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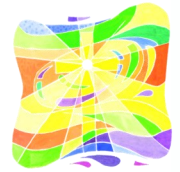


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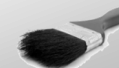
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NOTICES FROM (other) CHURCH MAGAZINES (allegedly!)

Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'

Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.



Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

Welcome.....

In this edition, we look forward to a number of events including Kings Norton Festival and the United Service this month. Rob writes of the plans for a new member of the clergy team in the Parish and Jess introduces 'Back to Church Sunday' which is happening in September. There will be more about this next month.

The children's pages have a guest editor while we search for a 'new' Karen, and Sylvia gives us some background information to the well known hymn 'Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven'.

The cover photograph was taken at last month's Tudor Fun Day at St Nicolas Place.

Alan Haynes, Editor

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Thank you.

Items for inclusion in the August issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 17th July 2009

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

From The Rector

“People get the clergy they pray for” - looking forward to a new member of the Team.

At last, we are able to advertise for a Team Vicar to fill the post left vacant by David when he moved last year. (Rebecca's not leaving, in case you were worried!) After long and careful discussion with the Bishop, the advert will be something like:

Community Missioner

With the Bishop for Birmingham, we are praying for a Community Missioner, with Team Vicar status, to join an established team of clergy, lay leaders and congregations who pray and work:

- to be a worshipping transforming community in Christ;
- to live out God's radical welcome for all;
- to be equipped for work in God's world.

Kings Norton Team Clergy and Readers are licensed collegially across the whole parish. Each Team member has responsibility for leadership and development of specific areas of our common work within a Team vision of commitment and accountability to God, to one another, to lay ministers and leaders and to the whole people of God. When we do this, God's mission grows. When we don't, it falters.

Specific responsibilities

To enable renewal of mission across every aspect of parish life and expression;

To develop mission and community ministry in the extensive outer estate areas of the parish and lead Team and Church involvement in Druids Heath;

To lead the Team and our congregations in areas of ministry, learning, training and service, as discerned and shared with Team colleagues and lay leaders.

~~The last few months have not been easy,~~ to say the least, but we have learned so much about the real potential for new mission and growth in our parish. That is already underway – but our new colleague will make a very large difference. There is a very old saying that “people get the clergy they pray for” which asks a lot of questions I'd rather not answer – but your prayers will really matter. Jayne, Rebecca, Fay, Ruth, Donald, Jess and I - and others - know that we could not begin to manage without them. Please continue!

But a new priest in the parish ought to make us ask “What for?”

We build up our expectations of what clergy are for from all sorts of past stories and present hope.

Past clergy have a strong hold on our imagination, for good or ill.

There is an oddness too about just a few of us in church having a position which seems very different from everyone else's. And sometimes it is. In church services of

Leonard Miskin

On Friday 12th June, we gathered with Leonard's sons, David, Stephen and Andrew, his nephew, Michael, their families and many friends from Leonard's rich walk of life. Leonard's funeral was, like him, full of warmth, love and stories of the unexpected – but sadly no explosions or bonfires. Within it all, we knew his deep faith and serious purpose. Many, young and old, wept and smiled in thankfulness for his faithful friendship and his beloved Ruth as we laid his coffin with hers.

Leonard's faith in God was steeped in the Book of Common Prayer – but not because of a stubborn refusal to move out of the 16th century. He was as David said, a “Renaissance” man, gifted in his chosen field of chemical engineering – and in teaching, music, mathematics, drainage, school roofing, precision gardening – and bonfires. He caught, however, the true spirit of the Renaissance – honest enquiry, concern that words and concepts were used accurately – and above all that they served new useful and creative purpose.

His devotion to the BCP grew from its being woven into the heart of his life and faith. He knew its collects and its calendar. The psalms in their BCP version (by Coverdale not Cranmer!) were so often on his tongue. 8am Holy Communion was his meat and drink until the last year or so. But this did not close him to newer ways of worship – as long as they were new, not simply fiddling around with loved words – and had clear purpose and meaning.

His devotion to Hawkesley, our church school, since its birth in 1976, was as deep as it was long. Attention to children's work and stories, help with swimming trips - and weekly roof survey - were all generously given and cry out for others to fill his shoes. (Will you?)

By one of life's ironies, he was buried on a day which the “new” church calendar had made the Feast of St Barnabas – the “son of encouragement”. Leonard would question the change - but no saint's day could be more apt for our very own Barnabas, a true friend and encourager of young and older, women and men alike.

