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**Items for inclusion in the
November 2011 issue are
to be submitted by:-
Friday 14th October 2011**

Welcome.....

It may be that you are reading an edition of this magazine for the first time after picking up a copy on Back to Church Sunday. If so, I hope you enjoyed your Church



experience and enjoy what you read in the following pages.

Our Parish Person this month is Team Priest, Jayne Crooks. You can read her interview on page 38. She is also on the front cover talking to a group of Cubs who were visiting St Nicolas Church as part of their 'My Faith' badge. The Parish have had links with the Uniformed Organisations for many years and this is another valuable way we have been able to work together.

There is a report from the September PCC meeting starting on page 6. Among the topics discussed was the future of Hawkesley School. It is now seeking academy status which should secure its future and provide a stable platform for the school to move forward. Please remember the school, its staff, governors and children in your prayers while the necessary consultation is carried out.

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector

Back to Church – Resonance and Hope



For some years, churches across the world have been keeping the last Sunday of September as Back to Church Sunday. We do too. In St Nicolas, Immanuel and Hawkesley, it will be a day of invitation and encouragement, of welcome, praise and prayer.

The invitations have gone out - to every member and to the many more who have shared in the life of our congregations in baptisms, weddings, funerals, schools and much else. We pray and hope that many will respond – if not on the day itself, then soon after.

Back to Church Sunday may feel like an Open Day, a PR exercise or a recruitment drive. It isn't. It is celebration and reminder of what church is about all the time. That is nothing less than people finding and growing together in God's promise of life in all its fullness for the sake of others and our communities – on Sundays and weekdays alike.

And there are many other Back to Church days. We know about Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

We'd love St Nicolas Festival weekend (3rd/4th December) to be another – along with Christingle, Candlemas, Pentecost and the July Kings Norton Festival, to name but a few of the special days and times God gives each year.

As the parish church of a large and diverse community, we also have the huge privilege of over 150 Back to Church days each year in baptisms, weddings and funerals. In each one, as on most Sundays, lovely people enter the life of the church for the first time (unusual) or after time away (usual). They bring hopes and questions, past hurts – sadly too often church-inflicted – and a search for God's love, blessing and promise in Christ which we all need. By grace, they find them.

There are so many stories - of lively young men going to or just back from Afghanistan, of deeply faithful and committed couples surprised to discover that Christ's church offers welcome not judgment, of families giving thanks for long-wanted children, of families and friends gathering in grief, thanksgiving and hope – and many more. And they

interpretations of the work of more contemporary songwriters, together with great original material. I first became aware of them when their album 'The Bairns' was nominated for the Mercury Music Prize a few years ago, but to my mind they have got better and better since then. This year's album, entitled 'Last', is utterly entrancing listening; those lovely voices singing beautiful if usually pretty mournful and melancholic songs, backed by wonderfully arranged piano and strings. Fantastic stuff.

Which brings me neatly to the subject of my next 'rave'. I was lucky enough to see the Unthanks in performance twice recently. The first of those performances was at the August Bank Holiday weekend when they played a set at the **Greenbelt Festival**. Greenbelt is usually described as a 'Christian Arts Festival', although I would argue that it has become something much broader than that. As well as a hosting a wide range of music, film, comedy, drama and art installations, Greenbelt is also the forum for a wide range of (usually) stimulating talks, and for creative worship in a variety of styles. In fact, there is so much going on that festival-goers can't do more than dip into a selection of the stuff on offer.

For me, the beauty of Greenbelt is that it allows space for people to be who they are. Although it is a Christian festival, this is interpreted broadly, and not all the artists or festival-goers would describe themselves as Christians. However, I find the ethos of the festival deeply Christian, in the best sense; respecting and celebrating diversity, but with a shared commitment to bringing out the best in the world and its inhabitants.

greenbelt

I only made it to one day of Greenbelt this year; it is held at Cheltenham Racecourse, so it is easily accessible for day visitors from the Midlands. But sharing in the whole time from Friday to Monday of the last weekend in August is undoubtedly the best way to experience it. The hardy will camp; others may take caravans or camper vans, or stay in local B & Bs. I know that several people in Kings Norton Parish have been before; perhaps a group of us could go together next year? There's a thought to leave you with...

With every blessing

Rev John

Rev John Ranting and Raving



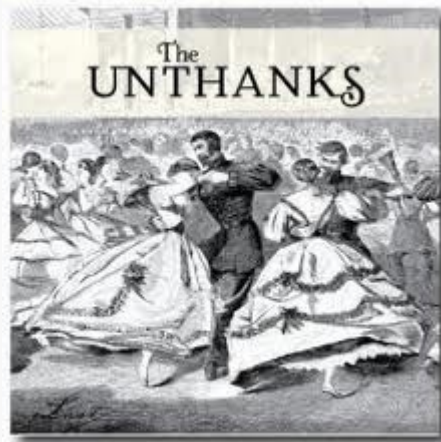
As many of those who know me will already be aware, I suffer from a strange and incurable affliction known as 'Being a Newcastle United supporter'. As such, I could quite happily rant for hours about the folly of the club's chairman and executive director. But I won't. I imagine such an article might have only limited appeal in a parish magazine, and would very likely lure me into using some rather un-vicarly language.

Better, I'm sure, to follow the example of the North-East's football legend Len Shackleton, who famously included in his autobiography a chapter entitled, "What the average director knows about football". The chapter consisted of a blank page.

Instead, I'd like to rave about some non-football related aspects of the area in which I was brought up. A couple of years ago, we had a family holiday in Northumberland, staying in a cottage near Wooler, not far from the Scottish border. It was wonderful to experience again the unspoilt beauty of the countryside in that area. The Northumbrian coast in particular is one of the real

treasures of the English landscape, as any of you who have visited the area will, I am sure, agree.

