.

Our Gift Day realised the sum of £1500.00 which included a donation of £500.00 from Immanuel Church. Our grateful thanks to them, and everyone who contributed towards this excellent amount.

Dates for your diary: Hawkesley Church Bazaar – Saturday 2nd December 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Various stalls and attractions, music, lunches and refreshments.

Tuesday 5th December at 10.00am Coffee and chat – "Carols and mince pies"

On behalf of all here at Hawkesley Church may I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Ray Davis, Church Steward

Saint Nicolas Day 6th December

There will be a service of Holy Communion to celebrate the day of our Patron Saint, St Nicolas, on Wednesday 6th December at 8pm, after Candlelit Church.

All are welcome

Heaven and Earth Show

"For our 21st century shopaholic culture, Heaven and Earth supplies a demand for short and sweet spirituality"

10.00 to 11.00am BBC1

www.bbc.co.uk/heavenandearth

A few minutes per Sunday morning dressing gown slot to cover 'Heaven and Earth' isn't bad going for those of us not opposed to Sunday shopping but less disposed towards pews and Hymns Ancient and Modern.

For our 21st century shopaholic culture, Heaven and Earth supplies a demand for short and sweet spirituality. There are often interviews with people in the public eye about how their faith has affected their approach to their lives. The programme looks at as many faiths and belief systems as possible and isn't afraid to look at the tensions between them but tends to simply explore the idea of faith in its broadest sense and in a positive way.

It is good for people who feel they are 'spiritual but not religious' and 'don't really do church and all that stuff' but 'find it all quite interesting'. It is also good viewing for those of us entrenched in Church life and needing to widen our horizons. It is interactive, asks viewers their opinions and offers a fascinating insight into how interest in religions and spirituality is expressing itself in our media and culture today. I quite like to video it and fast forward through the cheesy bits. It's worth a look.

Jess Boulton

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HAWKESLEY CHURCH Christmas Bazaar Saturday 2nd December 2006

11.00am - 2.00pm

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Story of Mary and Johnson...

Karen Urwin

I teach at a school in the centre of town. It has a Hearing Resource Base and I teach a small group of deaf children. Last year when it came close to Christmas I asked them what they remembered of the Christmas story and I recorded their joint version. The results were rather amusing so I have reproduced them here:

The Hearing Resource Base's version of The Christmas Story

Once there was a lady and man called Mary and Johnson. One day an angel appeared to Mary and told her that she would have a baby and they would have to go to Bethlehem but she said they should go on a coach because it was such a long way.

Bethlehem was where Johnson had been born and they had to go there to register. They could not find a coach so Mary rode on a camel.

Mary and Johnson travelled a long way and they were tired but when they got to Bethlehem the man

said "You can't sleep there 'cause it's full of people and no space!" so they went into a skateboard and slept on the straw. That night Jesus was born. They put the baby on the leaves.

In the fields behind Bethlehem were some people who were looking at the field to find some food. An angel appeared to these shepherds and told them about the new baby coming in Bethlehem. The shepherds found the skateboard and went in and gave Jesus a sheep and some Frankincense.

Three Kings saw a massive star and they followed it because it meant a new king. They met Herod the King of Israel who said "Where's this new King?" The star flashed and stopped over the skateboard. The three kings gave Jesus the Melchior, Balthazar and perfume.

Angels told Johnson that they must leave Bethlehem "You can't stay there," they said "There's a horrible King who wants to kill babies!" so Mary, Johnson and the baby Jesus went to Egypt where the mummies are.

BOOK REVIEW

reviewer Revd David Gould

The Christmas Mouse

Authors: Toby Forward and Ruth Brown

Published by Red Fox

ISBN 0099451557

Most of us have heard, perhaps seen, the classic Charles Dickens story, 'A Christmas Carol'. We have been enchanted by the tale... unless we were present at the production that had your reviewer in a starring role, but that is another story best left untold...

This book was a gift to a child and then I thought, having read it why should adults not enjoy it as well? It has been part of the pile of Christmas books special to us for some years. For that reason, I commend it to you now.

Mice replace the people. Tim is the poor mouse, Ben the affluent one, who has no time for Christmas. The stage is set for the retelling of this story. This time it is about a plum... and who may like to have one.

I must not tell you more so that when you buy the book you will turn its A4 pages of beautiful pictures and discover for yourself the power of the story. Told through the eyes of the mice, scampering through the skirting and making their discoveries about what is right and wrong, good and bad, hopeful and disappointing in our lives that so often come to a head at Christmas. We learn something new through the 'unbidden stranger', discover something more in the familiar



places we inhabit and realise afresh that we know only a little of what there is to know about ourselves and others and God in all.

Perhaps some part of us could come to this book as a child and discover something new of God and what this Christmas is all about. Even through the eyes of a mouse...

Happy Christmas!
Revd David Gould



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A.N. Orak



A light-
hearted
look at

Christmas on the Internet

I regularly get sent emails with links to interesting and amusing sites and I thought I would share a few of them as my Christmas present to you. First up is a nativity scene with a difference. It started life as a corporate Christmas card, but ignore that bit, just click on the characters in the scene and see what happens. (make sure you have your sound turned up.)

[www.hyperlaunch.com/
merrychristmas.html](http://www.hyperlaunch.com/merrychristmas.html)

The next one is for all those who hate sprouts. You need to be quick on your keyboard for this one. See if you can beat the high score of one of our Churchwardens (550) www.eyegas.com/xmas05/

Third on the list is much harder. Basically you are throwing snowballs from a chairlift trying to hit skiers below – not as simple as it looks!

www.zarinmedia.com/xmas/chairlift

For the more creative among you, try <http://snowflakes.lookandfeel.com> where you can use your skill to create your own snowflakes.

