

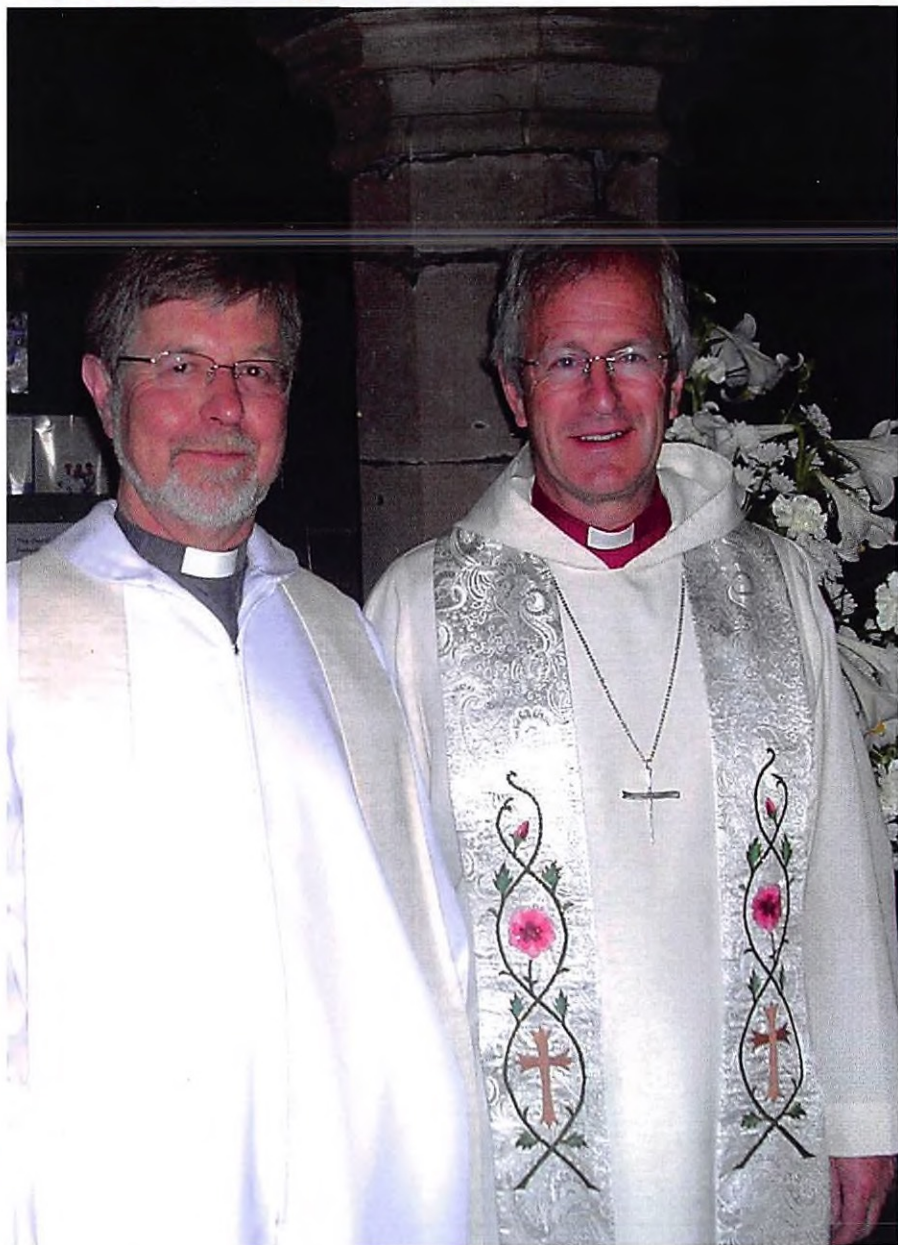
The Parish of Kings Norton

Kings Norton Parish Magazine



June 2007 50p

A Church of England Team Parish incorporating the churches of
Druids Heath - Hawkesley - Immanuel - The Parish Church of St. Nicolas
e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk



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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

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

Monday 18th June

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

From The Rector

“We are in the middle of a very busy - and hopeful - time...”

“Not the beginning of the end but the end of the beginning.”; Sir Winston Churchill after the Second World War turning point of El Alamein. We keep seeking perfection now. It may whisper briefly in a perfect day, a task well done, a conversation in which all is said well and warmly, but we know underneath that there is always more to come, of sorrow and of joy, of despair and hope, in the changes and chances of the world. We may want to feel that, at last, we are at the beginning of the end. We are much more at the end of the beginning; the point where all begins to make sense – and brings much more to do, to dream and to learn.

Each year, from Advent to now, the church unfolds the story of Jesus; his birth, life, dying and rising two thousand years ago in Palestine. Is that it? The story of Jesus' earthly life and ministry seems to end at the Ascension with him passing out of his friends' sight on the Mount of Olives followed by the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit ten days later at Pentecost. (Acts 1 and 2 tell the story). But that is only the end of the beginning.

It is tempting to think that our purpose in church is simply to tell this amazing story and follow it year by year with familiar festivals and ceremonies. But as we do this from Advent to now, are there not some questions to startle and delight?

Jesus kept talking about the Kingdom of God. It's here. It's now – and it is coming in greater fullness. He kept promising that the work he did would not end but be carried on through his friends. He kept reminding people through story and action of all that God wants in justice, mercy, welcome and new beginnings. The story of Jesus does not stand still in the world of two thousand years ago. It is not limited to the life of the church – or to things we call holy.

It bursts out of all the limits and restraints we try to put on it. Jesus' earthly ministry brought upright people face to face with those they were leaving out – and brought those who felt rejected face to face with a living promise that they were truly loved, welcomed and full of worth. It still does – and through the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church – the story still calls us out of where we are with the promise that by God's grace and gift alone, the same word and work of Jesus is alive now – and for ever – with so much more still to come. This is just the beginning.

We are in the middle of a very busy – and hopeful – time. Confirmation, Fresh Expressions, Restoration, New Deal – and so much else that does not have capital letters in its name – all bring new things to the telling of our ancient story. Changes in the clergy team as Heather retires and Rebecca Pulling arrives in July; new beginnings on Druids Heath with Karen Urwin, a new Head at Hawkesley School; discovering wider and richer use for St Nicolas during construction; making new friendships; deepening all that we offer in worship – and in baptisms, marriages and funerals. And so much more!

