



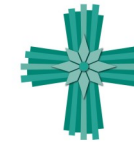
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An act of kindness...an answered prayer

This is an eyewitness account that happened in the City of New York on a cold day in December some time ago...

A little boy of about 10 years old was standing before a shoe store on Broadway, barefooted, peering through the window and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?"

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He replied, "Certainly," and quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet and dried them with a towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes and, tying up the remaining pairs of socks, gave them to him.

She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?"

As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand and, looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words,

"Are you God's Wife?"

~Author Unknown~

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**Items for inclusion in the August 2010 issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 16th July 2010**

Welcome.....

Wondering why there is a picture of a pair of feet on the front cover? Well, they belong to Kalantha Brewis who paid us a visit during her barefoot walk to raise awareness of the plight of the fistula patients in Ethiopia. As well as reading more about her on page 11, you can also hear an interview with her on the parish website.

This month sees the return of the Kings Norton Festival. Rob writes about why he feels the festival is so important this year, so please join us on Saturday 10th and also in St Nicolas Church on Sunday 11th. There are more details on pages 42 and 43.

A new group for young people is starting this month. Led by Rev. John White, there will be Pizza, chat and fun for all aged between 11 and 18. See page 13 for more information.

Rev. Jayne has been on her travels to the Holy Land. Starting on page 32, you can read all about her experiences of what was a life changing trip for her.

Once again, I would like to thank all our contributors. If you do have any response to what you read this month, please let us know.

Alan Haynes, Editor

From The Rector

“...the same love which moves the stars and sustains the universe also moves and sustains all life in Kings Norton...”

Kings Norton Festival Weekend is very close (*all details are inside and on the website*); stalls, food and fun, Farmers' Market, a concert and our Parish Festival Service on the Sunday. I hope you will be there!

My prayer is still what it was when I came here eleven years ago; that it is, above all, a Festival of meetings new and old – a celebration of all that as church and community we have done and can do together by God's grace, to inspire, renew and strengthen us for all that is to come.

I believe that it matters more than

we may realise. For most days of the year, we have to get on with whatever life seems to give us – the good, the bad and the ugly. But now and then, we need to share in something bigger – the reminders and celebrations that church and community are more than just a collection of people whose interests meet now and then.

Our forebears knew this. The wise round of the church's year took them through all life's highs and lows – so that even the smallest village and the poorest peasant could know that their joys and sorrows were held within something much deeper. It may seem a bit heavy on the back



Birmingham's Destitute Children Need Our Support

I met a destitute mother last week. A mother and child who came to the UK hoping they would find safety and a better future have ended up living in squalor, struggling to survive. Although her son is now in school and they have somewhere to live, the isolation of the past few years is still clearly traumatic and she remains deeply vulnerable.

This family's plight is highlighted in a new report published today by The Children's Society. It does not make easy reading. The Destitution Report reveals that The Children's Society's projects, in the West Midlands and across the country, are being approached for help by increasing numbers of children and their families who have fallen into destitution.

Latest official figures show that in the last three months of 2009, 11,655 applicants, excluding dependants, were surviving on the bare minimum 'hard case' support that the Government provides, 13 per cent up on a year before. This support often consists of unsuitable hostel accommodation and a small amount in vouchers every two weeks.

In a fair, free and responsible society, children must be provided with the basic essentials. The Report shows many asylum-seeking pregnant women who give birth are left almost entirely unsupported and destitute mothers are having to resort to prostitution, simply

to feed their families.

Children of asylum seekers are among the most disadvantaged in England. They grow up hungry in dirty, unsafe, overcrowded conditions with no privacy, and are often forced to move repeatedly. Parents struggle to find better housing, financial support, legal advice and education.

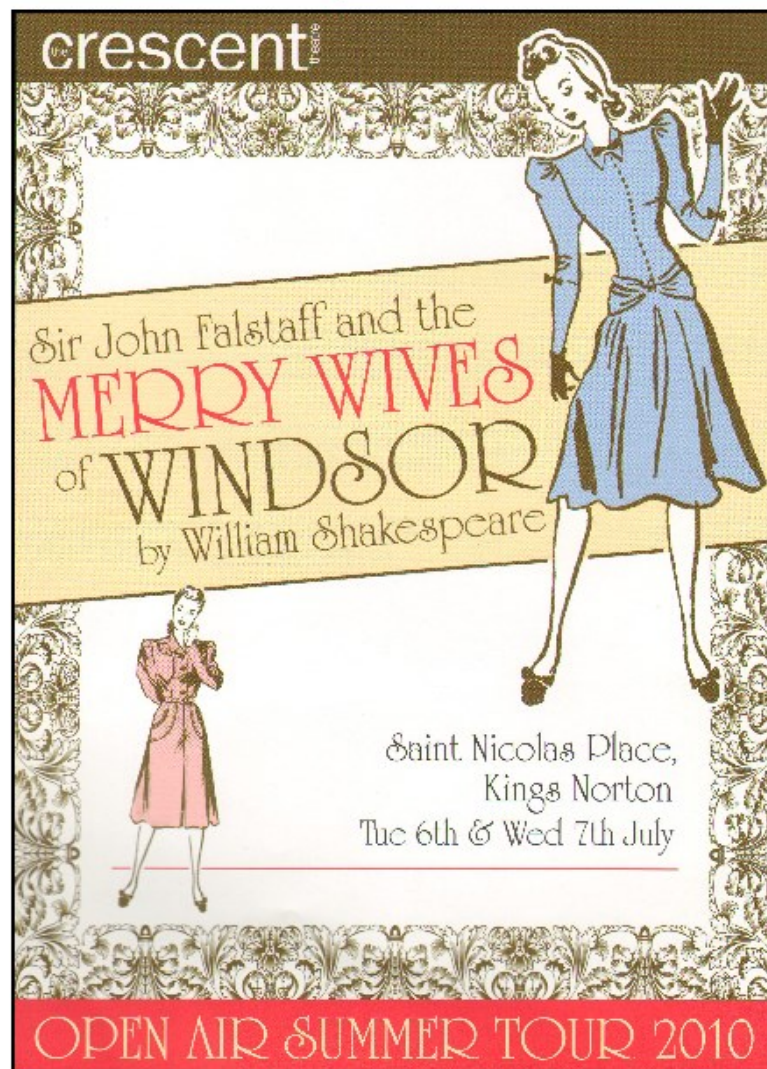
Birmingham prides itself on being a compassionate, generous and welcoming city but open-ended support for people in trouble can be contentious.

