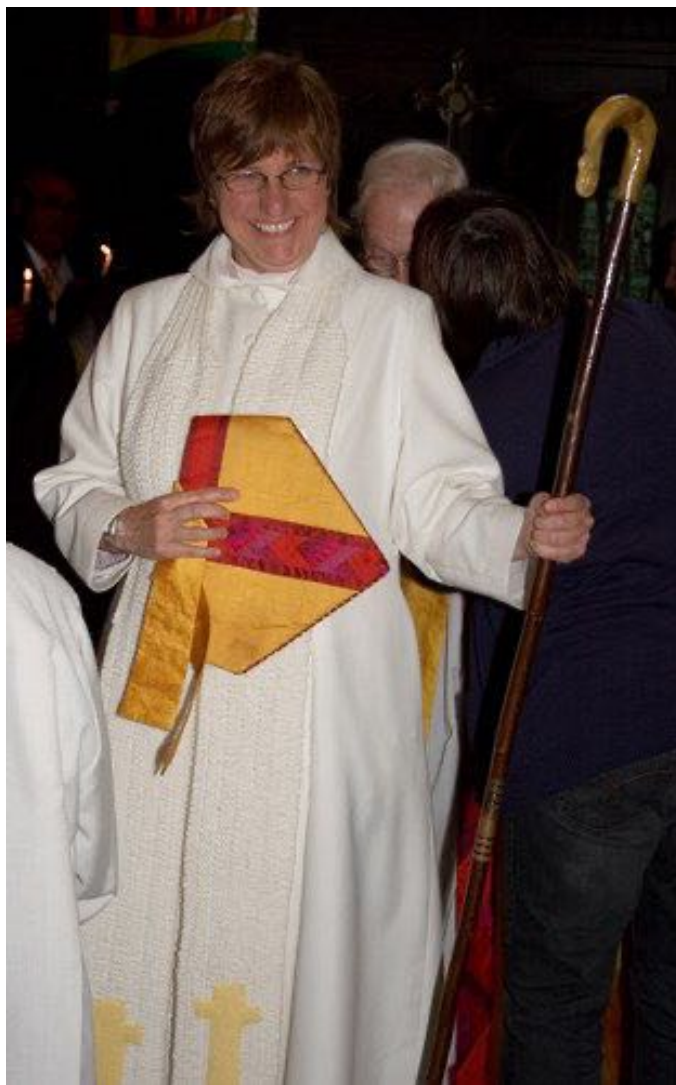
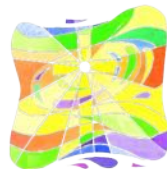


The Parish of Kings Norton

June 2009

50p

Kings Norton Parish Magazine



A Church of England Team Parish incorporating the churches of
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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

Welcome.....

In this month's magazine, we look back at the Confirmation Service held at St Nicolas Church in May.

We have a report from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on page 7. We said farewell and thank you to Sian who has finished her term as Church Warden. She has written some thoughts from her time on page 10.

There is another interesting interview with a parishioner on page 29.

We also say goodbye to Karen who has been writing the children's page for the last few years, although she will continue writing about her adventures with PRODH. Thank you, Karen, for all your input to date.

Alan Haynes, Editor.



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Thank you.

**Items for inclusion in the July issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 12th June 2009**

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

From The Rector

What do we really believe?

“God’s grace will change us in love as we let God work in us.”

“What do you really believe?” an old priest once asked a group of us excited young clergy. We had several goes at a brief summary of basic Christian faith. I’m sure that each of our attempts was a very impressive account of true belief – but the old priest shook his head at every one.

Frustrated, we stopped and asked him, “What is it then?”

He replied, “What you really believe is only that which you allow to change your life.”

We went very quiet. Suddenly, our lists of key doctrines, of true marks of right belief and of ways of presuming to judge who was a real Christian and who wasn’t, all seemed very thin.

How had we really allowed our lives to be changed by all that we said about believing in God the Father, maker of all things, in God the Son, born for us, dying and rising, in God the Holy Spirit, breathing life into church, world and people?

Not very much. We used the things

God has made as though they belonged only to us. We lived too often as though life and others who lived it were just part of a play which we wanted to write, rather than precious gifts in Christ. We clung on to old habits and left no room for all that is fresh and new-made. Above all, we did not know how to love others for God’s sake and theirs.

The old priest smiled at this group of once earnest, now downcast, young men (as we all were in those happily far-off days).

“Do you believe that God will help you to change – and has already begun to – in your baptism, in calling you here and in giving all that you need to grow?”

“Yes” we said, rather desperately.

“Then you have begun to be God’s treasure. Keep believing that – and you will have nothing to fear.” We smiled – at last!

On Sunday 10th May at Confirmation, we received the same blessing and

assurance through another wise and loving elder. Bishop Tony (a priest since 1948!) came to confirm six from Kings Norton and six from Holy Cross, Billesley who shared our service.

He led us through the astonishing sayings of Matthew 13.44-46 where Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like someone who finds a treasure hidden in a field – and then goes and sells all that he has to buy that field and have that treasure.

The treasure is God’s gift of life and love, given to each one of us in very different ways. We find it hard to believe that we have this treasure. We hide it. We get so full of our shortcomings and difficulties that we forget what we are made for – to grow in Christ’s love and life for all creation. But God doesn’t forget.