Finally, have a go at Frosty Flips, a Father Christmas snowboarding game at:-
[www.teagames.com/games/frostyflips/
play.php](http://www.teagames.com/games/frostyflips/play.php)

Don't forget to check the Parish website for details of all that is going on in the parish over Christmas, www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Happy Christmas Surfing

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QUOTE REF. 6711

READERS LETTER

EXTRACT FROM LETTER

Dear Friends on the Magazine Team

Twelve months ago I wrote a letter of congratulations on the first "coloured" issue of the Parish Magazine. Now, a year later, I repeat my thanks and congratulations to you for maintaining, nay increasing, the standard of this publication.

Years ago, we had an expression "penny plain, twopence coloured". Surely the cover price of 30 pence should be increased. I feel sure that this would be supported by the majority of your readers. The issue for January 2006 had 32 pages, the November issue 44!!

Best wishes to the magazine Committee for 2007.

Yours sincerely,
Norman Hoadly

The Mixed Economy Church – it's us!

“we are called to develop our existing churches and communities with their own traditions but also called to encourage and begin fresh expressions of church”

The what? A lot of people are talking about it. Maybe not in the places where it really matters - on the 49 bus, at Hawkesley School gate, Saturday morning coffee, discussion after worship or in the Golf Club, the Bull's Head or the queue at Spar — but certainly among those whose ideas and decisions affect the Church of England.

“Mixed economy church” comes from Archbishop Rowan. It has been taken up by many others. It is a key phrase in the newly published *The Future of the Parish System: Shaping the Church of England for the 21st Century*. What is it all about? Why?

We all know that the pressures on church resources and the decline of the place of older patterns of church-going mean that, in the words of our former Bishop, “We cannot go on as we are.” But what sort of change must come?

Some would like us to cling very firmly to the patterns of worship, buildings and Christian living which we have received. Some would like us to change everything. It is so easy to paint those who agree with us as wonderful and those who disagree as either stuck in past mud or hooked on change for change's sake. Both are wrong. God's love is unchanging. The church isn't — because it contains and serves the countless stories of children, women and men growing and changing in God's love in societies which are themselves changing. There is no Golden Age to which we must return. There is no Bright Future awaiting us if only we scrap everything and start again. There is only Now —

this time and this place in which we must cherish the past, be wholly open to God's future — and live in Christ.

The Future of the Parish System: Shaping the Church of England for the 21st Century contains deep understanding of the anxiety and stress that accompany the church and its members — but is much more about hope, which springs not from old or new ways of arranging the church's furniture, music and organisation but from being wholly “rooted in God's grace and mercy and faithfulness.” And the book urges us to be the very kind of Mixed Economy Church discovered and growing in Kings Norton over the years; a church in which “we are called to develop our existing churches and communities with their own traditions but also called to encourage and begin fresh expressions of church” — in St Nicolas, Hawkesley, Immanuel and all along the 49 bus route. We are not separate congregations. We are sisters and brothers gathered together in Christ for Christ's purpose, with so much to learn from each other. We fail if we forget.

Formal church attendance may be less than it was. Faith isn't. The numbers who seek and live in God's life and love is no smaller — it's just that “church”, both old or new, is not the first place that people look to as they explore life, its meaning and purpose. It can be — and will be — as we trust that we are called to be a Mixed Economy Church in which mission and maintenance, social action and evangelism, tradition and fresh expressions are not opposed but grow together in God's inclusive love.

Another new book, *Dancing with God*; the Anglican practice of hope, talks of four ways in which Anglican churches, including us, bear God's hope for the world; commitment to conversation especially in our differences; commitment to common prayer, whatever shape we prefer; acceptance of our fallibility and incompleteness without God and each other; willingness to explore and cross new thresholds without fear. As we do these by God's grace, we have hope; for ourselves, for the church — and crucially for the world.

Canon Rob Morris

Immanuel 'Carollers' to visit Moundsley Hall - Taking Christmas to the People

On the afternoon of 10th December, members of Immanuel Church will be visiting Moundsley Hall Nursing Home in Kings Norton and inviting all of the residents and staff to join them in a Carol Singing session.

We at the magazine send OUR good wishes to all residents and staff for a wonderful day and a joyous Christmas.

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH

Susan Haynes e-mail - immanuelchurch@kingsnorton.org.uk

Thank you to those who have responded so far to our plea for additional volunteers to listen to children read in schools. The extra help will be most appreciated.

We have come up with a new idea for Advent! You may remember that we have taken part in Posada over the last few years - passing wooden figures of Mary and Joseph from home to home during Advent. Well this year we are encouraging members of Immanuel to take part in a Living Posada!

We are suggesting that each household visits another household during Advent (one that they don't usually visit) and also that each household invites another into their home for a drink or a meal (again someone they don't usually have round). This idea came from the desire to make sure that all who have been unable to come to Immanuel in recent months still feel a part of our church community; and also remembering that a previous vicar of ours suggested that all of us

ought to know what the inside of at least seven other church family homes look like!

We will be delivering Christmas cards around our neighbourhood again this year, particularly inviting people to our Carols by Candlelight service. These cards are also supported by posters in local schools, shops and places of interest and, for the first time, church families are going to be invited to display a smaller poster in the window of their homes. We are also going to sing Christmas Carols with residents of Moundsley Hall Nursing Home, Fairway Day Centre and on Wychall Estate, taking the real message of Christmas out to our community.

We will be having our Christingle Service on Sunday 10th December at 10.30am, led by our younger people. Our Carols by Candlelight service will be on 17th December at 6pm. On Christmas Eve we will have a Morning Worship service at 10.30am and then on Christmas Day a Family Communion, also at 10.30am. We would love to see you if you are able to come and join us.

We hope that you have a very happy Christmas.