None the less, the Christian gospel emphasises care for the stranger and practical support for refugees. Jesus, in one of the most challenging passages in the New Testament, said:
"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."
Matthew 25 v 35-36 NRSV

The Children's Society project I visited last week is threatened with closure unless money can be raised to support their work. Your support will enable more children trapped in poverty to climb out of destitution. Please find out more at www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

By Bishop David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham
birmingham.anglican.org

Summer Shakespeare has Returned!



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of our Festival to say that, like Christmas, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost, it tells us that the same love which moves the stars and sustains the universe also moves and sustains all life in Kings Norton – but it just happens to be true.

Our life and faith shrink without that larger frame. At the heart of life and faith, as Christians trust, is the story of God's purpose for all things, achieved through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus. That's how love is – gathering all our suffering, dying and rising into new and transforming hope through what God has done in Jesus – and still does, day by day. And God wants to do it through the church – not as a group of people all saying they agree with each other, but as a faithful venturesome community which lives in God's love in times of lament, in times of celebration – and in all in between.

Without it, faith and church turn into what suits and pleases me. Churches chase "success" and what we pray - and even more what we sing - as Christians tells only of how I feel about God right now. The new diocesan magazine, "Transform" (available in each congregation) has lots of lovely stories of personal lives changed in Christ. It has nothing to say about

the faithful ordinary witness of struggling congregations in hard-pressed areas, nothing about God's gift of endurance in apparent failure, nothing about God's embrace through the church of all our difference, grief and despair. Yet that is what the church is for – to live in Cross and Resurrection day by day in a hope which is always and everywhere much deeper than we can imagine.

Stanley Hauerwas, a leading American theologian, says that we should not be troubled by differences in what we say we believe, but by the fact that what we say we believe seems to make so little difference to the world around us.

You may have noticed that the world-wide Anglican Communion is in danger of splitting over the acceptance or rejection in ministry of those in faithful same-sex relationships. I know what I think. Others in our local church think differently. But if this is a church-splitting matter, we have lost the plot and earned the incredulity of friends and neighbours. They see huge issues of economic and environmental change, which affect the very creation God has made and all who share in it. They face personal struggles and questions. We are in danger of of-

fering a church (sadly, we probably already do) which is so caught up in its own internal politics and judgementalism that it seems to offer nothing of God's real lasting hope in and for every place and time, in failure and grief as well as in "success". Yet that is what we are for.

And it is still there!

The terrible shootings in west Cumbria evoked cheap press angles about blame and sensation. They also evoked quiet, deep gathering in community in which ordinary churchpeople, lay and clergy, were trusted to express the words and rituals which alone could bear such grief and hope. Our huge privilege as the parish church of Kings Norton is to be trusted week by week to offer the words and rituals of God's love through the church in the less publicized but equal griefs and hope of people and communities here - and to do this alongside the joys and promises of weddings and baptisms and the daily and weekly round of worship, work, care and living.

We face struggles of all kinds. Housing and social issues on the Three Estates and Druids Heath have moved - but much more remains to be done. Local

school re-organisation presses hard on our church school at Hawkesley and many others. Business people and professionals face massive challenge in a new financial climate. We need to ensure that our restored buildings and all our community life and heritage continue to grow for all. The church itself is no more immune from financial and maintenance pressures than anyone else. And loneliness, illness, grief and family disappointments do not go away.

Beneath and around them all is God's love - the love which bears the Cross in all our crosses in true hope of Resurrection, the love which enables us to endure faithfully in joy and sorrow alike, the love which loves humans as we are - and doesn't wait until we are successful. There is our hope - and bizarre as it may seem, that is why Kings Norton Festival matters!

Rob Morris



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9am - 2pm

SAINT NICOLAS PLACE



Cardboard House

On July 10th at King's Norton Festival, come and find the Cardboard House in the Churchyard.

Has Cardboard City moved to King's Norton, or to Birmingham?

No!

Why not?

Mainly because of the work of St Basil's in Homeless Projects, we don't really have a Cardboard City in Birmingham, unlike most other major cities in the UK.

St Basil's is a charity which works from a base on the east side of the city and works in a whole raft of ways to prevent homelessness amongst the 16-25 years age group. Want to find out more?

Visit the Cardboard House on 10th July!

Look out for the **Messy Church Stall** at Kings Norton Festival. Come and try our activity and then join us once a month on Farmers' Market Days in St Nicolas Church for fun for all the family.

