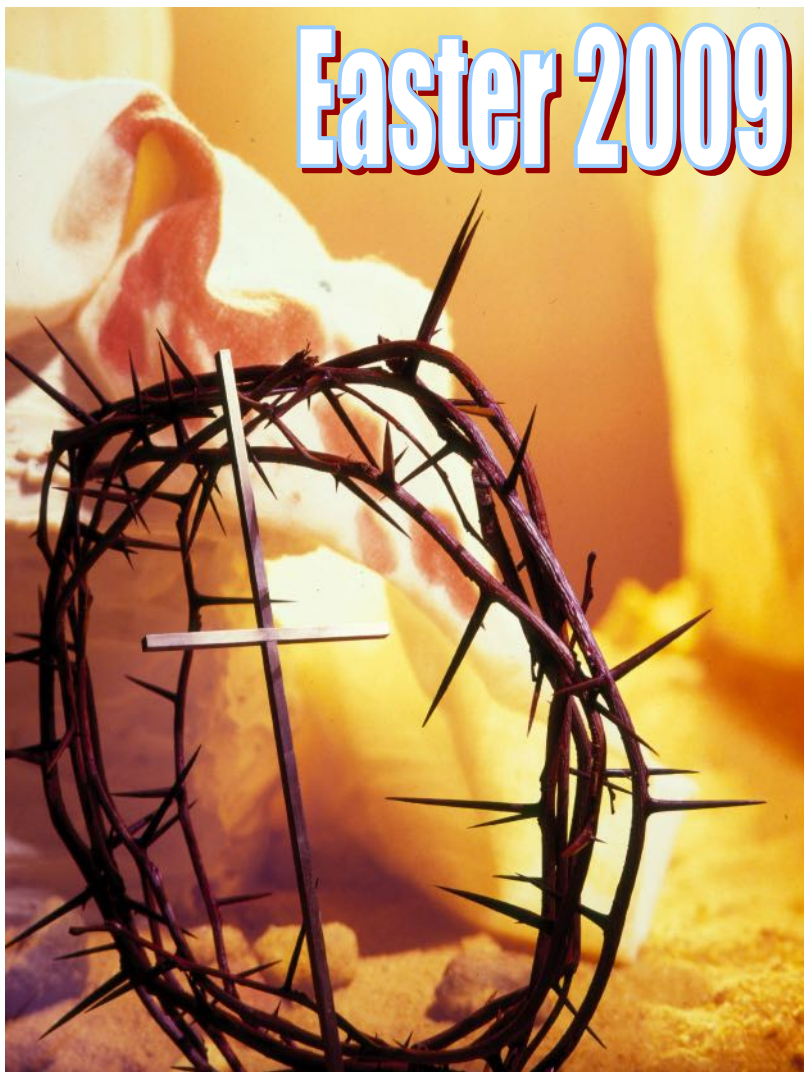
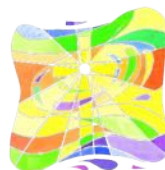


The Parish of Kings Norton

April 2009

50p

# Kings Norton Parish Magazine



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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 to this year's Easter edition.

Rob Morris writes to us all about Transforming Church—a new mission initiative from Bishop David.

We also have some creative writing from Tony Hill, who imagined if Joseph of Arimathea and the rich man (who was told to sell all his possessions and give to the poor) were the same person.

We continue with our themed articles on Fairtrade and the Year of the Child and Ian Manson remembers Tony Balmforth, former Rector of this Parish who sadly died in February.

Page 7 gives details of all the services in the Parish for Holy Week and Easter as we look forward to celebrating this key festival in the church's year.

Alan Haynes, Editor



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*Thank you.*

**Items for inclusion in the April  
issue are to be submitted by:-  
Friday 17th April 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*

"We are called to be a church through which God transforms others - and all creation."

## **"TRANSFORMING CHURCH"**

**W**e'll be hearing these words much more over the next few years in Birmingham. "Transforming Church" is the name of our Bishop's new mission initiative for the whole diocese. Supported by the new Bishop of Aston, he wants every congregation to be transformed in Christ – which of course includes us in all our different gatherings.

Transforming, as all computer gamers know, is about changing shape and energies. Charles Wesley knew this when he transformed Paul's words to "Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place."

Bishop David wants the church to be transformed for mission – with new shape and energies in Christ for looking outwards and growing. There will be much to discover, change and renew in our life as God's people here – but I hope and pray that we do not lose sight of something much larger.

God transforms churches and lives not simply to make them bigger and better in themselves – but because he promises and calls his people, in the shape of Christ and the energy of the Holy Spirit, to share his own work of

transforming creation and of bringing in his love, justice and reconciliation for all – for ever! (2 Corinthians 5:16-end).

We are not simply to be transformed as a church. We are called to be a church through which God transforms others - and all creation.

And there is something else.

At the heart of transforming church in Kings Norton over the last ten years (much more than we realise, partly because we're so conscious of how much further we have to go!) has been the transforming of us through meeting Christ not only in "church" – but in the stranger.

We meet new people week after week, though baptisms, marriage and funerals, through Open Church times, schools ministry, Saint Nicolas Place, Sunday worship – and in chance meetings and conversations all over the place. Their stories and their gifts can be very challenging indeed. Their experience and perception of church and Christians has too often been deeply wounding – and we have to trust, not in what we are, but in Christ's new grace for us and for them in that very moment.

