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KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

Kings Norton Parish Magazine | October 2010 | 70p



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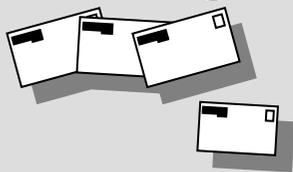
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Letters Page



Mr Rob Keenahan

Dear Rob,

SCOUTS' WORKING PARTY IN THE CHURCHYARD, JULY 2010

Very many thanks for arranging with John and Ian for the Scouts, Venture Scouts and Parents to tidy up around the Children's Graves. It was heartening to see such a large group of Scouts working with such gusto and enjoyment.

A visit the next morning showed what a marvellous job had been done by all and we are sure the visitors to these graves will be most appreciative of the work carried out.

Once again, very many thanks.

Yours most sincerely,
Richard Harper.

Catherine Ogle, the new Dean of Birmingham, writes:

I can't imagine a kinder or warmer welcome than the one we have received as we settle into our new home in Birmingham. The Cathedral staff and congregation, clergy and

people of the diocese and our new neighbours have all made the task of settling in so much easier.

Two services of welcome have been held. The first focussed on the formal and legal requirements of my taking up the post of Dean; and the second was a celebration of the Christian ministry in which we share. But I hadn't realised that during the Saturday service, when the Zimbabwean Mothers' Union choir sang and danced their joyful Gloria, I would be expected to join in!

Really, I should have expected it. The theme of 'joining in the dance' was part of my first sermon as Dean.

I told a story about one of my friends in Huddersfield, an older man, who said that he'd only been to Birmingham once in his life, but what an experience it had been! He was here on VE day and he was trying very hard to get home to West Yorkshire. As he made his way across the city, he came upon a huge party going on in a public square. My friend was in army uniform and, on that joyful day of relief and delight, he was dragged into the party. He told me that he realised that the only possible way to cross the square and get to the railway station was to join in. So that's what he did. He danced his way across the square. It's a wonderful story of joy and of freedom.

It is my hope that Birmingham Cathedral will continue to 'join in' with all that improves our common life in the city, diocese and region, and thus commend Christ's love to all the people of this complex, diverse and wonderful place.

Magazine Editorial Team

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

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**Items for inclusion in the
November 2010 issue are
to be submitted by:-
Friday 15th October 2010**

Welcome.....

Earlier in the year, the clergy team were all given areas of responsibility responding to the Transforming Church initiative (or Enriching Church as we prefer in this parish). Rob, John and Jayne have all written reports highlighting the progress made in their different areas which have been summarised in this month's Magazine (see pages 7-14).

The cover photograph this month was taken during the harvest evening when we were entertained by Drumvoice, a percussion group who take their influences from Africa and South America. They started an enjoyable and informative evening where we learned more about the charity 'Send a Cow' and Malawi with whom we have links through the Diocese. As you will see from the picture, at one point the band were joined by some of the audience – you may recognise them!

Did you know we were visited by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham last month? You can read all about it starting on page 32.

Once again, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Parish Magazine. Please let me know if you have any feedback.

Alan Haynes, Editor

A time of welcome and new beginnings.

Autumn is a time of gathering in – of the summer's harvest and of all that we need to get us through the cold, long nights of winter. In our churches, it is also a great time of welcome and new beginnings.

We start with Back to Church Sunday. Welcome!

On All Saints Sunday (Oct 31st) we welcome young Joel in the morning and many adults in the evening to baptism to new life in Christ.

Over Remembrance weekend, we shall embrace all who come with the heavier loads of grieving for those who have died in war and those who have died in the past year. We shall also remember with thanksgiving all those dear family and friends who have shone with Christ's light in our own lives.

In December, alongside each church's celebration of Advent and Christmas, we welcome friends and partners from across the parish on St Nicolas Day.

And every day and at every time of worship and gathering, we welcome God's hope and healing and all who seek God's love – including ourselves!

This is what "church" is for – to gather, to welcome and to share God's hope for stranger and friend alike. Life for some feels like a long cold winter, for others a fresh beginning. In all things, God is here – and promising to be here in the life of the church in Kings Norton for all.

It may seem too large a task for us. In ourselves, it is. In God, it isn't.

When Bishop David became our bishop in 2007, he took two texts as a theme. "You shall be called a repairer of the walls; the restorer of streets to live in" (*Isaiah 58.12*) and "It is God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We are but earthenware pots to contain this treasure." (*2 Corinthians 4: 6-7*)

In all our gathering and welcome this autumn, we are called to share God's work of restoration. We may feel as fragile as an earthenware pot, but as we are faithful and bold in all these things, Christ's light will shine!

Rob Morris

A prayer of petition

Compassionate God, source of all comfort,
We pray for the people of Pakistan whose lives have been devastated by rain and flood.

Bring them comfort, we pray.

Protect the vulnerable.

Strengthen the weak.

Keep at bay the ravages of disease.

Have mercy on all those working to rescue the stranded and to feed the hungry.

And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise.

For we ask it in Jesus' Name, Amen.