If all that we are doing is to keep alive a story which ended two thousand years ago, we shall simply be tired, inward, anxious and fearful about the future of the church – and ourselves. But as Bishop David says, “The task of the Church is to serve the Kingdom of God.” – a Kingdom of Life which was, and is, and is to come. We will find rest, refreshment and renewal in that story of God's Kingdom made alive through Jesus – and find more than enough to share confidently with others as Jesus did. He still does, and promises more, through this story which is so old – and yet has only just begun, alleluia!

Canon Rob Morris

2007

Remember that World War II
they said, the warships

christian aid week

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the house to house collection during Christian Aid Week in May. The collection is being counted and, next month, we hope to let you know how much money has been raised to help poor communities around the world.

**Best wishes
Claire (Greenhill)**

GOOD NEWS



Photo
© Chris Holmes

PRODH Worker

**Congratulations to
Karen Urwin**

We are delighted to announce that Karen Urwin has been appointed to the post of full-time PRODH Worker (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath), working with residents and local agencies to build confident partnerships and community participation in the regeneration of one of most neglected parts of our city. Please pray for her, for PRODH and for the renewal of ministry and action throughout the estate.

The post is funded through the Church Urban Fund and the Home Office Civic Renewal programme - but is a PCC appointment. As the Rector and wardens are the legal managers for all PCC employees, Karen's success means that she will have to withdraw from her valued and devoted service as warden.

COVER PHOTO

This month's superb cover photo was taken by Rachel Bannister and shows Canon Rob Morris and Bishop of Birmingham, Rt Revd David Urquhart, at the Confirmation Service at St Nicolas on Sunday 13th May.

Photos Galore

With so many things happening in May... Confirmation, Christian Aid Week, Heathers Retirement, Fresh Expressions, this issue of our magazine is turning into a 'Photo Special'.

We hope you enjoy.....

Chris Holmes (Editor)



Photo - Rachel Bannister

Kings Norton Ringers Outing 2007

"We arrived back at the Parish Hall by nine o'clock, in the expected manner, tired but happy."

On the 12th May a group of 30 bell ringers, parishioners and friends set off on the ringer's annual outing, this year to the Cotswolds. Inevitably it started to rain as we were travelling to Broadway, the first of our five stops, but we were blessed as it stopped when we arrived. As the church was a little way outside the village, most of the non-ringers took the opportunity to get off in the village centre, whilst the rest of us travelled on to a lovely little church in the middle of the countryside. The church was different from the rest we visited, as there was no ringing chamber. The bells were rung from the chancel, and the first job of the day was to move the choir pews so that we could stand in the right places to ring.

After Broadway we moved to Winchcombe, an appropriate place to visit this year, as 2007 marks the millennium of the date when it became the county town of Winchcombeshire. Unfortunately this only lasted for ten years. Once again we were blessed as the heavy rain we experienced in driving from Broadway miraculously turned into bright sunshine on arriving at the church. Winchcombe proved to be a popular shopping stop for some of the group.

We moved on to Bourton on the Water, where we took lunch, and several of the ringers took the opportunity to replenish their fluid levels in some of the friendly hosteleries besides the water. The bells were most enjoyable, and the town proved a popular place for the rest of the group.

Moreton in Marsh church has strong links with the Fire Service Guild of Bellringers, as the town is the home of the Fire Service College, and headquarters of the Institution of Fire Engineers, and there are peal boards in the ringing chamber to mark peals rung by

the Guild. For those not aware, a peal consists of more than 5000 changes rung over a period of about 3 hours, and peal boards are erected to record special events. There are several in our own tower marking various events, including Molly Barron's 50 years as a ringer at Kings Norton.

We ended the day at Chipping Camden, which has a most spectacular church, with an imposing tower, visible for many miles, and the heaviest bells of the day. Even though the ringers were a bit tired by now, the ringing was of good quality. After this we retired to the Red Lion for further refreshment and an enjoyable and relaxing supper. The journey home was slightly longer than anticipated, but we did have another opportunity to view the tower at Chipping Camden once more, this time from a different perspective. We arrived back at the Parish Hall by nine o'clock, in the expected manner, tired but happy. I hope that this may encourage more of you to join us on the second Saturday in May next year, when we will have yet another Kings Norton ringers outing.

**George Harrison, Ringing Master,
Kings Norton Guild of Change Ringers**



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HEATHER

"All in all, a remarkable record of service, example and challenge."

We gathered on 4th May to surround Heather with our love, prayer and good wishes on her retirement. Her seven years in Kings Norton were preceded by no less than eighteen years elsewhere. Heather was first licensed as a Lay Worker for Pype Hayes in 1982. She then spent ten tough and faithful years in Rounds Green, living in a council tower block and surrounded by stresses and challenges every bit as challenging as any we face here – but with the same loving and supportive congregation. Heather was ordained in 1995 and served in Shenley Green, again facing challenges and making new friends before moving here in 2000. All in all, a remarkable record of service, example and challenge.

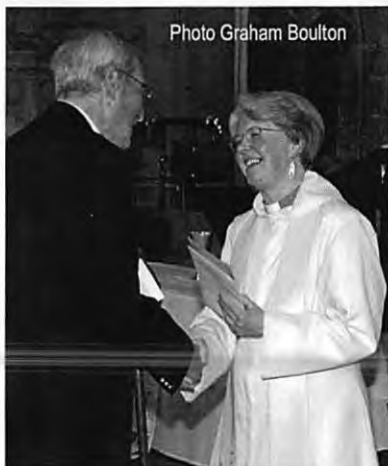


Photo Graham Boulton

Thank you to all who shared in the farewell and who have enjoyed our journey with Heather. She won't be far away – and takes with her so many friendships, thanksgivings, prayers and good wishes for an energetic retirement. I think it will be!

Canon Rob Morris

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FRESH EXPRESSIONS and CONFIRMATION

What a weekend that was!