Susan

CHRISTMAS IS ETERNAL

For many of us, sadly, the spirit of Christmas is "hurry". And yet, eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now perhaps that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries - nearly twenty of them now since that holy night in

Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal.



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Midlands

EVENTS DIARY

DECEMBER 2006



Send your events to:-

Kings Norton Parish Office, 30 Westhill Road,

Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8TN

tel:- 0121 458 3289

e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk

2nd Dec 10.00 - 1.00 p.m.	Christmas Re-Gifting Day	St Nicolas Hall
2nd Dec 11.00 - 2.00 p.m.	Christmas Bazaar 303 2127 for details	Hawkesley Church
3rd Dec 6.30 p.m.	Prayer & Praise Immanuel Church invite you to a time of informal worship	Fairway Day Centre
5th Dec 10.00 a.m.	Carols, Mince Pies and Chat	Hawkesley Church
6th Dec 8.00 p.m.	St Nicolas Day Holy Communion	St Nicolas Church
9th Dec 11.00 - 12 noon	Carols on the Green	Farmers Market
10th Dec 10.30 a.m.	Christingle & Toy Service	Hawkesley Church Centre
13th Dec 6.30 - 8.00 p.m.	Candlelit Church Handbell Ringers (7.30 - 8.00 p.m.)	St Nicolas Church
15th/16th Dec 7.45 p.m.	Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Performed by The Lane Theatre Group	Manningford Hall 458 5709 for details
16th Dec 7.00 p.m.	Bournville Young Singers	St Nicolas Church
17th Dec 3.30 p.m.	Carol Service	St Nicolas Church
24th Dec 10.30 a.m.	Carol Service	Hawkesley Church Centre
25th December	CHRISTMAS DAY	

See Back Page for Services throughout December

LOCAL CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

SHIRLEY SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 9th December
7.45 p.m.

Shirley Baptist
Church
Stratford Road
Shirley

Tickets £5.00
(including buffet)
from Joan on 458 5709

ALL PROCEEDS TO
ACORNS CHILDRENS
HOSPICE

PRE-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Monday 4th December
3.00 p.m.

St Nicolas Hall
Westhill Road

Happy & Varied Programme
to Herald In

The Festive Season
with

St Nicolas Ladies Choir
Rob & Anna Morris
Sian Smith
and Guest Singer
Jessica Mayhew

Free Entrance All Welcome

Come - Relax - Enjoy

The Lane Theatre Group

present



Sleeping Beauty

Manningford Hall

off Bells Lane

Fri 15th & Sat 16th

December 2006,

both evenings 7:30pm

Adult £4.00 Child £2.00

Family £10.00

0121 458 5709

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

The Parish of Kings Norton is a Team Parish comprising the parish church of St. Nicolas and three other District Churches.

WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:

Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX 458 3289/459 0560
 The Revd. HEATHER FLACK (Team Vicar), 195 Monyhull Hall Road B30 3QN 458 3483
 The Revd. DAVID GOULD (Team Vicar), 53 Wychall Park Grove, B38 8AG 459 5144

Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Revd. Donald SAMPSON 476 7223

Hon. Assistant Curate:

The Revd. JAYNE CROOKS, 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP 459 3733

Lay Staff:

Mrs. FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or..... 451 1914

Church Wardens

St. Nicolas Miss KAREN URWIN 459 7086
 SIAN SMITH c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) Mr. JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455
 Mr. RAY DAVIS 458 5774
 Mr. PETER SMITH 453 9931

Immanuel (Warden) ALAN HAYNES 459 4711
 (Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE
 (Deputy Warden) GERRY MOORCROFT
 (Deputy Warden) STUART WHITBY

P.C.C. Secretary Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT

P.C.C. Treasurer Mrs. JAN ANSON, c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Office: 30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8TN 458 3289
 (Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fax: 486 2825

Parish Administrator Mrs. CHRISTINE BOWEN 458 3289

Parish Administrator Ms. RACHEL BANNISTER 458 3289

Finance Administrator Ms CHRISTINE GADD 458 3289

Organist and Music Director Miss SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA 07778 449170

Choir & Orchestra Practices Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
 Friday: Juniors 6.45-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.
 Sunday: Before Evensong 5.30-5.45 p.m.

Immanuel Music Group Leader SUSAN HAYNES, 42 Marbury Close, B38 8YX 459 4711

Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) Miss SARAH MOORCROFT

Hawkesley Miss NICKY CROOKS

The OASIS (Immanuel) Miss NICKY CROOKS

IMPACTI (Youth Group) Every Sunday, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., at St Nicolas Hall
 Leader: GARETH JONES

Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church

Primary School Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Headteacher Mr. ROGER WOOLDRIDGE 459 6467
 Fax: 459 6468

Bell Ringers Practice Tuesdays at 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower

Ringling Master Mr. R. ALDINGTON, 18 Queen Mother Court, B30 1TH 471 2266

Kings Norton Handbell Ringers

Secretary Mrs. JO NELSON, 77 Garland Way, B31 2BT

..... Practice on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship		
Secretary	Mrs. J. CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS	458 3328
Women's Evening Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in St Nicolas Hall Secretary: Mrs. VAL HAYNES	459 3121
Seniors Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon in St Nicolas Hall Deb Buckley & Sian Smith	702 2063
Scouts and Cubs (198th Birmingham)	At St Nicolas Hall:- Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: Mrs. PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: Mr. JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: Mr. ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 244 0789
Scouts and Cubs (129th Birmingham)	At the Bells Farm Community Centre:- Cubs (aged 8-11): Thursdays 6.30 p.m.- 8.00 p.m. Leader: Miss KAREN URWIN	459 7086
Guides and Brownies	At St Nicolas Hall:- Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.00 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. mainly at St Nicolas Hall Contact: JOHN ALEXANDER	445 1312
Kings Norton History Society	Last Monday (or last but one if Bank Holiday) from September to May (exc. December) in St Nicolas Church at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Miss AUDREY LANGSTON, 116 Beaumont Road, Boumville B30 2DX	458 1130
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m. in St. Nicolas Hall	
Parish Magazine Editor Emeritus	Mr. J. TINKER, 42 Monksway, Kings Norton, B38 9HW	
Parish Magazine Treasurer	Mrs. ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	Revd JAYNE CROOKS, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	Mr GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

***Could all included in this section please inform
Parish Office if and when contact details change***

During the restoration construction period, from July 2006 to January 2008, venues and times may vary from time to time. The Parish Office has temporarily moved to
30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8TN.