You can donate online to Christian Aid's Pakistan floods appeal at www.christianaid.org.uk/floods

Muriel Audrey Cross 5th April 1917 – 26th July 2010



"MABS"

"Crossie" and the family would like to thank all our friends and church members for their sympathy and support following the loss of Audrey in July. It was a great tribute to "MABS" to see the church full of friends who had turned up to pay their last respects on Friday 6th August and it was made even more special as Rebecca, Rob and Jayne all officiated at the service.

Our particular thanks must go to everyone who altered previous engagements, and in some cases even returned from their holidays early, to be present. A special thank you must be given to Rebecca for her personal contribution to the "tribute" as it fully complemented the family memories.

*Special people touch our lives in everything they do
and leave us changed long after they have gone.
The gifts they gave us can become a part of who we are,
a legacy of beauty that lives on.*

Feeling the heat

I was recently reading the current 'Together in Prayer' from the Women's World Day of Prayer. It is a support document produced to help in the preparation of the yearly service. There was a Bible study in it which was very thought provoking.

Malachi 3:3 "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible Study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh that's easy – when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that whatever you are going through, God has his eye on you and will keep facing you, sharing the heat.

Sylvia Fox

Harvest Supper lives!

Harvest Weekend at St Nicolas saw a new beginning of a great tradition – the Harvest Supper. Forty of us gathered in St Nicolas to share food, drumming and news of two of our Parish Action partners; Send a Cow and the diocesan Malawi link. It was a wonderful evening. Within the pleasure of food and friendship, we also learned how effective our gifts to Send a Cow and Malawi are in changing lives and hopes. We also discovered how much we receive in prayer, encouragement and inspiration from our sisters and brothers in Christ across the world. Next time, more please!

Hawkesley School

We begin a new term in good heart with many signs of progress. We have a new leadership team of Graeme Gill, Julie Berrow and Sue Barratt. Please pray for them and for all who are involved in the life of this very special place. During the autumn, there will be a wide-ranging review of all education provision on the Three Estates so please pray for wisdom in discovering the best way forward in serving the gifts and needs of all local children.

Kings Norton Restoration Trust

We hope by the time this magazine is published to have appointed the new Director for Saint Nicolas Place. We owe much to Ed Hart, our Interim Director and our staff colleagues as we come through a difficult time. We expect to be able (at last!) to bring in full signage and interpretation across the site. We hope soon to be able to re-open the Playgroup (watch for news!) and we are at last able to re-organise the shop, offices and café so that all can welcome and work even more effectively. Do pray – and visit!

Our Place Kings Norton

What is it? OPKN is the successor body to the New Deal for Communities Programme. It will only have one full-time staff member, but with the support of the City Council and other agencies - and local groups and residents, it will, I believe, soon grow as a vital partnership for new growth on the Three Estates - and more widely. It will also give us a pattern for fresh commitment to the renewal of the other estate areas of the parish, including Druids Heath, Longfellow and Wychall. Please pray.

Rob Morris

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What's your favourite holiday place?

I have two favourite holiday places, Tenerife and Majorca. But Tenerife is my most favourite as it has a meaning to my heart!

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

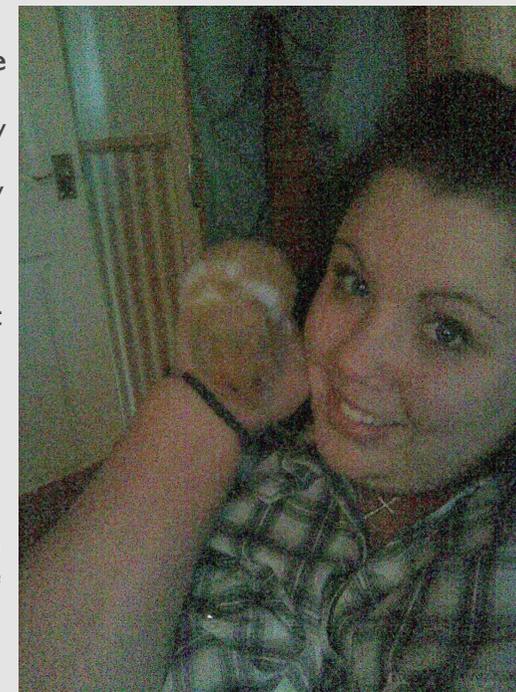
My luxury would have to be a photo of all of my family and my book would have to be my Peter Andre Autobiography - I'm in love with him!!

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

My hope is that I can stay connected with my faith and keep committing to the choir as I have wonderful friends there.

I don't think much needs doing towards the church and the community as we have such a great team that does the different services and the atmosphere at the church is so full of love and peace. (I do feel this every time I walk into the church!)

Maybe we could try and encourage more younger people, such as teenagers, into the church to search for their faith. And maybe we could manage to succeed with a club or an opportunity session for them to be able to do this and to learn about what the Christian faith is about, like I did when I joined the choir! Also, I would like to think that the team that works so hard will be able to continue their hard work and keep succeeding with the great services that they manage to do!!



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

St Nicolas' Chorister, **Rachel Westwood** answers the questions for us this month



Where were you born?

I was born at the Women's Hospital in Birmingham.

What is your occupation?

I'm a playworker at a pre and after school club at St Dunstan's.

Why Kings Norton?