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Our Parochial Church Council

We last met on 10th June. We were delighted to welcome Paul Shelton to his first PCC meeting as churchwarden to work with Stephen Plant.

We heard that we have secured a grant to upgrade the former vicarage on Shannon Road to be used by the SWEET Project for training family social workers and serving our community.

We agreed to update our **Giving Matters** leaflet with our 2010 budgets and targets so that all can see what we need and how much we need to raise through Planned Giving.

Other large matters included:

Changes in Hawkesley School

The Local Authority's Action Plan for Hawkesley School following February's OFSTED inspection finally arrived, just before the PCC meeting. Governors will be working on it very seriously in the next few weeks – and ensuring that it brings needed change. Dr Marion Fleming Froy was nominated to fill the PCC Governor vacancy at the school.

New PCC Action Groups:

Key to success is that each group is small and active – but designed to engage others in our large areas of common work, i.e. each group has responsibility for leading/organising others in wider tasks. It is essential that these are whole-parish Action Groups, not policy or management PCC committees and that Groups affirm/include and enhance all that each congregation already does within our wider work.

Care of Building and Churchyard Group to gather people already involved in care and maintenance – and to engage more, both in regular tasks and also in specials like leaf-clearing and church spring-cleaning.

Pastoral Care Group A team of volunteers who look out for, care for and keep in touch with vulnerable people in the parish and

As I'm primarily in a Sports Department I have recently returned to circuit training and some jogging so I'm feeling in fairly decent fettle just now.

Due to my coming along to Candlelit Church on Wednesdays, I was given a great deal of encouragement to see if Sylvia would take me on as a choir member. She did and I'm absolutely thrilled to be a part of the team. This summer, if time allows, I hope to join another local choir, the "Phoenix Singers" based at Rowheath Pavillion and in September I may well be tagging along with our college choir. As you can see, I'm becoming a bit of an addict, although our choir here will always come first.

What are your best memories?

Too numerous to mention here, but some of them include the many times I spent with the family on holidays up to my grandmother's in Tyneside and holidays to Italy and Austria when I was younger. Others include my passing out parade in the Royal Air Force, managing to get a few medals for my running (some time ago now as you'd expect), Christmases past...Happy days (and many more of them God willing).

What's your favourite holiday place?

Depends upon the holiday I want at the time, but I must say I adore Seville. The music, the rhythm, the people, the clothes, the guitars (of course) and just the sense of history the place has.

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

My classical guitar would undoubtedly be my luxury and my book would be the Bible, although Kirsty Young allows you that as a given so, if permitted, my 'other' book would, at the moment, be "The Adventures of English" which is a book from a TV series that Melvyn Bragg did a couple of years ago, looking at how our language began and developed and where it's going. Fascinating!

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

I've only been coming a comparatively short time and the church and its congregation have given and shared so much with me that I feel it's difficult for me to add anything more than what it has to offer already. I'm sure in time ideas shall spring to mind, but until then I'll leave this question to the experts.



'Parish People' *People from all walks of Parish Life.*

Find out more about chorister Tony Wright who was recently baptised and confirmed at St Nicolas.



Where were you born?

The Northfield area but we moved to Kings Norton (Rednal Road) just before I was 6.

What is your occupation?

Teacher Assistant at Solihull 6th Form College.

Why Kings Norton?

Because I was raised here and, although from time to time I've been away, I always seem to return to KN!

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

My faith is important to me because it gives me the strength to live a peaceful existence. It is as important as the air I breathe and the food that I eat.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I have played guitar for a number of years, including many different styles of guitar. I enjoy learning languages, which I continue (when time allows) with the Open Uni. Spanish is my favourite simply because of my interest in things Hispanic. This began many years ago when I was based at RAF Belize in Central America. Also my passion for the guitar and for history has meant many trips to the cities of Spain.



2010 Confirmation Candidates

congregations. They are also to share the ministry of bringing Communion to elderly and housebound people. They will, of course, receive training and support (clergy and others).

Hospitality/Welcome Group to gather and enlarge numbers already involved, with growth in training and confident understanding/offering of these and other gifts. The key is to move these from generally being nice to people to an informed, sensitive response to need.

Parish Action Group to focus and promote outward-looking prayer, action and giving by church members in support of others; in the parish, in our wider community and city - and world-wide. The key issue is to bring coherence to the extensive work that we do as a parish, so raising awareness, clarity, prayer, commitment and stronger outward-looking Godly purpose (as we began to do with the prayer-agenda last St Nicolas Day). Church and its members are already involved in significant local and community action within the Enriching Church themes of **Relationships:** *Finding healing, encouragement and challenge through our life together,* **Presence:** *Living out God's love in our communities and the wider world* and **Partnerships:** *Working together with people of goodwill to see God's purposes fulfilled.*

St Nicolas Re-ordering Group to prepare a scheme for church discussion leading to PCC and DAC approval for change to lighting, seating, entrance and nave platform to follow the current experiment.

Clergy and Wardens will lead on forming the new groups and bring a full proposal to the next PCC meeting on 15th July. DCC's, Budget/Finance Committee and Communications Group continue.

New Safeguarding requirements for vulnerable adults

Clergy team have already been on an informative training course regarding the implications for churches of the new vetting and barring regulations which come into effect in the autumn. Training for others will follow.

Piano experiment

A Baby Grand Piano will be in St Nicolas Church for the month of July, initially for a concert, but subsequently to see how such an instrument might enhance worship.