Through the giving of the Holy Spirit, he confirms us in his love and purpose in all our different gifts – and we have nothing to fear.

Following the joys of Holy Week and Easter, this too was a huge blessing – and a deep and warm stirring of what we already know but so quickly forget. God’s grace will change us in

love as we let God work in us, in every part of who and what we are – and in all that we and the world needs.

Keep trusting that and, in all our challenges and changes, we will have nothing to fear – and everything to hope for.

As we say so often, “This is the faith of the church. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” It’s where we began in birth and baptism. It’s how we grow – and will go on growing. May you also know the treasure that is already within you.

Rob Morris



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2009 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

We met on Monday 27th April in church – and had a very encouraging meeting.

We gave our very large thanks to Sian Smith at the end of her three years' faithful devoted service as warden. We welcomed Isobel Lewis and Anne Hughes to the PCC and recorded our thanks to others stepping down, especially to Richard Carter, our Covenant Officer.

And if you missed it, another General Meeting will soon be here!

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting has to be held by the end of April each year – but this year it came at the wrong time! Several major matters affect us all but are not yet complete.

We agreed to meet again on Mon 22nd June at 7pm in church

to consider and decide on:

- Completion of the Parish Review;
- Review of Parish Finances following the sale of St Nicolas Hall and the completion of Restoration;
- Appointment of a new Team Vicar;
- Quinquennial Inspection of St Nicolas;
- Changes at Hawkesley School;
- Response to the Diocesan Transforming Church initiative;
- Other matters from the annual report.

Please put this in your diary now – and be with us. It matters!

2008 was a very eventful year, to say the least. At 2008 APCM I said, “The Holy Spirit promises to bring out yet greater difference and gift among us – yet will draw us together even more firmly in love. As ever, we are God’s pilgrim people – and so have much more of God’s grace and purpose to discover in all that lies ahead.”

Parish Review:

We began last September and shall complete the work during the summer.

We have already found:

- This is a very **complex** and **dynamic** parish with huge **potential** - and much to **risk** in faith.
- **Collegiality** in clergy and lay ministries is essential for the flourishing of each part and the whole. We need each other.
- The "**centre**" of Team, Parish Office and St Nicolas is crucial. It now needs fresh emphasis to serve common vision and tasks and all the parts of our Parish and Team life so that all are fruitful in God and for God.

Financial Report for 2008:

2008 saw rises in:

- Common Fund of £1775 (Rise of £3671 in 2009 to £76000 and an expected rise of some £3000 for 2010);
- Planned Giving of 12% (But still not at pre 2007 levels);
- Fees from Occasional Offices of 21%;

and decreases in:

- Income from lettings as expected;
- Investment income & stock assets – due to volatility of the stock market and interest rates;
- Office wages and salaries;
- Clergy expenses.

Income Tax recovered on Gift Aided donations was £13248 this year. This is up on 2007 as more people Gift Aided their giving/donations. There have been no legacies this year.

The process of registering with the Charity Commissioners is underway. We have to show that we are providing “services of public benefit”. Maintaining our buildings alone will not be enough to satisfy the Commissioners.

Restoration – of buildings and people!

Four years of struggle brought the official opening on 13th June 2008 by the BBC Director-General. On Saturday 13th June this year, we are celebrating! It's not easy making our buildings sustainable in a very hard economic climate – but we will. They have already won a Civic Trust commendation and a growing place in the heart and life of so many.

For Restoration, we have the challenge of new growth, of adjusting to fresh changes and of embedding the two buildings in the broader life of church, community and heritage. For St Nicolas Church and Hawkesley buildings, we have the same task – and must maintain growth at Immanuel, on Druids Heath and in the whole mission and ministry of God's people here.

God's purpose and promise for the parish church of Kings Norton is far larger than any one part. To be fulfilled, we need each other.

Pastoral Services:

In some churches these are called “occasional offices”. They aren't in Kings Norton. Occasions? Yes! Now and then? No! And they are not people “just using the church”!

And all receive a real team response here, with clergy and laypeople working together. We always welcome others to share this mission.

Baptisms

We changed the service times for afternoon Baptisms from 3.15pm to 4pm in January 2009 – and now baptise only four children at each service. Numbers attending are growing and we need longer to get ready for them. Thanks to the able baptism sidespeople, drawn from every congregation, we are able to offer a rich experience to the hundreds who come. They hear God's Word – and begin to respond – and most have not been in church for ages.

Marriage

If marriage is in decline, the news has not yet reached Kings Norton. We took 73 marriages last year in St Nicolas – a 20% rise. There are slightly fewer in 2009, but are already strongly growing for next year. The easing of marriage regulations allows more to be married here, but maybe it also has to do with what we offer in welcome, support and preparation.

From first enquiry to the day itself, thanks to our Marriage Clerks, Vergers, Office staff, to our hospitality team – and to the welcome received when they come on Sundays, couples and their families are finding much more of God's welcome and promise than they expected from "church". It's called Mission! The fruit is sometimes slow in coming, but it grows in new friendship, new faith and new relationship with God and church.

Funerals

Although we are doing fewer funerals at crematoria, the number in church is growing; 87 last year - and 40 already in 2009. All are a serious privilege for us; many bring really heavy demands in sensitivity, welcome and care.

