

The Parish of Kings Norton

# Kings Norton Parish Magazine



November 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](mailto:info@kingsnorton.org.uk)  
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# Kings Norton Parish Magazine

A Church of England Team Parish  
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The Parish Church of St. Nicolas

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### CONTACT US AT:-

Kings Norton Parish Office  
St Nicolas Hall  
30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton  
Birmingham, B38 8TN

tel:- 0121 458 3289

fax:- 0121 486 3954

e-mail:-

editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk

website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

### Editorial Team

- Revd. David Gould - Team Leader
- Mr Alan Haynes - Chair
- Mr. Chris Holmes - Editor
- Mrs. Alison Blumer - Treasurer
- Revd. Jayne Crooks - Advertising
- Miss Karen Urwin
- Mr. Graham Boulton
- Mrs. Gill Gould
- Mr Jim Clarke
- Mrs Joan Urwin
- Rachel Bannister
- Mrs Susan Haynes

e-mail: editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

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If you have cause for concern regarding any of the material published in this or any edition of the Kings Norton Parish Magazine contact  
Revd David Gould at:- 459 5144  
or by e-mail:- david.gould@kingsnorton.org.uk

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## From The Rector

# “Place = Space + Flow!!!”

*“We who are at home in St Nicolas are very varied already – but so many more seek and do not yet find...”*

It weighs on me that our life as God’s people now requires us to give more committed prayer and thought to St Nicolas, our main building, and to seek new fullness of all that it offers in the mission of God. I’m not only thinking of its physical care or of its primary use for public worship – although, with the end of Restoration in sight, our energies and vision must be given more to both. My worry is that for each of us the vision for our precious building seldom goes outside the personal. It is so easy to say, “I know what it means to me,” without wondering what it means to others. If we asked them, we might be very surprised – and I hope delighted. Our story matters, but it is not the only one

The great strength of St Nicolas, past gift and present reality, is the unbelievable variety of prayer, story, experience, emotion, worship, work and wonder it shelters and inspires. So many have met here, prayed here and been strengthened by God’s grace over the centuries. It still happens – and in so many different ways for so many different people. It is a generous building – a truly holy space because within it, in all our variety of faith, experience and need, we can discover and be renewed in God’s holiness, the wholeness of body, mind and spirit in our own living and in our living together as God’s people which his loving will for all.



Canon Rob Morris

But this great strength has two weaknesses. It is easy to take for granted that a space which usually allows me to pray, worship and meet in the ways I prefer also gives the same kind of space to many others who are very different. There is usually room for us all to go on in our own way with our own feelings about what should and should not happen – and only occasionally to face the simple fact that others, equally faithful, seek and find something very different here.

Our growth as faithful disciples means that we must make room for them. The generous space of St Nicolas and its life actually means that this isn’t usually a hard task. We don’t often need to notice what others might be seeking or doing. But sometimes we meet it face to face. It can be difficult and we can find ourselves being suddenly much less secure and more anxiously judgmental than we – or God – want us to be. It’s hard.

The second weakness is that our richness of variety can make us complacent. “Look at the differences we already contain. Surely that’s enough?” If we read the Gospel stories we find that it isn’t. Look at Luke Chapter 15. 99 sheep, nine coins, a faithful son; surely they were enough to make a shepherd; a housewife and a father not mind losing one. For Jesus, they weren’t. The lost sheep, coin and son were more important than those remaining. A growing faithful church needs us to feel the same. It’s hard.

We who are at home in St Nicolas are very varied already – but so many more seek and do not yet find. They are anxious about coming in through a narrow door. They may bring concerns too heavy to bear. Past experience of church for many has been deeply hurtful. Ways of worship familiar to us can seem very

strange indeed to those who are first meeting them. And many more have such little trust in their own worth that they find it hard to believe that such an imposing building can possibly have a space for them.

But it does, alleluia. Through our opening on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, Thursday evenings and around services – with hospitality generously offered in different ways – we have had the huge privilege of enabling so many more to find their rightful space in their – and our - parish church.

Much of this has been helped by all that we have discovered through Candlelit Church on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm – 8pm. It may not be what everyone needs or wants (it isn't) but for so many already it has been a place in which new relationship with church has begun – starting with a tentative push at the door and a welcome to be as you are, not as others wish you to be. And for so many old hands, including me, it is a place of renewal and fresh discovery in faith and affirmation. God is very present – as at Tiny Tots, at our quiet 8am Communion, at main services, baptisms, weddings and funerals – and everything else in St Nicolas. But at Candlelit Church, so many find a way in – and it is bearing fruit in their lives and in our life as a whole church.

Ann Morisy is a startling theologian who has spent 25 years working with many churches in London to help them face up to and grow in the challenge of being God's church within their local communities, just like us. To her, the parish church building is vital as a very special place in God's mission. She talks of "Place = space + flow". This may sound strange – but it contains a truth we all know but perhaps too little admit.

To Ann, what makes a place rich and special is first the space – all that marks it out in walls or fences or whatever – and second the flow of people around and through it at different times in the day, the week or the year. We know what this means on The Green, from early morning to late at night, from deliveries and school traffic, through morning shoppers and hungry

lunchtimes to the evening flows around church, Spar and the Bull's Head. It is just the same with St Nicolas itself (and Hawkesley and Immanuel!). Think of the flows of people in and around them at different times of day, week or year. Each of us is in only a few - yet God is in them all.

The more the flows in and around a space, the more it grows as a special place. Some church buildings have only one flow a week with a few trickles at other times. We are blessed with all kinds of flows at all kinds of times – each just as important as another. Some flows are of people we find difficult or strange. Some are very congenial. Some we are at home in, others not. But all are loved by God.

Ann writes, "Our churches are really just old, holy, tents that have resisted the most brutal of flows throughout their history. We are mistaken when we think that they have to be protected and preserved against today's flows, even when the flows are of distressed and embattled people. In fact, it is precisely in these situations that our buildings display their potency."

I believe that she is right and that, for this precious building at the heart of our parish's mission and ministry, we can be confident there is much more to discover of its use, growth, shelter and inspiration for many, many more people doing many different things..

This year, may I invite you to celebrate St Nicolas over a special weekend. St Nicolas Day as always is on December 6th. Two days after, on Saturday 8 December, we shall be having an Open Day to celebrate the re-opening of the Old Grammar School alongside and an Open Day and Gift Day for St Nicolas itself, with special invitations to services on the Sunday. Please claim your place with everyone else in the flows which make this space such a special place for past, present and future. We need to remember always that it is not our feelings but God's faithfulness which make St Nicolas what it is – and God always promises so much more.