The difficulties of our church 12 years ago left many scars here - some still to be healed - but they gave us the Godly capacity not to be so proud of what we

offer that we resist being changed by what Christ brings in others. We have learned to find him in them - and grow.

One night recently at Candlelit Church, seven teenage friends came in. Some might call them challenging. The brother of one of them is being posted to Afghanistan and they wanted to pray and light a candle. We listened - and changed. Two stayed for the monthly Taizé worship which followed, joining fully in the chants and silence. A young mum with baby, grandma and auntie came in. Baby was restless and they wanted to feed him in a safe place. We listened - and changed. They stayed a long time - and want to be here for Tiny Tots and on Sunday.

The recent tragic funerals of young people also transform us, for Christ crucified and risen, waits for us to find him even in the most awful things. In ourselves we have nothing, but through Christ's grace in those most deeply bereaved and the prayer of many, we found his life and peace for that place, that time, for those who grieve and for us.

We were "transformed" in these meetings. We learned again that mission is not about giving others "controlled snippets of our Lord as we think fit", as my predecessor the Revd Edward Ashford once put it. It is about trusting that Christ can come to change and renew us through those who are strangers and different.

God's Good News is found, not just in changing "church", but in patient, prayerful listening in our worship, our unexpected meetings and our

relationships with each other. Our openness to God and others is far more telling than our words. It's not easy. But by grace, we can grow in deeper confidence that the ways in which "church" is God's Good News for us may be very different from the needs and experience of others, yet Christ is in all, with all and through all. That is Good News!

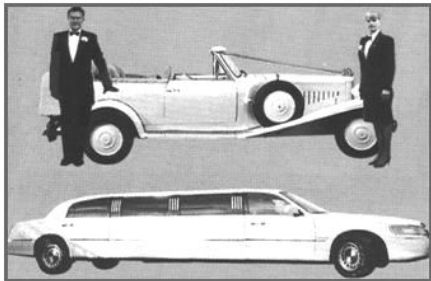
As we grow to trust God's grace in others, we will receive.

**This is why Holy Week and Easter are so vital for us each year. Through them we can be truly transformed together as Christ's church in Christ's amazing grace, in all that we are and do, so that Christ's love grows here in stranger and friend alike. We have nothing to fear – and everything to welcome!**

Rob Morris



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## Holy Week and Easter 2009 Services

### Palm Sunday

**8am** Holy Communion (BCP)  
**10.30am:** Palm Procession and United Parish Communion.  
**6pm:** Evening Worship with Prayer for Healing.

**Mon:** 6.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Compline

**Tue:** 7.30 am Holy Communion 8pm Compline

**Wed:** 12.15pm Holy Communion (BCP)  
6.30pm – 8pm Candlelit Church 8pm Compline

We want to ensure that church is open as much as possible for prayer, reflection and self-guided Stations of the Cross.

### Maundy Thursday:

No 11am Holy Communion as clergy are at the Cathedral.

8pm Holy Communion, Footwashing (*optional!*) and Stripping of Altars. Watch of Prayer until 10.30pm

### Good Friday

10.30am Worship at Immanuel  
10.30am All-Age Worship/Communion at St Nicolas  
12 – 2pm The story of Christ's Passion with prayer and music  
2pm – 3pm We worship at the Cross  
7pm Stations of the Cross at St Paul's

### Easter Eve

**8pm Easter Vigil, Service of Easter Light,  
Holy Baptism and First Communion of Easter** – the great service for all

### Easter Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30 Easter Communion: Hawkesley, Immanuel, St Nicolas  
6pm Evening Worship with Holy Baptism.  
7.30pm Holy Communion.

## Some changes – but only until 4<sup>th</sup> May!

**T**he PCC have agreed to some simple changes in St Nicolas for Holy Week and then until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

We are going to exchange the front four pews on each side of the Nave for some of the comfy chairs in the North and South aisles.



THIS IS MY PEW  
THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PEW

### WHY?

Some of the great services of Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil and First Communion, have taken place in the South Aisle.

I am delighted that numbers attending both these vital services have steadily grown – which means that the South Aisle is no longer big enough. We need a larger space for prayer and for the special services of Holy Week. The only way we can do this is to make the area at the front of the nave more flexible – with chairs rather than fixed pews.

We also want to use the more flexible space to offer a richer setting for worship, prayer and reflection at other main services.

Outside Holy Week, most of the time, the chairs will be in the same place as the pews are now – so the only difference for those who like to sit there (very few, as we all know!) will be greater comfort.

And then, in May, all will be put back, lessons learned – and a richly celebrated Holy Week and Easter will be within the spirit, memory and deeper faith of many more people.

Please pray!

Rob Morris



# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in St Nicolas Church

**May I urge you strongly to be with us for this.**

**M**ost years, the annual meeting is seen as “just one of those things that must happen in churches”. Many turn up faithfully – and many don’t!

This year, in addition to the usual business of reports, elections and gratitude, we have to weigh all the changes that are upon us, in wider church and here, some welcome; some definitely not.