Kings Norton Restoration Trust Report

Ed is working as Interim Manager. We are unlikely to have a substantive Manager until September. Kerry Horsfield (Admin Officer) and Megan Nass (Heritage and Learning Officer) were highlighted as doing a good job in providing continuity during all the changes. PCC expressed their gratitude. Paul Shelton is now a trustee and Gerry Moorcroft was thanked for his hard work over many years. He has now stood down and another vacancy exists.

Any Other Business

PCC thoughts and prayers are offered for Deb Buckley, to be ordained next month. Josephine Houghton (Jo Mayer) is also being priested next month.

Peter Smith asked about the possibility of the fair trade stand being moved outside to a more prominent position on busy days, such as the Farmers' Market days. Rob Morris said he would raise the matter with Judy Ash who has taken on the responsibility for the fair trade stand.

Stephen Plant reported that the local Fire Service have decided they would like an industrial chaplain. This could be an ordained or lay person. All enquiries to Stephen.

We have been given an industrial boiler to replace the free-standing urn in St Nicolas. As this will be fixed to a wall it, will be much safer than the present arrangement. Stephen Plant was asked to thank the donor.

Date of next meeting – 15th July at 7.30pm

Thurs 3rd

It was my turn on the rota to take the 11.00 Holy Communion Service at St. Nicolas. I had left the workman at my house still hard at work, only to find more workmen outside the church sorting out the path. This made it quite a challenge to get into church, especially as they were wearing those protective ear muffs and couldn't hear me. I tried jumping up and down and shouting, but all to no avail. In the end, I did manage to get passed them and they didn't even notice! So much for my antics!

Sat 5th

There was an 11.00 wedding at St. Nicolas so the regular Knit and Natter group and the weekly Coffee Morning was cancelled, so I took the opportunity to do some home visits and also to pop into the supermarket to do a food shop for myself. Had a great time in the evening at my friend's BBQ. It was the perfect end to a busy week.

Sun 6th

The baptisms in the afternoon were just wonderful. Rob baptised two little boys and we all had such an enjoyable time. There is something so special about seeing little ones being baptised and Rob, after his many years in ministry, baptised the boys as if it were the very first time he had ever done it. What a gift that is and what a great example to me.

Rebecca's Diary...



Tues 1st June

The workmen who were due to start on various jobs in my house arrived promptly and worked through the day. They were good guys and soon got on well with the job in hand. Meanwhile, I tried to work in my study dealing with emails, phone calls etc, but it proved quite difficult with the men working right outside my study and dust sheets just about everywhere. However, I did manage to get more done than I initially thought.

Wed 2nd

In the morning, I went to Druids Meadow Residential Home to visit the residents and to take Holy Communion. The little group who gathered sang their hearts out and we had a really lovely time together. I really enjoy my monthly visits. The members of staff are so welcoming and the residents and I always have a good gossip and a good laugh.

Barefoot to Birmingham (As featured in last month's magazine)

After watching the documentary film "A Walk To Beautiful", Kalantha Brewis was so moved by the plight of the fistula patients in Ethiopia that she decided to walk 35 miles in her bare feet to help raise awareness of young women who have suffered horrendous childbirth injuries, mainly through the lack of midwives and ante-natal care. If they want to access the specialist hospital in Addis Ababa that can treat and cure them, they have to travel for many days, often barefoot, over difficult terrain.



Between June 9th and June 12th, Kalantha walked from her home near Pershore to the Birmingham Women's Hospital raising around £13,000 in the process. She stopped off at St Nicolas' Church on the way and while she was with us, she recorded a 5-minute interview which you can listen to on the parish website. kingsnorton.org.uk/news/kalantha

Druids Heath

In last month's magazine, I asked for prayers for our MPs and councillors. I should, of course, have included the Brandwood Ward councillors, Mike Leddy, Mark Hill and Neville Summerfield and the Hall Green MP, Steve McCabe, who all represent Druids Heath - and Nigel Dawkins, Tim Huxtable and Rob Sealey, the councillors for the parts of Kings Norton in Bournville ward, north of the railway line. Do pray for them all as well as for those who represent the largest part of Kings Norton.

From the parish's work in growing PRODH (Project for the Renewal Of Druids Heath) has grown Karen Urwin's wide networking and action within the community, a committed prayer network and a fresh Christian gathering in New Hope Community Church, supported by Pavilions and Dickens Heath Churches of Christ. We of course continue our parish work in care homes, some schools and pastoral offices – and delight in the company of church members who live in Druids Heath and witness there in prayer and service to God's promise and purpose for all. Keep praying!

Rob Morris

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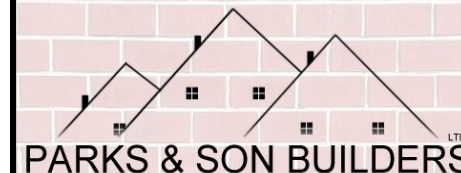


Kings Norton Farmers Market

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

Christian Aid week has been and gone...and with the thought of helping those without proper sanitation, it spurred us on to contribute to this cause and Immanuel Church sent £330 to Christian Aid. During the Christian Aid service, Gerry told us that we weren't allowed to use the toilets at the day centre and that if we were desperate, he had some plastic bags for us to use then throw out of the window, or we could walk to Northfield (the next village) to use the church toilets there. It definitely paints a picture of what some people have to go through every day.