**Canon Rob Morris**

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# Remembrance Day Sunday 11th November



## Prayer for Peace on Remembrance Day

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## READERS LETTER

Letter from the  
**Family Welfare Association**

Dear Canon Rob Morris,

This letter is to thank you and your congregation for the Harvest Festival produce that was received at this office.

This food will be distributed to families in crisis/need by the agency. Once again thank you for supporting our work.

**S Henry, (Project Manager)  
Family Welfare Association**

## READERS LETTER

Thank you to everyone who supported the Le Page Ensemble concert in St Nicolas last Saturday. Christopher Morley wrote in his review for the Birmingham Post, "To see the smiles on the faces of the audience as the music unfolded was something very special." and that the Ensemble gave "a rich warm sound in the natural acoustic of this church which could well prove a useful concert venue." Well done, our church - and her people!  
Thank you for a wonderful evening, with so many there - which raised nearly £500 for Restoration as well.

**Anna Morris**

# Hawkesley Church

Anglican/Methodist Church

meeting at the  
Hawkesley Pastoral Centre,  
Shannon Road, Old Portway



Our Harvest and Parade service was held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September and led by the Rev Donald Sampson. This was a joyous occasion and attended by 57 people.

There was input in the service from the Brownies, Rainbows and Guides and we do thank them and their leaders for their participation.

After the service the uniformed groups also helped us in preparing the harvest parcels, some of which were taken to the senior people and the balance was collected by the Family Welfare Association.

Our grateful thanks go to Hawkesley School who provided the bulk of the harvest produce, and to everyone else who contributed.

---

## Coffee and Chat – Autumn Programme



- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October Open Meeting
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November Poetry / Readings
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November Music
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December Carols, Coffee & Mince Pies

All are welcome to these meetings which take place in the Pastoral Centre at 10.00am.

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## Christmas Bazaar

This will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 11.00 am to 2.00pm.

There will be many stalls and attractions, Lunches, coffee & teas, Music and the appearance Father Christmas.

Please make this a date in your diaries!

**YOUR VERY WELCOME**

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# St Nicolas: Sunday worship in November



## Please Note Date Change for Annual Memorial Service

*Please note that the above annual memorial service will now be on **Sunday 11th November** at 4pm, **NOT 4th November** as previously advertised. This is to enable clergy and others to attend the memorial service for Bishop John Austin which is at the Cathedral on 4th November at 3pm.*

If "place = space + flow", then St Nicolas will be an even more special place than usual in November, with all sorts of different flows just around Sunday worship.

Every Sunday, the 8am Holy Communion uses the Prayer Book of 1662 which until 30 years ago was in common use throughout the Church of England. Its quiet dignity is a rich source of feeding and inspiration for all who have grown into its familiar words – which often sets them up for more contemporary services at other times.

At 10.30am on 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, we shall have our regular Communion Service with Oasis for 4-11 year olds – but each one is different. **4th November** is All Saints Sunday – a day to celebrate the company of all who have gone before us in the life of faith and now celebrate with us in heaven. On **18<sup>th</sup> November** there will be a baptism in the service – to remind us all of the promise God has made to us in our own. **25<sup>th</sup> November** is the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Christian Year – a good time to look back in thanksgiving and repentance and to look forward in hope.

Remembrance Sunday is of course on **11<sup>th</sup> November**. Our 10.30am service will be the Parade and Remembrance Service with the Two Minutes Silence and laying of wreaths to remember and hold dear all who have died in war.

At 4pm is our Annual Memorial Service for those whose funerals have been taken in the past year through the parish, with their families and friends invited. Please keep this service in your prayers, along with our Parish Bereavement Visitors who organize it.

Our monthly Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing follows at 6pm. Each year we use this service to remember thankfully all those who have died who have loved us and shone with Christ's light in our own lives. If you would like someone to be remembered by name in this service, please ring the Parish Office on 458 3289.

The other Sunday evening 6pm services are special too.

**4th November: Candlelit Church** Peace, with gentle singing for those who want.  
**18<sup>th</sup> November: Compline & Reflection** The ancient chants of the church made fresh  
**25<sup>th</sup> November: Evensong** using the traditional Book of Common Prayer

St Nicolas will also of course be full at 3.15pm on November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup> for our familiar Baptism services – another time of God's welcome in this special place.

Why not try dipping your toes in a different flow at St Nicolas this November? Or the flows around Hawkesley and Immanuel – different again but just as rich a part of God's life in this parish as everything at St Nicolas.

**Canon Rob Morris**

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## 'KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY.

The speaker at the Society's meeting on Monday 26 November will be Mr John Burman, who will be giving his talk, originally scheduled for March, on "The Court Leets". The meeting will be held in St Nicolas Church and doors open at 7.00 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

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# Rebecca's Diary...

Rev Rebecca Pullin recalls the last few weeks...



In September a small group of us went to Iona for a week. What an amazing time we had. Lots of laughter, glorious scenery, good weather. It really was an extraordinary week and one which I am still mulling over in y mind and my spirit. Now we are in October and so I will recount some of the events of the last few weeks. By the way thank-you for all your comments about my diary!

1st :

Fay, one of our Readers, took me to help at a Holy Communion service at Moundsley Hall. I found it deeply moving to see a small group of elderly people gathered to take part in a short service celebrating Harvest and to sing hymns. It really was a great treat to me. It also reminded me of how we must never lose touch with those who have to live in residential care. It can so easily become an invisible world.

3rd and 10th :

Chris Bowen (Parish Administrator) and I are helping to run the Seniors Club which meet in St. Nicolas Parish Hall every Wednesday 1.30-3.00. What a great time we are having. The group of older people who meet there have made us feel very welcome. On 10th October the group played Bingo and I heard things I have never heard before, for instance, the Bingo caller said '33 all the threes' to which everyone responded 'fish chips and peas.' Another number was called, (I didn't hear what it was) and everyone responded with a 'whistle!'

Can anyone tell what number it is for a 'duck with a cough'?!

6th :

Guess who made an appearance in my kitchen at 11.00 pm? Yes, you guessed it a slug. Note the word 'a.' At least this time it wasn't a whole family. I soon disposed of him!

8th :

I am a real baby when I have to have blood taken at the surgery. I have very poor veins. So I was not looking forward to going to see the doctor, because I knew what was coming. I nearly ran out of the door when he suggested taking it out of my hand! No way! Anyway he got it out of my arm but then made my day by calling me a 'young woman.' So all was forgiven.