One quote that helps me in all this is

**“The church is always necessary, yet always incomplete”**

It’s from Dan Hardy – a lovely man who died last year. He was Professor of Theology at Birmingham, active in his local parish church in Warley and a key consultant to the leaders of the world-wide Anglican Communion over the last ten years as they sought to navigate their ways through the quagmire of working together.

One of his books “Finding the Church” is a tough read, even for those trained in theology, but it contains a remarkable vision and hope about where we might find the real church of Christ. It is in Eucharist and in Scripture, lived in fully, not just followed in duty or made habit. One phrase for me in his writing stands out even more than many others:

**“The church is always necessary, yet always incomplete”.**

It has great meaning for the worldwide church – but it also has rich meaning for God’s church in Kings Norton. Every one of our five Sunday congregations – and the weekday ones at Tiny Tots, Candlelit Church, Thursday 11am and elsewhere – is necessary yet each is utterly incomplete without the others. We may like to think we stand alone, as has perhaps happened too often in Kings Norton’s history – but without the prayer, gifts, labour and financial giving of others, none of us could stand in our favourite place, at St Nicolas, Hawkesley, Immanuel or anywhere else.

And without each other, we cannot begin to live out fully our true calling to grow in service and mission for others outside the church. That is what God’s necessary yet incomplete church here is for – and why we meet on 27<sup>th</sup> April!

Rob Morris

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# A conversation (by Tony Hill)

Dad?

What, my son?

Whatever is the matter? You look awful and it's Passover tomorrow. You haven't been yourself for weeks.

No son, you're right. It's that Jesus.

What do you mean? Isn't that the criminal, the one they crucified this morning?

God! Was it only this morning? Yes, but he was no criminal – he was a good man – and more.

But didn't they try him last night? You're on the Sanhedrin. You were there weren't you?

Yes, I was.

But if he was that good why didn't you stop them?

I tried son, I truly tried, and so did Nicodemus – but they wouldn't listen. They wouldn't listen. I knew him you see. I'd heard about him drawing the crowds, about him healing people, so I went looking for him. And so he was, and I could understand why they kept coming to him. Here was a man who spoke with authority, such authority. And those eyes... It was as though he could see right through you, see what made you tick, those things you didn't want people to know.... I've always tried to be faithful, to be true to God and to the law.... and it wasn't enough. I knew deep down it wasn't enough.... And you know, here I was, with all the

wealth and power I could wish for, yet he, a man without even a home of his own, so it's said, yet far and away richer and greater than me.....

So I found myself saying "Rabbi – what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

"Why do you ask me about what is good?" He said, "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

"Which ones?" I said.

"Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother, and love your neighbour as yourself."

"But all these I have kept," I said, "What do I still lack?"

Jesus looked at me, into me and through me, it seemed. There was a long pause.

"If you really want to be perfect, then go, sell all you have, give it to the poor, and come and follow me."

Oh I wanted to, I wanted to....I so wanted to be like him.... But I couldn't. He was asking too much. He couldn't have known how hard it would be...

Could he?

What about you, what about the Sanhedrin and all that, what about your mother.. What about even the servants, the property? I just couldn't. And I felt cold, cold in the pit of

Continued on Page 13

my stomach, I just couldn't...and I came away.

And then – well I couldn't get him out of my mind. Ever since then, I've been tormented by that question - will

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I, should I, could I? And I don't know son, I don't know.... But it's been driving me mad. And now it's too late, he's dead. I can never say yes now. But I've got to do something. I can't see that good man treated just like dirt even if he is dead. So this afternoon I went to see Pilate.

What for Dad? What could you do?

I asked him if he would release the body to me. "Who are you?" he demanded.  
Joseph, from Arimathea, the Sanhedran.

After confirming Jesus was dead, he agreed.

But what are you going to do with him Dad? What can you do?

I can do this much son. I can give him an honourable burial. Nicodemus is

bringing spices and oils, and is coming with me to help do it.

But where Dad?

I'm giving him the tomb I bought for me and your mother and you.

The doorbell rang.  
Here is Nicodemus with the carriage. I must go. Goodbye son.

Dad?

Yes, son?

Love you Dad.

Ref:

Matt 19: 16-22      27: 57-61

Mark 10: 17-22     16: 42-47

Luke 18: 18-25     23: 50-55

John 19: 38-42

## **BIRMINGHAM ICKNIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR**

The Birmingham Icknield Male Voice Choir is appearing in the Birmingham St. George's Day Concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sat 25th April. This choir gave a concert in St Nicolas last September, to help raise church funds.

Sylvia Fox

## **Sunday Lunch with Henry Sandon**

**O**n Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, a luncheon was held at King's Norton Golf Club with Mr Henry Sandon (of Antiques Roadshow fame) and his wife Barbara as guests.

The event was well subscribed, with 88 people enjoying an excellent lunch, preceded by Mr Sandon kindly offering a free appraisal to anyone wishing to know the value of their china.

After a delicious lunch, the raffle was drawn, with 45 super prizes

that had been generously donated. Following this, Mr Sandon gave a very amusing talk about his life in antiques (ably assisted by his wife Barbara) and including a number of personal items of interest. Altogether, a delightful afternoon, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks and congratulations to Mrs Shirley Hamilton who organised the event and, with very minimal expenses, raised the princely sum of £1,110.40.