The soundtrack to our journeys through the area was the music of the Northumbrian folk group **The Unthanks**, previously known as Rachel Unthank and the Winterset. If any of you switched off there at the words 'folk group', bear with me. Although I am a bit of a folkie, I understand why some people aren't; but the Unthank sisters, Rachel and Becky, have won over fans of all types of music with their powerful and engaging performances, not to mention their gorgeous Northumbrian accents. Their music combines traditional songs from the local area with some beautiful



are not one-offs. So often the stories are intertwined – and, in each one, Christ crucified and risen is present. It's how we manage.

At the beginning of September, the usual Sunday afternoon baptism service was standing room only - and that was just the adults. Maybe 100 children were making full use of floor, parental knees and every other space. We knew each family through other stories – of recent grief, of marriages thriving and ended, of friendship in other places – and of feeling their way in to Sunday worship. It was noisy, hard work – and absolutely wonderful with a deep sense of Christ's presence. We put in an extra hymn because the singing was so full-hearted!

And this is where resonance comes in. (God's gifts to us of so many scientists and engineers may want to look away now. As they patiently know, I'm more at home in poetry and music than science).

Resonance springs from noise, pulse, rhythm, good and bad. If we're with a child on a swing, we know that a hard push at the wrong time leads to broken teeth; a gentle push at the right time brings delight. Working together, we can each do more than we can do alone.

It's no different in church. The sounds we make resonate in ways which encourage – or deter. Sitting close together helps us all sing more richly – because our little voices can all resonate with others. Sitting apart makes it so much harder. The loud voice which says only "Look at me" is impossible to sing with. The confident voice which says "You can do this too" brings out our weaker voices in song. We are also finding how much the resonance of a piano draws us all into richer resonance in music and prayer. And every day offers the resonance of centuries of answered prayer to lift ours.

Our own stories, kept deep within or told aloud, resonate also with all that we find and hear of God's story in church. Every preacher knows this – or should. What we say is heard very differently by everyone as their own stories resonate with what we offer – richly or painfully.

In that Sunday baptism service, through all the noise, there was a huge sense of God's story of love resonating with so many human stories of hope and despair to bring blessing, meaning and new purpose. I pray that every Back to Church day brings the same resonance for all of us.

Rob Morris

September PCC meeting

St Nicolas Church Building works

Among much else at its meeting on 8th September, our Church Council reviewed the care, use and growth of our wonderful building.

We received report on roof repair following August's lead theft. We have three quotations – but are waiting for our insurer's final decision.

We agreed to make a faculty application (the church form of planning permission) to confirm the current ordering of the nave until we are able to make firm long-term plans – and also to cover our new and already cherished friend, the loaned Broadwood grand piano.

We continue to work on preparations for heating & lighting upgrade, on vestry re-ordering and toilets, on improving access and on re-ordering and conservation especially of the Nave platform area, the Lady Chapel and the area around the South Door.

We are now preparing an application to Heritage Lottery Fund to support essential research into our historic fabric and fixtures and to prepare access changes and a full Interpretation Plan for St Nicolas, so that we can plan full re-ordering and renewal with confidence and full knowledge. We will also seek English Heritage and other appeal funds to support repair and conservation of stonework and memorials.

We have asked the Interpretation consultants for Saint Nicolas Place to prepare a detailed report on a similar scheme for St Nicolas Church ready for grant application.

A first step: Lady chapel re-ordering

We agreed to ask Eric Maycroft, who made the amazing chair in the Old Grammar School, to quote for a new altar table to stand over Humfrey Toye's tomb. It would have an open front so that the tomb can still be seen. This will also give larger and more welcoming space for private prayer, stillness and candle-lighting for the growing number who treasure and use this beautiful space in sorrow and joy. We also agreed to prepare plans for a new aumbry (a secure place to keep Communion and oils for healing) in the current space in the wall.

going to the cinema, reading and knitting (when I have time). I also enjoy the occasional bike ride or walk in the country.

What are your best memories? Running and jumping. I loved running and doing the long jump when I was younger and would spend hours pounding the track or practising my jumping. It paid off too as I was undefeated 100m County Champion for 7 years and a Long Jump record I set in 1965 stood for 9 years. I also have lots of wonderful memories of holidays with Roger and the children when they were small – we had some great times.

What's your favourite holiday place? That's difficult as I've been to lots of places and each is special in its own way, but probably I'd have to say the island of Guernsey.

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

I always read this question in other people's interviews and wonder how I would answer this because I think it's the most difficult question of all to answer. If I'm only allowed one book, then it would have to be The Bible – it's got everything – poems, history, wisdom, advice, comedy, tragedy – and of course it oozes hope on almost every page. My luxury might have to be a really nice car, with a bit of umph – I love driving – although I suppose on a desert island I wouldn't have much chance to drive it, even if I could get the petrol!!

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

I've started this answer so many times and then looked at what I've written and thought to myself, 'But we are that already in so many different ways'. One of the things that I would like to see, though, is more people with a desire to continue stretching and growing their faith and taking part in learning groups/Bible studies/prayer groups and so on. We're never too old or too young to share our experiences of God, to accept his grace through Christ and other people and to be challenged as to what our calling is as Christ's followers here in Kings Norton.



Rev. Jayne Crooks



What is your name? Jayne Barbara Crooks (nee Tinkler)

Where were you born? I was born and grew up in Peterborough, which is on the edge of the Fens. My parents still live here, so I get to visit it often.

What is your occupation? I'm Team Priest here in Kings Norton, but trained originally as a Primary School teacher.