Thanks (again!) to our Vergers, Office staff and organists, we are always able to offer a setting and ethos in which each funeral and every mourner is cherished and supported. They all matter – and within them, we who minister are able to speak with confidence of Christ's living hope and promise in Death and Resurrection.

Bereavement visiting, Candlelit Church, Open Church and other support strengthen our response in care and mission. It really matters.

Bellringers

This is an epochal year in the Tower. Ray Aldington is moving to Winchester after 42 years as Ringing Master and many more as a Guild member – an astonishing record. He takes with him our warmest thanks and good wishes. George Harrison has stepped down as Ringing Master, but with others (including new ringers – more always welcome) he continues as a faithful provider of a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Rob Morris

CHURCH WARDEN MEMORIES

It was a privilege to be asked to represent Kings Norton in 2006 as church warden and over the three years I began to understand how complex the role was. When I listened to the Archdeacon explain that the role is about representing the whole of the Parish - those attending church, those not attending church and those on the edge - I was struck by the awesome responsibility of representing such diversity.

I learnt so much from working with Karen and then Stephen and developed a trust and lasting friendship with them.

Now that I have stepped down from the role, I wanted to share some memories with you which I hope capture what it has meant to me.

- Feeling part of something special!
- A deep gratitude to those who helped me understand about buildings, finance, lighting, heating, sound systems and churchyards – all part of the role but not something I had a lot of experience of!
- A deep admiration for those who work tirelessly in so many different roles to enable the church to be open at different times and services to take place in all three churches in the parish.
- The commitment and flexibility of all those involved in rotas.
- Rob's ability to be inclusive and his message that God is love that enabled me to stay at Kings Norton in the first place.
- Entering St Nicolas when no one is there and absorbing the sense of peace and years of prayer.
- Standing at the back of church during Sunday Services with an overwhelming sense of love and 'holding' of the congregation - a feeling of us being surrounded by a circle of God's love.
- The anxiety of counting – and getting the right numbers to the servers!!
- Inviting everyone to communion or a blessing and making sure all have been invited before I kneel at the altar myself to receive.
- Panicking when the microphones have died and I am responsible for the sound box!!!
- Wanting so much to be a channel for God's love.
- Getting to know the individual members of the clergy team and readers, recognising their many different strengths, their commitment to the parish, their love and their sheer hard work.
- Thanking God for Donald Sampson and all that he notices.

- A sadness that I couldn't spend as much time at Hawkesley and Immanuel Churches due to the demands of St Nicolas, but a deep sense of connection with them.
- A deep respect for all those who have worked and continue to work to make the restored buildings a meaningful community resource.
- The serenity of the 8 o'clock service and the sense of loyalty of those in the congregation to each other.
- The diversity and openness of the 10.30 congregation at St Nicolas.
- The peace of the 6 o'clock service.
- The opportunities of Candlelit Church.
- Being proud when I see those who offer something of themselves that is outside their comfort zone.

There are so many memories I have to thank you for.

Sian Smith



Sian standing down at the recent APCM.

(Photo: Graham Boulton)

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We are therefore asking you to join us for this Fun Walk/Jog, taking place on Friday, 31st July 2009 at 10.00am. We have a regular 2km walk there at 10am every Friday if you would like to come along and get some practice. There are also other walks in the area: Frankley on a Monday, Kings Norton Park on a Tuesday and Manor Farm Park on a Wednesday, all at 10.00am.

For more information and an application pack, please call us. We also offer a range of other health improvement services, so to find out more call Fit4Life on 0121-675-0060/61 or text exercise to 07824-694-240



Mel Driscoll, Fit4Life Officer, with a group of walkers.

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Good Energy works in partnership with Friends of the Earth in the UK. Their latest campaign is the energy revolution.

In December last year, the UK signed up to an EU target to deliver 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. Currently, the figure stands at less than 2%, one of the worst records in Europe. Britain could potentially be a world leader in developing green energy: we are the windiest country in Europe and have the continent's best wave and tidal resources.

In June, the government is due to set out how it will meet the 15% target with the publication of its Renewable Energy Strategy. Friends of the Earth is campaigning to make sure the Government delivers the energy revolution we really need: a programme to hit the 15% target and make renewables the number one resource of energy in the UK.

You can support the push for the Renewable Energy Strategy to deliver the changes we need by writing to your MP. More details available on the Friends of the Earth website: www.foe.co.uk/build_pressure.

Prayer & World Needs Group

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Kings Norton History Society's lecture programme will recommence on Monday 28th September with the talk on 'Birmingham's Terracotta Buildings' by Nicola Coxon.

Meanwhile, the Society is staging two exhibitions on 'Farms in Kings Norton' - at the 3rd Birmingham Lives History Fair in the Radisson SAS Hotel on Sunday 14th June from 11.00am to 4.30pm; and at Kings Norton Festival on Saturday 11th July. You are very welcome to attend both events.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

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Were you living in Kings Norton during World War 2? Did you 'Dig for Victory'?

Maybe you had an Anderson Shelter in your back garden? Perhaps you were in the Home Guard, W.R.V.S. or the Auxiliary Forces?