Brian Bates

## **KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

On Monday 27 April, Mike Glyde will give a talk, which will no doubt include some very interesting photographs, on 'Aerial Archaeology in Worcestershire'. Doors will open at 7.00 p.m. and the talk will start at 7.30. Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

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# CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

**A** lot of the churchyard work is carried out by volunteers. Very many thanks to all those who helped in the churchyard at various times during 2008.

Spring will be with us shortly and this means that work needs to be done in the churchyard. What better time to be outside and getting free exercise in the fresh air during spring and summer!

Altogether, we have some seven acres of churchyard to maintain. Although we have a paid team who cut the grass on a regular basis during the spring and summer, it is the other work around the churchyard outside their remit which is carried out by volunteers. We again are asking for new volunteers so that we can at least keep our numbers up.

There are basically two volunteer groups which carry out care and maintenance work in the churchyard and their current tasks are outlined below:

## Wednesday evenings

There is a Wednesday evening mixed group (Churchyard Caring Team) which meets on alternate Wednesday evenings between

April and September from 7pm to about 8-8.30pm with refreshments

at half time. If the weather is wet, we will meet on the next evening (Thursday). This group carries out light work, including grass mowing and tidying around the cremation plots on the north side of the Rectory and at the far end of the lane through the churchyard.

The dates for 2009 are:

April 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

June 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

July 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

August 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

September 2<sup>nd</sup> (commencing at 6pm)

## Thursday Mornings

The Thursday Morning Group meets most Thursday mornings between 9.30am and about 11.30-12 noon (except for a period of 4 to 6 weeks around Christmas time). The work carried out is medium to heavy work and includes trimming bushes, tidying neglected graves, removal of self set trees, brambles, ivy, etc., filling and seeding sunken graves and other minor tasks that arise during the season.

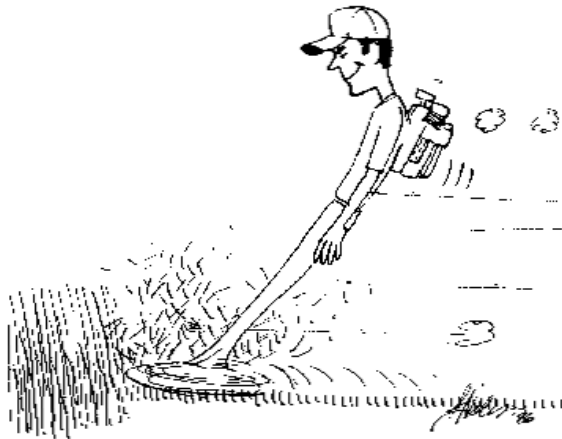
Both groups still require additional



volunteers to replace those who have moved from the area etc. if the maintenance of the churchyard is to be kept up to a high standard. The condition of the churchyard is a good advertisement for the church and, in addition, has a considerable effect on the choice of venue for couples wishing to get married. Now that the Restoration of the Old Grammar School and St Nicolas Place has been completed, we need to ensure that the churchyard is in tiptop condition to welcome all the additional visitors to both the church and these two buildings.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be keen in joining either group, even on an occasional basis, or would like further information

Richard Harper (458 1549), John Jelfs (458 2414), the Parish Office (458 3289, open 10am to 1pm weekdays) or make enquiries in church. Volunteers who are not regular worshippers will be made most welcome – and you will be allowed time to take your holidays!!



## February 2009 Baptisms

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

1st February            Leo Maxwell Hawkins  
                                  Lucy Anne Sherlock

15th February         Aimee Louise Layton  
                                  Ellie-Louise Layton  
                                  Benjamin Ian McLaven

## February 2009 Funerals

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

2<sup>nd</sup> February - Norman Shaw, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

5<sup>th</sup> February - Alan John Beard, 70. Lodge Hill Crematorium.

6<sup>th</sup> February - Lilly May Clarke, 85. Service in Church followed by burial in Churchyard.

6<sup>th</sup> February - Brian Thomas Alliss, 57. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

9<sup>th</sup> February - Doreen Sanford, 82. Burial at St Nicolas Churchyard.

9<sup>th</sup> February - Brian Yates, 62. Cremation at Robin Hood.

9<sup>th</sup> February - Evelyn Audrey Boulton, 86. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation at Lodge Hill.

10<sup>th</sup> February - Margaret Jean Greenhill, 91. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation at Lodge Hill.

10<sup>th</sup> February - Emma Sarah O'Brien, 29. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation at Robin Hood.

10<sup>th</sup> February - Nicholas Philip O'Brien, 35. Service St Nicolas, Cremation at Robin Hood.

10<sup>th</sup> February - Violet Cox, 83. Cremation at Yardley Crematorium.

11<sup>th</sup> February - Caroline Lucy Tomlins, 43. Service at St Nicolas, Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

17<sup>th</sup> February - Clarice Short, 91. Lodge Hill Crematorium.

17<sup>th</sup> February - Theresa Feeney, 90. Service at St Nicolas.

19<sup>th</sup> February - Jean Margaret Worrall, 73. Service at St Nicolas.

20<sup>th</sup> February - Winifred Hankinson, 85. Redditch Crematorium.

24<sup>th</sup> February - Diane Newman, 63. Lodge Hill Crematorium.

24<sup>th</sup> February - Michelle Hickey, 24. Service at St Josephs, Burial at St Nicolas.