I've lived here all my life and just haven't chosen to move away. All my family live around here, so it's easier to see them.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

My Christian faith has been important to me since I was 16. This is when I joined the choir. My faith has made me who I am today and, because of my faith, I have made such wonderful friends within the church. I know that God is with me when I need him through the good and bad and to advise me when I ask him to. Ever since I joined the choir, faith has been important in my life everywhere I go. If I hadn't have joined the choir then who knows? My faith may not have been important to me! I feel that God advised me to join the choir to make me think about my faith.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Everybody who knows me knows that I love Pink! I love shopping for anything pink. I love meeting my friends and going out for catch ups. But most of all, I love spending time with my family! I also love caring for my hamster, Princess, and going on wonderful holidays!

What are your best memories?

My best memory is my 18th birthday party. I had an amazing time, spending it with all my friends and family.

But the memories that I remember the most are when I go on holiday and spend time with my family.

Also when my mum and I were able to go and see Pink! in concert. That was amazing!

Looking after St Nicolas Church: Needs and Tasks.

Our parish church building is a treasure. We may think that it has always been as we find it now, but within its walls, we can read the story of great hope, great faith – and great change. St Nicolas has embraced and withstood the ebbs and flows of nine centuries of worship and life in Kings Norton. It still does. It began as a place of worship and safety. It still is. In 1550 and 1870 it was radically re-ordered. It still can be – although, as through most of its life, change is best made gradually, not all in one go. We've done that over the last ten years – and that is what we need to do now.

Why? Some work is forced on us by the age and condition of what we now have. Some springs from new life and use in worship and prayer.

A. Whole-Building Needs and Tasks

We must ensure that the whole building is secure, accessible and well-used. Key concerns are:

- Ensuring that every part of the building is safe and fit for purpose;
- Access to building – and its story, welcome, shelter and inspiration;
- Growth of the nave platform as a focus for main worship and events.

Lighting/electrics/sound: We are commissioning a survey to help us develop schemes to meet core needs of good basic lighting in every part of the building, selective lighting of specific areas to enable different uses and safe, effective and versatile power and sound systems.

Heating: Do we replace the nearly life-expired boiler to feed our existing system or do running costs and effectiveness require us to install a new one?

Repair/maintenance: We must carry out all inspection repairs and assess options for cleaning of memorials and stonework.

Access: We must review and act on options for south door/porch, other entrances and floor levels, on access for visually and aurally impaired people and for people of all ages and experience for prayer and worship.

Services/storage: We must develop options for vestry re-ordering and possible extension, w/c, storage, cable access, food and drink provision, etc.

B. Needs and Tasks required by different uses

We will do these incrementally – with consultation at every stage – to ensure growth in access and use and in fitness for purpose for each use:

- Gathering – for corporate/community worship - and for meetings,

performances and events;
Prayer and shelter – for individuals and groups;
Hospitality/welcome for all ages;
Learning and growth;
Heritage – and discovery of past, present and future;
Work.

Priorities for consultation, decision and action:

I believe that we need to focus on three main areas in full consultation with congregation, DAC and heritage bodies. Decisions for other areas cannot be confidently made until these three are settled.

Nave platform area:

We need to decide on the best size and shape of the nave platform and furnishings. Once we are sure about these, we can make a final decision on nave seating.

Our key concerns are to enrich worship, including preaching/teaching and music, by a clear orientation of people, action and music towards the nave platform area and to renew and deepen our focus on 10.30am worship around the nave platform as our main gathering. We can now be confident that this will ensure that 6pm, funerals, baptisms and marriage are also enriched by using the same space.

South door access:

The best decisions on ordering the whole south aisle for prayer, welcome and hospitality need this to be resolved first - so that all may freely enter.

North aisle west end:

We have to sort out the best arrangements for the servery, fairtrade stall, access to storage, building services and vestry. The best decisions on ordering the whole north aisle for hospitality, meeting – and for memory at east end – will follow if the west end is “sorted” first.

How do we move forward?

The Church Council will put in hand all the work on electrics, heating, repairs and access. They will also set up a Steering Group to lead re-ordering consultation with the congregation and also get an idea of likely response from heritage bodies and

Leaf Clearing

Saturdays 30th October, 6th November and 20th November, 10.00am – 12 noon.

Please bring a rake, if possible, and wear gloves and stout footwear. If you would like to take some leaves home with you to make your own homemade compost, please bring your bags.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the Church and greater sustenance may be available in St Nicolas Place after you have worked up a good appetite.

Looking for things to do?

How about a tour at Saint Nicolas Place?!

Fridays and Saturdays are ‘Heritage Days’ at Saint Nicolas Place. On these days you can explore the site unaccompanied between 10.00am and 4.00pm (last entry at 3.30pm) or join a guided tour at 11.00am and 2.00pm. Group tours available at other times by arrangement.

Copies of “King’s Norton: A History” by George Demidowicz & Stephen Price are available for sale at the Saint Nicolas Place gift shop.

What’s On at Saint Nicolas Place?!

Our next event is on Saturday 30th October...“Murder Mystery”!
Enjoy an evening of thrills and spills - when a party is interrupted by murder!

Who did it? Was it the butler? Come along to find out!

Tickets are £16.00 per person including supper. For more information please call **0121 458 1223** or email megan@saintnicolasplace.co.uk

Rebecca's Diary...

Sadly, there is no diary this month as Rebecca has been on a well-earned holiday.