9th :

I was helping to lead a 'Praying in Worship' session at St. Nicolas church. It turned out to be a really lovely evening as we prayed in different and perhaps more creative ways. The bell ringers were hard at work which added to the atmosphere and reminded me of how bells were often used in the past to call people to prayer.

11th :

A man came up to me on The Green for a chat. We talked about the church and various things. The conversation was gentle and good. As I moved to go he suddenly kissed me on the cheek. I was very touched by the gesture. An elderly man feeling he could kiss a woman wearing a dog collar, how lovely.

Rev Rebecca Pullin

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# Restoration *Old Grammar School is ready to be handed back to us in November.* a Big Step Forward

At last, re-opening draws near. The Saracen's Head will not be ready until Easter but the Old Grammar School is ready to be handed back to us in November. You can already see what the difference in the outside – but the inside is beginning to look even better. The rich atmosphere is the same but the building is also restored, dry, useable – and warm! The plasterers and masons in particular have worked wonders – but so have the carpenters and everyone else.

There will be some tours and events from mid-November – but the first chance for most of us to see all that has happened will be on Saturday 8th December 10am – 3pm alongside the Church Open Day. Thomas Hall himself will be here in person to ensure that we are learning hard. Around lunchtime there will be a service of Thanksgiving and Blessing. Please look out for details – as they become clearer.



One thing that is still not clear is how this remarkable building came to be as it is. We know it was there by around 1660 and housed Thomas Hall's library – but all the parts are much older, some going back to around 1430. Research goes on. What will the answer be?

Photos - Chris Holmes

**Canon Rob Morris**



*A feature about people from all walks of Parish Life.*

# 'Parish People'



**Val & John Haynes** interviewed by Alan Haynes

Val and John Haynes, two of the few original inhabitants of St Nicolas Gardens, are moving to Weston-Super-Mare this month. They have been involved in the life of the parish for over 35 years; running the Book Room, caring for the Churchyard, Women's Evening Fellowship to name but a few. They took a rest from packing to be interviewed by their son, Alan.

## **Where were you born?**

**John** – Tonbridge in Kent, I was the son of a School Teacher in a family with a long line of Teachers but I had no inclination to follow in their footsteps.

**Val** – Hall Green, but moved to London when I was only 11 months old so consider myself to be a Londoner as I lived there until we married and moved to Thornbury, Bristol.

## **What were your occupations?**

**John** – After studying for a degree in Mathematics at Kings College, London I worked in the Aerodynamics Department of Handley Page Ltd. I moved to the British Aircraft Corporation in Filton, Bristol when we got married and then to International Computers Ltd in London a few years later before coming to Birmingham in 1971. I worked as a Computer Manager at the University of Birmingham's Academic Computing Services until I retired in 1996.

**Val** – After leaving school with A levels I became Secretary to the Editor of 'Country Life' magazine and then secretary to the Deputy Director of Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories. I too worked at the University of Birmingham when we moved, in the Medical School, Registry and Law Faculties. During this time I obtained a First Class Honours Degree with the Open University and then became the Registrar of Westhill College. I retired in 1997.

## **How did you meet?**

At the Bloomsbury Coffee Pot, this met at the YWCA in Great Russell Street, London. We were both involved in the organising committee.

## **Why Kings Norton?**

We were looking for somewhere convenient for the University and found out about a new development being built in a vicarage garden. We moved here in 1971, when Tony Balmforth was vicar and have lived here ever since. We are one of only three original occupants of St Nicolas Gardens.

## **What do you delight in?**

**John** – Classical music, puzzles and generally things which exercise the brain.

**Val** – Theatre, ballet, reading and all things historical. I have followed Restoration with interest and have made many friends in the Women's Fellowship and Book Circle.

## **John and Val Haynes at the 'Book Room'**



## **What was the inspiration behind the Book Room?**

It was started by Peter and Margaret Wellings. When they left we were approached by Rob Morris to see if we would take it over. We ran and developed it for over five years until the Saracen's Head closed. The Book Room raised over £8,000 for Church funds. Val had always wanted to run a bookshop and we made many friends through it.

### What is your favourite film/music?

**Val** – From this year, Helen Mirren in 'The Queen' and 'Amazing Grace'. I have always enjoyed Handel's music and have good memories of listening to Alan and Rachel, two of our children, when they sung in the church choir.

**John** – I was a fan of 'The Prisoner' series on television and enjoy listening to music by Elgar and Mozart.

### Like Desert Island Disks what would be your luxury and book?

**Val** – I would like endless paper and pens to write my first novel and any book by Rose Tremaine.

**John** – A solar powered music centre to play the records on and the collected detective works of Margery Allingham.

### What is the point of Christianity for you?

**John** – I have been Agnostic from the age of 5, but enjoy looking after the fabric of Church and its surroundings.

**Val** – For me religion is a private thing, but I believe that the two great commandments provide a good blueprint for life. There must be a Creator, even if it was to create the 'big bang' and so it is right to give thanks. I find the 8am service at St Nicolas a dignified and reverent way to celebrate and I enjoy the language of the Book of Common Prayer.

*On behalf of all the team at this magazine, and of the friends of Val and John, may we wish them both a wonderful future as they start new adventures in their new home in Weston. May we thank them too, for the friendship, love and kindness that they have shared with us all... and for their sterling work for our parish throughout the years.*

CH

### Do you have any regrets?

We are sad that we will not be seeing our friends from Kings Norton so often once we have moved, but we are not far away in Weston and will be coming back from time to time.

### What is your best memory?

The safe arrival of and holding each of our newborn children and grandchildren.

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

Restoration is very exciting. The new facilities becoming available provide opportunities to move forward. Also, the proposed building developments at Hawkesley School and a new Head Teacher are encouraging signs for the future. We have enjoyed our time in Kings Norton and wish everyone well.

### What do you plan to do with the rest of your lives?

We are looking forward to the opportunities that come with our move to Weston, building new friendships and new activities to enjoy. Hopefully keeping healthy and agile in both mind and body.



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# Christmas Craft Fair

## St. Nicolas Church

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Light Refreshments

Black Adder Clog Dancers

Ingrid's Accordions

Fascinating Rhythm Jazz Group



Gifts, cards, jewellery, bags, paintings, pottery, woodcrafts, scarves, glassware, games, books, makeup, herbal products and much more.