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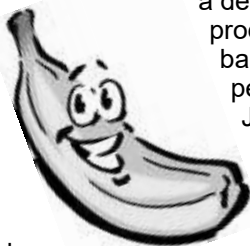


# GO BANANAS FOR FAIR TRADE

**P**eople throughout the world took part in a huge event organised by the Fair Trade Foundation between noon on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March to set a world record for the largest number of fair trade bananas to be eaten over a 24hr period. The aim of the event was to make it clear to retailers that we want Fair Trade Bananas for us, for the producers and for the planet. Thank you to the 127 people who we registered as part of the Kings Norton Parish Group.

**Banana Facts** (from the Fair Trade Foundation). Did you know :

- The banana is the most popular fruit in the world - people spend over £10 billion a year on the fruit globally.
- Banana plants are the largest plants on earth without a woody stem. They are actually giant herbs of the same family as lilies, orchids and palms.
- Wild Bananas originated in Asia and have been cultivated for more than 4,000 years.
- Bananas contain tryptophan and Vitamin B6, known to help to make you feel happy.
- Bananas are one of the few fruits that ripen best off the plant. Even in tropical growing areas, bananas for domestic consumption are cut green and stored in moist shady places to ripen slowly.



- Bananas are available all year round. They are harvested every day of the year.

## **A Fairer Fruit**

There are 57 certified producer groups in ten countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa supplying fair trade bananas to twenty countries in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific.

Fair trade minimum prices are calculated to at least cover average local costs of production - this price can be over double what producers would normally receive. Fair trade bananas were launched in 1994 and now, while banana sales and demand soar, prices have plummeted, having a devastating effect on banana producers. In November 1997, bananas got an average of £1.08 per kg in UK supermarkets. In June 2008 that price was as low as 50p per kg. The majority of banana plantation workers do not earn enough to live and support their families - some earn less than £1 a day.

Banana diseases are a major problem for growers, threatening production and export. Despite their importance to food security in the developing world and to consumption in richer countries, remarkably little is invested in research to find solutions to disease problems and into sustainable production systems.

Prayer & World Needs Group

# 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

## WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

### Clergy:

Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX 458 3289/459 0560  
The Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN (Curate) 458 2950  
The Rev'd. JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP 459 3733

### Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON 476 7223

### Lay Staff:

JESS BOULTON (Hon. Lay Pastor) c/o Parish Office  
FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or..... 451 1914  
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader), c/o Parish Office

### Church Wardens

St. Nicolas .....SIAN SMITH c/o Parish Office 458 3289  
.....STEPHEN PLANT 458 3289  
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455  
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

P.C.C. Secretary .....Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT  
P.C.C. Treasurer .....Revd JAYNE CROOKS, c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Office: **81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU** 458 3289  
(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fax: 459 2529

Parish Administrator .....CHRISTINE BOWEN 458 3289  
Finance Administrator.....CHRISTINE GADD 458 3289

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

Choir & Orchestra Practices .....Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.  
Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.

Immanuel Music Group Leader .....SARAH CROOKS

### Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) contact via Parish Office 458 3289  
Hawkesley .....  
Oasis (Immanuel) .....NICKY MOORCROFT  
Impact! .....GARETH JONES mobile 07929 154003

### Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church  
Primary School .....Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR  
Headteacher .....GRAEME DOBSON 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

Bell Ringers .....Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower  
Ringing Master .....GEORGE HARRISON, c/o Parish Office  
Secretary .....CLAIRE CALVER 458 2342

Kings Norton Handbell Ringers .....Practice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.  
Secretary.....JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

### Bible Reading Fellowship

Secretary JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS. 458 3328

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

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

**Telephone prefix in all cases 0121**

**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.  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Compline – a quiet and meditative service;  
1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;  
10.30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;  
10.30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Morning Worship;  
10.30 am, 4<sup>th</sup> 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:**

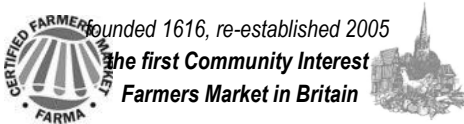
The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham, B38 8RU Tel 0121 458 3289 Fax 0121 459 2529  
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk      www.kingsnorton.org.uk  
The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.

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## **CONFIRMATION is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

It will be a United service with Bishop Tony Dumper. Please be with all who are being baptised and confirmed in this service – in prayer and in person, so that we may all be renewed.

Changes to services at St Nicolas on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May to enable Confirmation:

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Parade Service  
6.00pm Parish Communion within Taizé worship.

May 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Confirmation with Baptism and Holy Communion  
6.00pm Evening Worship with Prayer for Healing

---

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm in St Nicolas Church**

We're delighted to welcome back the **Apollo Sinfonia**

– a wonderful Birmingham based orchestra of young musicians, many of them friends from Birmingham University Music Department or Birmingham Conservatoire.

They will be performing Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Mozart and Weber.

If you were at their concert in here in February you will know what a wonderful sound they made in our ancient parish church  
– and if you think that this sort of music is not for you, please come and prepare to be amazed and inspired.

Tickets on sale soon, with church and orchestra sharing the proceeds.