On 12th May, over eighty gathered at Hawkesley School for the regional Fresh Expression Vision Day – to share ideas and hopes – and to discover new ones. Huge thanks are due to all who worked so hard to prepare and manage the day. It had so much to offer, to challenge and to stimulate as God makes us ready for the next years of the Church's story.



Photo © Chris Holmes

Rev David Gould welcomes Bishop David to the 'Pledge It' Lunch



Photo © Chris Holmes

Bishop David with confirmation candidate, Alex at the Prayer and World Needs Group 'Pledge It' Lunch

So many different people had shared the candidates' journey to Confirmation and were with them as friends and fellow pilgrims on the day. In the space on the Confirmation certificate where it says "Prepared by", I wanted to write simply "God's people in Kings Norton" but found an even greater joy in being able to write for each candidate the names of so many different

And on Sunday 13th May, we welcomed our new Bishop for his visit. He came to baptize and confirm. Fifteen candidates received God's gifts at Bishop David's hands – but all who were present were caught up in something much bigger than we had expected. Every Confirmation is moving for all of us as we give thanks to God that fresh people have felt a confidence that here and now they want to receive all that God promises to help us lead full, mature and loving lives in Christ. But this seemed to contain even more.

people who had been part of it all. Bishop David caught our feelings and took them on – and then, thanks to the kindness of the Prayer and World Needs Group, we were able to take him on to a delicious lunch with candidates, friends – and those who have supported Christian Aid so strongly through the 'Pledge It' campaign.

What a weekend – and what an inspiration for new hope and confidence.

Canon Rob Morris

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A Taste of Indonesia

"They are not allowed to talk about their faith so they try to live it out by showing love to their neighbours."

I recounted last month how some of the STT Abdi Sabda students in Medan from Nias were affected particularly by the post tsunami earthquake and were unable to return home or get news of their families.

The college union raised funds – by rattling buckets at passing terrifyingly busy traffic – for a few students to travel over, carrying as much rice, oil and water as they could manage and to assess the situation and bring back news. Most left behind could neither afford to go home nor stay on in Medan.

Slowly things on Nias are returning to some sort of normality 2 years on. The government is building a main airport to facilitate aid and supplies. Cranes and other vital rescue equipment are being ferried round the island to enter through a new port. The students mainly look to the Lord for maintenance. One young man came to his teacher to say that he didn't even have a few coins for a bowl of rice to eat. She had in her hand a letter just arrived from one of the short term workers, saying that some money was on its way to help some of the students. She was able to advance him some funds so that he could eat and pay half a term's fees. That's living on the edge with God alright!

The Indonesian government paid for those needing medical treatment as a result of the tsunami and earthquake to be taken to hospital in Medan. Medicines, surgery and consultations were covered but not food and other things normally done by family. Many from a long distance had no-one to look after them. Some of the staff and students raised funds to buy bottles of water and packets of biscuits for patients, and sit and talk to them. An old lady said that she had everything she needed but she longed for a hot cup of tea in the morning. With their last few coins they were able to buy her a little vacuum flask. They are not allowed to talk about their faith so they try to live it out by showing love to their neighbours.

I'll tell you more about life in Medan soon. If you feel moved to give a contribution, it can be sent out through the church to *omf* who will ensure that it goes straight to the recipients. Contact Thelma Mitchell for details on 07836 650834.

Go to www.omf.org.uk for information of short and long term placements in south east Asia.

Thelma Mitchell



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Photo Graham Boulton



Rev Heather Flack

May God bless you all richly

I was stunned to find myself on the front cover of last month's magazine and then to find more pictures inside. I've just tried to do my job as best I could, but clearly I have touched many lives.

My last service was very special. I certainly enjoyed it. I was encouraged to see so many of you there and to be able to minister to you. At the end I was presented with a little package; the card attached said:

"We pray that this small 'rodent' will open up a whole new Vista for you in your busy retirement. It comes with our love and gratitude for all that you have given to us, from your friends in Kings Norton Parish."

The 'rodent' was a mouse to go with a new Dell computer with the latest "Vista" program.

As part of my retirement present, I also had an amazing cheque for £600 and a stunning Rhododendron. You have all been so kind and so generous. It makes me think I may have done some good in my seven years in the parish. Thank you too for the card so many signed and for your good wishes - and all the other cards, letters and extra little goodies!

You may continue to see me around, as I shall not be moving to Bewdley for a few weeks yet. I am still doing work on the history of our buildings.

History will be part of my new life as I am going to do an M.A. in English Local History at Leicester University. It involves one day a week there (a Monday) and will take two years. So there is a focus to my "retirement" and a good excuse to say "No" to things I don't really want to do.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement during my time in Kings Norton. I leave with a wealth of memories.

May God bless you all richly,
Heather

CMS MISSION PARTNER GRACE TO MARRY

Our CMS Mission Partner, Grace Guinness has just announced her engagement and she and her fiancé, Pete, are planning to marry on the 28th August this year before they both return to Central Asia later in the year.



We send our congratulations and best wishes to Grace and Pete for their future happiness together in God's service

Ann Morrell

Hawkesley Church Enjoy Coffee & Chat

We Meet fortnightly on Tuesdays

YOUR WELCOME



Fresh Expressions Vision Day

“looking afresh at what church means in the twenty-first century.”

Nearly one hundred people filled the tables in the hall at Hawkesley School to explore what is meant by Fresh Expressions of Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative to encourage us all to look afresh at how to address the gap that seems to exist between much of what we call church and the culture in which we live.

The day was led by Revd Andrew Roberts from the Fresh Expressions Team, Very Revd Bob Wilkes, the Dean of Birmingham Cathedral and Revd Bill Anderson, the Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District.

Supported by a wide range of seminars, the feedback from the day suggests that many found the day helpful, had their vision enlarged and went back to their churches determined to explore how to look afresh at what church means in the twenty-first century.

My thanks to all who helped make the day happen.