The telephone number remains the same.

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE 0121 458 3289

If you or your group are still unsure where you will be able to carry on *YOUR* meetings and activities, please contact the Parish Office where staff will be happy to assist you.



October 2006 Baptisms

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

8th October 2006	Molly Elizabeth Morgan Faber
8th October 2006	Edward James Whitehead
8th October 2006	Joseph James Taylor
15th October 2006	Caitlin Lillie Jay Pettipher
15th October 2006	Kyle Anthony Edward Baron
15th October 2006	Olivia Jane Duddy
15th October 2006	Aliza Ann Perrins
15th October 2006	Rebekah Grace Perrins

October 2006 Weddings

"Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

7th October 2006	Victor Hancock and Jacqueline Galbraith
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October 2006 Blessing

15th October 2006	David Skinner and Iris Skinner
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October 2006 Funerals

"I am the Resurrection and the life, saith the Lord."

2nd Oct 2006 Ronald Bertram Reece, aged 74	Cremation at Robin Hood
12th Oct 2006 Kathleen Muriel Boyne, aged 80	Cremation at Lodge Hill
13th Oct 2006 Frances Evans, aged 87	Cremation at Lodge Hill
17th Oct 2006 Gordon Douglas Shakeshaft, aged 73	Cremation at Lodge Hill
18th Oct 2006 Clara k/a Jean/Jenny Jane Warr, aged 92	Burial in Churchyard
18th Oct 2006 Geoffrey John Cope, aged 86	Service in St Nicolas, interment of Ashes in Churchyard
18th Oct 2006 Arthur Leopold Lovelace-Lloyd, aged 78	Cremation at Lodge Hill
19th Oct 2006 George Thomas Chapman, aged 86	Cremation at Yardley
23rd Oct 2006 Mary Kirby, aged 81	Cremation at Lodge Hill
23rd Oct 2006 Janet Elizabeth Adams, aged 51	Service in St Nicolas, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery
26th Oct 2006 Bertram Clifford Cage, aged 88	Cremation at Lodge Hill
26th Oct 2006 Cyril Charles Bosco, aged 79	Interment of Ashes in Churchyard
30th Oct 2006 Lily Barnes, aged 85	Cremation at Robin Hood
31st Oct 2006 Betty Kendall, aged 88	Burial in St Nicolas Churchyard

SERVICES

St. Nicolas

EVERY SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
6.00 p.m. Evening Worship (various)

EVERY MON/ WED/THURSDAY

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

EVERY 1st, 3rd and 4th SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
(sung Communion with Oasis 5/7's)

EVERY THURSDAY

9.30 a.m. Tiny Tots
11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

2nd SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Parade Service
11.45 a.m. Matins (BCP)

4th SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Family Service

'Oasis'

for children aged 3 to 11, EVERY SUNDAY (except for Parade Service) at 10.30 a.m.
The children join the congregation in church towards the end of the service.

Tiny Tots

for 0-5's and parents/carers - each term-time Thursday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. - in Church -
for play, coffee and chat.

Candle-lit Church meets EVERY WEDNESDAY 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. Creating a Candle Lit Church
where anyone can come and enjoy a peaceful creative space in this busy city. Tea
and coffee will be available and all are invited to feel free to come and go as you
please throughout this time.

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

- meeting at the Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Shannon Road/Old Portway
EVERY SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Family Service and Sunday School.
EVERY TUESDAY 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Immanuel Church

- meeting at Fairway Day Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.
EVERY SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Morning Service/Communion.
Oasis - Every Sunday 10.30 a.m. (except for All-Age Worship service)

Druids Heath

Services here are currently suspended pending an exploration
of future possibilities.

Café T

meets each week at the home of Gill and David Gould and welcomes people from all
congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a home based context. Call the
Parish Office for details.

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGES

Forms and particulars obtained at the Parish Office, 30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B/ham, B38 8TN,

General Enquiries:- Parish Office Mon to Fri 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk

Web Site:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

**Please visit the Parish Website on www.kingsnorton.org.uk
for more information on services on a weekly basis.**

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The Revd Martin Leigh

The Revd Martin Leigh, Team Rector of Kings Norton (1992-9) and then Vicar of Cheddleton in Staffordshire and Rural Dean of Leek, died on 29th October after a short illness. Many here will miss him greatly. He was Rector during a difficult time. Everyone who lived through them will have their own memories and recollections, all of which, with Martin and his family, we need to place into the hands of Christ, his loving Redeemer and ours. In his diocese of Lichfield, Martin's life and ministry has been recalled by the Bishop, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill. His words gather much of what those who grieve for Martin here will know. He said:

"It was a great shock to us all when we heard that Martin was dying of cancer. In the last two years he had had serious operations on each of his shoulders and had nearly died of an infection in

hospital - but had been recuperating well at last. To have only a few weeks preparation for death was quite unexpected.

Martin was a devoted parish priest and pastor. He served as curate in Lambeth (Southwark) and Bakewell, as priest-in-charge of Over Haddon, as vicar of Ockbrook and Baslow (all in Derbyshire) and as Team Rector of Kings Norton (Birmingham) before coming to Cheddleton. He spent time in a Christian ashram in India and his gifts were widely used in each of his dioceses. He was elected to lead the House of Clergy in Derbyshire for 15 years.