---

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. We shall hear the second part of Radio History told to us by Roy Brittain. We look forward to having him with us again. Please come along – everyone will be made very welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman

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# 'Parish People'

*People from all walks of Parish Life.*

*Continuing our celebration of the Year of the Child, this month we hear from one of our younger parishioners.*

**Interviewer Alan Haynes**

## **Felicity Dean**



### **Where were you born?**

Birmingham Women's Hospital

### **What do you want to do when you leave school?**

Go to University and be a Scientist.

### **Why is your Christian faith important to you?**

I like going to Church and learning about Jesus.

### **What are your hobbies and interests?**

Science, Art, Drawing, Reading and Brownies. Playing my recorder – I will soon be taking my Initial (Grade 1) Recorder Exam. I play my recorder in the school orchestra and South Birmingham Recorder Ensemble.

### **What is your favourite film?**

I have lots – the Narnia films, Harry Potter, The Secret Garden and Inkheart

### **If you went on Desert Island Discs, what would be your**

### **luxury and book?**

My luxury would be a library and all the Harry Potter books.

### **What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?**

For people to be still coming to church in a few decades.

### **What would you like to do with the rest of your life?**

I would like to go and live in France because it is sunny and beautiful and I like the food – especially mussels and chips!



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## Feeling the heat?

**M**alachi 3:3 says: '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 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, as 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 God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

### **HAWKESLEY CHURCH**

Our Tuesday Coffee Mornings this month will be:

7<sup>th</sup> April with Rev Rebecca Pullin

21<sup>st</sup> April – readings.

We will meet in the Pastoral Centre at 10am. All are welcome.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Hawkesley Quiz Night, 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Coffee morning for Christian Aid, 11am to 1pm.

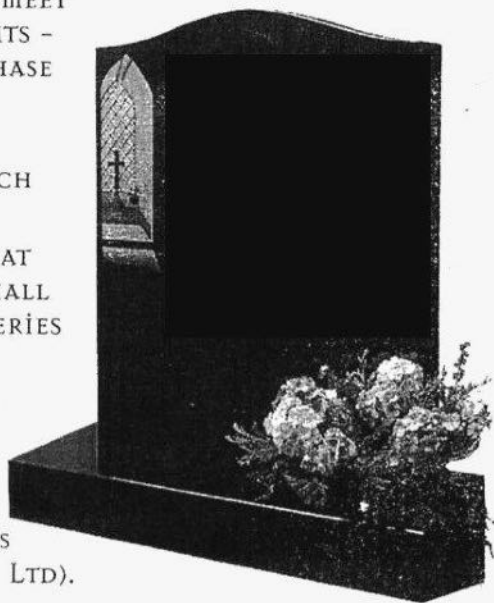
Dates for the summer barbecue and Christmas bazaar are to be confirmed.

Further details will be given in the parish newsletters.

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# GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

Before we know it, Easter will be here and the celebrating will begin, all the richer for the preparation we have done through Lent groups, prayer initiatives, special services, individuals' giving up/taking on things for Lent, etc.

A favourite Easter song at Immanuel is The Greatest Day In History:



THE GREATEST DAY IN HISTORY,  
Death is beaten, you have rescued me.  
Sing it out, Jesus is alive.  
The empty cross, the empty grave,  
Life eternal, you have won the day.  
Shout it out, Jesus is alive -  
He's alive!

*Oh, happy day, happy day,  
You washed my sin away.  
Oh happy day, happy day,  
I'll never be the same.  
Forever I am changed .*

When I stand in that place,  
Free at last, meeting face to face,  
I am Yours, Jesus, you are mine.  
Endless joy, perfect peace,  
Earthly pain finally will cease.  
Celebrate, Jesus is alive -  
He's alive!

*Oh happy day...*

Oh, what a glorious day, what a glorious way  
That you have saved me.  
Oh what a glorious day, what a glorious name.

*Oh, happy day...*

(Tim Hughes & Ben Cantelon, Copyright © 2006 Thankyou Music)

We hope you have a very happy, blessed Easter as we all celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the new life he brings.

Susan Haynes

## STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



Cadbury announced on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 that Cadbury's Dairy Milk, their best known product, is to become Fairtrade by the end of summer 2009.

STOP THE TRAFFIK's founder Steve Chalke said, "This is a very significant step in our campaign. We congratulate Cadbury on their commitment to justice and now look to their policy being adopted across their entire product range. Despite this huge success, STOP THE TRAFFIK's Chocolate Campaign marches on. We now call on Mars and other manufacturers to follow Cadbury and stop using cocoa produced by trafficking and exploitive forms of child labour."

STOP THE TRAFFIK CEO, Ruth Dearnley added, "Cadbury's decision demonstrates the power of ordinary consumers in bringing change and freedom. Two years ago, STOP THE TRAFFIK met with Cadbury and were told that a fairtrade Cadbury's bar was impossible and impractical. This is a victory for every person who has complained, campaigned and spread the message. But most of all, it is a victory for every child held in exploitative labour on West African cocoa farms. It is important to

remember, though, that all exploited children will not be free until Mars, Nestle, Lindt, Hershey and all the others have put human rights before profit and make similar announcements."