Revd David Gould

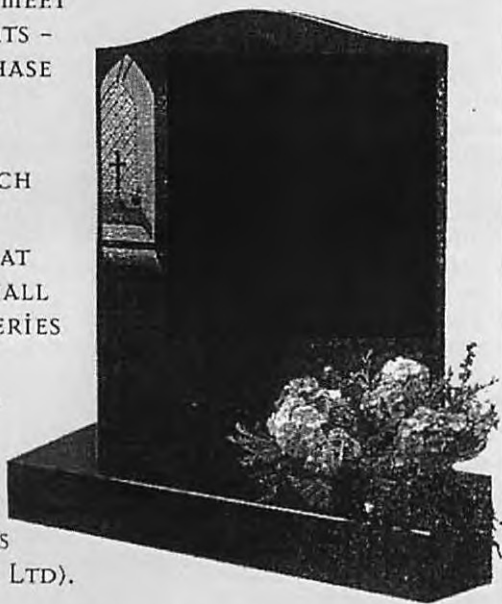


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“Pledge It” Party!



It was Party Time at St Nicolas Hall on May 13th when we celebrated all the money raised and the hard work and creativity that had gone into raising it for 'Pledge It' 2007.

As the photographs show, the party was great fun. We were entertained by many talented folk including a dance team from Druids Heath, solo singers and a young singing duo who took the place by storm!

All this and more with good food, wine and led by MC Phil Burton, meant that all were well and truly thanked for fund and awareness raising that will make such a difference to the work of Christian Aid and the people who lives are changed by that work.



**Dancers... Diners... and Dosh...
at Pledge It Party**

There is still time if you have not yet thought of a 'Pledge It' idea. If you want to find out more email us at kurwin@blueyonder.co.uk 'Pledge It' money is still coming in and a final figure will be announced in a later magazine edition.

Thank you to all who have taken part in 'PLEDGE IT' 2007 and helped make a difference.

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Rev Jayne Crooks



Photo © Chris Holmes

READERS LETTER (E-MAIL)

I have just had a conversation with my (nearly) three year old daughter that you may find amusing.

Sophie and I went to Tiny Tots at St Nicolas yesterday where we were treated to a 'Godly play' session from Jayne Crooks on 'The Creation'. The children (and adults) were captivated by Jayne's wonderful way of storytelling and (as usual) a good time was had by all!

Later on in the day Sophie's Dad decided to talk to her about what Jayne had been talking about.

"Who do you think made the world?" He said

"God" said Sophie

"Who do you think made you?" He said

"God" said Sophie

"And who made Mommy & Daddy?"

"God" she said

Then he asked "Do you think God made everything?"

"No" she said

"Oh" he replied "What didn't God make?"

"The ark!" she said "Noah made that!"

One of those rare moments where we were both speechless for a moment!

Carry on the great work Jayne!

Jeanette Brown

We Welcome Rebecca Pullin In July

Rebecca will be made a deacon on July 1st. After that she will be the Revd Rebecca - and will be coming to Kings Norton as a shiny new curate. Tickets for the ordination service are limited - but we shall have two more occasions to welcome Rebecca and surround her with our love and prayers.

6pm on Sunday 1st July: Welcome Service - with we hope friends from St Barnabas Kingshurst, the parish where she now worships. Do come and join us.

Sunday 8th July at 10.30am: Rebecca will share in leading worship here for the first time - and there will be a simple but tasty lunch after - details to follow. She will be at Hawkesley and Immanuel in the weeks to follow.

Do pray for her at this turning point in her life - and pray also that we may be as supportive, welcoming and encouraging as we know how.

Canon Rob Morris

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC KINGS NORTON

EVENTS FOR 2007

KINGS NORTON FESTIVAL Saturday 14th July at 9.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

A fun day for all – Stalls, Events, Dancing, Refreshments

Venue: St. Nicolas Church/Churchyard **Admission:** 50p.

BARN DANCE Friday 10th August Refreshments available **Venue:** St. Nicolas Church Hall

HERITAGE OPEN DAY Saturday 8th September, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tours of Church and exterior of buildings and update on restoration. **Venue:** St. Nicolas' Church

CRAFT FAIR Saturday 10th November, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Venue:** St. Nicolas Church.

A huge array of local crafts, in time for Christmas shopping! Plus Refreshments **Admission** 50p

BOURNVILLE YOUNG SINGERS Saturday 15th December, 7 p.m. **Venue:** St Nicolas Church.

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Listed here on these two pages are some of the forthcoming events in the parish and wider community. Details are as accurate as possible. Further information may be obtained from:- The Parish Office 0121 458 3289



**Tours of
St. Nicolas Church
and
Updates on Restoration
of
Old Grammar School
and
Saracens Head
Every Wednesday and Saturday
at
10 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Starting in St. Nicolas Church
Organised by The Friends of Historic Kings Norton**

King's Norton History Society

The Society is planning an exhibition about the Green in the 19th Century for the Kings Norton Festival on Saturday 14th July. If you have any anecdotes about the Green at that time, or relatives who lived on the Green, or old photos, or anything you think might be of interest please contact:

**Wendy Pearson
on
0121 472 7204.**

Birmingham University Symphony Orchestra Concert in aid of the Restoration Fund Brahms Symphony No.4

Elgar - Cockaigne Overture & Holst - Somerset Rhapsody

**Friday 29th June at 7.30pm
St Nicolas Church**

Tickets £5 (£3 concessions)

from the Barber Institute (414 7333) or the Restoration Office (458 1223)