The diary will return next month, no doubt, with more tales of her ministry to the people, dogs and birds that she encounters.



CPAS lifecall: Called for a purpose

Date: 16 October 2010

Time: 10am-4pm

Venue: CPAS, Athena Drive, Tachbrook Park, WARWICK CV34 6NG

What's God's plan for your life? Is he calling you to lead? Have you got what it takes? How do you find out? Big questions! And you probably have many more. CPAS lifecall will help you begin to answer them. Designed for people aged 16-25, this relaxed one-day event will help you explore God's call on your life and help you work out your 'next step'. We'll explore what the Bible says about how God calls and guides. And you'll meet younger ordained or pioneer leaders who will talk honestly about their own calling, their current work and what life's really like in the job. Guest speaker: The Rt Rev Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston.

Cost: £20 refreshments and light lunch provided

For more information, contact:

Name: Faith Claringbull

Telephone: 0121-426-0445

E-mail: ddo@birmingham.anglican.org

Or the CPAS website: www.cpas.org.uk/lifecall

the Diocesan Advisory Committee. (The DAC is the church equivalent of the local authority planning committee and has similar powers.)

We have asked for a report from Stephen Price (the joint author of *King's Norton: A History*) on the condition and heritage importance of our pews to help us make wise decisions. We shall continue to grow in creative, prayerful use of the current lay-out of chairs, pews and nave platform – and learn from it as much as we can. We may also seek DAC to continue the “experimental” nave seating order beyond November.

When we are sure of a reasonably common PCC and DAC mind, we shall commission our architect to make detailed proposals.

To help us do this well, there will be an **Open Meeting** for all on **Saturday 6th November at 11.30am** to report on progress and to seek comment and ideas on the main proposals. We shall also be looking carefully at cost!

We do not expect to have draft plans from our architect much before Christmas, but will then move forward. Please pray for wisdom, faith and imagination so that the treasure of Kings Norton's parish church may grow as it has done for 900 years.

Rob Morris

Being Equipped for Work in God's World: Enriching Discipleship and Leadership

At the end of St Matthew's Gospel, we hear of how the risen Christ commanded his followers to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” It is exciting, and perhaps a little daunting, to realise that Jesus is talking about us: we are called to be his disciples on a lifelong journey of learning, following, serving, growing, loving and sharing. Outlined below are some of the courses, groups and events that will be put on during the coming year to help us to grow and develop as disciples.

- **Way of Life.** This is a very short course that aims to offer people a taste of

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We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church. The next one will be on Saturday 9th October. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kings Norton Farmers Market

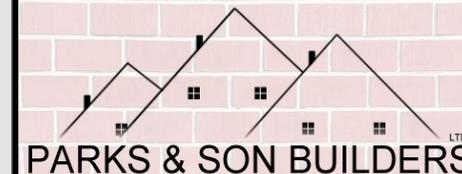
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Get FRESH

Next Market is 9th
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9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.



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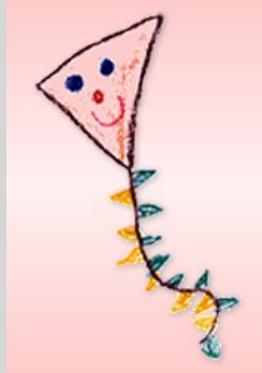
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Mission Focus - Edward's Trust, supported by Hawkesley Church

Edward's Trust was set up in 1989 in memory of Edward Dent, who died aged seven years, in order to support children and families through times of serious illness and bereavement. Initially, fundraising was directed towards providing accommodation for families whilst their child was receiving treatment at the Birmingham Children's Hospital and in offering support after the death of a child.



The newest venture is a Memorial Garden overlooking the River Trent in the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire.

The centre piece is a specially designed 'tree' surrounded by a curved trellis, which makes it a secluded, intimate space, with seating facing into the tree feature. The tree will be hung with copper leaves, each leaf representing a life and engraved with the name of a loved one. Scented climbers of honeysuckle and old fashioned roses climb up the trellis to add perfume to the garden.

Planting is still taking place, but when finished the centre piece will be surrounded by a small woodland where there will be seating, to allow visitors private time away from the main garden. Woodland bulbs of bluebells and snowdrops will be planted in drifts, with wood anemones and fox gloves adding colour and interest. It is hoped that native trees will be planted in this area, plus a cank thorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) from the nearby Cannock Chase.

More information about Edward's Trust can be found on their website at www.edwardstrust.org.uk

Edward's Trust

Supporting children and families during serious illness and bereavement

what Christian faith and life is all about. It is geared particularly towards adult candidates for baptism, and enquirers and newcomers, who may have little or no previous experience of church. (See the article on page 30).