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All proceeds in aid of Restoration Fund

## CHURCHYARD CLEAR-UP



Every year it is necessary to clear the areas close to St Nicolas Church, raking up and collecting all the leaves that fall in such profusion primarily during the month of November.

2007 is no exception and there will be clear-up sessions on three Saturdays, namely the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup> November. The sessions will be between 10.00 am and 12 noon.

For each session to be successful we really do need a good number of people to volunteer their time and energy even if it is only for an hour or so. The only tools required are rakes and/or whatever helps one to pick up leaves.

**PLEASE, PLEASE** come and lend a hand and thereby help to keep the area safe to walk on and pleasant to look at.

## Saturday Coffee Mornings

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*Thank you...*

# Share the Feast Celebrating Children's Ministry in Birmingham Diocese

On Saturday 13th October the Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham led a service of celebration and communion for children's workers in the Diocese at Birmingham Cathedral. Jayne Crooks and three of the Oasis leaders (Penny Hattersley, Rose Dibben & Jeanette Brown) attended the first of the days two services. The whole service was based around Luke 24:13-35 (Christ appears on the road to Emmaus) and included children's drama and stunning music from a group called 'Ritualitas'. The service concluded with the commissioning of Clare Wesley as the new Bishop's Adviser for Children's Ministry. After the service we were all invited to share food and fellowship with each other. A truly memorable morning for us all.

Jeanette Brown

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## **Birmingham University Players Concert**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**Barber Concert Hall,**

Barber Institute of fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham.

Concert starts at 3:30p.m

Entrance is free (no booking required)

The programme includes:

Mozart - Symphony No 36

Beethoven - Symphony No 5, Op 67

This is part of the University of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra who played in St Nicolas Church last June. There is a free concert where a nominated charity can have a retiring collection at the end and this year "Kings Norton Restoration" is their nominated charity. The collection will be specifically for providing educational resources for the Old Grammar School. We do hope that you will come along and support the event.

# Hawkesley Church Primary School

Musical instruments... Growing their own vegetables... and 'Professor McGinty' too!!! Why not visit and see for yourself?

*"I have been very excited by the hard work taking place by our children and staff and would like to take this opportunity to invite you to see this at first hand..."*

I've only been at Hawkesley Church Primary School for a short time but have been very impressed by the many good things taking place within our school. Not only have our children been learning the 'standard lessons,' but we have also been involved in a number of exciting projects to extend the children's knowledge of the outside world.

In Year Four, our children have been given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and at present are learning the guitar. In Year 6, our children have been learning where food comes

from and have started to grow their own vegetables as part of the growing gains project. We have had visits throughout the school from 'Professor McGinty' a travelling educator who explains our country's history in a stimulating and exciting way. The children have also been enriching their experiences by visiting Avoncroft Museum and Blists Hill Museum.

I have been very excited by the hard work taking place by our children and staff and would like to take this opportunity to invite you to see this at first hand. We have open sessions on **Monday, 5th November** between **9.30am and 11.30am** and **Monday, 12th November 2007** between **1.00pm and 3.00pm**. Please feel free to visit us if you are a prospective parent or a friend of the school

**Graeme Dobson**  
Headteacher

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## Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday November 1st 2007, at 7.30 pm in St Nicolas Hall, West Hill Road.

Our speaker will be Mr Kenneth Hughes, who will tell us about life in back-to-back houses.

Our December meeting is our Lunch-time party.

Gwen Fox - Chairman

## READERS LETTER

Many thanks to the generous minded people who came to Church last Friday evening to hear Faure's Requiem.

Between you, you raised £85 for St Mary's Hospice.

Sylvia

**The Bournville  
Young Singers**  
at St Nicolas Church,  
Saturday 15th December  
7.30 p.m.

programme and prices to be announced

**for more details**

**0121 458 3289**

## READERS LETTER

A Sincere thank you for all your prayers and support whilst I've had my knee operation. It has been a real encouragement in my recovery and I look forward to rejoining you all as soon as possible. I also commend the superb nursing care at West Heath Hospital.

Ann Morrell

# 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. **DAVID GOULD** (Team Vicar), 53 Wychall Park Grove, B38 8AG 459 5144  
 The Revd. **REBECCA PULLIN** (Curate) 458 2950

### Hon. Curate:

The Revd. **JAYNE CROOKS**, 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP 459 3733

### Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Revd. **DONALD SAMPSON** 476 7223

### Lay Staff:

Mrs. **FAY FEARON** (Reader), c/o Parish Office or..... 451 1914  
 Ms **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** ..... Rev JAYNE CROOKS, 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 6.30-7.45 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) ..... Mrs NICKY MOORCROFT

**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. GRAEME DOBSON 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

**Bell Ringers** ..... Practice Tuesdays at 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower

**Ringling 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

<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary</b>	Mrs. J. CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS	458 3328
<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in St Nicolas Hall Secretary: Mrs. CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
<b>Seniors Club (Over 65's)</b>	Every Wednesday afternoon in St Nicolas Hall DEB BUCKLEY & SIAN SMITH	702 2063
<b>PRODH</b>	KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)	430 6005
<b>Scouts and Cubs (198th Birmingham)</b>	<b>At St Nicolas Hall:-</b> 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
<b>Scouts and Cubs (129th Birmingham)</b>	<b>At the Bells Farm Community Centre:-</b> Cubs (aged 8-11): Thursdays-6:30 p.m.- 8.00 p.m. Leader: Miss KAREN URWIN	459 7086
<b>Guides and Brownies</b>	<b>At St Nicolas Hall:-</b> Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
<b>Guides and Brownies:</b>	<b>At Hawkesley Church Centre:-</b> Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
<b>Kings Norton Society</b>	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. mainly at St Nicolas Hall Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
<b>Kings Norton History Society</b>	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
<b>St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup</b>	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m. in St. Nicolas Hall	
<b>Parish Magazine Editor</b>	Mr CHRIS HOLMES contact via Parish Office	628 5284
<b>Parish Magazine Treasurer</b>	Mrs. ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Revd JAYNE CROOKS, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
<b>Parish Website</b>	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.