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:		
Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX		458 3289/459 0560
The Revd. HEATHER FLACK (Team Vicar), 195 Monyhull Hall Road B30 3QN		458 3483
The Revd. DAVID GOULD (Team Vicar), 53 Wychall Park Grove, B38 8AG		459 5144
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):		
The Revd. DONALD SAMPSON		476 7223
Hon. Assistant Curate:		
The Revd. JAYNE CROOKS, 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP		459 3733
Lay Staff:		
Mrs. FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or.....		451 1914
RUTH SNASHALL (Reader), c/o Parish Office		
Church Wardens		
St. Nicolas	SIAN SMITH c/o Parish Office	458 3289
.....	Mr. STEPHEN PLANT	458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)	Mr. JIM CLARKE	Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455
.....	Mr. RAY DAVIS	458 5774
.....	Mr. PETER SMITH	453 9931
Immanuel (Warden)	ALAN HAYNES	459 4711
(Deputy Warden)	DEBBIE MALONE	
(Deputy Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	
P.C.C. Secretary	Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT	
P.C.C. Treasurer	Mrs. JAN ANSON, c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Office:		
	30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8TN	458 3289
	(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 486 3954
Parish Administrator	Mrs. CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289
Parish Administrator	Ms. RACHEL BANNISTER	458 3289
Finance Administrator	Mrs. CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289
Organist and Music Director	Miss SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA	07778 449170
Choir & Orchestra Practices		
	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.	
	Friday: Juniors 6.45-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.	
	Sunday: Before Evensong 5.30-5.45 p.m.	
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SUSAN HAYNES, 42 Marbury Close, B38 8YX	459 4711
Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:		
Oasis (St. Nicolas)	contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley		
The OASIS (Immanuel)	Miss NICKY CROOKS	
IMPACT! (Youth Group)	Every Sunday, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., at St Nicolas Hall	
.....	Leader: GARETH JONES	
Hawkesley Anglican		
Methodist Church		
Primary School	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR	
Headteacher	Mr. ROGER WOOLDRIDGE	459 6467 Fax: 459 6468
Bell Ringers		
	Practice Tuesdays at 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower	
Ringing Master	Mr G HARRISON, c/o Parish Office	
Secretary	Mrs. CLAIRE CALVER	458 2342
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers		
	Practice Mondays at 7.30 p.m.	
Secretary	Mrs. JO NELSON	Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship		
Secretary	Mrs. J. CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS	458 3328
Women's Evening Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in St Nicolas Hall	
	Secretary: Mrs. VAL HAYNES	459 3121
Seniors Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon in St Nicolas Hall	
	DEB BUCKLEY & SIAN SMITH	702 2063
PRODH	KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)	459 7086
Scouts and Cubs (198th Birmingham)	At St Nicolas Hall:- Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: Mrs. PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: Mr. JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: Mr. ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 244 0789
Scouts and Cubs (129th Birmingham)	At the Bells Farm Community Centre:- Cubs (aged 8-11): Thursdays 6.30 p.m.- 8.00 p.m. Leader: Miss KAREN URWIN	459 7086
Guides and Brownies	At St Nicolas Hall:- Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
Guides and Brownies	At Hawkesley Church Centre:- Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
Kings Norton Society	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. mainly at St Nicolas Hall Contact: JOHN ALEXANDER	445 1312
Kings Norton History Society	Last Monday (or last but one if Bank Holiday) from September to May (exc. December) in St Nicolas Church at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m. in St. Nicolas Hall	
Parish Magazine Editor	Mr CHRIS HOLMES contact via Parish Office E-mail editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	628 5284
Parish Magazine Treasurer	Mrs. ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	Rev'd JAYNE CROOKS, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	Mr GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

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



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

The telephone number remains the same.

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE 0121 458 3289

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

April 2007 Baptisms

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

1st April 2007	Summer Skye Simpson
1st April 2007	Harvey James Houghton
15th April 2007	Charlotte Christina Sharon Lardner
15th April 2007	Gracie Charlotte Louise Lardner
15th April 2007	George Bailey Leslie Langstone

April 2007 Weddings

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

21st April 2007	Jonathan Marshall and Lesa McIntosh
21st April 2007	Mark James and Jayne Jones

April 2007 Blessing

17th April 2007	Neil Cooper and Lorraine Cooper
-----------------	---------------------------------

April 2007 Funerals

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

2nd April 2007	Dorothy Joan Matthey, aged 87	Interment of Ashes at Brandwood End Cemetery
2nd April 2007	Nellie Mayou, aged 89	Cremation at Lodge Hill
3rd April 2007	William Hedley Robert, aged 80	Cremation at Lodge Hill
3rd April 2007	Irene Gladys Whaley, aged 75	Cremation at Lodge Hill
4th April 2007	Lilian Winifred Lester, aged 86	Service and Burial at Lodge Hill
5th April 2007	Stephen John Kelly, aged 55	Cremation at Lodge Hill
10th April 2007	Margaret Rose Brush, aged 74	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at KN Cemetery
12th April 2007	Violet May Sawyer, aged 98	Cremation at Lodge Hill
13th April 2007	Dora Annalene Smith, aged 93	Cremation at Lodge Hill
17th April 2007	Audrey Nora Langston, aged 79	Interment of Ashes in Churchyard
17th April 2007	David Albert Carington, aged 65	Cremation at Lodge Hill
18th April 2007	Bertram Harold Barnacle, aged 90	Cremation at Lodge Hill
20th April 2007	Arthur Leslie Fisher, aged 83	Cremation at Lodge Hill
25th April 2007	William Hyett, aged 75	Cremation at Lodge Hill
25th April 2007	Karen Susan Bacciochi, aged 49	Cremation at Lodge Hill
25th April 2007	Dora Winifred Parkin, aged 85	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Brandwood End Cemetery
26th April 2007	Edith Haviland, aged 100	Interment of Ashes in Churchyard

SERVICES

St. Nicolas

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY MON/ WED/THURSDAY

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

EVERY 1st, 3rd and 4th SUNDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

2nd SUNDAY

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

4th SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Family Service

'Oasis'

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

Tiny Tots

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

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

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

Immanuel Church

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

Druids Heath

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

Café T

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

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGES

Forms & particulars obtained from St Nicolas Church on Thursday Evenings between 6.30 & 8.00 p.m.
or if you have other queries contact the Parish Office, 30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8TN.

General Enquiries:- Parish Office Mon to Fri 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk - Web Site:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

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

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Restoration

**What's happening?
How can I be part of
it all?**

**Sunday June 3rd at 3 pm
starting at St Nicolas
Hall...**

We want to bring together all who are interested in working on the Restoration Project, or are already doing so in various capacities. We' also want to bring together all the church members who have supported Restoration throughout and would like to know more of all that is happening as we work towards opening of the Restored building next Easter.

There will be a short presentation, a walk around the sites, and then tea and cakes in church from about 4.15pm with time for questions – and some answers.

- We want to share some of the amazing discoveries the project has made.
- We want everyone to know more about how we can each be involved.
- We want to offer everyone the opportunity to identify the gifts, skills and ideas which they can offer as the project grows.
- We want everyone to see what courses will be available over the coming year in the lead up to re-opening.