Why Kings Norton? My husband, Roger, and I moved to Kings Norton in 1977 when he joined one of the local Doctors practices. After his death, I felt called to ministry in the parish and initially trained as a Reader, but went on to be ordained in 2004. From time to time I, along with others, do test out this calling, but at present it still seems right to be here in Kings Norton. I must admit, though, I do like living here and have some wonderful friends and family who live close by!

Why is your Christian faith important to you? Well, given my profession, there'd be trouble if it wasn't important!! But joking aside, it has always played an important part in my life. It is the only source of real hope that we have and I have discovered over the years that God's promises - to be always there, giving me strength and courage to face whatever the future holds - are true. I have also found that if I trust him with my future, then he will give me, by his grace, all that I need to do his will.

What are your hobbies and interests? I like spending time with my family, especially playing with my little grandson, Joseph, but I enjoy

Hawkesley Church Primary School

The government is making rapid changes in education. In response, Hawkesley School Governors decided on 5th September to seek academy status. We have asked our Diocesan Board of Education and Methodist partners to sponsor this change of school status.

Many have serious questions about academies and the central policy which drives them. We believe, however, that we had no choice. We either moved quickly to secure a sponsor of our choosing or wait until Mr Gove ordered his own. Parents and staff have been fully informed. There will now be a process of wider consultation until 31st October.

What does this mean?

For children, parents and staff we believe it will make very little immediate difference. With Diocesan and Methodist sponsors, we can secure the ethos of Hawkesley as local church school and Hawkesley church in its life within the parish. Under a different sponsor both would be at risk.

There will, however, be a big difference in how we see and plan for the future of School and Church at Hawkesley. This move, if successful, will guarantee that the future of the whole site and its story will at last be secure.

Local authority indecision has meant that we have had to endure profound uncertainties for far too long. For years we have only been able to make short-term plans. Our children, families and staff have been brilliant in bringing school through this, but deserve much more. We can now at last plan for the major changes in site, building and mission which we have long cherished, often sought to make reality – and can now begin to grasp.

As so many other local support services and facilities are drastically cut back, Hawkesley School, Church, Pastoral Centre and Community Hub will be crucial in ensuring that the Hawkesley community and its neighbours have a place to gather, a light to guide and a haven in storms in Christ's name.

No new money comes with this – but confidence about the future allows us to develop new prayer, vision and plans to enable work for new growth and the resources to secure it. The final decision rests with Mr Gove. Following consultation with staff, parents, community and church, we believe we can make it a straightforward one for him. Now, we pray and work!

Canon Rob Morris, Vice-Chair of Governors

Saint Nicolas Place

We have a busy autumn programme for all ages – and it is growing. Please call and ask for details. The new website is swiftly being developed. Staff training is steady and committed – and we are gathering new volunteers. Please ask if you would like to join in!

Café and Catering. As most already know, on 22nd July, we took catering in-house. It has been a very steep learning curve, especially for our staff – but utterly worthwhile. Standards of service, menu, cleanliness and ethos have risen steadily. Ex-patrons have returned to the café. New ones arrive almost daily. There is also a steady rise in catered functions, with appreciative customers - and return bookings. We can look to catering enhancing the appeal and usefulness of our buildings – and making a significant contribution to future income. We still have some way to go but the new start is hugely encouraging.

We hope in October to have an Open Meeting for all users and supporters of our buildings, not least of the café. Until then, please visit and enjoy. If you have comments – and ideas on improving what we offer, please use the comment slips available in the café to help us plan hours, menu, ethos – and anything else!

Saint Nicolas Festival (December 3rd/4th)

Thanks to a small and wonderful group of volunteers, we are developing a lovely programme of events to celebrate what has already been achieved, to renew former partnerships in community and church, to engage many more people in the life and support of our buildings, to open our exciting new Interpretation Scheme – and to reconnect church and community with Thomas and his creator, the Revd W.V. Awdry. We are delighted that the Awdry family will be with us for the weekend, including the St Nicolas Service at 10.30am on 4th December and the Celebration lunch afterwards.

This will of course run alongside and within the parish's celebration of our patron and of all that God has inspired through him in the variety of life and service in each of our congregations. All it now needs for success is you!

Please mark the dates – and share.

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Announcement at The Cotteridge Church

We are pleased to announce that after consultation with our church representatives, the Bishop has appointed a Priest in Charge for The Cotteridge Church. She is the Revd Joycelyn Lewis-Gregory, currently Curate at St Peter's Hall Green.

Joycelyn has been involved in parish work as a lay person for many years at Holy Trinity Birchfield, prior to ordination, and she gained qualifications in adult education and in youth and community work. Following her training with the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, she has been serving for over three years as Curate in Hall Green.

For the remainder of this year she needs to fulfill commitments in her present parish, and so the Bishop plans to license her to Cotteridge on a date to be fixed in January.

As agreed with the Church Council, this is a half-time appointment, allowing her to also to serve the diocese in another important capacity - as the Bishop's Adviser for Minority Ethnic Anglicans, with particular responsibility for developing the discipleship of Minority Ethnic Anglican young people and young adults.

Joycelyn says: "I am humbled by the post that I have been offered, although I will be heartbroken to leave St. Peter's Hall Green, and the wonderful friends that I have made over the last three years. I feel that this is a path that God has directed me to. St Peter's will always hold a special place in my heart, not only because of my mentor Martin Stephenson but because I married my wonderful husband Mike here. If I receive the same welcome at Cotteridge I will be extremely blessed. This is an exciting period for me in my walk with Christ and I look forward to the next steps that I will be taking."

Rob adds: At last! I've known Joycelyn since her Handsworth days and am delighted that she is coming to Cotteridge. She will be a lovely neighbour – and with Nick Jones, Jackie Enbrey and our many lay friends at Cotteridge, will help us all to grow rich new local partnership in the Gospel. We need to – and now by God's grace we shall. Please surround Joycelyn and Cotteridge with your prayers.