## September 2007 Baptisms

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

2nd Sept 2007	Shelbie Louise Taylor
2nd Sept 2007	Bethany Ann Ocean Vincent
2nd Sept 2007	Hermione Rose Rebecca Vincent
2nd Sept 2007	Bailey James Richard Vincent
2nd Sept 2007	Kalsey Elizabeth Halliday-Bennett
2nd Sept 2007	Grace Charlotte Temple
2nd Sept 2007	Tia Lianne Taylor
16th Sept 2007	Chloe Ella-June Chivers
16th Sept 2007	Megan Olivia Chivers
16th Sept 2007	Alfie Glen Francis Keith Kelly Harkinson
16th Sept 2007	Clara Mae Nichol

## September 2007 Weddings

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

1st Sept 2007	Geoffrey Millward and Rachel Cole
1st Sept 2007	Peter Hannon and Katharine Grant
7th Sept 2007	Stephen Masefield and Luisa Berger
8th Sept 2007	Paul Tyrer and Claire Edgington
15th Sept 2007	Paul Brown and Tracey Griffiths
15th Sept 2007	Vincent Alcorn and Clare Lightfoot
22nd Sept 2007	David Wright and Tracey Smith
22nd Sept 2007	Simon Scott and Stacey Houghton
29th Sept 2007	Mark Poole and Amy Deville

## September 2007 Funerals

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

4th Sept 2007	Ivanka Milojevic, aged 48	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Kings Norton
12th Sept 2007	Graham Colin Taylor, aged 76	Cremation at Lodge Hill
12th Sept 2007	Audrey Brenda Cotton, aged 85	Service in St Nicolas; Burial Brandwood End
13th Sept 2007	Charles Cox, aged 75	Cremation at Lodge Hill
14th Sept 2007	Dorothy Knight, aged 94	Interment of Ashes in Churchyard
18th Sept 2007	Michael John Hodgskin, aged 62	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Widney Manor
24th Sept 2007	Richard Dennis Riley, aged 62	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Kings Norton
25th Sept 2007	Vivien Ann Slade, aged 50	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Kings Norton

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# 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 of Primary school age , 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.

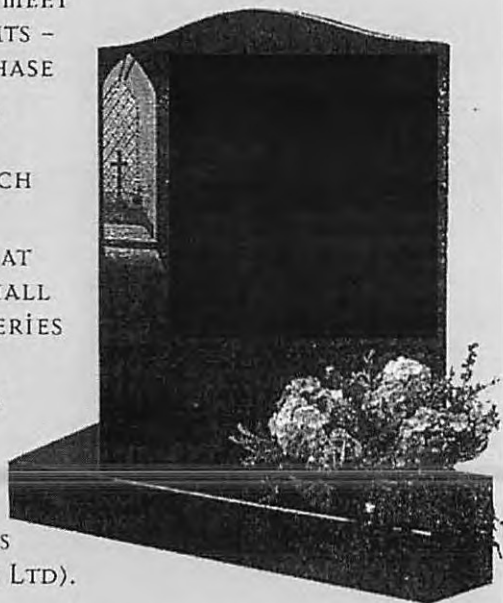
General Enquiries:- Parish Office Mon to Fri 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.  
e-mail:- [info@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:info@kingsnorton.org.uk) - Web Site:- [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)

Please visit the Parish Website on [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk) for more information on services on a weekly basis.

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# Conversion on Wychall Lane!

*Oh how even the least environmental of us can change.....*

When I came to Kings Norton in 2005, it was with an understanding of the need for change in matters environmental but that that change should occur somewhere out there, with governments, big corporations and those who polluted most... what was I to do? I contributed little to the global warming we heard so much about.

I became interested in the work of the Prayer and World Needs Group (PAWNS). The way that a small group of people could persistently bring to our attention, as church, the issues of poverty, justice, environment and aspiration to change, that we should think through these serious issues and make changes. Strangely, in my experience, the PAWNS group seemed less interested in large numbers coming to their meetings than in people changing their thinking in small but significant ways, actually becoming part of the process of change on a wider scale not just, though important, changing a light bulb.

Then, like somebody had switched on the light a bit for me, I had to recognise that I had to look at this for myself, that there were changes I could make which were serious, significant, perhaps small, but they contributed to a greater whole, a bigger picture, that was not to continue the idea, going to be painted, at least my part was not unless I got on and did my part.

So where am I on all this two and a half years later? The petrol is now the clean unleaded, yes its dearer, but a lot of the difference can be made up by easing back on the right pedal and anyway, saving personal expenditure is not the only guide to what is green or clean or just. Some, not all of the light bulbs are now energy

efficient. I cannot quite accept that I should work in poor light even though others have no light at all... I know! We are about to change to an energy supplier that uses renewable energy and thanks to Gill the move to a more ethical bank has begun. If it's good enough for Birmingham City Council to use the Co-op why dare any of us choose otherwise? Coffee, tea and cleaning materials have all changed, its simple really, even the big supermarkets are stocking the goods that are fairer traded or fairer to the planet. You cannot buy nicer bread, or get a better cup of coffee than at the Deli in Mary Vale Road so why buy less, often for more?

I admit my change of heart began with the pocket, changing some light bulbs. But it has become slowly and painfully clearer that this is not an option that somehow we as Christian people need to point to and live this Kingdom of God we preach and read of and part of that in this consumer driven country is to say we can make changes that are kingdom changes. We can and should choose greener, fairer traded alternatives, choose locally produced goods where we can and not worry that the problem seems bigger than the part we can do, we should be doing what we can and what I have learnt since coming here is there is an awful lot I can do now, more that can be done down the line and most importantly of all that it is about choosing to do this because it is right.

My thanks to PAWNS for their faithful raising of issues, their patient prayer for us all and for their having the courtesy and tact to encourage this very slow convert on the Wychall Lane. Do speak to the PAWNS Group and find out more.

**Revd David Gould**

**Thursday 15th November**  
**PCC MEETING**

**St Nicolas Church 8.00 p.m.**

**More Details Contact Parish Office**

# BOOK RECOMENDATION by Canon Rob Morris

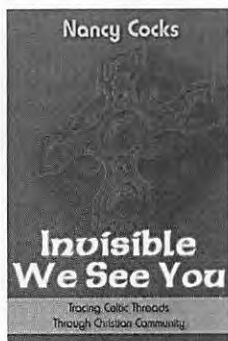
## *Invisible We See You*

by Nancy Cocks

Published by Wild Goose Publications

ISBN 1-905010-29-5 £10.99

## What's Iona and the Community really like?



In giving thanks to God after a wonderful week on Iona with eleven patient friends from Kings Norton, I was left wondering if something, before arrival, might give a fuller flavour of what a week on Iona can offer and be – but

it's hard to put into words what is there and what can happen. There is so much to discover – about Iona and about ourselves. It is often only just before leaving there that it begins to be grasped

I resolved to try writing something helpful – and then started reading a book I bought on

Iona simply because it is by Nancy Cocks who was the MacLeod Centre Warden on the island from 2002-4 - and a dear friend. Her introduction is exactly what I was looking for and thinking of trying to write. Nancy does it!