Our Pentecost service and Gift Day was a lovely occasion where we had the chance to eat together after the service and Jayne shared with us the 'Mystery of Pentecost' through Godly Play.

During the Trinity Sunday service, Jayne read to us from a book called 'The Shack' which so delicately portrays the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Shack is a very thought provoking book. I know when I read it, I couldn't put it down...I couldn't read through the pages fast enough! I would definitely recommend it!

We are looking forward to Oasis leading our All Age service at the end of June.

Sarah Crooks.

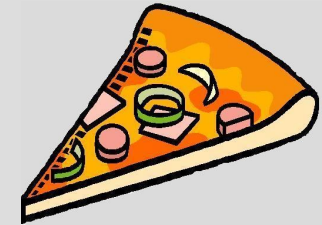


Rev Jayne, Sarah and Jon Crooks with Joseph at his Baptism on Sunday 13th June.

UI9? Liking pizza? Too old for Oasis, too young for Uni?

We are hoping to start up, in September, a monthly group for young people in the parish. The idea is to provide a time and a space for those of secondary school age

to talk about stuff that matters...
to meet and make friends...
to grow in faith...
to have fun...
to eat pizza...



If you are aged between 11 and 18, and think this might be something you'd be interested in, please come along to a start-up meeting on **Saturday 17th July at 6.30pm till 8pm in St Nicolas' Church**. We'll phone out for some pizzas and, while we're waiting for them to come, share some thoughts and ideas about the kind of group that you would like to see happen. Then we'll eat and talk a bit more.

If you'd like to know more, have a word with me, or just come along on 17th. If you know you'll be coming, it would be a real help to let Sylvia or me know beforehand – you could even put in a bid for your favourite pizza topping.



John White
john.white@kingsnorton.org.uk
07854 412949

P.S. If you don't like pizza, you'd still be welcome. We might even be able to arrange an alternative.

Dear God,
As people from every nation gather for the
2010 World Cup,
may South Africa be a good host
and all visitors show good sportsmanship.

May those who compete
and those who watch
enjoy and share the game.
But also remember the
men, women and children
who will be forced to work there
against their will.

We remember to you all victims of Human
Trafficking during this tournament.
May your Spirit of justice, healing, comfort
and peace be known to each one.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

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Human Trafficking
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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 a stall at Kings
Norton Festival on Saturday
10th July. 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!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

St Nicolas Church will be open 2-3pm
every third Tuesday of the month for
those who have experienced loss
through bereavement. There will be the
opportunity to light candles, be quiet
and reflective, chat to Rev. Rebecca and
others and be amongst those who
themselves have had or are in the pro-
cess of bereavement.

In July, this will take place on Tuesday
20th.

Tea and coffee will be available. Come
as and when you feel the need.
For more information, please contact
Rev Rebecca on 458 2950.

O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of
religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading
from Genesis while orbiting the moon
at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly.

I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the
wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence
and spirit that had brought two young
pilots to the Sea of Tranquillity. It was
interesting for me to think: the very first
liquid ever poured on the moon, and
the very first food eaten there, were the
communion elements.

And of course, it's interesting to think
that some of the first words spoken on
the moon were the words of Jesus
Christ, who made the Earth and the
moon - and who, in the immortal words
of Dante, is Himself the 'Love that
moves the Sun and other stars.' "

Article by Eric Metaxas,
supplied by Tony Hill.

Communion on the Moon: July 20th 1969

Forty years ago, two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

And a few years ago, I had the privilege of meeting him myself. I asked him about it and he confirmed the story to me and I wrote about it in my book "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God (But Were Afraid to Ask)."

The background to the story is that Aldrin was an Elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life and, knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow and he asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. And Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth's orbit and on to the surface of the moon.

He and Armstrong had only been on

the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public statement:

"This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way."

He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John, and he took communion. Here is his own account of what happened:

"In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.'

I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute [they] had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray

New Churchwarden - Paul Shelton

A new churchwarden has been sworn in by the Archdeacon to serve alongside Stephen Plant for the next 12 months.

Paul Shelton has been attending St Nicolas' for several years but, as he explained to the congregation on Pentecost Sunday, only recently responded to what he believes to be God's prompting to get more fully involved in the life of the church. "St Nicolas' felt like home from the moment I first walked through the door," he said.

Paul, who lives in Hollywood, in the "rural bit" of the parish, manages a charity. His expertise in financial and property management will be welcome and well-used in his new role.



Paul (left) with Stephen Plant; our Parish Wardens

Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st July at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. It is our AGM meeting which will be followed by a light supper. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Marlene Collyer Chairman

Parish Raises Thousands for Christian Aid

Every year, Kings Norton Team Parish supports Christian Aid Week. Fund-raising activities and house to house collections are organised to draw attention to the year-round work of Christian Aid and to generate cash to support their projects.



This year, Christian Aid Week took place between 9th and 15th May. A month later, the money raised has been counted and we are able to announce the total. The generosity of Kings Norton residents and the combined efforts of the three churches of St Nicolas', Immanuel and Hawkesley raised **£4545.36** this year. That's an increase over the last two years and a testament to the big-heartedness of local people in very difficult economic times.

To all those who collected and raised money, on behalf of Christian Aid, a huge thank you! Next year, Christian Aid Week takes place between **15th and 21st May**. Please put it in your diary!

Ifakara Bakery

Our gift to the bakery – for its **Free Bread** Project – means that 2000 loaves can be given to the patients and children of the hospital, kindergarten and orphanage. That's about 20,000 extra meals!