- **Exploring Confirmation.** A slightly longer course offering an opportunity to explore some of the basics of being a Christian. It is aimed particularly for those thinking about being confirmed, although others may well find it useful and would be very welcome.
- **Getting to Grips...** In June of this year, I led a 4-week course called "Getting to Grips with the Bible" which was for anybody wanting to learn more about what the Bible is and how we can best go about reading it. Similar courses will be offered on a regular basis (probably once a term), looking at different aspects of Christian life and faith.
- **Roots.** Many Christians have found huge value in being part of a small group of people who meet regularly to encourage one another in their faith and to share together in prayer and Bible reading. Here in this parish, many have benefitted from Immanuel's Bible Study group, from Cafe T, from Lent Groups and from the time spent 'Opening the Bible' after Candlelit Church on a Wednesday. As well as these, I hope to see a range of "Roots groups" in which people can reflect together on their lives in the light of the Gospel and so grow as disciples.
- **U19.** For teenagers and young people, there are particular challenges and pressures in seeking to live as followers of Jesus. In consultation with the younger members of our churches, I shall be exploring the possibility of setting up a group for the under 19s. This would probably meet once a month, quite possibly in St Nicolas Church on a Saturday evening.

In addition to the groups and courses listed above, there will be a number of one-off events aimed at equipping us to understand and live out our faith, including training sessions for particular ministries within the church, such as leading intercessions, welcoming, reading the lessons and assisting at communion. There are also quite a number of learning and training opportunities organised by the Diocese and other bodies, including courses such as 3D and 'Learning for Discipleship' and I would want to encourage people to consider whether one of these courses may be right for them. I pray that, in St Paul's words, the different gifts that God has given to each one of us may be developed and used "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (*Ephesians 4.12-13*).

Rev John White

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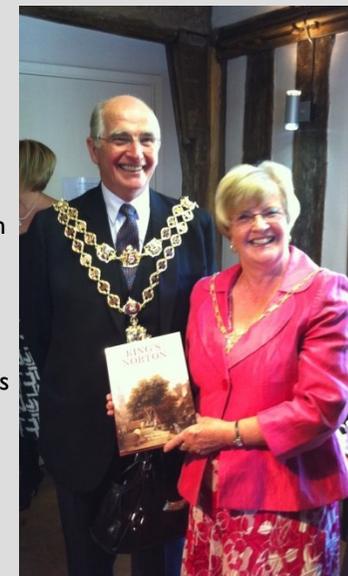
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they gave our visitors a copy of the Parish
Magazine.

Then we had a look at the exterior and
interior of the Tudor Merchants House, the
remains of the Saracens Head and the new
part of the building. Coffee and conversation
followed with staff and volunteers.

Rob had suggested that the visit should be
informally formal and I think we achieved
that. We donated a copy of the book "King's
Norton – a history" by Stephen Price and
George Demidovicz to the Lord Mayor and
Lady Mayoress, who said they had enjoyed
their visit. We certainly had enjoyed their
company.



"A fantastic well organised development. We must return." Len Gregory, Lord
Mayor of Birmingham.

"Every visit reveals a new treasure. Thank you." Gill Gregory, Lady Mayoress.

(Taken from the Saint Nicolas Place Comments Book.)

Greta Lacey and Megan Nass

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Elizabeth Perkins, the Trust Director of the "BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATION TRUST", will tell us about her work at the Society's meeting
on Monday 25th October.

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

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham visit Kings Norton

The Lady Mayoress, Mrs Gillian Gregory, requested a visit to view Kings Norton's historic buildings when she visited the Kings Norton History Society stand at the Birmingham Local History Fair in June. Claire Simpson, the Chairman of the Society, contacted the Lord Mayor's Parlour to arrange a visit to Primrose Hill Farm and St Nicolas Place on Wednesday 1st September.



On a beautiful sunny morning, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress arrived at the Farm which, after many years of neglect and vandalism, was rescued in 2006 by Chris and Sue Higgins of Care through the Millennium. The company spent 3 years and £5 million restoring the house and barn and building seven

detached dwellings on the site, named after owners and tenants of the farm, that can house 39 people with specialised care needs.

During the restoration, the farm and barn were tree-ring dated by English Heritage; the house was dated 1440 with two phases of major alterations in 1475 and 1521, while the barn produced a date of 1457. The Lord Mayor's party were introduced to Sir Robert Dowling, Mr & Mrs Higgins and the Care Manager, Linda Bayley. They then visited the barn where they were entertained and met some of the residents and members of staff; they looked round two of the new houses and then toured the farmhouse before setting off to their next appointment on The Green.

Then it was our turn at St Nicolas Place. First of all we had a look at the fantastic top floor of the Old Grammar School, then a quick visit to St Nicolas Church. The Lord Mayor (Councillor Len Gregory) had attended Kings Norton Boys' Grammar School and so had Lord Kings Norton some years before, so I wanted him to see the plaque in the south aisle. Barry Greenhill and David Smith were on duty as Stewards in Church that morning and

Enriching Relationships & Outreach

Part of any 'new' initiative is to ask:

What do we do already?

and

How can these be done even better?

Much already goes on in this parish to enrich relationships and to reach out to others. This includes all that is done through the welcoming that we do on Sundays, on Wednesdays, on Thursdays; through the introduction to church, baptism and marriage sessions; through the baptism and funeral follow up; through outward giving; through our work with young children; through home communions and through the monthly parish healing service.

To help those already involved and to encourage others to become more involved:

1. Revd John White and myself, in consultation with The Clergy Team (which includes our Readers, Fay & Ruth) are developing **a series of lay training** for those:

- who welcome,
- who are new to church,
- who are seeking baptism as adults,
- who are seeking confirmation,
- who want to find out more about their faith,
- who are part of pastoral care (home communion etc),
- whose faith is long established.