The book itself is a collection of her sermons and dialogues for specific services and occasions in the Abbey - which are worth the money in themselves. Her method is wholly collaborative and so I was astonished, delighted and moved to discover that for one or two I had been part of the preparatory discussion and also of their offering in worship. I had forgotten that I was Voice 3 in "Born Again?" even though I richly remember the conversations that shaped it all in Nancy's wise hands.

So if you can, do buy it: It is *Invisible we see you* by Nancy Cocks at £10.99 published by Wild Goose Publications ISBN 1-905010-29-5 And if you can't buy it, I will have a copy free to lend - some time.

Canon Rob Morris

*Note: The Iona 2008 programme is now on their website. If you want to know more details, please ask me – or read Nancy's book*

## Re-Gifting Day December

A time to give a little back. Come and join the Prayer and World Needs Group to fulfil a few needs at Christmas. We will be collecting your unneeded items to donate to charities. More details will be given in the newsletter nearer the time

Prayer and World Needs Group



## BOOK REVIEW

# Christian Wisdom: Desiring God and Learning in Love

Author: David F. Ford

Published by:

Cambridge University Press

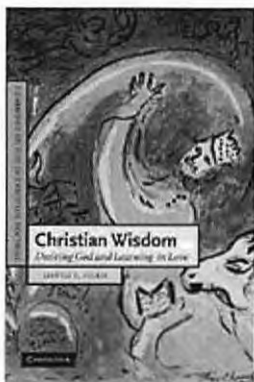
£15.99 ISBN978 0 521 69838 2

I told myself I had to read this by the deadline date for the November magazine and I have failed, I have only managed the first eighty nine pages so doubly short! Why then do I want to commend this to you? Because I have found it hard but riveting, opening of many new understandings and really gripping as the novels always have on them in the summer! So why would anybody want to read this who is not a theologian or studying theology? Because it brings alive in such a fresh way the whole way that scripture, the Bible, is approached. In particular Luke's gospel, which has been the subject of our 10.30am services for many weeks now.

The first section of the book deals with an exploration of what we understand as being Christian Wisdom, with the unwrapping of

by Revd David Gould

so many places where wisdom cries from the pages of the scripture providing for us a means of accessing the text that moves it from being the pages of a manual, dry, unrelenting and to be avoided to a narrative that is part of our experience, that merges with our experience and has us caught up in the bigger narrative that is God in and through all.



The principles that are explored are timeless and could be applied to our reading of the bible in a detailed searching of texts or a more straight forward reading. I am amazed at the skill of the author as he makes such difficult concepts come to life and then take us as readers almost by the hand into things one would not have dreamt of trying to understand. Perhaps that is one of the qualities you need to be Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge.....

Only eighty nine pages but they have been rich reading and I will try and finish with an update for the next issue. Beware though if you try and get a copy, it's not on some lists yet but Waterstones and Blackwells in Oxford have it on-line! If you only buy it and read chapter two it will have been worth the £15.99!

Revd David Gould



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# PRODH

PROJECT FOR THE RENEWAL OF DRUIDS HEATH



So, what has happened on Druids Heath and our project in the last month? Well PRODH was heard on the Mike Rimmer Sunday Breakfast broadcast on the radio. Mike was great and made my first radio interview quite enjoyable. Revd David Gould had a spot too so hopefully between the pair of us we got the message out a little further, if only with religious early risers!

David also held an initial meeting of people who are interested in starting a new worshipping group on the estate and has followed this up with meeting individually with other interested parties who either already run churches on the estate or have been looking at doing so. This is really exciting as everybody wants something that relates to the community there, so there are lots of challenges and much more to think about...Watch this space.

The Mustard Seed Café (which runs every Tuesday from 10 till 12 at Manningford Hall) was launched at the beginning of October and after a slow start has started to pick up.

If anyone would like to help out at the Café do get in touch. My contact details are in the 'Who's Who' list.



One little lad enjoying his biscuit this Tuesday.

On the 26th of October (during school half-term) Police Sergeant Denise Markham has arranged a 'Graffiti Clean-up Day' where PRODH will be represented by my presence along with my Cub Scouts who usually meet on Thursdays at Bells Farm. We will be kitted out and covered up and then set to work blacking out some areas with paint and using special wipes to rub the graffiti off road signs etc. The Cubs were all very enthusiastic and are looking forward to it. I hope they are as excited by the end of the day but even if not we will all have the satisfaction of knowing we have made a difference.

**Karen Urwin**  
Civic Renewal & Community  
Regeneration Officer for PRODH

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# KATIE'S STORY

We have been asked to give an update on Katie, further to the article in last month's magazine. Katie is doing really well. She's a stone in weight, eats well, sleeps well (hoorah!) and has been practising smiling this week! She is now 3 months' old. She's a joy to look after and we still thank God for bringing her into our lives and for keeping her well. Last week she went for her 3 month heart scan at the Children's Hospital. When she was born, her heart was big enough to "sustain life" and so there was much relief and rejoicing! Medically, her left ventricle was still somewhat smaller than her right one, but not enough to cause any problems for her. However, at this 3 month scan, we were shown that her left ventricle has continued to grow and is now the same size as her right one – a perfect heart and a completed miracle!



Sam is so proud as he holds his very precious sister, Katie

We have been delighted to hear several examples of how Katie's story has touched people and made an impact on their lives. A 'Youth For Christ' worker heard about Katie and was praying for her before she was born. She was able to share the story with some 6<sup>th</sup> formers in a schools' lesson who were considering pro-life issues and helped them to think about the high value of babies in the womb. A woman at my mum's church has recalled how she visited a neighbour who has been feeling very low recently. She wanted some encouragement and so the visitor told her

Katie's story. She was so amazed that she has started to go to an Alpha Course to find out more about this healing God of ours! There were several people at Katie's Baptism who had never met us before but had heard about the need to pray for a baby and had been so touched by her healing that they wanted to come to celebrate with us! There are many more examples, which have pleased and humbled us.

We were also delighted to pass a cheque for £750 to the Children's Hospital, which was a collection from friends and family made for the continued provision of Cardiac Liaison Nurses. They were very appreciative and have asked if we would be willing to be featured in an article in the Birmingham Mail at some point to promote the British Heart Foundation! (Fame at last?!)