Nature Watch - St Nicolas churchyard

Often, when people come to the Office with a query or request about their family grave, it is the trees they mention - in compliment or as a landmark. We are blessed with a large number of trees in our 6 acres of ground, many of them being mature giants of nearly 70 foot - with 23 different species. Each tree has a unique numbered tag and are regularly reviewed by accredited arboriculture consultants, appointed by the PCC. Their condition is checked less formally but very regularly by parish staff and our marvellous team of churchyard carers.

In order to build up real evidence for any future interpretation in our churchyard, we need to gather information of what bird and mammal species use our churchyard as a permanent or temporary home. If anyone has a spare hour at any stage over the next few months and wants to make some records, all we need is the date and time of the recordings, the weather and the species and the number of each one. Please collect a recording form from the Parish Office or download one from the website (under "Autumn Watch KN style") - or talk to Sylvia.



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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

September has been a special month at Immanuel this year.

On Sunday 4th September, the roof was nearly lifted with enthusiastic praise as a large number gathered, back from holidays, and enjoyed what felt like a family reunion!

On Sunday 18th, we celebrated Harvest by looking at the work of Tear Fund, a Christian organisation long supported at Immanuel. It operates in three ways – through long-term community development work; by responding to disasters; and by engaging in advocacy (that is, campaigning to governments) to change policies that affect poor communities. We were particularly learning about a project in Ogongora village in Uganda.

And on 25th September, Back to Church Sunday, we are looking forward to the Baptism of Faith Love, followed by a celebratory shared lunch.

Aware that Oasis can only cater for a limited age group, once young people leave primary school, they are encouraged to be a part of the congregation and share in the services with the adults. At the young people's request, we have now set up a monthly discipleship group at Immanuel, discussing issues of interest to them and application of the Christian faith into their daily lives. Our thanks to Gail for leading this group.

Susan Haynes

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



Human Trafficking starts in communities and can be stopped by communities. People in the West Midlands can work together to stop trafficking in their community.

How? Read on.....

Stop the Traffik Community Roadshow
2pm -5pm, Saturday 19th November 2011
Hawkesley Primary School, 376 Shannon Road, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B38 9TR

Next summer, the Olympics takes place at venues all around the country. Thousands of hopeful athletes will choose to travel from around the world to win gold. Every minute of every hour of every day, other people are forced to travel around the world to make gold for someone else; trafficked. Deceived or coerced against their will, men, women and children are bought, sold and transported for forced begging, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and other forms of exploitation. Stop The Traffik Community Roadshows aim to equip local communities to tackle human trafficking ahead of the Olympic Games.

Why? Everyone needs to know what human trafficking is and how it affects them.

What? An interactive community workshop exploring the impact of trafficking and what we can do about it.

Where? The Birmingham Roadshow is being organised by local community members and professionals who want to lead the fight against human trafficking.

Who by? Members of the Stop the Traffik team, frontline professionals and local community activists.

Who for? Anyone in the West Midlands who wants to make it harder for trafficking to occur - faith groups, local charities, police officers, social workers, health workers, teachers, community services, local businesses and others.

To register for the Birmingham Roadshow, email act@stophetraffik.org with your name and address, indicating that you wish to attend the BIRMINGHAM roadshow.



Birmingham Methodist District

To find out more about trafficking: www.stophetraffik.org
For more information contact Kerry at adavuproject@gmail.com

Sarah Crooks

Women's Fellowship

In place of our normal meeting, we will be having our annual Communion Service in St. Nicolas Church. During the service, new members will be enrolled. This will take place on Thursday 6th October at 7.30pm.

All are welcome to attend.

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

Kings Norton History Society

The October meeting will be on Monday 31st when WENDY PEARSON will give a talk on "SELLY OAK & BOURNEBROOK THROUGH TIME".

Doors open at 7.00 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7.30. Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

Anawim Women's Project

The Anawim Women's Project in Balsall Heath (where Rebecca Pullin used to work) is celebrating its 25th anniversary in October. Anawim has worked with hundreds of vulnerable women in Birmingham in that time, offering practical support, advice and friendship. More recently, it has started to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, offering a vital and excellent alternative to custodial sentences for women from all sections of society for whom prison would be particularly devastating for both the women themselves and also their families. This summer, the women of Anawim have started a garden project and would greatly welcome any donations of plants, now that the garden has been cleared; especially welcome would be bulbs to plant now ready for the spring and hardy shrubs which would take little looking after but provide colour. If anybody might be able to help with this, please see either Sylvia or me, and donations could be left at the Parish Office. Many thanks.

Emma Templeton.

MISSION FOCUS - BIRMINGHAM CITY MISSION

Birmingham City Mission is the charity selected for Immanuel's outward giving for September.

What is Birmingham City Mission? It is a Christian based charity spread over several centres with its motto "Serving the City". BCM's aim is to serve God through helping people in the city in whichever way is needed. Set up in 1966, BCM's holistic ministry can be broken down into two main areas:-

- Proclaiming the Gospel in the city centre and community;
- Organising and running caring projects with practical help.



Proclaiming the Gospel

Every Tuesday and Saturday, come rain or shine, BCM workers are out in the city centre to share the Gospel through preaching, sketch board work and question/answer. The Gospel is also shared in all the caring projects.