All of these will help to strengthen faith and give confidence in talking to others about our faith.

2. To **raise an awareness of the various charities** supported by this parish, both by individuals and by the PCC and DCC of Hawkesley and Immanuel, new notice boards at the back of St Nicolas will inform, as will articles in the Parish magazine and special events are planned. We have already welcomed Kalantha Brewis, raising money for a project to help fistula patients in Ethiopia (see July magazine); highlighted the work of St Basils with a cardboard shelter at the Kings Norton Festival and enjoyed a wonderful African evening of entertainment, food and information. Coming up is a Troop Aid awareness morning in December; a possible bread making and eating event in February 2011 and, of course, the Hawkesley Pancake evening on March 8th 2011.

3. To better enable **communication** of who we are, what we do and what is happening:

the parish website has been completely redesigned,
the external notice boards have been renewed,
A frame boards now advertise what is currently happening in St Nicolas and Immanuel,
a monthly parish diary is now available,
parish databases have been extensively reviewed and simplified in order to make them better tools for outreach and follow up,
literature available in churches is in the process of being redesigned.

4. The information given to couples enquiring about weddings and baptisms have been simplified and new Wedding packs and Baptism packs are now in use.

5. Links with our uniformed organisations need strengthening.

6. The relationship between the younger children's groups at Hawkesley, Immanuel and St Nicolas needs strengthening.

7. **Messy Mornings** with a biblical theme for adults and children have begun on the 2nd Saturdays of the month, 10am - noon in St Nicolas Church to coincide with The Farmers' Market.

8. **Parish Social Events** – I am exploring the idea of a social events group to plan and run 2 or 3 social events per year. (If you are interested in being part of this, please let me know.)

Rev Jayne Crooks

Women's Fellowship

Our October meeting will take place in St. Nicolas Church on Thursday 7th October at 7.30pm and will be our annual Communion Service during which our new members are enrolled.

All are welcome to attend.

Alison Blumer, Chairman

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SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

Way of Life An Introduction to Christian Faith

'Way of Life' is the name of a group that will meet in St Nicolas' Church for just three Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm, beginning on Monday 11th October. It will give a chance, especially for those fairly new to the life of the church, to begin to explore what Christian faith is all about. It will be particularly suitable for any adults who are thinking about being baptised, or who are simply interested in finding out a little more as to what it is that Christians believe and what it may mean to be a follower of Jesus. So come and see...

If you would like to know more, have a word with Rev John (phone 07854 412949 or email john.white@kingsnorton.org.uk) or just come along to the first session on 11th October.

St Paul's Institute

St Paul's Cathedral have recently launched St Paul's Institute, a think tank which seeks to foster an informed Christian response to the most urgent ethical and spiritual issues of our times: financial integrity, economic theory and the meaning of the common good. It now has its own dedicated website: www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk

Visitors to the website will find theological commentary, video interviews, original research and analysis, as well as daily news aggregation. The Institute will also host a series of lectures, debates and study days.

Little Fishes for 0-5 year olds - St. Anne's West Heath

A new group for 0-5 year olds with a Biblical focus. 45 minutes of Christian based activities and 45 minutes for chat, coffee and play. Listen to a Bible story through music (songs, percussion, dance) and also a linked craft activity. Come along with your children or just to get ideas for your own children's groups.

Venue: George Goodger Hall, in the car park of St. Anne's Church, Liley Lane, West Heath, B31.

When: 4th Friday of the month (may be more next year).

Time: 10:00-11:30

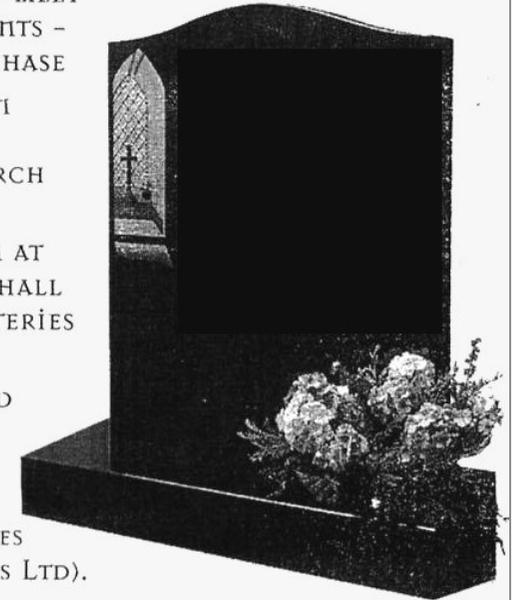
Price: £1 per child (25p per drink).

Contact: Erin James 0121 624 2202.

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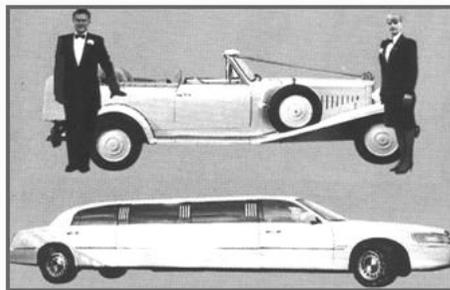
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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

We celebrated with Paige at her baptism on Sunday 22nd August. It was a lovely service led by Jayne.