I do hope you can come. We will do this again – so please come now – but if you can't, please look for the next opportunity.

Canon Rob Morris



Photo © Chris Holmes

**St Nicolas Spire
oversees work in progress**

Photo - Chris Holmes

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Restoration New Discoveries!

As the building work goes on, we are discovering more and more of what lies underneath some very familiar spaces. We didn't know – but we do now – that underneath the Parish Office is a large area of cobbled flooring and foundations laid over seven hundred years ago. Behind the East front, facing The Green, we have uncovered the original 1492 gables and beams – for the first time in over two hundred years. They show that when the Tudor house was turned into an inn in the late eighteenth century, the builders hid a very fine timber frontage, just like the one we are used to seeing on the North Side facing the churchyard. We are also finding remains of very early fireplaces behind the gas fires in the Parlour, the Queen's Room and the Parish Office.

It tells us that there is so much more to our buildings than we ever imagined. We find that we have a large and impressive Tudor house, built on much earlier foundations. We find that the story of Kings Norton has even deeper and older roots that we knew. We find that there was clearly an impressive house before the house we can now see – and that when the nave of St Nicolas was built – and possibly The Green laid out, there was a rich and busy settlement here. It is a pity that building work means that site access is very restricted – but everything is being recorded – and we are changing some of the plans to ensure that as much as possible will be visible in the Restored buildings. And we have only just started the same kind of investigation into the Old Grammar School. All this is happening as we move steadily onwards in developing exciting and workable new uses for the Restored buildings, alongside what we have been used to doing.



Photo © Chris Holmes

Saracen's Head Courtyard Uncovered

Photos - Chris Holmes



Photo © Chris Holmes

Less than a year to go – and even less for the Old Grammar School. Please continue to offer your prayers and support. They make such a difference.

Canon Rob Morris



Tony Hill & Joan Urwin (left) and Anna Joubert-Morris (right) enjoy 'Pledge It' party events in May

FRANKLY!.....

Here is a prayer written by Frank Skinner. Frank Skinner is of course well known as a comedian and an avid West Bromwich Albion supporter. But did you also know that Frank is a practising Catholic?

Rev David Warbrick, author of 'The Church Times Book of 100 Best Prayers', (from which this prayer is reproduced) worked with our own Canon Rob Morris in Handsworth for four years. Rev David is now

Vicar of Hockley Heath and Packwood - and he and Canon Rob remain best of friends.

Dear Lord.

Hallowed be thy name, apparently. Which is a bit worrying. Don't get me wrong, it's nice that you're hallowed and everything, it's just that hallowedness can really get in the way of the warm, smiley, arm-around-the-shoulder type things, and they mean a lot to me. You see, when I meet human beings who are only just ever-so-slightly hallowed, I'm no good with them. I get awkward and dorky, and they start to think I'm a bit odd. I don't want you to think that. I want you to see my jaunty familiarity as a breath of fresh air. However, it's always in the back of my mind that, on the Judgement Day, you might say, 'Not him. I don't feel he ever truly acknowledged my hallowedness,' and I'd

be dragged off, calling back to you that your hallowedness was so fundamental and profound that I'd felt there was no need to up-front it. And some of the more liberal angels would deliberately not catch your eye.

Frank Skinner

(taken from Revd David Warbrick's favourite prayer in The Church Times Book of 100 Best Prayers' *Darkness and Sin* p112)



**Comedian
Frank Skinner**

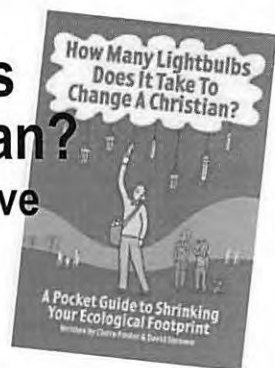
BOOK REVIEW

How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take To Change a Christian?

Authors Claire Foster & David Shreeve

Published by: Church House Publishing

ISBN: 978 071514127 4 Price: £4.99



At Last: the Why and the How Together!

How many times have you bought a book that tells you all the problems and then you have to go out and buy another book to find out how to address them? How often do sermons do the same?

Here is a little book that in sixty-five pages shows us the problems we face on all the major environmental issues of our day. It does so clearly and succinctly. It then addresses those issues with straightforward options that we can all understand and make use of in our own homes churches and lifestyle choices.

For example, issues around personal transport, energy-saving and community well being combine analysis, with a clear spiritual agenda and take us beyond the go by bus comments to ask deep and challenging questions. It's more than saving

money with insulation; it's more than using the car less. Rather it's about seeing our lives, God's world, as it could and should be.

I have personally read a lot on these issues and like you have probably tried to make some changes. Here is book that takes us much further in a brilliantly packaged little volume. It even has the cheek to suggest we should change the light bulbs in our churches! As the corny old joke goes, change, in the Church of England, never! Well perhaps after reading this we will see it is not only long overdue but eminently possible!

PS Perhaps every PCC should buy some copies to get the conversations going - now that really would be a change for the good!

Revd David Gould



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Mothers' Union Quiet Day

The Mothers' Union is holding a special "Quiet Day" on Saturday 9th June which is open to members and non-members alike. Costing only £6.50, the day will run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and is being held at the lovely old Aston Parish Church and centre with a lunch provided of soup, bread rolls and fruit.

This is a different sort of 'day away' because, although we are regularly offered the chance to let our souls catch up with our bodies as we spend time away from the busy-ness of our lives, we are often carrying with us the bruises, hurts, guilt and concerns of life which we need the opportunity to offload in an atmosphere of

love and safety. The 9th June will offer those who need it a time to seek personal healing (physical or emotional), forgiveness and inner reconciliation. Priests and qualified lay support will be available to listen (in complete confidence) and pray with those who feel it would be helpful.

Those of us just seeking to escape from the world for a day and refill our spiritual fuel tanks can immerse ourselves in the peace and love of God without distractions. Our speaker, Sue Langley, will offer us some real insights into avoiding and overcoming the effects of hurt and guilt. The day will be concluded with Holy Communion led by Rev. Canon Michael Caddy and will offer the laying on of hands with the blessing of oil to any who would like to receive them.