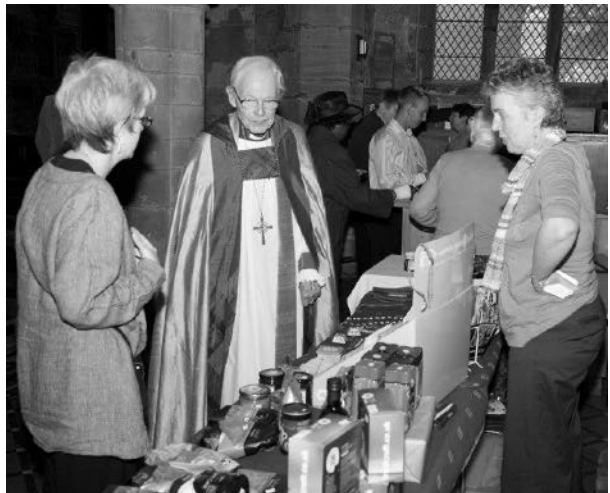
St Nicolas Place needs your reminiscences. Those of you who are regulars at St Nicolas Place will know that we have a fantastic Heritage and Learning Programme based on the people and events that feature in the 517 year history of our buildings. There is already a successful Tudor Heritage Unit: schools can visit for the day and learn about everyday life

in Tudor Kings Norton (wearing the clothes, writing with quill pens, etc.).

A World War 2 Unit is in the process of being developed, linked to the National Curriculum, and this is why we need your memories. It is planned to teach children what it was like to be a child during the war, particularly in Kings Norton.

Any information you have will be gratefully received and will form part of our Kings Norton Archive. Please contact Emma Banks, Heritage and Learning Manager at emma@saintnicolasplace.co.uk, phone 0121 458 1223 or just drop into the office. Thank you.

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April 2009 Baptisms

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”

5th: Lexi Bradbury-Smith

Lacie Jayne Hall

Matthew Ronald McDowall

11th: Leanne Elizabeth Taylor

12th: Jacob Karl Rogers

Amelie Nicola Doerry

19th: Jack Matthew Ainley

Emelia-Angel Elizabeth Dunseith

Sam Finley Eastwood

Brooke Tina Marie Hayward

April 2009 Marriages

“Those whom God has joined together”

4th: Thomas Williams and Kelly Finnegan

18th: Darren Wood and Lesley Fitchew

25th: Marc Bird and Stacey Fuller

March 2009 Funerals

“I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord”

24th: Theresa Cassidy, 89. Burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

25th: Sidney Evans, 81. Service at St Nicolas, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

26th: Angela Mary Moy, 87. Service at St Nicolas, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

30th: Gerald Vincent Brennan, 39. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation at Robin Hood

31st: Edward Dyke, 93. Service St Nicolas, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

April 2009 Funerals

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

1st: Richard Orme, 97. Service at St Nicolas, burial at Brandwood Cemetery.

8th: Gordon Arthur Walton, 65. Service at St Nicolas, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

14th: Alan Esmond Robinson, 64. Service at St Nicolas, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

15th: John Penry Jenkins, 82. Service at St Nicolas, burial at Lodge Hill.

16th: Evelyn Clare Richardson, 95. Service at St Nicolas, cremation at Lodge Hill.

17th: William, known as Gordon Green, 76. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

21st: Doris Cooper, 92. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

21st: Frances Eva Dyke, 85. Service at St Nicolas with burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

23rd: Junko Townsend, 81. Internment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.

23rd: William George Lamb, 79. Service at St Nicolas with burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

23rd: Terence Arthur Townsend, 81, Internment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.

23rd: Edgar, known as Ted Sidney Handley, 84. Internment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.

29th: Dulcie Rosine Ottley, 89. Internment of Ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.

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Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath

Good news on the recycling project shed...we have found some builders!! And, even better, they are from the estate themselves. The community helping their community - what could be better? God is good, as are his workers, the wonderful people who have been trawling around helping me find people.

The Festival Committee have been working away at getting ready for the Druids Heath Festival on June 20th (down the bottom of Manningford Road). Do make sure it is in your diary - we know it's going to be a great event this year and, with it all being free, should be a real blessing to the area.

I have also been doing some work for the Extended Provision schools cluster. We started a Media Project with five children from each of the four Primary schools in the cluster. They all came along to their first session on Saturday (I'm writing this on May 17th) and we had a fantastic time together. Having been out of teaching for two years now, I must admit, it was lovely to be back doing some work with the children. And what a wonderful, polite, sensible and fun bunch they were. We all had a great day!

God's Blessings,
Karen Urwin.



THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

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Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON 476 7223

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

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RAY DAVIS 458 5774
PETER SMITH 453 9931
Immanuel (Warden) ALAN HAYNES 459 4711
(Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE
(Deputy Warden) GERRY MOORCROFT

Candlelit Church Co-ordinator.....JESS BOULTON 458 6925

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Secretary.....JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS. <i>The following activities are held at St Nicolas Place, unless stated otherwise:</i>	458 3328
Women's Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
Seniors' Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
PRODH	KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)	430 6005
Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)	Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 244 0789
Guides and Brownies	Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
Guides and Brownies	At Hawkesley Church Centre:- Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
Kings Norton Society	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
Kings Norton History Society	Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.	
Parish Magazine Editor	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
Parish Magazine Treasurer	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	EVELYN FINN, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	
St Nicolas Place Staff:-		www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk
Centre Manager	GRAEME CLARKE	458 1223
Programme Dev & Marketing	CLIFF COTTERILL	458 1223
Financial/Administrator Asst	KERRY HORSFIELD	458 1223
Heritage/Learning Manager	EMMA BANKS	458 1223
Duty Supervisor	ALAN KAVANAGH	458 1223

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

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

tel:- 0121 458 3289 fax:- 0121 459 2529

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



SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

Tiny Tots

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

Open Church

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

Candlelit Church

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,
Shannon Road/Old Portway.