It was good to be all together over the bank holiday weekend at the service in St. Nicolas.

At the end of August, Channel 4 showed a film called 'I am slave'. It is a story inspired by real-life events and is "the extraordinary tale of one woman's fight for freedom from modern-day slavery - a powerful story of imprisonment, cruelty and despair, but also one of hope and humanity. The story begins when 12-year-old Malia, from the Nuba Mountains, is snatched from the arms of her father during a raid on their village. Sold into slavery, she spends the next six years of her life working for a Sudanese family. Then, aged 18 years old, she is sent to London where the brutality and inhumanity that she experiences continues, only under a different roof. Hidden in plain sight, Malia's desperate situation goes unnoticed or uncared for by everyone she comes into contact with. Stripped

of her passport and living in terror of what might happen to her family in the Sudan should she speak out, Malia is trapped in a ruthless, alien environment. Despairing of the life to which she has been condemned, Malia calls on all her strength to make a dramatic escape back to Sudan to the father who never gave up hope that she was alive and who never stopped searching for her."

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/i-am-slave/episode-guide/series-1/episode-1>

I watched with a pounding heart as her story unravelled. I am amazed that slavery is still happening in our world today. If you get the chance to see this film please do...it's a reminder of those who cannot speak out. Please pray for those who are slaves and for those that enslave them; and for organisations such as Stop the Traffik and Hope for Justice who are fighting to end this injustice.

Sarah Crooks

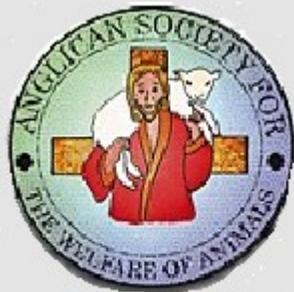
Mission Focus - Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals & Compassion in World Farming

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals – putting animals back onto the agenda of the Church.

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals is a UK based Christian organisation. Their main aim is to raise awareness of animal welfare issues within the Anglican Church and the wider Christian community. They are ecumenical and welcome all Christian denominations as members and supporters.

Lately, the secular animal welfare movement has been highly critical of the apparent lack of concern shown by the Church for the suffering of animals. This has not always been the case,

however, and Christians have been involved in animal welfare reform throughout history. For example, the RSPCA, the first animal protection society, was founded by an Anglican priest, Rev'd Arthur Broome. Well known Christians such as C S Lewis, John Wesley and William Wilberforce all spoke out against animal cruelty. It is their aim to put animal welfare back onto the agenda of the Church.



As the Psalmist says in Psalm 148, animals in their amazing variety of species were all created for the glory of God and to praise His name.

They were not created for our exploitation and domination. It is Animal Welfare Sunday on 3rd October and at Immanuel Church, David Moorcroft will be leading a service to celebrate this day. Focusing on animals and their welfare, it is hoped to be a very informative service. Please join us at 10:30 if you are interested.

For more information, please go to www.aswa.org.uk or to www.ciwf.org.uk (Compassion in World Farming). Compassion in World Farming is the leading farm animal welfare charity. It was founded over 40 years ago in 1967 by a British farmer who became horrified by the development of modern, intensive factory farming. Today, they campaign peacefully to end all cruel factory farming practices. They believe that the biggest cause of cruelty on the planet deserves a focused, specialised approach so they only work on farm animal welfare.

David Moorcroft

August 2010 Baptisms

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

1 st August	Cody-J George John Smith
1 st August	Dominic John Finnegan
1 st August	Oscar George Perrett
1 st August	Samuel Richard Hodges
15 th August	Jhenson Lexx Gauntlett
15 th August	Clara-Lee Gray
15 th August	Evie Taylor Gray
22 nd August	Paige Gillian Moorcroft

August 2010 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

7 th August	Thomas Paul Wale and Joanne Emma Niblett
7 th August	Peter Roger Clifton and Samantha Elizabeth Don
7 th August	Benjamin Daniel Cox and Michelle Dianne Hayes
8 th August	Christopher David Matthews and Elizabeth Anne Sewell-Flint
14 th August	Timothy Edward Robson Hughes and Mariette Louise Cox
21 st August	Andrew Wells and Stacey Taylor
21 st August	Andrew Pearson and Sharon Armstrong
21 st August	Charles Stanley Buller and Sarah Elizabeth Carol Spence
27 th August	Philip Maynard and Claire Sian Maclver
28 th August	Paul William Cahill and Gemma Elizabeth Hiller
29 th August	Darren Roy Cox and Ruth Victoria Woods
29 th August	Jo Davis and Victoria Sandy

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friends with everyone, not the selected few. This theme is continued with letters written by early Christians to new Christian communities throughout the land.

To simplify the overall theme of the Bible you could say that...

The Bible tells us that there is a God, that he made the whole world and everything in it and that he made you and me. It tells us that God loves us and wants to be our friend.

It also tells us how we too can be friends with God.

So, to really know what God is like, we need to read our Bibles. We can look to Jesus and the way he lived and died. Jesus teaches us how to have a better relationship with God, something we only know by reading and listening to the stories told in our Bibles. It doesn't matter that some parts are very old and things have changed since they were written because God hasn't changed a bit. He is the same now as he was then. God still loves us and wants a relationship with us. God still wants to be our friend.