Martin was a scholar-priest with wide spiritual and intellectual interests. Whether it was writing a spiritual companion to John Moschos' *The Spiritual Meadow*, reading the Office in Greek, or thinking aloud about history and literature, he was



**Rev Martin Leigh
1940 - 2006**

fascinated by it all. He will be deeply missed in Cheddleton and Leek. Martin was unafraid to die and enjoyed his last week, at home with his family gathered round him, putting his funeral service together and appreciating those he loved most. He leaves behind his wife Mary, also a priest and teacher of ordinands, and his children, to whom he was devoted. We give God thanks for Martin and mourn his loss."

Please pray for God's healing and peace for Mary and her family - and for one another.

Canon Rob Morris

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

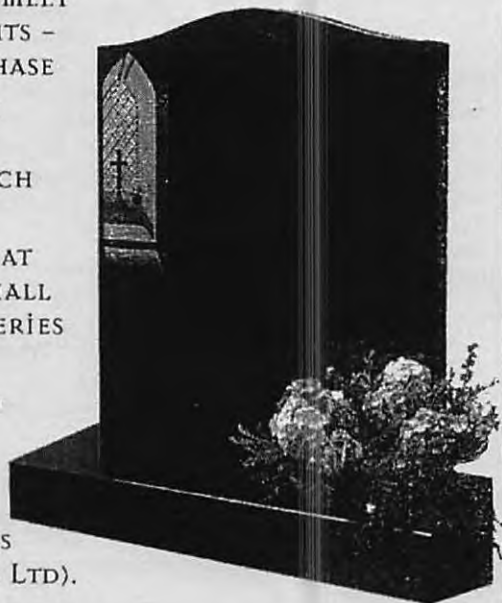
What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.



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Café T

**Trying to make
Sense of faith!**

Café T is an informal setting in which to explore the meaning of faith in these early days of the 21st century. Each evening starts at 8.00 pm and concludes at 9.30 pm with an invitation to remain afterwards for refreshments if you care to.

Through the exploration of faith themes and our shared experience of God and prayer we hope that everyone, whatever age or experience in the way of the Christian faith, will feel at home.



**Making bridges
making links!**

'X Factor' evenings are designed to stimulate faithful discussion of current issues with the understanding that we listen to each other with humility and a desire to learn.

**Tuesday Evenings at 8.00 p.m. at the home of Gill & David Gould
for more information 458 3289 or 459 5144**

Ministry of Cakes

"pick up a card on the 3rd December 2006.

Stick it on your fridge until you need it."

At St Nicolas, we often serve cakes in the 10.30am service. It is time to involve at least 60 people in the Ministry of Cakes.

If you want to bake for St Nicolas you can. If you have received this magazine and don't attend St Nicolas or any of the Parish churches you are still very welcome to contribute. If you do not come into the church, but would like to be involved, please contact the Parish Office (0121 458 3289) or e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk. Recipes will also be added to the website.

If you are familiar with St Nicolas Church, and are interested, then come to the back of the church in the coffee serving area during coffee following the 10.30am service on the 3rd December 2006. You will be able to pick up a card with a date on it, a

recipe or two, ideas for colours and themes, cost and ingredients. Cards will be available at the back of the church in a prominent place for those unable to make Sundays.



Here's an example of how it works: you will be able to choose a summer holiday card, with recipes suitable and easy for young children. You will have options on some cards for 'budget' cakes, 'luxury cakes' or 'easy cakes'. There will be traditional recipes with cultural associations and cakes from around the world, festival cakes and simple cakes.

It is an attempt to make

'contribution' to Parish life more realistic and sustainable for us and for Parish people who don't attend church to contribute. This way we all have a chance to bake at least once a year without having to commit valuable time to choosing recipes or cooking regularly when we are too busy. It is also a way to learn more about our cultural heritage, feasts and celebrations.

Interested people need to come and pick up a card on the 1st Sunday of Advent the 3rd December 2006. Stick it on your fridge until you need it.

Many of the recipes will call for Fairtrade ingredients. The Church Fairtrade stall will be able to supply many of the ingredients, items can often be ordered. If you are already baking, please don't stop, they'll all get eaten. Please join in. It is important, and it is only one cake, once a year. You don't need to be a church-goer... just someone who likes to bake.

Jesse Boulton

Kings Norton Goes Batty!

On Saturday 28th October over 50 local people gathered at St Nicolas Hall to build bat boxes as part of the Kings Norton Restoration project. People came from all over the area - some from St Nicolas and Immanuel Churches, Friends of Historic Kings Norton, Kings Norton Primary School, and many, who just turned up to a Restoration event for the first time, came along to help.

Volunteers, including a team from Kings Norton Local Nature Reserve, helped children and adults work together to build the boxes with many being shown the basics of carpentry for the first time. It was a very noisy event with everyone hammering at once but no one seemed to mind. There were also craft activities and bat displays for everyone to enjoy - lots of adults enjoyed making bat mobiles along with the children.

A survey back in July, carried out by local ecological consultants Land Care



Three youngsters enjoying the day... and showing their concern for ecology

Associates found four species of bat in both buildings - the Common Pipistrelle, the Soprano Pipistrelle, the Brown Long Eared Bat and the Natterer's Bat. The bat boxes needed to be in position in the churchyard before work can start on the buildings at the beginning of November. Thank you to everyone who made sure that they were. Not least, Richard Harper and John Bowen.

Pauline Weaver

Kings Heath Bowling Club

Do you fancy playing
Crown Green Bowls
(non-league)

with a friendly bunch of folk?