Thank you for your continued care, support and prayers for us. They have meant more to us than you can imagine.

Susan, Alan, Sam and Katie Haynes


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# CHILDREN'S PAGES... with Karen

Dear Friends,  
Here we are in November. This month is special for us because it includes Fireworks Night. A time when we remember Guy Fawkes. I expect you know the rhyme:

Remember, remember the fifth of November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
I see no reason why gunpowder and treason  
Should ever be forgot

I wonder if you know the story though. Just in case you do not it is my story for this month. I wonder if you will remember it?

Karen

## Guy Fawkes and the Houses of Parliament

Queen Elizabeth I had treated Catholics very badly because she thought that there should be no Catholics only Protestants. When she died in 1603, English Catholics hoped that King James I would be kind to them. James I had, after all, had a Catholic mother. Unfortunately, James did not turn out to be any better than Elizabeth and a number of young men, 13 to be exact, decided that something had to be done.

of Wales, and the Members of Parliament who were making life difficult for the Catholics. Today these men would be called terrorists.

To carry out their plan, the men got hold of 36 barrels of gunpowder - and stored them in a cellar, just under the Parliament.

But as the group worked on the plot, some of them realised that other people they knew, who had been kind to them, would be hurt too. One of the groups sent a letter warning his friend, Lord Monteagle, to stay away from the Parliament on November 5th.

The warning letter reached the King, and the King's soldiers started to search the cellars.

Guy Fawkes, who was in the cellar of the parliament with the 36 barrels of gunpowder when the authorities stormed it in the early hours of November 5th, was caught, tortured and killed.

On that very same night: November 5th, 1605, bonfires were set alight to celebrate the



A small group got together. Their leader was a man called Robert Catesby. Catesby decided to blow up the Houses of Parliament. In doing so, they would kill the King, maybe even the Prince

safety of the King. Since then, November 5th has become known as Bonfire Night. The event is commemorated every year with fireworks and burning straw men called 'Guys' on a bonfire.

When I listen or read this story I find myself wondering who was right. Guy Fawkes and his friends wanted to stop people who were hurting them and their friends. The King and his soldiers stopped Guy Fawkes and his friends killing a lot of people. Who is right? Well of course neither side was right. Both of them meant that a large number of people were hurt. Often when we get angry about something bad that is happening we become a little like Guy Fawkes. Instead of trying to stop the bad thing happening we just make another bad thing happen. We don't kill anybody but we do hurt them, with angry words or actions. I have a very good friend who wears a wrist band that has four letters on it WWJD. They stand for 'What Would Jesus Do' and he says it helps him when he gets angry or fed up with someone. He stops and thinks 'What would Jesus do?' I think it might help us all. I wonder what Guy Fawkes would have done if he had had one?



**PLEASE KEEP US  
SAFE TOO!**  
we depend on you

**Look after your pets  
during the fireworks  
seasons**



## Sudoku Rules

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

**Sudoku**

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

**LAST MONTHS  
SUDOKU  
SOLUTION**



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

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# You May Have Noticed!

*Seen on Church Notice Boards throughout the country*

Give God what's right -- not what's left.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

We don't change God's message -- His message changes us

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift.

When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church..

This church is prayer-conditioned.

When God ordains, He sustains.

WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

Plan ahead -- It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.



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# 'Parish Mag'

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



You can contact her at  
[agonyaunt@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:agonyaunt@kingsnorton.org.uk)  
or write via the Parish Office.

Dear Margaret,

I read with interest last month about the new café being set up by PRODH and so I thought I would go and pay it a visit. The coffee was nice but the conversation was a bit limited.....most people seemed to just be coming in to buy petrol and rushing out again. It's not at all what I expected.

**Yours disappointedly,  
Faith**

Dear Faith,

*Thank you for trying to support this new venture, but I'm afraid it sounds like you went to the Wild Bean café instead of the Mustard Seed café. You need to go up to Manningford Hall, Bells Lane on a Tuesday morning where I'm sure Karen will give you a warm welcome.*



Dear Margaret,

I'm sure readers would be pleased to know that Cupid has been firing arrows around Immanuel Church again. Yes, there is going to be another wedding next year at Easter time when Ruth (one of the Readers in the Parish) and Andy tie the knot. I love a good wedding, don't you?

**Matt Rimony**

Dear Matt,

*Thanks for writing to me again, it seems like I'm getting a letter from you each month at the moment. Please pass on my congratulations to the happy couple for me.*

## CONGRATULATIONS MR & MRS MOORCROFT

Nicola Crooks (daughter of Rev Jayne) married David Moorcroft (son of Gerry & Pam) on Saturday 20th October 2007 at St. Nicolas Church.



Photo - Chris Holmes

## A THANK YOU FROM REVD JAYNE

Revd Jayne Crooks would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers and support, both in the run-up to Nicky & David's wedding and on the day itself. St Nicolas Church looked a picture in the autumn sunshine, the bells rang out in triumphant celebration and friends and family filled the church to witness this lovely young couple make their marriage vows.

Thank you too for all the cards and gifts - they will have much fun opening them on their return from Canada.

# Le Page Ensemble \* \* \* \*

at St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton  
*Review by Christopher Morley*

One of the most glorious works in the chamber music repertoire must surely be the Second String Quartet of Borodin, full-time professor of chemistry and part-time composer - but one of such abiding appeal.

This piece fuses melodic generosity (*Kismet* didn't plunder it for nothing) with textural strength, and it speaks to every kind of listener. To see the smiles on the faces of Saturday's audience as the slow movement's "And this is my beloved" music unfolded was something very special.

The Le Page Ensemble allowed all this outpouring of lyricism to flow naturally, inner parts constantly alert beneath the songfulness, with a fine sense of ensemble and with a rich, warm sound in the natural acoustic of this church which could well prove a useful concert-venue.

Given in support of the important Kings Norton Restoration project, the concert also featured the Birmingham premiere of John Joubert's *In Retrospect*, part of the celebrations of this much-loved composer's 80th birthday year.

Beginning with a theme drawn from a work of Joubert's teenage years, and one which reveals what an eager, ravenous ear he had even then (Debussy and a Mozart melody which also inspired Max Reger immediately came to mind), the piece progresses through four variations, each dedicated to one of the composer's four grandchildren.

There is a great sense of characterisation here (though I am assured it was not deliberately so), and the final variation has seeds of Mahler Three in it, its phrases gently building towards a sense of quiet peroration.