It has been known for a long time that thousands of children are being trafficked onto cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast and across West Africa to harvest the cocoa we then eat as a tasty treat. Even though the chocolate industry promised to remove all forms of exploitative child labour in 2001, little progress has been made. STOP THE TRAFFIK, a global movement against people trafficking, has been calling for individual companies to take responsibility for the chocolate they sell and asking for it to be traffic free.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, STOP THE TRAFFIK campaigners around the world celebrated that in the summer 2009 there will be another traffic free chocolate bar.



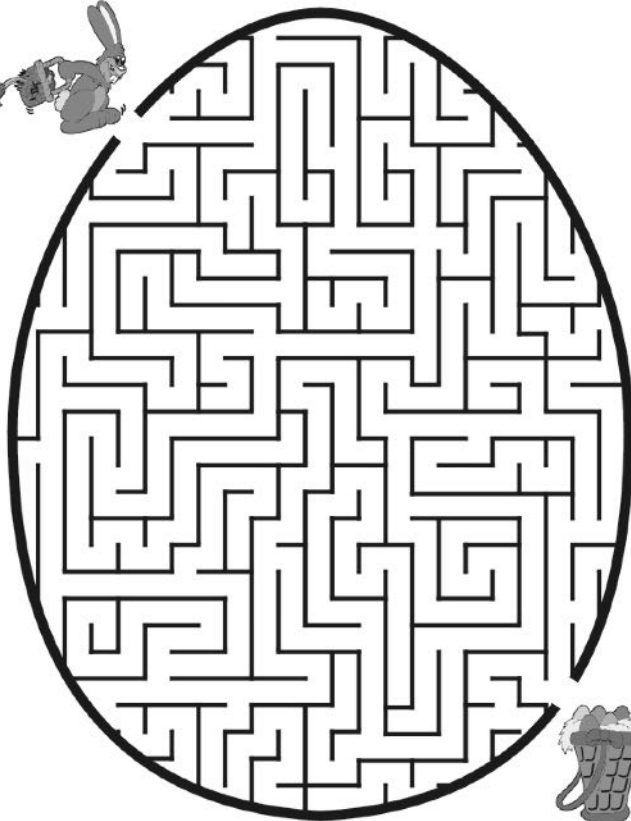
# CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Karen

Happy Easter!

Can you help the Easter Bunny find her basket of eggs?

Easter eggs are a symbol of the new life that Jesus gives us. Why not thank him when you are enjoying your eggs this year.



## Children live what they learn

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilt.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition, he learns that it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to trust in himself and others.

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns the world is a nice place in which to live.

*Dorothy Law Nolte*



## OASIS AT ST NICOLAS

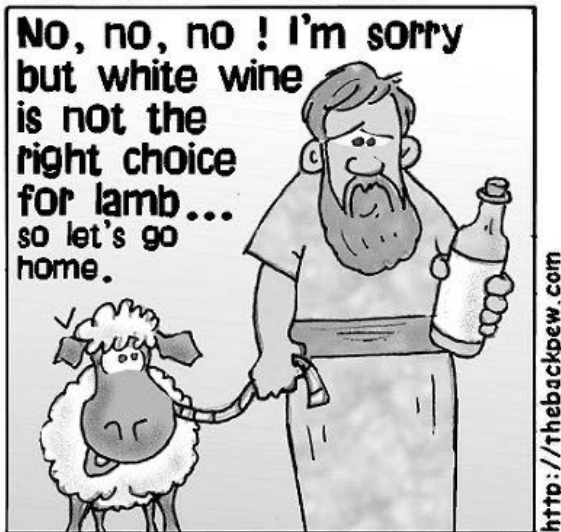
**O**asis children's group now have their own display space at the back of St Nicolas, next to the new children's area. Although to be used to display the children's work, we would like it also to be an area where members of the congregation can visit and contribute too!

If you have any items to donate, such as special prayers, verses, pictures, handcrafted items (nothing valuable) that you think maybe of interest to the children, we would love to see them.

We are also interested in your own Sunday School memories and there is a book to enable you to share them with us. Why not to pop over each week to see what we've been up to!

Jeanette Brown

THE BACK PEW - *JEFF LARSON*



**Numbers 28:7 Offer 1 quart of wine with each lamb. Louis the Lamb survived these times of offerings by regularly outwitting his owner.**

# Rebecca's Diary...

Hello everyone...

1<sup>st</sup>

Today Rob and I had the joy of baptising three babies and one young man at St. Nicolas Church. We all sang very heartily and had a really uplifting service. There is something very special and very moving about baptism.



2<sup>nd</sup>

A day of meetings, but in the midst of it, a visit to a local hospital to see a lovely and faithful Christian woman who was very ill indeed. The care from the staff for her was superb and although she was very ill, she looked peaceful and managed a short conversation with me. We quietly prayed together, knowing she was in God's hands and in his love.

All came from different denominations and yet we were all united in receiving Holy Communion. Older people can teach us younger ones a great deal about faith and the Christian journey.

4<sup>th</sup>

I celebrated Holy Communion at an older people's complex. We sang, prayed and shared our stories. I found it very inspirational to hear the many and diverse stories of how people had discovered God in their lives.

7<sup>th</sup>

Popped into the Coffee Morning at St. Nicolas and was delighted to see so many folk. A good number had gathered to 'Knit and Natter.' I managed to talk to lots of people and get through 3 cups of coffee while I was there!