Booking forms are available from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Office:
Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX (please include sae)
Email: office@mu-bham.fsbusiness.co.uk



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A.N. Orak



Shrinking the Footprint

'For the Church of the 21st Century, good ecology is not an optional extra but a matter of justice. It is therefore central to what it means to be a Christian.'

Archbishop Rowan Williams

The Church of England has a web site dedicated to climate change and how we should respond to it. Named after the initiative,

www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org sets out how we are to become 'The 40% Church' – reducing our carbon emissions to 40% of current levels by 2050.

The site gives details of how we can measure our current footprint, use energy more efficiently, switch to green energy, generate renewable energy and offset our carbon emissions. There is also a link to the email address for Birmingham's Diocesan Environment Officer who is on hand to give advice.

A book on the subject has also recently been published called 'How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take To Change A Christian?' (see Book Review Page 28) you can order this from **www.chpublishing.co.uk** (£4.99).

As well as measuring the Parish's carbon footprint you can also measure your own at **www.myfootprint.org** by answering a few simple(ish) questions. Unfortunately, if everyone lived like me we would apparently need 1¼ earths!

For more general information you could visit **www.christian-ecology.org.uk** which is packed full of news and ideas on the subject.



We have made a good start in the Parish through the 'Living Generously' initiatives but there is a lot more that could and should be done to shrink our footprint down to 40%.

Happy Surfing

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CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Karen

Dear friends,

Did you know that right at the very beginning of June there is something called Environment Sunday? I only found out about it recently myself, it is on June 3rd. I thought it was an ideal event to set my story around. I hope you enjoy it. Have fun, **Karen**

Tom and the Rubbish

Tom's mum was moaning again. "I don't know what we are going to do!" she said "Having children creates so much rubbish." Tom was confused, why did his mother think that it was just the children that created rubbish? "Mum, you make rubbish too, you know." Tom's mum shook her head, "I'm sorry dear, we do make rubbish, yes, but you and your two sisters make twice as much. First there is the food you have, those things with biscuits that you dip into cheese, they all come in plastic boxes, then there is the pop you drink, again in large plastic bottles. You use loads and loads of paper every day, with your painting and drawing and colouring, and that's not even to mention your clothes which

you grow out of so very fast and have to be replaced. All of these things end up in the rubbish and it seems such a waste."

Over the next few weeks Tom thought and thought about what his mother had said, there must be some way he could help. One dinner-time he was sitting on his own thinking about it when his friend Anna came up "What's up, Tom?" she asked "You look very thoughtful." Tom explained the problem whilst Anna listened carefully. "Mmmm, it is a sticky problem isn't it, still let me have a moment." Anna sat down by Tom and got thinking, suddenly she exclaimed "I've got it, what we need to do is to recycle!" Tom looked at Anna and

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

Sudoku Rules

The numbers only go up to 6. There needs to be all the numbers 1-6 in every box and every line.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



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

smiled "Of course, why didn't I think of that?" he said, then they both got to work.

The following day some large posters appeared in Tom and Anna's street. "Come to Tom and Anna's Recycling Open Day, next Saturday" they said "Have fun and enjoy yourself whilst helping the World.

Saturday came around quickly and the Church hall was full of people. In one corner the Scout master had loads of used paper and was running a workshop on how to make handmade paper with it. In the next area Tom's Mum was running a sale with children's clothing, across the hall Anna's Dad was running a junk modeling competition, while her mum

was showing children how to take apart old woolen jumpers so that the wool could be used again to make blankets to send to the refugee camps.

Everyone who attended the recycling Open Day said it was great fun and they would love to do it again and Tom and Anna were asked to go to the Town Hall to be given a special certificate from the Lord Mayor.

Today we make so much rubbish because so much of what we use is not made to be used again but just as Tom and Anna showed, a little thought and you can use it again and have some fun as well, so get your ecological, recycling, thinking caps on and see just what you can do.

83rd Birmingham Brownies and friends raise funds



The 83rd Birmingham Brownies and friends enjoyed a toy pet show in May. Toy pets were entered into various categories including best mature teddy which had some seriously well loved bears entered. The pet show was to raise money for a trip being lead by one of the guiders, Eagle Owl Gemma Town to Austria and Italy this summer.

Pauline Weaver

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'Parish Mag'

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

You can contact her at agonyaunt@kingsnorton.org.uk

or write via the Parish Office.



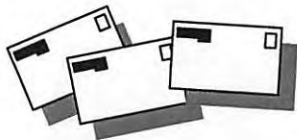
Dear Margaret,

I wondered if any of your readers noticed that it always rains during Christian Aid Week. I got absolutely soaked delivering my envelopes. Maybe as part of next year's preparation there could be a meeting to pray for good weather.

**Yours soggily,
Don Ation**

Dear Don,

First of all I would like to thank you for being one of our collectors, it is much appreciated. I'm afraid, however, that the discomfort of getting wet pales into insignificance compared with the plight of those who will benefit from the collection. You also have to remember that Christian Aid Week coincides with the First Test at Lord's so its pretty much guaranteed to rain!



Dear Margaret,

I very much enjoyed the Fresh Expressions Day at Hawkesley and was very interested in what I heard about Church in a Pub. Perhaps we could hold services in the Bull's Head during the winter months instead of church thus saving money on heating costs. I'm sure the Treasurer would be in favour.

**Cheers,
John Smith**

Dear John,

I don't think the idea of Fresh Expressions is to replace what is already going on, but I admire your creative thinking. I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking all those involved in organising and running the day, it was a great success.

Margaret.



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A. W. DAVIES

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Jess Boultons

Reflections on Confirmation Service

It is tempting to write something littered with superlatives about the Confirmation Service at St Nicolas on 13th May 2007. But all the adjectives in the cosmos would sound trite. I could say that I found it 'moving' or 'wonderful' or 'marvellous' or 'beautiful' but none of these do justice to the shared experience. I would love to write eloquently about the 'astounding' liturgy, the 'fabulous' ritual but it would bore you to death.