Come and try it out

We play on our green behind the
Bull's Head, Kings Norton Green

Contact

Ann McCaugherty
on 476 2783 for details

Women's Evening Fellowship

Our Christmas meeting will be held at lunch-time on December 7th at the Toby Inn (formerly Cotteridge Village Inn) at 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm. The Inn is opposite King's Norton Business Centre (Factory Centre).

We will be back in the Church Hall in January (4th) for a talk about Handbell Ringing - speaker Mrs. Margaret Jones. We will now be welcome from 7.30 pm onwards, thanks to Brown Owl.

Gwen Fox

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Calling all Bookworms



In the Parish of Kings Norton, there are many Bookworms. There are also a great-deal of books stacked up in our various homes. On top of it all there are lots of people with an interest in Church life, faith, Christianity, theology, history, and what it means to be a Christian today. We are exploring the idea of building a Parish 'e-library' where our books can be shared around the parish but stored in our own homes. We think it would increase our knowledge, aid our education about Church life and community and raise our awareness of different points of view and of the history of the Christian faith.

The idea is to be made 'safe' by the development of a web-based system only accessible through the supply of e-mail addresses and issuing of 'passwords'. The web page would automatically direct e-mail requests from interested people to the book-owner without disclosing the e-mail address of the book owner. The owner of the book, having registered the book will then be able to loan the book to the person concerned without necessarily making their contact details known. The process could possibly take place through the Church building remotely, or in person. The web page will store details of all the books people register and will tell people how many books are held and hold an alphabetical list of books.

We anticipate it being largely a service used within the congregations of the Parish, but interest may be much wider, we just don't know. Hopefully it will build communication between people and we hope to develop a web-based chat room.



The idea is under construction and don't panic if you don't have access to the web; obviously a paper-based list of all the books and a manual way of doing this for people not using computers will be made available.

Let us know what you think through info@kingsnorton.org.uk, or grab someone at church and talk it through.

Jess and Graham Boulton



CHILDREN'S PAGE... Dear Friends

December has arrived and we can start our preparation for Jesus' Birthday celebrations. Have you ever thought of Advent like that? We all enjoy an Advent calendar; they even make them for dogs and cats now. However, what is it all about? Well, it is a time when we get ready for Christmas and we think about what Christmas really means. We all enjoy the presents, the food and the parties with our families but Advent is a time when we can prepare ourselves to say thank you to God for sending down His Son. Jesus was born as a tiny helpless baby but grew into our Saviour, the Son of God, who saved us all.

We can prepare ourselves by trying during Advent to help everyone else just that little bit more. Don't spend all your time on Christmas lists but try to find out what other people in your family need. You could offer to wash the car, or help with the housework, or if you have a little sister or brother, you could make the time to play a game they like. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birth. He was never selfish. Let us try to be a little like Him during Advent.

Merry Christmas, Karen



The 'Chrismon' Tree

I was having a look on the Internet for something to do with Advent but instead I found an American site that talked all about a Chrismon Tree. Now I may be a lot older than you but I still love learning about new things so I read on.

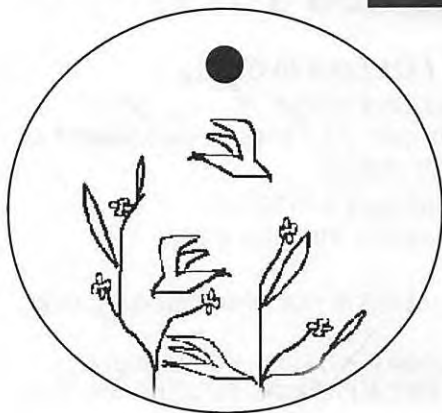
The Chrismon Tree tradition was started by a lady called Frances Spencer. She lived in Virginia in America and she was a professional tree decorator. In 1957 she was asked to decorate the Christmas tree at her church and because she wanted to make it special she made lots of white and gold decorations all based around Christian signs and symbols. She made stars to remind people of the star that stopped over the stable, a little dove to show peace, a

crown to show Jesus as King and many more. The people who saw her tree thought it was very beautiful and wanted to make their own. Frances had to give the decorations a name so she called them Chrismons from 'CHRISMONOgram' (a monogram is usually someone's initials used as decoration) Frances told them that she would show them how to make the Chrismons but she said that they must never be sold to make money, so even though many people in America now have a Chrismon tree at Christmas time you will never see the Chrismons in a shop to buy.

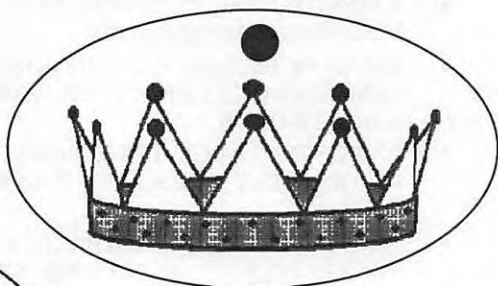
Here are some pictures of beaded Chrismons and some paper ones which you can colour and hang on your own tree at Christmas. Trace them onto paper, back them on card and punch out a hole with a hole punch to thread some thin string or wool through. Enjoy.