11<sup>th</sup>

Met up with a couple to rehearse their marriage blessing which was taking place in a couple of weeks' time. They were celebrating 30yrs of marriage and had been married at St. Nicolas. The rehearsal went well and we were all looking forward to the day itself when there will be great celebrations and no doubt a few tears of joy.

13<sup>th</sup>

Today was Comic Relief Day and I was being sponsored to dress up and sing Sunday School Songs outside St. Nicolas. A good crowd gathered, many wearing red roses themselves and we sang our hearts out. Thank you so much to all those who sponsored me. At the last count, I will probably have raised somewhere between £300 and £400. All the money will go to good causes supported by Comic Relief. And I thoroughly enjoyed myself!



**COMIC  
RELIEF**

## FROM THE CRUCIFIXION

### A PENCIL DRAWING BY M J WESTLEY

**M**ike Westley is a nationally exhibited local artist. He has movingly loaned this large drawing to St Nicolas for Holy Week and Easter. We will place it in the North Aisle in its own quiet space so that many can watch – and pray. Do.

Mike writes about his drawing:

“Most children, I suspect, are fascinated when visiting churches by the sight of large carved or cast three dimensional crucifixions where the body of Christ hangs somewhat sleepily upon the cross. I know I was. The best ones were always coloured, the rather calmly featured head hanging limply chin to chest or tiredly raised to one side as though looking down the length of the nailed arm.

It was my memory of those rather formal, stylised and to some extent sanitised representations that prompted me to undertake this drawing. Crucifixion was reckoned by the Romans to be so demeaning a death that only non citizens of Rome could be subjected to its degradation.

Without doubt, the most unique aspect of the work was my decision to attempt to place the viewer ‘inside the event’ rather than outside. In other words – looking from the crucifixion rather than at it – which as far as I am aware no other work of this subject does. Apart from the second figure of a crucified thief (to which the hand of Jesus appears to be symbolically reaching out in vain), I deliberately omitted all others. No crowds, no soldiers, no mourners. This was an attempt to help try and isolate the moment. To make it lonelier.

During the late 1990s the work toured a number of British cathedrals, sponsored by the British Council, creating a substantial amount of interest and publicity. The tour was launched in Newcastle-upon-Tyne after which the drawing moved to Ripon. The following year, it relocated to Worcester where it was exhibited for two years. It then moved to Gloucester, making a final appearance briefly in Birmingham.

The drawing is worked up entirely in 3B pencil on AO sized board.”



## VEN. ANTHONY JAMES BALMFORTH

**T**he current Rector of the King's Norton Team Parish, Canon Rob Morris, suggested that I might like to write a short note about Tony Balmforth, who sadly died at the end of February this year. I do so gladly, but it will not be possible for me to express in short compass how much we all owe to this remarkable and gifted man.

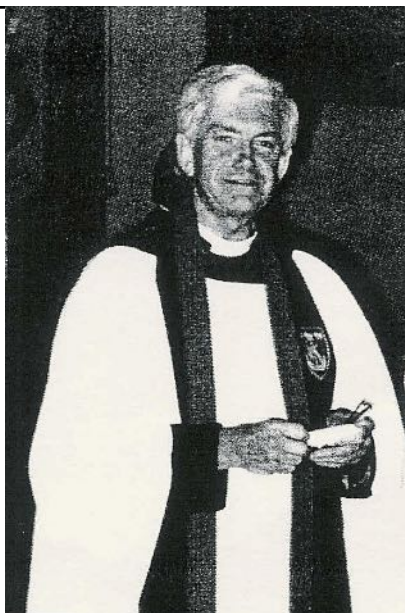
Tony was appointed as Vicar at St Nicolas in 1965 and later, in 1972, as Rector of the new Team Ministry. The concept of team ministries was new and untried and, in some places, found to be unsuccessful. However, due to his personality and leadership, both clergy and laity responded positively to the new initiative and King's Norton Team Ministry went from strength to strength.

Guide, advisor and friend, he proved to be a very good listener, blessed with great patience and understanding, making time not only to talk to parishioners but to all who sought his help or advice.

Persuaded by Ivor Cooke to succeed him as People's Warden from 1973 to 1976, an appointment approved by the PCC, I quickly realised what a privilege and a pleasure it was to work with Tony and to observe with admiration how he applied practically his deep spiritual inspiration, strength and faith.

A happy family man, he was strongly supported by Eileen, his wife. He had three children and, latterly, grandchildren of whom he was very fond.

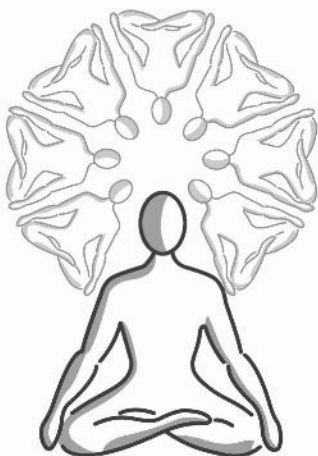
Following a period as Archdeacon, he and Eileen retired to live in the beautiful Forest of Dean, where his funeral was held and was well attended at St Paul's Church on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.



Ian Manson



**Kerry Horsfield and Cliff Cotterill marketing Saint Nicolas Place as a wedding venue.**



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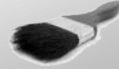


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