The Confirmation Service was most affecting in that it was full of very ordinary people. This is what made it special to me and the very ordinariness of us all experiencing something so extraordinary was overwhelming. Many of us were moved to tears. I certainly remain very emotional with our shared experiences so fresh in my mind. I am crying as I write this because it is a shock to be offered such a privilege as to be a part of such beauty. In the time we spent together we ordinary people were not separate at all, we were people engaged in each other's lives and stories.

We cared so much for each other, wanted so much for each other and yet a few months beforehand many of us didn't know one another at all. The candidates themselves were a group of people sharing with their Church one of the most intimate experiences of their lives. It was a gift to be a part of this. I have said that we were ordinary and you might wonder what is so exciting about that. It is exciting because Jesus comes to ordinary people; I know this, because he came to me. Being ordinary does not imply being mundane (I hope). Being ordinary means sharing in humanity and the created world. Being ordinary means being diverse but together; it means having incredible stories to tell about how we have experienced life on earth in this time and place. Being ordinary means waiting for the bus in the pouring rain and forgetting your umbrella, crying and raging and laughing and loving. An ordinary human screams for help when in pain or fear, yells at God



Photo
© Chris Holmes

and questions the existence of the divine, prays fervently for those they love. Ordinary people like you and me sometimes feel confused and find no meaning in our existence. Occasionally ordinary people think we cannot carry on living because life seems too bleak for survival and because we are too tired and depleted.

Being ordinary is important because it is the ordinary person and their experience of life that the overwhelming love of Christ embraces. Being ordinary is about being human and this means being the recipient of God's passion. For God ordinary is fabulous. God sees what we perceive as run-of-the-mill as the most sacred creation. When we lose our socks and exceed our overdraft limit and get fed up with changing nappies or see brutality and cruelty, God thinks we are fascinating beings. God sees us full of potential and ripe for transformation. Jesus comes and gets his hands dirty in the drudge of daily life. To think of us as precious, when we look in the mirror and see nothing special, seems ridiculous to us.

As we sat together, there were those previously confirmed sitting with those buzzing with anticipation at their own ceremony. There were those families and friends who loved the candidates and were there for their special day and those of no religious affiliation at all. We shared tissues, tears and laughter. I cannot speak for them, but I felt that we stopped seeing our ordinary selves as we see ourselves and saw each other as God sees us. This is what happened to me anyway. There we were in our basic human forms realising that what we saw before us was in fact full of God's promise. The stories we had told about the sadness and regret and the joys of our past and present were imbued with the life force of the creator of the universe. I can't speak for others, but I felt aware all over again that God thought ordinary people were amazing, that I thought ordinary people were amazing, and that in our ordinary lives the most extraordinary experience had happened. God had touched us because God wanted to touch us and I was intensely glad about that.

Jess Boulton

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



We have enjoyed lots of opportunities to meet with others from across the Parish recently: Heather's farewell service, the Fresh Expressions Vision Day, the Confirmation service (where we were particularly pleased to support the Confirmation of Hayley Griffiths from Immanuel and Tony Morris, one of the residents from Moundsley Hall Nursing Home, befriended by our visiting team there) and the Christian Aid lunch. We are looking forward to Hawkesley's barbecue

on 24th June – another opportunity for food and fellowship together. Thank you to all who have been involved in organising these events for us to take part in.

This is a busy term in the life of our two local primary schools as the children from Years 2 and 6 sit their SATs exams and as Year 6 pupils prepare to leave for Secondary School. Immanuel is providing a copy of Scripture Union's "It's Your Move" for every Year 6 pupil from Fairway and Wychall Primary Schools. These are booklets to help them to prepare for the changes they face, including some gentle Christian input.

We have plenty of events coming up:

By the time you are reading this article, we will have had our Pentecost Celebrations on 27th May, including an All Age Communion service, our Gift Day and a shared lunch.

The Fairway Centre (where we meet) is having a summer fayre on Thursday 21st June from 11am to 3pm and would appreciate people's support by attending on the day.

Impact! youth group is leading Immanuel's morning service on Sunday 24th June and so we look forward to welcoming them.

We are having a PrayerWorks prayer walk on the evening of Wednesday 27th June, walking around parts of the Immanuel neighbourhood and stopping to pray at particular places of interest.

We have the Immanuel weekend away from 29th June to 1st July at Cleobury Mortimer, where we will be sharing a Worship Weekend.

Café T will be organising two socials – Tuesday evenings of 5th June and 24th July (all are welcome!).

We will be running the cake stall at Kings Norton Festival on Saturday 14th July – so will be appealing for contributions of homemade cakes from you again!

For more details on any of the above events, please feel free to call us on 459 4711. Thank you.

Susan Haynes



Spring Harvest 2008

booking forms back
by Sunday 3rd June.



Spring Harvest is a Christian conference that takes place around Easter each year. Thousands of Christians meet together for worship, teaching and fun! There is a large, varied programme and there are sessions suitable for all ages (0 – 100+!). The theme for 2008 is ONE HOPE.

Dates: Monday 31st March - Saturday 5th April 2008 (This is in school holidays) **Place:** Butlins, Skegness

Cost: Probably between £150 and £200 per person for self-catering accommodation and entrance to all Spring Harvest events (actual cost depends on numbers and available accommodation)

More Information: Pick up a brochure and/or letter from the back of church or contact Ruth Snashall on 0121 477 5407 or at ruth.snashall@cheerful.com and further information is available from Spring Harvest website: www.springharvest.org

Women's Evening Fellowship

June 7th 2007 at 7.30 pm

Our next meeting will be on June 7th 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall, Westhill Road.

Annette and John Christophers will demonstrate "Fun with clay", and there may be a chance to join in - so don't come dressed in your "Sunday best" and perhaps bring an overall. There may also be associated merchandise, so don't forget your purses.

Our July meeting will be our AGM, followed by an American Supper.

Gwen Fox - Chairman

**NO SMOKING
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3Estates smoking cessation specialists, working with new deal for communities on the 3Estates (Kings Norton), are arranging a

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For more information

Ann Forbes

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Heathers Hawkesley Farewell

Friends and colleagues gather to say farewell to Rev Heather Flack at her final service at Hawkesley Church.

photograph by Tony Hill

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