Every single penny raised by the charity goes to the provision of the free bread – absolutely no money is used in administration either at the UK end or the Tanzania end of the project.

Margaret and Eugene expressed their very grateful thanks for our gift and passed on the thanks of all who help to provide the free bread in Tanzania – and from those who receive it.

Sylvia Fox

having lived for countless generations in a Palestinian village in the former Palestine. His father considered that Palestinians and Jews were "blood brothers" as they were all descended from Abraham. One day (in the late 1940s) he gathered the children of the village and told them of the horrors suffered by their Jewish cousins in Europe.

Many would be coming to Palestine and must be made welcome. He bought, slaughtered and dressed a lamb to prepare a welcome feast for them.

Eventually, some Israeli soldiers told his father



and the other men of the village that their homes would be needed for two weeks. At the end of two weeks, they could return – that was a promise. So young Elias, with his parents and his siblings, had the pleasure (in the summer) of sleeping out in his father's orchard at the far end of the village. At the end of the two weeks, when his father and the other men of the village went to reclaim their homes, they were loaded on to lorries and taken to refugee camps. They were told that if they ever set foot in Israel again they would be shot.

Elias' young mother and her family were left homeless and destitute. As winter approached, they decided to go and seek shelter in a neighbouring Palestinian village. When they arrived there, it was deserted. Although puzzled as to what had happened to their friends, they decided it was logical to occupy the empty houses. One day, as young Elias and his friends were playing, the surface of the ground was scuffed up and they saw

something strange. Tugging at a piece of cloth, a decomposing hand and arm emerged. Thus was the mystery solved of the strange disappearance of that village's former occupants.

A similar story was told to us by the Dean of Students at the Bethlehem Bible College – except that his father was simply shot.

In addition to what we were told, we witnessed with our own eyes the obscenity of the high concrete walls, built on Palestinian land to separate Palestinian communities and to make their daily lives intolerable. The people living in some of these communities are virtual prisoners as gaining an exit visa is made as difficult as possible by the Israeli government.

The wonder is that the Christian people whom we met harbour no animosity. Their only prayer is that they be allowed to live with dignity and respect on what is after all their own land and that the West recognises their suffering and brings pressure on the Israeli government to treat them with humanity and justice.

Needless to say, I came home with countless memories and photos and with much to think about as I ponder with fresh eyes the realities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

I will at some point be giving a talk and slide show of my pilgrimage – so do watch out for details.

Revd Jayne

Holy Land Pilgrimage

It was my privilege recently to travel to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage, along with 65 other people who were largely from the Diocese of Worcester. We went "..... in search of Jesus Christ amongst the towns and villages, mountains and deserts, shrines and holy places of present day Israel-Palestine".

During our visit, we did indeed see many fascinating and wonderful places and sights. We shared worship in some very special places and with some very special people, local Christians, who were greatly encouraged by our presence.

Our first five days were based on a large Kibbutz on the shores of Galilee. It was both beautiful and peaceful. They made us very welcome and the food was excellent with a choice of salads that I can't begin to describe!



Whilst here, we visited Nazareth, Caesarea Maritima, Capernaum, Tiberius and Kurzi. The highlights for me were sitting on a boat on lake Galilee, watching the sunshine dancing on the water and celebrating communion with the stunning view of the lake and the distant hills before me. I walked on the beach by the water's edge, where it is thought that Jesus met his disciples after his resurrection and ate breakfast with them and queued and jostled at the well where Mary would have drawn the water for

the household.

Our remaining days were based in a modern hotel situated in the heart of West Jerusalem, not far from the Jaffa Gate. In stark contrast to Galilee, Jerusalem was busy and noisy, with people, with traffic, with armed police and foot soldiers and with emergency vehicle sirens every minute of the day and night. Whilst here, we visited the Jordan River, Bethlehem, Masada, Qumran and, of course, many holy places in Jerusalem itself.

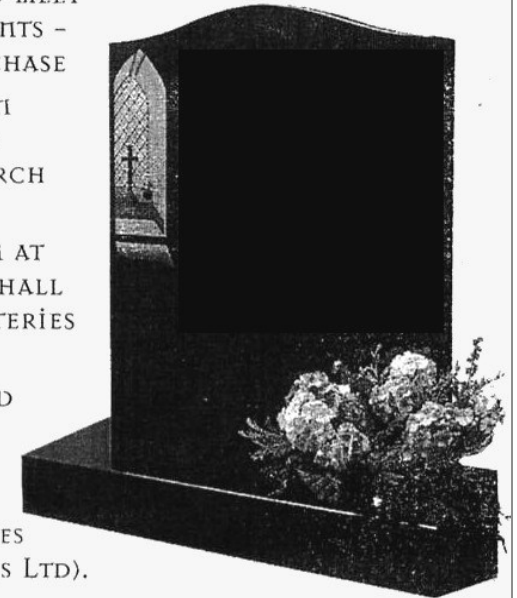
I stood on the Mount of Olives and saw much the same view of Jerusalem that Jesus would have seen as he neared the City and where he wept as he gazed on it; I stood near the places where Jesus was born and baptised; where he prayed on the night before his death and arrest; where he was brought before the High Priest and Pilate; where he was crucified and the empty tomb where he was laid. I swam in the Dead Sea and walked along the Via Dolorosa.

During our time in Israel, we were granted the special privilege of meeting Elias Chacour, the Archbishop of Galilee - author of many books on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. He told us of the events of his childhood sixty years earlier. His family were Palestinians,

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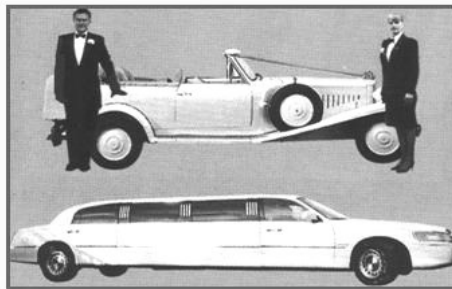
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*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows for our play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day;

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The rich man in his castle
the poor man at his gate,
God made them, high or lowly,
and ordered their estate.

Refrain

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

Refrain

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one;

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Refrain

Thank you

In December 2009, I went to New York in celebration of the centenary of Girl Guiding UK. This trip was an experience of a lifetime and would have been impossible without all the support I had from many of you during my seven months of fundraising.

On 7th July, I will be holding a thank you night. I will be talking about my trip, showing photos, answering questions and, with the help of Judy Ash, there will be an American themed supper afterwards. It's with kind thanks that I invite anyone who would like to come along to share in my experience.

Crystal Hughes

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Cecil Frances published her “Hymns for Little Children” in 1848, a couple of years before her marriage. The hymns were written to explain the Apostles’ Creed and the Church Catechism in the 1662 Prayer Book. She wanted to make them more interesting and accessible to the children by the use of poetry and pictorial language. The best known of these hymns are this one, “There is a Green Hill” and “Once in Royal David’s City”.

“All things bright and beautiful” aims to illustrate the doctrine of Creation - God is **maker** of all things: flowers, fruits, trees, meadows, mountains, rivers, seasons: “The Lord God **made** them all”. This is repeated at the end of each stanza, so it can be sung seven times in the modern version where verse 1 is repeated as a refrain. Invariably, the verse about the rich man is now omitted. It is now only seen as a ghastly comment on the Victorian class system, although it was **far** more like to have been Mrs Alexander’s way of trying to say that all are equal in God’s sight.

Mrs Alexander was born Cecil Frances Humphries of a well-to-do family in Ireland. She married Rev. William Alexander in 1850, supporting him in his work as priest; first in a parish, then as Bishop of Derry and then as Archbishop of Armagh. She was a prolific writer of poetry and hymns, especially those for children, Saints’ Days and holy days.

We usually sing it to a tune of the same name by WH Monk (1823-18189) or the tune by Martin Shaw (1875-1958) called Royal Oak and bases on an English Folk dance.

Normally, my heart sinks when I see this hymn on the list – I seem to play it so very regularly and I have disparagingly relegated it to the corner labelled “not for grown up occasions”. But recently, I had the privilege to play for the wedding of a couple from Iran and UK respectively and this was one of their chosen hymns. I looked at it with new eyes: the hymn and its teaching were fully accessible to all present and treated us all the same; those who were fluent in English and those for whom it was a second, third or even fourth language. I will sing it with a lighter heart next time and realise that Mrs Alexander achieved her goal.

Sylvia Fox

Refrain:

May 2010 Baptisms

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

- 2nd May, Kelsey Louise Bevington
- 2nd May, Ruby Mae Letts
- 2nd May, Leo Alexander Osborn
- 16th May, Lewis Clarke Beard
- 16th May, Daniel Robert Hall
- 16th May, Madison Alice Pewtner
- 16th May, Emily Dean Smith
- 23rd May, Connor Joseph Warren
- 23rd May, Veli Valentino Warren

May 2010 Marriages

“Those whom God has joined together”

- 1st May, Lee Neil Gumbley and Lucy Diane Hollingsworth
- 1st May, Philip Stephen Seymour and Jennie Robinson
- 8th May, Mark Neal and Samantha Hinks
- 15th May, Saul David and Loveness Batwell
- 20th May, John Robert Osborne and Winifred Violet Merriman
- 22nd May, Sean David Conway and Catherine Rebecca Norris
- 29th May, Matthew Kirby and Claire Maire Nesbitt
- 30th May, Gary Sean Faulconbridge and Wendy Jane McCann

Harry L Marks

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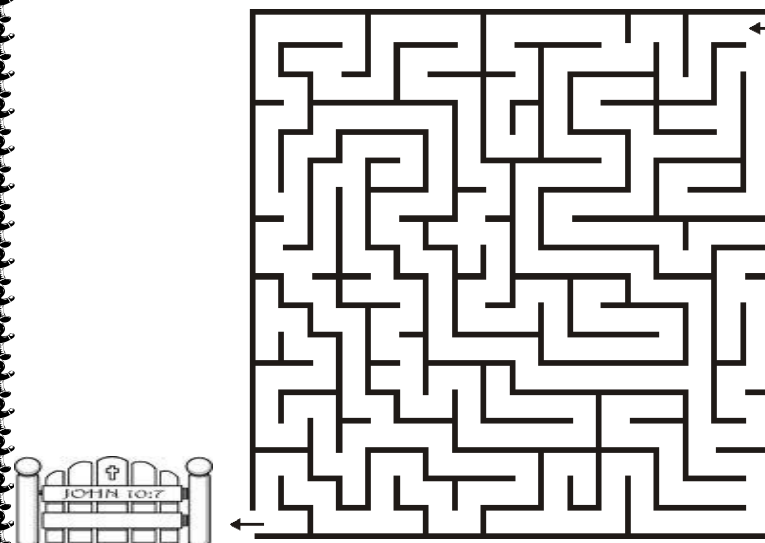
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Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus, the Gate.
Through him, the way to you is made easier.
May we always be safe in your love.
Amen.



Sometimes it seems really hard to know God and he feels really far away and we just don't know how to reach him. Find your way through the maze to Jesus, the Gate, who will lead you to God.



CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone!

Over the last few months, we have learnt a lot about who Jesus says he is and what this means for us. Staying with what we have learnt of Jesus as the 'Good Shepherd' - the one who loves and cares for us; and as the 'Living Water' - that he will lead us to God and help us to be friends with God, we will together explore this a little further.

Keeping in mind the image of Jesus as both Shepherd and Water, let's also try to imagine Jesus as a Gate. A gate is like a door. It separates one place from another. It can be opened allowing easier access to enter through.

Think of your garden gate. When you arrive home from school, will it be open allowing you to enter the safety of your home easily, or will it be closed, making it more difficult to enter your destination?

Jesus knows that we long to know God. He knows that we are trying to live as he wants us to and that we want to be safe with him. Sometimes it may seem really hard to know God and he feels really far away and out of our reach.

But Jesus said ... 'I am the Gate' (John 10:7)

Jesus, who said he is the living water; the one who leads us to God is here reaffirming this in the image of a Gate. You have to go through Jesus - the gate - to get to God.

**Jesus will take us to God; we will be safe with him,
just as the Good Shepherd's sheep
are safely inside their sheepfold.**

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May 2010 Funerals

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

- 4th May, Stuart Matthew Young, 25. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 4th May, John Leonard Castle, 91. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Redditch.
- 5th May, Margaret Rose Colbourne, 72. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 7th May, Edward Stanley Wild, 71. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 10th May, Myra Smith, 72. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 10th May, Leslie Charles Kirby, 98. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 11th May, Isabel Annie Davies, 90. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 13th May, Alfred Holt, 91. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 14th May, Frederick Weaver, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 14th May, Jean Shore, 81. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 17th May, Joyce Frances Thorneloe, 85. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 18th May, Henry Joseph Garwood, 94. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 19th May, Derek Joel Sears, 80. Interment of ashes at St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 26th May, Gwendoline Power, 67. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 27th May, Scott Simon Jones, 36. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 28th May, Marion Cynthia Hill, 71. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

Shannon Road/Old Portway.
Every Sunday – Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):
10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;
10.30 am, 2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.
Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Immanuel Church

Meeting at Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.
Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary school age.
10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;
10.30 am, 2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;
10.30 am, 4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Druids Heath

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

Café T

Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group context. Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm.

For Young People

Oasis/Sunday School at each Church (see above)
Uniformed Organisations and Choir—see the 'Who's who' pages or contact the Parish Office.

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

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

SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

Tiny Tots

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

Open Church

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

Candlelit Church

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,

*When you need us,
we'll be there*

Co-op Funeral Services

1290 Pershore Road

STIRCHLEY
0121 458 5151

828 Bristol Road

SELLY OAK
0121 472 2459

24 hour service



THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

A Church of England Team Parish serving all in Kings Norton and Druids Heath through the Parish Church of St Nicolas and the District Churches of Hawkesley and Immanuel

Clergy:			
Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX		458 3289/459 0560	
The Rev'd JOHN WHITE (Team Vicar)			
The Rev'd JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP		459 3733	
The Rev'd REBECCA PULLIN (Curate)		458 2950	
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):			
The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON		476 7223	
Lay Staff:			
FAY FEARON (Reader),		451 1914	
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader), c/o Parish Office			
Church Wardens			
St. NicolasSTEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office		458 3289	
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)	JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or	550 3455	
	PETER SMITH	453 9931	
Immanuel (Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	243 0573	
Candlelit Church Co-ordinator			
P.C.C. Secretary	SYLVIA FOX c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
P.C.C. Treasurer	JONATHAN CROOKS, c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
Parish Office:	81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU	458 3289	
	(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 459 2529	
Parish Administrator	CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289	
Finance Administrator	CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289	
Organist and Music Director	SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA	07778 449170	
Choir & Orchestra Practices	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.		
	Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.		
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SARAH CROOKS		
Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:			
Oasis (St. Nicolas)	contact via Parish Office	458 3289	
Hawkesley			
Oasis (Immanuel)	NICKY MOORCROFT		
Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR		
Headteacher		459 6467 Fax: 459 6468	
Bell Ringers	Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower		
Ringling Master	JIM DUNN	744 6334	
Secretary			
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers	Practice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.		
Secretary	JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or	208 4013	
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS.	458 3328	

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

Women's Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
Seniors' Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)	Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: KAREN URWIN Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 430 6005 244 0789
Guides and Brownies	Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
Guides and Brownies	At Hawkesley Church Centre:- Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
Kings Norton Society	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
Kings Norton History Society	Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.	
Parish Magazine Editor	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
Parish Magazine Treasurer	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	EVELYN FINN, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	DAVID ASH, contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	
St Nicolas Place Staff:-		www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk
Interim Centre Manager	ED HART	458 1223
Financial/Administrator Asst	KERRY HORSFIELD	458 1223
Heritage/Learning Officer	MEGAN NASS	458 1223
Duty Supervisor	NATHAN CROOKS	458 1223
Duty Supervisor	ALAN KAVANAGH	458 1223
Duty Supervisor	BEN WADDINGTON	458 1223

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

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

Kings Norton Parish Office, St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU.
0121 458 3289

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