Every Sunday – Worship and Children’s Activities (5-11’s):

10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

10.30 am, 2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Immanuel Church

Meeting at Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and
Wychall Lane.

Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary
school age.

10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

10.30 am, 2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;

10.30 am, 4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Druids Heath

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

Café T

Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from
all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group
context. Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.00pm.

For Young People

Oasis/Sunday School at each Church (see above)

Uniformed Organisations and Choir—see the
‘Who’s who’ pages or contact the Parish Office.

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,

Birmingham, B38 8RU Tel 0121 458 3289 Fax 0121 459 2529

parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk

www.kingsnorton.org.uk

The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.

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The telephone access number for these services is
0121 303 1234.

This number cannot be found in the current telephone directory and old numbers to individual services do not have a forwarding message.



Many thanks to all who donated prizes and who supported us on 9th May at the Tombola Stall at the Farmer's Market. £185 was raised at this event for Christian Aid.

Carol Devic and Marlene Collyer

Congratulations to Carol and Marlene! Many thanks also to all who organised and supported the Hawkesley coffee morning, raising £200 for Christian Aid - well done! And our thanks for all who helped with the House to House Collections.. A grand total will be included in next month's magazine.

Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. Our speaker for the evening will be Graeme Clark who is going to talk to us about Dr Samuel Johnson, which I'm sure will be very interesting. We look forward to welcoming newcomers and friends. Do come along and join us.

We are having an outing to Bodenham Arboretum, near Kidderminster, on 11th June 09. Cost £18: this includes entrance and guided tour. If you are interested, please ring Carol on 458 7667 or Marlene on 459 1636

Marlene Collyer, Chairman

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CALOR GAS STOCKIST



PHONE FALLON'S FIRST



Nicky Owen

This month we meet a regular worshipper at Immanuel



Where were you born? At Maypole, not far away!

What is your job? I'm an Emotional Therapist.

What are your hobbies? I'm learning sign language, I like eating out, walking, going to the cinema and I'm a bit of a trekie!

What are your best memories? Going sky diving (see my picture!), having my children and meeting David, my partner.

What's your favourite holiday place? The Isle of Wight. My friend lives there. It's very peaceful and relaxing for us to visit and explore the island. I'd like to visit Canada and New Zealand.

How did you become a Christian? My family have a long tradition of being Methodists, so naturally I went to Sunday School. I was glad to be involved with a youth club and weekends away and, through this, a Christian Choir and Rock Opera. This, I think, kept me in the church and so when I went to University in Loughborough, I looked

for a church to go to with a friend I'd made. The church was Pentecostal. It was a small, friendly church and Eileen and I became involved in their youth groups and Bible studies. I think it was at this point I made a serious commitment to being a Christian and following the Christian path. I have been very fortunate to have met 'special' people on my life journey who have inspired me by their 'presence' and 'peace' through their relationship with God. The first of which was Diego, a minister from Uruguay, who opened up my mind to possibilities of travel and stories from other parts of the world. And this is how I ended up working voluntarily for CARE Nicaragua, spending three years there in 1984-1987. This changed my life completely. Since then, and more recently, I came to worship at Immanuel, a lovely community church, where God's Spirit can be felt.

Why is your Christian faith important to you? My faith defines who I am, what my values are and how I want to live my life.

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What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton? To grow, to respond to the needs of the people of the church and the community, to be a guiding light, to speak out when necessary and to give people hope.

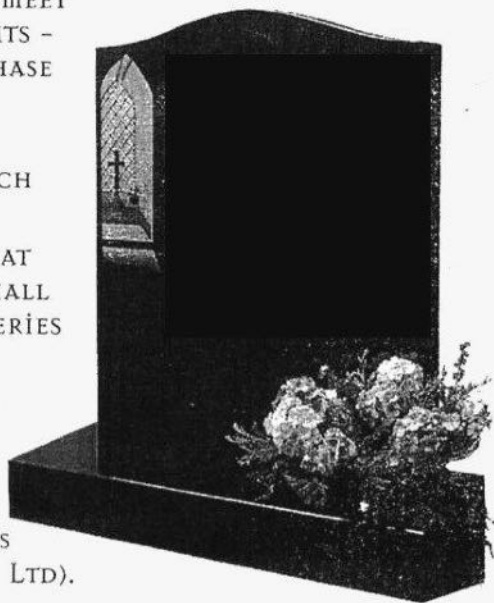
What are your hopes for you? To continue growing in my Christian faith and life. To develop my career. To guide my children as best as I can and to be a good partner. To enjoy life and to have as many different experiences as possible. To explore the world.