Dear God,
We give thanks for the Bible and all it
tells us about you.
Thank you for always being there, for
loving us and wanting to be our friend.
In Jesus' name
Amen.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone!

Some might say that the Bible is boring; I think the opposite... for me, the Bible is the most exciting book EV-ER written.

Together, let's explore what the Bible is about and if we can still use it today in our own relationships with God.

The word 'BIBLE' means 'Book of Books'. This is because the Bible isn't just one book, but actually a whopping 66 books put together under two different sections. One is called the Old Testament and the other is the New Testament. Lots of different people wrote the Bible, all people who had a relationship with God and loved him very much. Sometimes God even spoke to them in dreams and through visions so they would know what he wanted to say.



The Old Testament is the oldest part of the Bible. (Even older than our mums and dads!) It tells us all about creation and God's earliest relationships with people like Adam and Eve and Abraham. At this time it was thought that God's love was only for the Jews. The Old Testament has love stories, funny stories and sad stories. It even has songs and poems.

The New Testament begins with the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Gospels tell us all about Jesus. Jesus changed people's relationships with God. Jesus shows that God's love is for the whole world, that God wants to be

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August 2010 Funerals

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

- 3rd August Mildred Diane Smith, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 4th August Roy Frederick Butler, 62. Service at St Nicolas Church,
burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 4th August Malcolm Maurice Frank Linley, 69. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 5th August Keith James Harbun, 69. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 6th August Muriel Audrey Cross, 93. Service in St Nicolas Church,
cremation at Robin Hood.
- 9th August Edith Winifred Peach, 93. Service at St Nicolas Church,
burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 12th August Michael John Priestley, 69. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 13th August Lucy Maud Hume, 89. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 13th August Ionie Zelda James, 79. Service in St Nicolas Church,
burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 16th August Freda Doreen Ladd, 89. Service in St Nicolas Church,
burial at Brandwood Cemetery.
- 19th August Hida Freda Hockett, 85. Service in St Nicolas Church,
burial at Lodge Hill.
- 19th August Joseph Kenneth Peacock, 86. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 23rd August Emma Louise Middleton, 35. Interment of ashes in
St Nicolas churchyard.
- 23rd August Rosemary Lee, 87. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas
Churchyard.
- 31st August Ida Doreen Taylor, 86. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 31st August Herbert Regen, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

At Saint Nicolas Place

- Women's Fellowship** 7.30pm 1st Thursdays. Secretary: Carol Devic
- Seniors' Club (Over 65's)** Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Christine Bowen & Revd Rebecca Pullin
- Guides and Brownies** Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 - 9.00 pm
- Guides and Brownies** Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm
at Hawkesley Church Centre Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm
- Scouts and Cubs** (198th & 129th Birmingham)
Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall, Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm Penny Hattersley 628 5694
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45 pm Karen Urwin 430 6005
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

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Staff Team Acting Director: Ed Hart. Commercial Manager: Kerry Horsfield.
Heritage and Learning Manager: Megan Nass. Bookings & Enquiries: Andrew Driscoll.

Kings Norton Parish Office

St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU. 0121 458 3289
e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Monday to 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.

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 (Mon-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 Priest)	458 3289 / 459 3733
The Revd Rebecca Pullin (Curate)	458 3289 / 458 2950
The Revd Donald Sampson (Methodist Minister)	458 3289 / 476 7223
Mrs Fay Fearon (Reader)	458 3289 / 451 1914
Mrs Ruth Howman (Reader)	458 3289

WARDENS

St. Nicolas	Stephen Plant, Paul Shelton	458 3289
Hawkesley	Jim Clarke	550 3455 / 07939 838086
	Peter Smith	453 9931
Immanuel	Gerry Moorcroft	243 0573

PCC (Church Council)	Secretary: Sylvia Fox	Treasurer: Jonathan Crooks
Parish Administrators:	Christine Bowen, Christine Gadd, Sylvia Fox	
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
	<i>Tuesdays: Training and groups 5.45-8.30pm;</i>	
	<i>Fridays: Juniors 6.30-7.45 pm, Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.</i>	
	<i>Handbell Ringers, Mondays 7.30 pm</i>	
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

Treasurer (Subscriptions)	Alan Haynes 459 4711	editor@kingsnorton.org.uk
Advertising Manager	Alison Blumer	486 2837
Parish Website	Evelyn Finn	via Parish Office 458 3289
	David Ash	e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

Bell Ringers Ringing Master

Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower
Jim Dunn 744 6334



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All Midlands Co-operative Funeral Homes in the region can be contacted on the numbers above, these include: Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Great Barr, Hall Green, Kingstanding, Kitts Green, Oldbury, Pype Hayes, Quinton, Redditch, Rubery, Selly Oak, Shirley, Solihull, Weoley Castle, West Bromwich, Yardley and Yardley Wood

www.undertakers.uk.com





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, Kings Norton, B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Holy Communion Our main service. Oasis for 5-11's

2nd Sunday: 10.30am Parade Service – All Age Worship 11.45am Matins (BCP)

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 Compline (Night Prayer) with a reflection

4th/5th Sundays: Special services or Evensong (BCP)

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist) *at Hawkesley Church Primary 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 – Morning Worship;

4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

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.

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.

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.