Caring projects

These cover every age group and need:-

- 1) Elderly - BCM is involved in lunch clubs at the Elderlink Centre four times a week, including chiropody; hospital visiting on Fridays; and a Charity Shop with Christian bookshop above, in Kingstanding.
- 2) Homeless - BCM's Care Centre in Watery Lane, Bordesley is open Tuesday and Wednesday nights to all who need a hot meal plus food to take away. Clothing is also available. Also the centre offers friendship, advice, advocacy and access to rehabilitation. Many who attend are traumatized and depressed. A listening ear is offered and staff try to build relationships, sometimes with their own personal testimony, but often the homeless person is unwilling to talk. Staff do their best to meet the needs of those attending - i.e. a shower if needed, taken to hospital etc. The Gospel is shared with all who attend with a Bible study on Wednesday evenings for those who want to learn more. On Sunday mornings, there is a church service for the homeless. BCM also runs a holiday for the homeless. This summer (2011) they went to Pembroke.

CHARITY QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT

Come along to take part in an amazing quiz here at Saint Nicolas Place. It will be a night to remember with many things going on, including a hearty home made curry that you can delve into and, on top of that, you can bring your own alcohol! We will also provide free childcare for you in which you can rest in the knowledge that your child is being entertained in a well equipped youth room by a fully CRB checked member of staff.

All proceeds go towards maintaining Saint Nicolas Place.

Ticket Price: £10.00

Friday 25th November

7.30pm onwards

COMEDY NIGHT "LAUGHING COWS"

Hosted by a reputable stand up Comedy Company who have always provided sell out events, enjoy a night of comedy here in our fabulous facilities.

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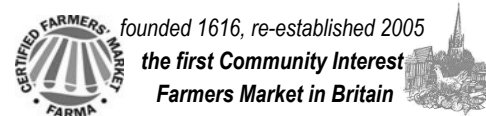
Date & Time TBC

Kings Norton Farmers Market

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9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**



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We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church.

The next one will be on Saturday 8th October. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

HANDS ON THE PAST

You will be taken on a tour by our fantastic costumed guides to look at the past of Saint Nicolas Place. Following this, you will indulge in a lunch which will be served personally to you in the Queens Room, where royalty has been reported to stay.

Ticket price:
£15.00 (Adults)
£7.50 (children)

Saturday 1st October
11am-2pm

HISTORIC HALLOWEEN

“A HALLOWEEN TO REMEMBER”

Join us here at Saint Nicolas Place where you will be greeted by costumed characters. You will learn the traditions of Halloween’s past and listen to grizzly tales of Kings Norton’s Gruesome and Notorious! The night will consist of a costumed tour around both Kings Norton and Saint Nicolas Place, followed by a hearty light supper. Feel free to come along dressed as your favourite Historical character and you can also bring your own alcohol.

Ticket Price:
£20.00 (Adults)
£7.50 (Children)

Saturday 29th October
7.30pm onwards

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

“AN EVENING OF THRILLS AND SPILLS”

Back by popular demand! There has been a murder here at Saint Nicolas Place and we need somebody to find out who did it... Was it the Butler???
Come along and find out plus bring your own alcohol!

Ticket Price: £25.00
Monday 31st October
7pm onwards

**BOOK ONTO BOTH OUR “HISTORIC HALLOWEEN” AND OUR
“MURDER MYSTERY EVENING” FOR JUST £39.99.**

3) Children and youth - BCM go into schools and lead assemblies (often using puppets, games, stories, sketches or songs) with a spiritual basis. “Moving on” roadshow is for children in Year 6 to take stock spiritually before moving on to senior school.

The bus programme goes to schools outside Birmingham. (There is an assembly and then lessons on the bus exploring the work of BCM.)
Out of school - BCM run two after school clubs with holiday camps for those who attend the out of school clubs. This summer (2011) 40 children attended the holiday club.

“Solid Rock” is a half-term holiday club run by BCM based in one of the poorer areas of the city. This summer (2011), 53 children attended “Solid Rock”.

The football coaching for boys aged up to 9 yrs also includes Bible input. Youth camp went well this summer with 34 children/young people attending. They went to Chepstow.

“Fulfill” based at St Luke’s church centre is a place where young people can go with a café, music, video, games, crafts etc.

4) Any age can benefit from the Resource Centre in Washington Street, B1. It is there that BCM collect and redistribute furniture, clothing and bedding. Many ex-homeless people train as volunteers there. Volunteers are certainly needed as last year 2,600 food parcels, 60 tons of clothing and 1,500 furniture pick-ups were redistributed.

The Christmas toy parcels is a huge project there involving collecting, checking and wrapping toys for needy children. It starts many weeks before Christmas. I and many of my colleagues have used this for our needy families for many years.

BCM is always keen to train volunteers from whatever background for urban challenge or summer outreach. “Steps” is BCM’s short taster programme for those not sure how or where they might like to volunteer.

5) Any age can be referred by BCM to J. & K. Hackett who have a narrow boat and offer day trips/ holidays to those in need.

6) Since 2000, BCM has also been working in Ciechanow, Poland, always with the aim of “serving the city” and spreading the love of God.

May we thank God for the enormous tasks and varied work of BCM and may we pray for its continuance and expansion.

Sue Hartley.

Women's World Day of Prayer – Informed Prayer: Prayerful Action

From its early beginning as a national day of prayer for women missionaries in the USA, WWDP has grown into a truly international organisation and is now celebrated annually on the first Friday of March. Each year, the service is crafted by, and tells the stories of the lives of, the women of a particular country.

In 2012, it will be from the ladies of Malaysia. Theirs is a country very rich in culture, faiths and natural beauty. They are a fairly wealthy country – but as in any nation there are problems and two particular problems are violation of women and human trafficking. These dreadful injustices become a central theme of the service and preparation materials – the Service having the title **Let Justice Prevail**.

For those of us who already enjoy good ecumenical relations with our neighbouring Christian communities, it is moving to discover that it may only be through the work of the organisation that ladies in other parts of the world come together for worship and Bible study. This may be the first time that they are able to meet together for worship and Bible study in many centuries.