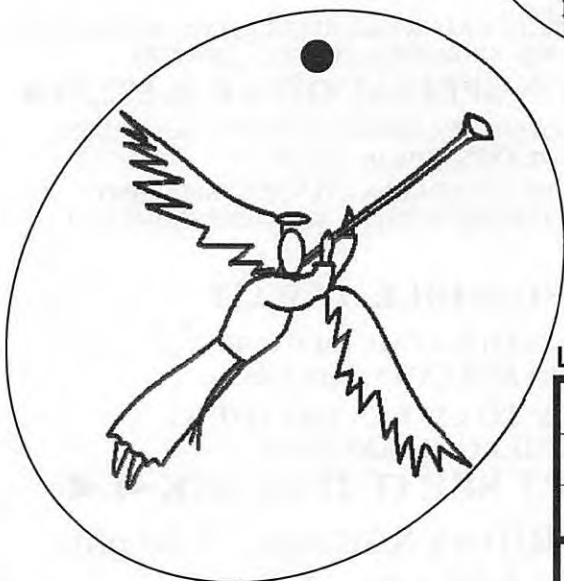
Jesus tells the disciples that He is Lord



God feeds even the birds of the air



Jesus is the King of Kings



One of the angels who told the shepherds the Good News that Jesus was born



Last Months Sudoku Solution

2	1	6	5	3	4
3	4	1	2	5	6
6	5	3	4	1	2
1	2	5	6	4	3
4	3	2	1	6	5
5	6	4	3	2	1

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CALOR GAS STOCKIST

CALOR

Restoration: or is it Transition... or even Demolition?

All three this month! All Saracen's Head activities have now moved to St Nicolas Hall, into church – or elsewhere. We owe huge thanks to John Jelfs and his sturdy team for the sensitive, devoted and efficient way this has been done. It has been a tough and detailed transition, affecting so many people and activities. Apart from the preparation of the Old Grammar School for construction in January, all is complete. Thank you very much indeed.

Demolition of the Victorian wing (and toilets!) began on November 6th – and may be complete by the time you read this. The ground is now ready for new work at last, with completion still expected in Spring 2008.

And Restoration continues. Craft Fair, Bournville Young Singers concert, 2007 events and tours (church included!) are all

ready, done or well in hand. Research continues to grow and offer even richer understanding of our site and buildings in the life of Kings

Norton over the centuries. We are also working very hard on all the final designs and activities, new and old, ready for 2008. May I thank Pauline Weaver, our Project Director, Barbara Hedgeland and the Restoration team – and all who are working to ensure that the completed project is fully funded and sustainable for many years to come. It's not always glamorous – but always worth doing!

Rob Morris



Prayer and World Needs Group

invite you to a

Christmas Re-Gifting Day

December 2nd 10.00 - 1.00 pm

St Nicolas Hall



**An opportunity to recycle the things you no longer have a use for
Clothes, Shoes, Candles, Batteries, CDs, Stamps,
Toys, Household Goods, Mobile Phones, Ink
Cartridges & Computers**

All you need to do is to bring them to us and we will sort them and distribute them to local organisations and charities.

Refreshments available

A friendly 24-hour service is offered from our Kings Norton Funeral Home

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HANDBELL RINGERS. MINCE PIES... AND MULLED WINE AT CANDLELIT CHURCH



Each Wednesday evening, between 6.30 and 8.00 p.m., St. Nicolas Church, on The Green, Kings Norton is creating a Candle Lit Church where anyone can come and enjoy a peaceful creative space in this busy city.

The lighting of the candles is at 6.30 p.m. and between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. there is music which varies weekly. At 8.00 p.m. the evening ends with a blessing or poem.

Tea and coffee will be available and all are invited to feel free to come and go as you please throughout this time

On Wednesday the 13th December. Handbell Ringers will be performing at Candlelit Church and they will play from 7.30 - 8.00 pm.

On Wednesday 20th December will be your chance to enjoy 'Candlelit Church Mince Pies and Mulled Wine'

What to give at Christmas to somebody who has got so much?

An IDEA: How about buying some Loaves of Bread - the Staff of Life for the needy children in the Ifakara Area, Tanzania. e.g. £10.00 will buy 56 loaves - £25.00 = 139 loaves.

Every penny we receive will go exclusively towards the purchase of bread. We shall acknowledge all donations and send you a brochure, which you can include with your Christmas Card to that special person.



Cheques to be made out to **The Ifakara Bakery Project***
c/o Gene and Margaret Schellenberg,
18 Grange Hill Road, King's Norton
Birmingham B38 8RG

*reg charity 1114531

The Church of England appoints its first Bishop for Urban Life and Faith

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have appointed the Rt Rev Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Hulme, to promote the dissemination and

implementation of the report *Faithful Cities*, the follow up report to *Faith in the City*, which was widely welcomed at its launch in May.

The appointment is for three years, during which the Bishop will respond to issues of urban policy and life on behalf of the Church.

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PARISH MAGAZINE AND PARISH WEBSITE WORKING TOGETHER

The Magazine page of the Parish Website (www.kingsnorton.org.uk/mag) has been updated to include articles from previous magazines - and more will be added as time goes on. This is part of the way that the Parish Magazine and the Parish website are working together to keep the wider community informed about life in the Parish. The website is visited by people from all over the world; in the last week (of going to press) it's had around 300 visits. Two-thirds have been from the UK, nearly a third from the USA and the rest from China, Denmark, France, Germany, New Zealand, Poland & Turkey. Australia and India are frequent 'visitors' too. So, by including articles from the Parish Magazine on the website, the news & events of the Parish is conveyed to a much wider population.

The Magazine page on the Parish Website features pictures of front covers from all previous magazines (latest edition first). Magazines with articles already included have a hyperlink

(underlined) beneath that magazine's picture. Click on that link and you'll be taken to the Articles page showing those items. You can select other editions from this page too and search for particular text within all the articles. There will soon be the chance to select the articles of a particular type, e.g. 'Book Reviews', 'From the Rector', 'A.N.Orak', etc, as well as one-off articles. (The A.N.Orak articles will continue to appear on the Links page www.kingsnorton.org.uk/links) too.



Our Parish Website
www.kingsnorton.org.uk

As I said previously, general articles will be added regularly but those containing personal details will not go on the web without the author's permission.

There is also a section where you can give us your views on the Parish Magazine.