**Friday 2nd November**  
**7.00 p.m.**

## **Xmas Crafts & Canapés**

**St Nicolas Hall**

all proceeds to the  
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Tickets £5.00



**Meet in St. Nicolas Hall, Kings Norton**  
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Impact! is a Christian youth group where we uphold Christian beliefs and respect each other as the young people we are.



## **November & December Programme:**

**4th November - Ignite @ Night**

**11th November - Fireworks**

**18th November - Clubbin it!**

**25th November - Cooking**

**2nd December - Ignite @ Night**

**9th December - Film**

**16th December - The world's a stage**



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***Birmingham Rep welcomes Northfield constituency residents to Northfield Nights for only £2 a ticket!***

If you live in Weoley Castle, Northfield, Longbridge or **Kings Norton (B38 only)** wards, you are entitled to come to specially discounted performances at The REP.

Northfield Nights is an initiative set up by The REP theatre to give more opportunity for residents to experience live theatre at a reduced cost.

Certain productions throughout the year will be designated **Northfield Nights** where residents can get up to 4 tickets for £2 each.

Northfield Nights is part of the Birmingham City Council's Arts Champions Scheme

For more information go to [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/northfield](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/northfield) or call the Community Engagement Officer, Selene on 0121 245 2159

## Last Easter

The Door.

Saturday 3 November 2:45



June is terminally ill – but don't expect a depressing night at the theatre! To give her hope and support, June's crazy friends Leah, Joy and Gash - whisk

her from London to Lourdes where she is thoroughly dunked in the reputedly healing waters.

Their lunatic pilgrimage is filled with laughing, singing, a drag act and several bottles of good, red wine.



## Peter Pan

Main House. Wednesday

28 November 7:30

*(plus additional evening dates added. Call Box Office for details. No exchange or refund available)*

Escape to Neverland this Christmas with the boy who never grew up, and The REP's brand new musical version of **Peter Pan**... Join Wendy, John, and Michael as they soar into the night sky with Peter, to a magical land of mermaids and fairies, where children can fly and adventures happen every day.

J. M Barrie's classic adventure story has thrilled and delighted generations of theatre-goers with its swashbuckling, flying and fantasy scenes.



To book contact Box Office on 0121 236 4455 and quote **Northfield Nights**  
Tickets are strictly limited and subject to availability





On the 21st of September a group from Kings Norton Parish left Birmingham for a week on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland.

We were staying in the Macleod Centre which is run by the Iona Community. I

had wanted to go for some while but they do very little in the school holidays and being a teacher could not go at any other time. Now I have changed my job the opportunity was there and I jumped at it.

Travelling over to Iona the first building you can make out is the Abbey and that mixed with all the excitement and apprehension that goes with visiting a new place made the ferry journey over to the island a special experience.



Once there we found we were with two other groups and then some people who had come separately. The groups were interesting as one was from Utrecht in Holland and the others were members of the Dutch Church in London. We had some really interesting conversations.

What were the worst and best things about Iona?

The worst were not bad things but really came from my expectations. First I thought we were coming to an established community, actually there were only three people who were long standing members (all of whom were truly wonderful) the others, who did most of the running of the place, were youngsters who come up for 6 weeks and nearly every night there was a new face to say hello to! I had expected to be really bowled over by the Abbey services but was not. I had expected it to give me a sense of peace and somewhere to refresh my soul but instead seemed to be constantly running from one activity to the next.

The best!... All came after I threw all my expectations away and started to allow myself to find what was there, not just what I was looking for. After spending the first few days mixing with the other guests at meal times we started to sit together and our community, the eleven of us that had travelled there together, became much stronger and I gained really close friends. Iona is stunningly beautiful and once I pushed down the guilt of not taking part in all the activities put on in the Macleod Centre and allowed the time to explore, sometimes by myself sometimes with friends, I was able to find the peace and refreshment I was looking for. Finally I accepted the services in the Abbey for what they needed to be, something accessible to all, and then there was one Eucharist taken by a young minister who was profoundly deaf. She had an incredible spiritual presence when taking a service and when she broke the bread for communion the feeling was completely indescribable but very, very powerful.

Iona: a place of contrast, beauty exposed to the elements. It opens you up, lets loose your vulnerabilities and lets you find yourself. If you get the chance do what I did...jump!





# Christmas is coming again...

Since 1990, Operation Christmas Child, the Christian relief project run by the Samaritan's Purse, has brought the joy and hope of Christmas to more than 47 million children. Last year the Samaritan's Purse in the UK sent over 1.24 million gifts to children across Eastern Europe and Africa. This annual project enables caring individuals, families, schools, churches, business and other organisations to fill ordinary shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, sweets and other gifts for hurting children around the world. Operation Christmas Child is gearing itself up for its 2007 appeal.

The Prayer and Worlds Needs Group are co-ordinating the campaign in the Parish of Kings Norton again this year and we are asking for your help so that this amazing number of boxes (and hopefully more!) can be delivered again this Christmas.

It is impossible to emphasise the impact that a shoe box full of simple gifts can have on a child who has nothing. The gifts are giving regardless of nationality, political background or religions beliefs to children requiring nothing of them, their families or communities. This is what is special about Operation Christmas Child.

With the help of thousands of volunteers, Samaritan's Pure collect and processes these gifts filled shoe boxes in its warehouses across the U.K. Then, working with national churches and charities, the Samaritan's Purse delivers the gifts to children in hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods.

We are delighted to say that again this year the Parish of Kings Norton has offered to be a 'Drop Off Point' and St Nicolas Church will be open on Wednesday 7th & 14th November – 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Friday 9th & 16th November 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and Saturday 10th & 17th November 10.00 am - 12 noon, to receive the filled shoe boxes.

The leaflet enclosed in this magazine gives full details of how you can become involved in this project. More leaflets are available from St Nicolas, Immanuel and Hawkesley churches and the Parish Office, during opening hours.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this article and we do hope that you will feel able to take part in the project. If you have any queries about the local campaign then please contact the Prayer and World Needs Group by ringing Gill Gould on 0121 459 5144 or email [gillgould6@btinternet.com](mailto:gillgould6@btinternet.com)

If you wish to find out more about the work of the Samaritan's Purse and have access to the internet then just log on to [www.samaritanaspurse.uk.com](http://www.samaritanaspurse.uk.com) and see their website for yourself.

**The Prayer and World Needs Group.**



# A. W. DAVIES

## AND ASSOCIATES

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TUESDAY

8.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

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