There is something very special about discovering more about the lives of our Christian sisters across the globe and realising that we can all pray together and worship using the same readings and stories, even when we have never actually met.

The service is translated into 170+ languages and dialects, making it the most wide-reaching of any printed Christian material, apart from the Bible. Moneys gathered in gifts and collection goes to charities supporting Biblical translation/provision and also to humanitarian work in the writing country. Much of the worship is based around Bible readings and stories about the chosen country, with responses in prayers, times of quiet and hymns/songs.

Look out for details of the local service March 2nd 2012 at 2.00 pm. The host church will be Cotteridge Church this year and there will hopefully be a 7.00 pm service at St Nicolas too - with a meal as a central part of the evening.

Sylvia Fox

hands and his side. On seeing the Lord, the disciples were overjoyed. Jesus said again, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you pronounce them unforgiven, they remain."

One of the twelve, Thomas the twin, was not with the rest when Jesus came. So the others kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails on his hands, unless I put my finger into the place where the nails were, and my hand into his side, I will never believe it."

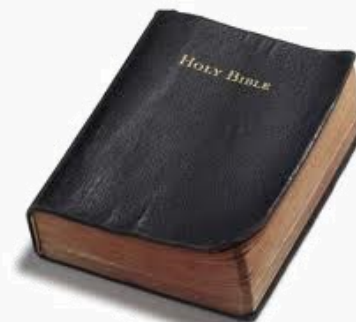
A week later, his disciples were once again in the room and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them saying, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, look at my hands. Reach your hand here and put it into my side. Be unbelieving no longer but believe. Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen, you have found faith. Happy are they who have found faith without seeing me."

I have chosen this passage of Scripture because of two things. It is one of the most important events in Christianity, if not the greatest of all. Also, the disciples went from utter despair to overwhelming, indescribable joy, their faith having been renewed.

Alan Cheney

What is your favourite Bible story? Why not help celebrate the 400th anniversary of the KJV Bible by writing it down and sending it to us so we can share it with our readers?

Editor



My Favourite Bible Story (John 20 1-29)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdela came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance, and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple the one whom Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she said, "and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter and the other disciple set out and made their way to the tomb.

They ran together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He peered in and saw the wrappings lying there, but did not enter. Then Simon Peter caught up with him and went into the tomb. He saw the wrappings lying there, and the napkin which had been round his head, not with the wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and saw and believed; until then they had not understood the scriptures, which showed he must rise from the dead.

So the disciples went home again, but Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she peered into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. They asked her, "Why are you weeping?" She answered, "They have taken my Lord away and I do not know where they have laid him". With these words she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognise him. Jesus asked her, "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Thinking that it was the gardener, she said, "If it is you, sir, who removed him, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni" (which is Hebrew for teacher). "Do not cling to me," said Jesus, "I have not yet ascended to my father and your father, to my God and your God." Mary of Magdela went to tell the disciples. "I have seen the Lord!" she shouted and gave them his message.

Late that same day, the first of the week, when the disciples were together behind locked doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you!" he said, then he showed them his



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FAIRTRADING IN ST. NICOLAS

Many of you have already noticed and commented on the empty tables near the back of the church. The permanent Fairtrade stand in Saint Nicolas is being closed due to the availability and ease of buying Fairtrade and Traidcraft products elsewhere. Since the Fairtrade movement has grown so fast - and with local markets having a large selection at lower prices than we could offer - it makes sense to pull our tables out. We will still be offering Fairtrade items at "special events" such as the Christmas Fayre (got to have those chocolate advent calendars!) and other parish activity days. I would like to thank everyone who bought, worked and spread the Fairtrade word. The fact that it is now more "mainstream" is a wonderful statement. Keep up with Fairtrade and Traidcraft news on <http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/> and look for us on The Green!

Judy Ash

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Tribute to Former St Nicolas Sunday School Teacher, Hetty Crofts, Aged 99

Hetty was born in 1912 and grew up in Kemberton, near Shifnal in Shropshire. Her first job on leaving school was in a grocery store, weighing up dry goods to put into blue bags. She then became a nanny for a local family before moving to Birmingham to take up the position of housekeeper. I don't know how long she had this position, but at some point she left to begin working at the Midland Counties Dairy. She showed an aptitude for working with people

and so was given the opportunity to become a sales rep. She would visit new housing estates, walking up and down the new roads, knocking on doors asking people to become customers. Hetty loved it.

It was while working for the dairy that she met Syd and they were married on 6th July 1940, I believe here in St Nicolas Church. They certainly lived in the area of Kings Norton. Hetty became a member of St Nicolas Church and naturally introduced her own daughter, June, to Sunday School when she was about 4 years old. Marion Richardson was the Sunday School Superintendent at the time and she approached Hetty, asking if she would consider becoming a Sunday School teacher. Hetty agreed and so began a long association with Sunday School and St Nicolas. Here are some of the songs that she taught (how many do you know?): I'm H-A-P-P-Y; Jesus wants me for a sunbeam; If you're happy and you know it;

Two little eyes to look to God; and (when it was collection time) Hear the pennies dropping. (What a great song!) Hetty was also a great cake decorator and enjoyed icing cakes for her friends' children. During her later years, along with the likes of Marion and Winnie Halfpenny, Hetty helped to raise many thousands of pounds for Cancer Research.

I met Hetty a couple of years ago when visiting her sister-in-law, Nan Crofts, in hospital shortly before Nan died. June had brought her to visit in her wheelchair. We had a delightful conversation and she struck me as being a lovely lady.