So if you missed a magazine or know you read something in a previous magazine, just logon to the Parish Website and have a look at the Magazine page.

Graham Boulton (Webmaster)

STOP PRESS Bishop David's inauguration service on 17th November can now be watched via the web. To watch the whole service go to:-

www.voiceprompt.co.uk/ctvc/main.wvx

To watch highlights of the service go to:-

www.voiceprompt.co.uk/ctvc/highlights.wvx

CHRISTMAS CONCERT Bournville Young Singers St Nicolas' Church Saturday 16th December 7.00 p.m.

**Including a Chamber
Orchestra, a concert
that will feature
Vivaldi's 'Gloria'**

**tickets: Adults £5.00. Family
Ticket at £10.00 (2 adults
maximum plus children).
Concessions, Friends and
Children tickets are £3.50.**

Available from the Restoration
and Parish Offices. **St Nicolas'**
Hall, 30 West Hill Road
Kings Norton, Birmingham,
B38 8TN

Parish Office
0121 458 3289

Restoration Office
0121 458 1223

Tickets also available direct
from

Bournville Young Singers
Ring 0121 458 2331

*Proceeds will go jointly to the
Restoration Fund and to the
Bournville Young Singers.*

Historic 
KINGS NORTON

Two Brothers Christmas Prayers

A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparent's house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers.

Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice. "Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a play-station, a mountain-bike and a telescope."

His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." "I know" he replied, "But Grandma is!"



Christmas is coming.....
and can you imagine needing to shop for 1.25 million presents?

SAMARITANS PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE who brought gift filled shoe boxes to St Nicolas church during the past two weeks. Volunteers from the Samaritans Purse collected the boxes on 22 November and they will now be on their way to the children.

THANK YOU TO ALL those who gave their time to ensure that St Nicolas Church could be open to receive the boxes. Your generosity was very much appreciated.

WATCH THIS SPACE for details of how many boxes were collected in our area, and to see whether the Samaritans Purse target of 1.25 million boxes nationwide was reached. An update on this information was not available at the time of going to press!

THANK YOU FROM THE PAWNS GROUP



Prayer and World Needs Group



'Parish Mag'

**She's here to answer
your questions...**

You can contact her at
agonyaunt@kingsnorton.org.uk
or write via the Parish Office.



Dear Margaret,

I was so pleased to see the bat boxes being put up in the church yard, I hated to think that the poor bats would be made homeless, especially at Christmas time. Maybe Immanuel Church could deliver one of their 'welcome to your new home' cards to each one when they move in?

Bart

Dear Bart,

It is a kind thought, but as you know, bats have very poor eyesight and the cards would have to be made so big they wouldn't fit into the boxes.



Dear Margaret,

I'm sorry to write to you again, but I've just had another thought. Wouldn't it be nice for the ladies of the Women's Evening Fellowship to knit some tiny stockings which we could hang on the bat boxes on Christmas eve. Imagine their little faces on Christmas morning when they wake up to see all the presents that Santa has left them, bless.

Bart

Dear Bart,

It's another kind thought, but maybe you have forgotten that bats sleep during the day and come out at night so I don't think Santa will call on them for fear of being seen.

Dear Margaret,

They say good ideas come in three's (don't they)? Maybe we could ask the young people of Impact! to make some ear muffs for the bats. I am concerned that now they live much closer to church, the bats will be affected by the noise of the bells ringing on a Sunday.

Bart

Dear Bart,

Does 'Bats in the Belfry' mean anything to you?

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO THE 'NEW LOOK' PARISH MAGAZINE WHICH IS ONE YEAR OLD THIS MONTH!!!

The Editorial Team are sure that over the past 12 months you will have noticed and enjoyed the many changes to the Parish Magazine; the use of colour, a more varied content, and more local businesses taking advertising space. To accommodate these changes, the magazine has increased in size, with the January 06 issue having 32 pages and the November 06 issue having 44!



December 2005

The actual cost to the Parish of producing each copy is 70p per issue. For some time the cover price has remained at 30p per copy and the decision has been made by the PCC that the cost should rise to 50p per copy, with effect from January 07. We hope that you will agree with us that this is very good value!

Because the PCC see the magazine as a vital part of the mission of Kings Norton Parish then it is delighted to fund part of the cost of producing the magazine from its Mission budget. However should you wish to pay the full cost of 70p per copy then please let the person who delivers your magazine know this.

Thank you very much for your patience as we have launched the new look magazine, and thank you to all those who have sent in contributions over the last year - please keep them coming!

The Communications Group



December 2006

A Reflective Christmas Prayer

Father God, When your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity, you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. *Amen*

Harry L Marks

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The Parish of Kings Norton

A Church of England Team Parish incorporating the churches of
Hawkesley - Immanuel - The Parish Church of St. Nicolas

Christmas 2006



St Nicolas' Church, The Green, Kings Norton

10th December	10.30 am	St Nicolas Festival & Toy Service
17th December	4.30 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
24th December	5.00 pm 11.30 pm	Crib Service Christmas Midnight Communion
25th December	8.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Christmas Communion
31st December	10.30 am	United Parish Communion

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church, Old Portway (off Shannon Road), Hawkesley

10th December	10.30 am	Christingle Service
24th December	10.30 am	Carol Service
24th December	11.30 pm	Christmas Midnight Communion

Immanuel Church, The Fairway Day Centre, The Fairway, Kings Norton

3rd December	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise
10th December	10.30 am	Christingle Service
17th December	6.00 pm	Carols By Candlelight
24th December	10.30 am	Morning Worship
25th December	10.30 am	Family Communion for Christmas

Celebrating The Birth Of Christ!

Kings Norton Parish Office, St Nicolas Hall, 30 Westhill Road,
Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8TN

tel:- 0121 458 3289 fax:- 0121 486 3954 e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk