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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



Our links with Fairway and Wychall Primary Schools continue as we have a representative on each Governing Body, have organised a visit from Rhema Theatre Company who perform Bible-based plays for the children, we have bought each child from the Year 6 classes a Scripture Union booklet entitled "It's Your Move!" which helps to prepare them for senior school (with a little Biblical input along the way), we delivered school newsletters for Fairway to each house on Wychall Estate and we provide weekly reading/maths volunteers, who are gratefully received. More volunteers are always needed, so if you are interested to know more, please give me a call on 459 4711 (CRB checks will be completed through the schools). Another simple way to support the schools is by collecting supermarket vouchers which help them to purchase special

equipment, such as sports equipment or computers. If you have any of these vouchers, we would gladly relieve you of them – they make a big difference to small schools. Thank you.

We were pleased to have Grace How with us on 17th May, our Parish CMS Partner, telling us about her work in the Middle East. It was great to be updated and to be reminded that God's love and Good News is for all. We were challenged to continue to share the Gospel through words and acts of kindness to the people around us.

Susan Haynes

HAWKESLEY CHURCH

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

2nd June - Visit to Gambia (Liz and John Power)

16th June - Favourite Hymns and Music

To Be Confirmed - The Summer Barbecue, further details will be notified in the Parish Newsletter.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Karen



Dear Friends,

In June, we have Saint Columba of Iona's special day. I have visited Iona. It's a little island just off Scotland and is very quiet and beautiful. It was a special place for Columba too, I have written his story below so that you can find out why.

I also have a little sadness to tell you about as I will not be doing the Children's Page any longer. Somebody else will take it on, so don't worry, it will still be here for you. I am moving on, but wanted to thank you for reading and to say I will miss you all. Even though I have not met many of you, I always think of you as my friends.

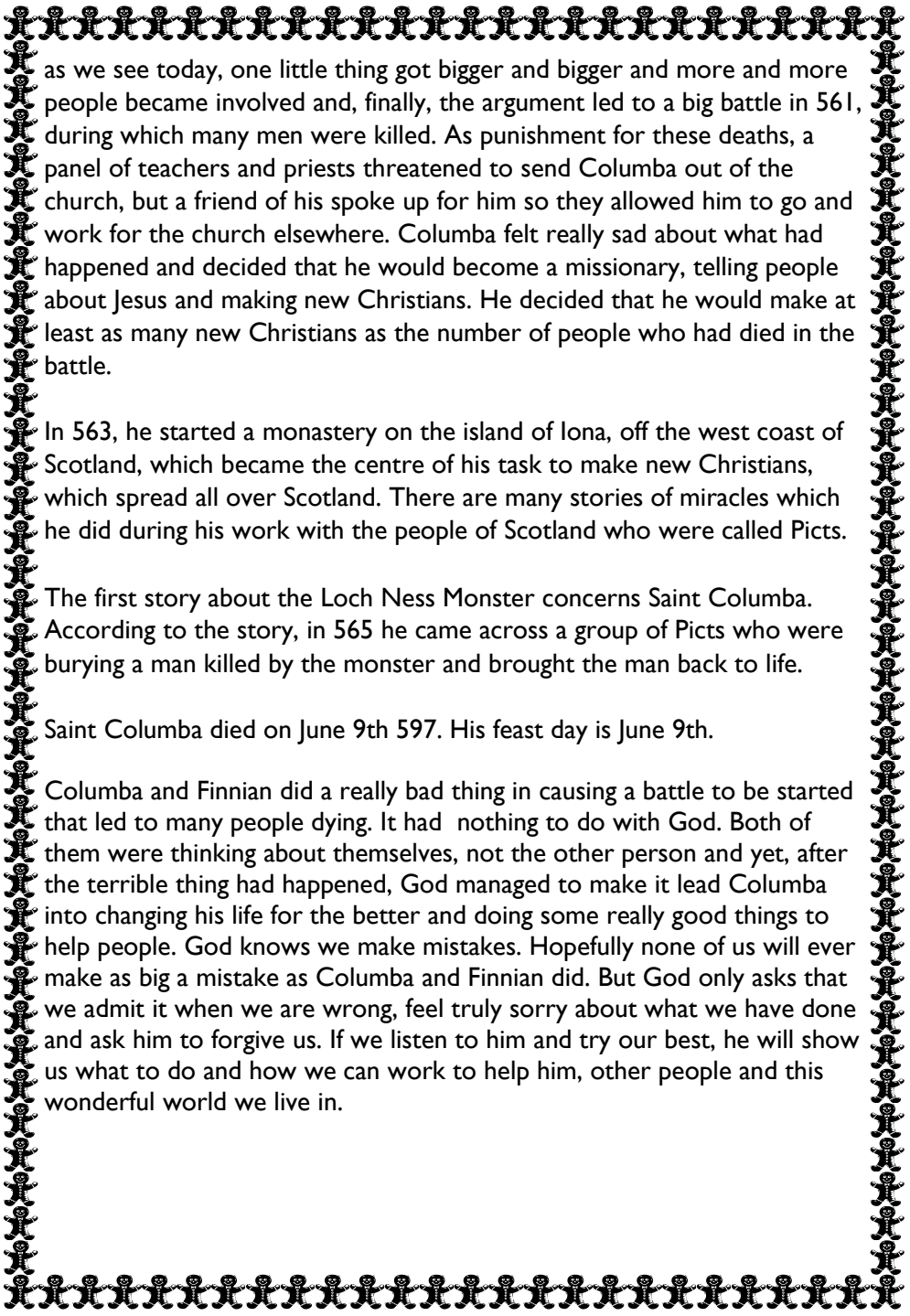
Enjoy yourselves, look after one another and all my love and prayers for whatever you do in the future.

Karen.

Saint Columba of Iona

Saint Columba, 521-597 (also known as Saint Columkill), was an Irish missionary who helped bring Christianity back to Scotland and the north of England. He was born in Donegal in Ireland on December 7th 521. He became a monk and after a time of study was made a priest.

According to stories in 560, he became involved in an argument with a Christian Missionary who taught him, called Finnian, over a worship book known as a psalter. Columba copied the book and wanted to keep it but Finnian (who has since also been made a Saint) refused to let him. Much



as we see today, one little thing got bigger and bigger and more and more people became involved and, finally, the argument led to a big battle in 561, during which many men were killed. As punishment for these deaths, a panel of teachers and priests threatened to send Columba out of the church, but a friend of his spoke up for him so they allowed him to go and work for the church elsewhere. Columba felt really sad about what had happened and decided that he would become a missionary, telling people about Jesus and making new Christians. He decided that he would make at least as many new Christians as the number of people who had died in the battle.

In 563, he started a monastery on the island of Iona, off the west coast of Scotland, which became the centre of his task to make new Christians, which spread all over Scotland. There are many stories of miracles which he did during his work with the people of Scotland who were called Picts.

The first story about the Loch Ness Monster concerns Saint Columba. According to the story, in 565 he came across a group of Picts who were burying a man killed by the monster and brought the man back to life.

Saint Columba died on June 9th 597. His feast day is June 9th.

Columba and Finnian did a really bad thing in causing a battle to be started that led to many people dying. It had nothing to do with God. Both of them were thinking about themselves, not the other person and yet, after the terrible thing had happened, God managed to make it lead Columba into changing his life for the better and doing some really good things to help people. God knows we make mistakes. Hopefully none of us will ever make as big a mistake as Columba and Finnian did. But God only asks that we admit it when we are wrong, feel truly sorry about what we have done and ask him to forgive us. If we listen to him and try our best, he will show us what to do and how we can work to help him, other people and this wonderful world we live in.

Rebecca's Diary...

Hi everyone! Here are some extracts from my diary in May. Hope you enjoy!

2nd

Went along to 'Coffee and Chat' at St. Nicolas Church. I had arranged to meet up with a couple to rehearse their wedding which was taking place on 9th May. We took our time as we went through the service. The sun shone through the lovely stained glass windows in the church and we all said we hoped it would be a sunny day on the 9th.

3rd

I was up bright and early and off to church to take the 8.00 Holy Communion service. It is quiet and reflective and draws people from all walks of life, both young and old. As usual, I ended up chatting far too long after the service and then had to dash home, grab some breakfast and head off to Hawkesley Church for the 10.30 Holy Communion service which I was leading.

4th

Bank Holiday Monday. Had hoped to go and visit family and friends in Derbyshire but decided against it



because of the heavy traffic which builds up on the A6 towards Matlock - it becomes grid locked. Instead, I mowed the lawn and couldn't believe how much the grass had grown over a two week period, did loads of jobs around the house and, by the end of the day, felt very proud of myself for achieving so much! I also phoned several friends and had a good chat! All in all, a good day.

5th

A rather lovely older member of St. Nicolas invited me to her house for lunch and a chat. I arrived at 12.00 and was met by a very surprised lady at the door. Apparently I wasn't due until 12.30!

6th

Had a morning in my study preparing for various meetings and answering emails. In the afternoon I took a funeral at Robin Hood Crematorium. The sun shone on us which eased some of the pain and sadness. The evening saw me over at Hawkesley Church Centre paying the Brownies a surprise visit. They were writing out

promises to say they would do a kind deed or do something nice for someone else during the following week. I did one too. My promised was to buy Rev. Jayne a cup of coffee. I thought that would be quite easy to achieve.....ten days later she is still waiting. Hope the Brownies had better luck with their promises!

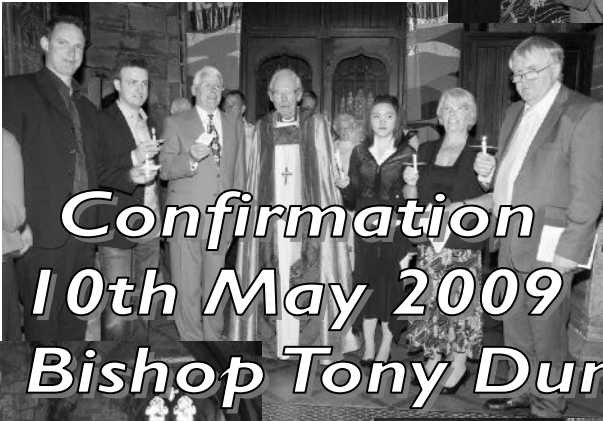
ST NICOLAS HALL REMEMBERED

The sale of St Nicolas Hall has finally gone through. To mark its passing, I wondered if any readers would like to share any memories of the Hall? Maybe you were involved in raising the money to build it or can remember it being built, or maybe you have taken part in some of the many activities that have gone on in there over the years?

Having grown up living in St Nicolas Gardens, I can remember refining my football skills in the car park and, more than once, having to retrieve my ball from the roof! I remember attending Junior Church there, donating many pints of blood there, playing badminton and taking part in the Rich World Poor World Supper. It was also where Susan and I held our wedding reception and, more recently, Sam had his 6th birthday party tea there after a (cold and windy) football tournament in the park.

If you would like to share any memories and /or pictures, please send them to editor@kingsnorton.org.uk or via the Parish Office. Thank you.

Alan Haynes, Editor

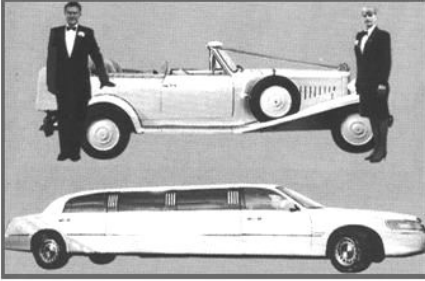


*Confirmation
10th May 2009
with Bishop Tony Dumper*



Photos: Graham Boulton

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WATER – THOUGHTS FROM AN ALLOTMENT

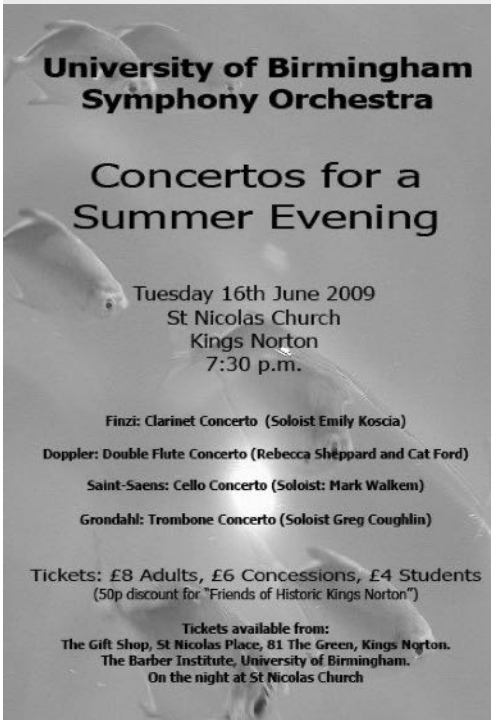
Some of you may know that I now have an allotment at West Heath – in between the school playground and the park.

It's been fallow for some years I think, but I shall enjoy bringing it back to active life again over the next few years. While I was working up there the other day, I began to think about water.

Someone else was using the tap nearest to my plot with a hose, so it was not accessible for other for a while – and I don't yet have any water butts (they are on the “gather, collect and buy” list). I had to walk round to find the next available tap. I felt really aggrieved – I had to walk such a long way – and through really high grass and on bumpy unlevel ground that was difficult to navigate with a full can..... it was all of 200 yards! And I then thought about those who have to walk several miles for water, are years and years younger or older than me – and it is scorching hot as well.

Brought it all into perspective somewhat! Christian Aid Week will be over when you read this – but maybe join me in sending some money to a charity that helps supply clean water for those who do not have it yet.

Sylvia Fox



**University of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra**

**Concertos for a
Summer Evening**

Tuesday 16th June 2009
St Nicolas Church
Kings Norton
7:30 p.m.

Finzi: Clarinet Concerto (Soloist Emily Koscia)
Doppler: Double Flute Concerto (Rebecca Sheppard and Cat Ford)
Saint-Saens: Cello Concerto (Soloist: Mark Walkem)
Gron Dahl: Trombone Concerto (Soloist Greg Coughlin)

Tickets: £8 Adults, £6 Concessions, £4 Students
(50p discount for "Friends of Historic Kings Norton")

Tickets available from:
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The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham.
On the night at St Nicolas Church



**First
Anniversary
Tudor Fun Day!**

Saturday 13th June, 11am-3pm

Help us to celebrate the first anniversary of our re-opening, meet and greet re-enactors, enjoy live Tudor music and get involved in themed activities!



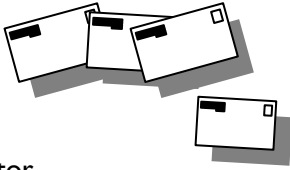
SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

FREE ENTRY!

Member of the following organisations:



Letters Page



Dear Editor,
I'm afraid that due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to cancel the charity night that we had planned in memory of my uncle, Chris Holmes, on the 22nd May.

We were all very disappointed that we could not go ahead on this occasion but hope to organise another date as soon as possible. Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience.

Kind regards
Kate Smith

Dear Editor,
I'm looking for sponsorship when I join up with like-minded ladies in Norfolk on 5th July 2009 to enter in the 6th Ladies' (in pink!) Tractor Road Run in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness.

In 5 years they have raised over £177,000. You can find our more by logging on to www.ladiest tractor roadrun.co.uk

June McCoy

PS. I will give you an update when I have completed the task!



Dear Editor,
I heard a rumour that Gok Wan was at St Nicolas Place recently, filming for his 'Gok's Fashion Fix' programme.

Does this mean that we will be seeing clergy in designer cassocks walking down the aisle?

'Saint' Michael

Write to:-

**Kings Norton Parish Office,
Saint Nicolas Place
81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38 8RU
or e-mail:-
editor@kingsnorton.org.uk**

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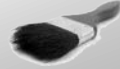
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