There was certainly no diminishing of mind. And June told me that for all of her 99 years, Hetty retained her alertness of mind and her independence right up until her death. Her eyesight, hearing and mobility weren't great, but she still enjoyed a good conversation and a joke, especially with the local vicar who came to see her at her home on the day that she died very peacefully in her sleep. God Bless you Hetty. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise again in glory. Amen.

Rev Jayne

August 2011 Baptisms

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

7 th August	Lucy-Jade Janice Jeanette Heath
7 th August	Logan John Hirst
7 th August	Laura Power
7 th August	Charlie Sidney Price
7 th August	Jaiden Reiss Taylor
21 st August	Freddie William Charles Michael Envine
21 st August	Abbie Grace Margaret Mary Envine
21 st August	Caitlin Susan Tonks

August 2011 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

6 th August	Leighton Michael Albert Thomas Peach and Candice Rebecca Sarah Jarvis
12 th August	Stuart Geoffrey Buck and Sarah Russell
13 th August	Damien Alan David Lacey and Stephanie Carol Ann Gloster
18 th August	John Bradley Billingham and Gemma Anne Gibbs
20 th August	Richard Allen Bannister and Sarah Louise Jennings
20 th August	Clive Alan William Cotterill and Joanne Denise Attwood
20 th August	Martin Frederick Paul Mason and Kerryanne Eileen Ballantyne
20 th August	Marc Ian Lightfoot and Nicola Jane Yeomans
27 th August	Kevin Paul Foster and Joanne Louise Mooney
28 th August	Piers Lawrence Lindsay-Taylor and Emma Ballinger

Harry L Marks

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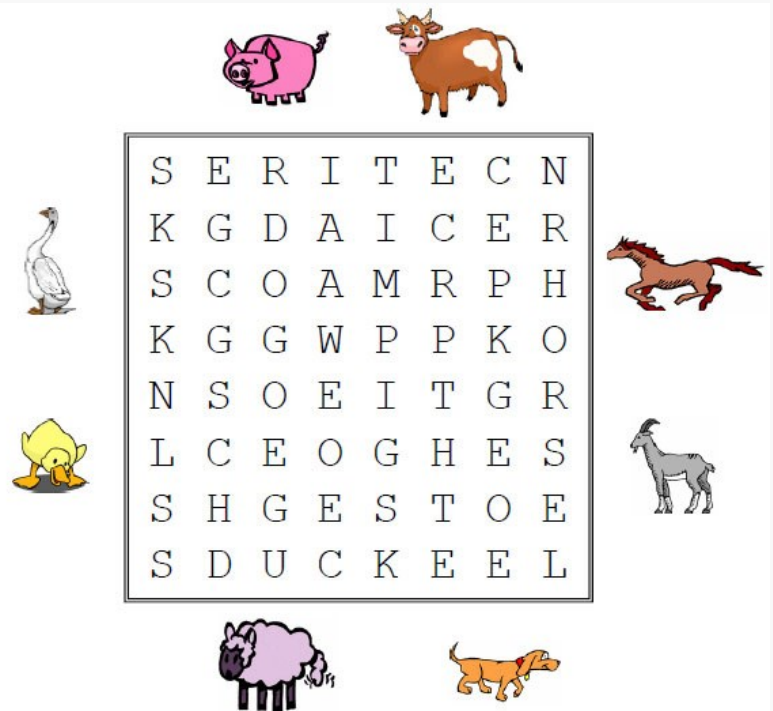
that have had a good life and been well looked after, such as free range. Come to the service on 9th October and tell your friends how important it is to look after the animals because God made us and loves us as well as the animals in our world.

If you would like to know more about what you can do, you can ask your parents or get in touch with me via the Parish Office.

Remember, God loves us and wants us to look after the animals he has created.

Have fun doing the word search below to find the animals found on a farm!

PIG
COW
HORSE
GOAT
DOG
SHEEP
DUCK
GOOSE



CHILDREN'S PAGE... WITH DAVID



Hello everyone!

This month, the Children's Page has been put together by a guest writer, David Moorcroft, as there is an Animal Welfare Service at St. Nicolas at 10.30am on Sunday 9th October and he would like to tell you more about it.

Animal Welfare means looking after the needs of animals. Together, let's have a look at the story of creation to see what God has to say about the animals.

Genesis 1 v 24-26

"Then God commanded,

Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small and it was done. So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

Then God said,

And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small."

Did you know that God created all the animals that roam on the land, fly in the sky and swim in the sea, just like he created us?

God then created us to have power over the animals and to love them like God does. When God gave us power over the animals, this was not meant so that we could be mean to them or to hurt them. God wants us to look after the animals and to stop those people who are causing harm to them. This doesn't mean you have to keep lots of animals and look after them. There are lots of ways you can help, such as looking out for injured animals and telling the RSPCA; and supporting charities that fight for animal needs such as Compassion in World Farming or the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals. You could also only eat meat and other animal products, such as milk and eggs, from animals

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August 2011 Funerals

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

- 6th June Patricia Kemp, Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 1st August Therese Celine Dix, Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 2nd August Brenda Joyce Smith, 68. Service at St John Longbridge, burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 4th August Ronald Berrow, 81. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 5th August Dorothy Monica Brown, 54. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 5th August Valerie Wilson, 66. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 8th August Audrey Blount, 80. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 10th August John Bentley Leek, 92. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 11th August Lynne Karen Whyborn, 54. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 12th August Ceri Floresca Adams, 22. Service at St Josephs, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 15th August Dennis Gordon Howes, 79. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 16th August Albert Deeks, 83. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 16th August Rita Beeby, 66. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 18th August Brenda Georgina Smith, 69. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 23rd August Everal Adolphus Fuller, 73. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 24th August Emily Florence Fulford, 85. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 26th August Robin Louis Batchelor, 64. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 30th August Anne Harrison, 99. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 30th August Kathleen Margaret Lynch, 67. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 31st August Kori Robert Bashford, 1 day. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 31st August Ernest & Irene Shaw. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.

At Saint Nicolas Place

Women's Fellowship Seniors' Club (Over 65's)

7.30pm 1st Thursday; Secretary: Carol Devic
Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Christine Bowen & Marlene Collyer

Guides and Brownies

Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm
Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)

Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall,
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS

Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm Penny Hattersley 628 5694
Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45 pm Karen Urwin 430 6005
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

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Heritage and Learning Officer: Matthew Knox

Kings Norton Parish Office

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e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk
Please use Parish Office to contact clergy and lay officers, to place prayers and notices in
our weekly newsletter and monthly Events Diary – and for all churchyard enquiries.

Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School

Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468
School website: www.hawkesley.bham.sch.uk

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

Please use our website www.kingsnorton.org.uk, ask at services or Open Church times or at Parish Office on 0121 458 3289 (Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm). The weekly newsletter and monthly events diary have the latest information. Churchyard enquiries to Parish Office

MINISTRY TEAM:

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The Revd Dr John White (Team Vicar)	458 3289/07854 412949
The Revd Jayne Crooks (Team Priest)	458 3289/459 3733
The Revd Donald Sampson (Methodist Minister)	458 3289/476 7223
Mrs Fay Fearon (Reader)	458 3289/451 1914
Mrs Ruth Howman (Reader)	458 3289

WARDENS

St. Nicolas Hawkesley	Paul Shelton, Anne Hughes 458 3289 Jim Clarke 550 3455/07939 838086 Elaine Cooper
Immanuel	Alan Haynes 459 4711

PCC (Church Council)	Secretary: Judy Ash Treasurer: Tracey Adams
Parish Administrators:	Judy Ash, Sylvia Fox, Christine Gadd
Christian Giving Officer	Jean Brownsword 458 3289
Churchyard Care Team	Richard Harper 458 3289
Bible Reading Fellowship	Julie Caley 458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Alison Blumer 486 2837
Organist and Music Director	Sylvia Fox 07778 449170

*Tuesday: Training and groups 6-9pm; Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m.; Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.
Handbell Ringers Mondays 3-4.30 p.m - please phone first to check we are meeting if you are hoping to come along.*

Immanuel Music Group	Susan Haynes 459 4711
-----------------------------	-----------------------

Oasis/ Sunday School/

Immanuel	Nicky Moorcroft (Oasis leader)
St. Nicolas and Hawkesley	contact via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Magazine: Editor	Alan Haynes 459 4711 editor@kingsnorton.org.uk
Treasurer (Subscriptions)	Alison Blumer 486 2837
Advertising Manager	Evelyn Finn via Parish Office 458 3289
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All Midlands Co-operative Funeral Homes in the region can be contacted on the numbers above, these include: Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Great Barr, Hall Green, Kingstanding, Notts Green, Oldbury, Pype Hayes, Quinton, Redditch, Rubery, Selly Oak, Shirley, Solihull, Weoley Castle, West Bromwich, Yardley and Yardley Wood

www.midlands.coop/funeralcare

Midlands Co-operative Society Limited



The Church in the Parish

We are a Church of England Team Parish in partnership with the Methodist Church, serving all in Kings Norton through St Nicolas Parish Church and Hawkesley and Immanuel District Churches.

We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists:

To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ

To live out God's radical hospitality for all

To be equipped for work in God's world

St Nicolas Parish Church *on The Green B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am Holy Communion Oasis for 5-11's
2nd Sunday: 10.30am Parade Service - All Age Worship 11.45am Matins (BCP)
4pm Holy Baptism (*1st and 3rd Sundays*)
6 pm Evening Worship

Every Sunday evening we offer prayer, music and quiet for all to share in as you wish. Do come..

1st Sunday : Taizé Prayer 2nd Sunday: Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday : Night Prayer and reflection 4th/5th Sundays: Special services/Evensong (BCP)

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist)

at Hawkesley School on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Partway ,Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Sunday 10.30am Worship and Children's Activities (5 -11's):

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church

at The Fairway Centre on the corner of Wychall Lane and The Fairway, Kings Norton, B38 8XJ

Sunday 10.30am Worship - and Oasis for children of primary school age.

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd Sunday – Morning Worship

4th Sunday – All Age Worship

Open Church

We open St Nicolas Church as much as we can so that all may share God's peace and promise in a space where they have been found and trusted for centuries. There is a place for you within its story. Please pray that more will know it as a safe place for prayer and healing, where sorrow and joy are held in God's love.

We welcome volunteers to share in our offering of welcome, refreshment and care through St Nicolas, Hawkesley and Immanuel, to steward St Nicolas in Open Church times and care for our churchyard, flowers and brasses. Do ask.

Open Church times

Do visit, pray, light a candle or share quiet conversation over coffee as you wish

Wednesday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 6.30 – 9pm (Candlelit Church)

Thursday 6.30 – 8pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries

Saturday 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, prayer

*with **Messy Church** for all ages every 2nd Saturday (Market Day)*

Candlelit Church

Every Wednesday, 6.30 – 9 pm with informal learning together at 8pm.

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music.

Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time - as you wish.

Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

We are growing fresh ways for all to grow in faith – those making their very first step, those who have made many and those who are discovering God's love afresh after times of change. Please ask in each church for details.

Baptisms and Marriages

Please visit St Nicolas on Thursdays between 6.30pm and 8pm to ask any questions and arrange bookings with our clerks. One of the clergy is also present to help if there is a question over whether your service can be held in this parish.

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

It costs around £800 each week to keep St Nicolas open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, please ask how you may Gift Aid your offering.