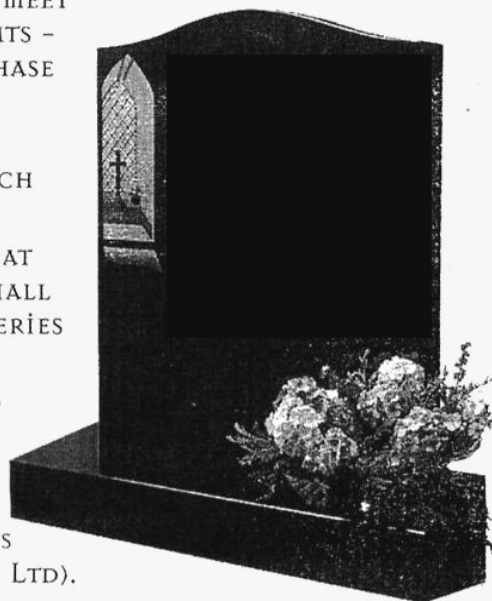
He rests in Christ's peace, alleluia.

Rob Morris.

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all kinds, we are the ones who seem to set the tone, to speak on behalf all - and have the last word. To strangers or to those who are not very confident, we sometimes seem to bring a presence, again for good or ill, which others don't. And we are the ones to whom the church gives authority to bless, absolve and preside at Communion.

And it is too easy to think that we always know right from wrong, or know more than others about God or prayer or worship or the Bible.

We should know enough to give confidence that others are safe in our hands - and to encourage others to grow in faith and in just being fully alive - but that is all.

But all this can only flow from our own humanity in Christ, from not being afraid to let others see our own dependence on God's grace in all that we are and do.

Without that, we have nothing to offer.

A lovely new book (called "Praying for England: Priestly Presence in Contemporary Culture" - but don't let

that put you off!) has a stunning piece by Archbishop Rowan on this. Simply put, he is saying that as Jesus through the Cross has "made a space" in which complex human beings can discover their true self, loved and known by God, so clergy are entrusted with enabling the whole church to offer that same space in Christ for all.

It's what a parish church is for. It's what the outreach of each congregation is for. It's what all our hospitality and welcome is for.

As we pray for our new Community Missioner, please ask for someone who lives by God's grace, who is not afraid of their own weakness and who wants to use her or his priestly gifts to make God's space for all, to offer their gifts in growing confidence without fear of competition or judgment.

Pray for that - and we will grow.

With my prayers and all good wishes.

Rob Morris

United Service - 12th July, 10.30am in St Nicolas

The Sunday after Kings Norton Festival is always our United Parish Service. Some make the most of this special time when God renews us in our life together as God's people in and for Kings Norton. I wonder if some see it as a chance to take a (possibly) much-needed Sunday away from church!

I hope you will be able to join us - so that we are blessed and strengthened together.

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11th:

Had a busy day from morning to night. In the evening, I was invited to be a judge at the Brownies' Talent Show. It really was great fun - so many gifts and abilities amongst a wonderful group of 7 to 10 year olds. For me, Blackie the kissing rabbit (and he was a real rabbit) was brilliant and made us all laugh and brought the house down. I then had a meeting to go to afterwards and found it very difficult to concentrate. I wonder why?!

BEREAVEMENT

St. Nicolas Church will be open from 2-3pm on Tuesday July 21st 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 process of bereavement. Tea and coffee will be available.

If you can't make July 21st, the church will be offering this space on the third Tuesday of every month at the same time. Come as and when you feel the need.

For more information, contact Rev. Rebecca on 458 2950.

Rebecca's Diary...



June 4th:
Went to Hawkesley Church Primary School to take the morning assembly and, as usual, had a lovely time. The children and staff are always very welcoming and join in with the assemblies with great enthusiasm. I always come away feeling great and somehow a lot younger!

5th:
Had a bit of time off and decided to take my dog for a walk. For those of you who don't know, I have a Lurcher and she has been with me for over six months. She has a rather interesting name, Zooka. We went way off track down towards a farm and then, as we turned back, I noticed a herd of cows running towards us - about 200! The dog and I ran for our lives, back up the farm track, over a very muddy field and safely through a gate. The pair of us were left panting and gasping for breath! I thought (wrongly as it turned out) that the cows were running towards us. They were actually heading in the opposite direction with the farmer driving them on from behind in his tractor. That's why they were running like mad! Needless to say, many of my friends thought it was a great story and know it is rather typical of me!

6th:
The weather was pretty awful and I was taking a wedding for a very special couple at St. Nicolas Church. Despite the deluge, we had a fabulous time. We have a great team at St. Nicolas to make such days a lovely occasion. When I asked our vergers, choir and organist if they minded staying on after the service while the couple had some photos taken in the church because it was still pouring with rain, there was no hesitation in agreeing to stay on. That's what I call a good team.

10th:
I went along to an older person's complex to share Holy Communion with the residents, something I do monthly. A young lady opened the door to me and, seeing a covered item over my arm (they were the robes I wear when I take a service and I tend to put a waterproof cover over them when

KINGS NORTON FESTIVAL

We are all invited to Kings Norton Festival on Saturday 11th July, 10am-2pm!

This will be a fun day out, in aid of Saint Nicolas Place. It is organised by The Friends of Historic Kings Norton. Entertainments will include Maypole Dancers, Black Adder Clog Dancers, Ingrid's Accordions, Extend Fitness Exhibition and Second City Ukulele Players. Many local community groups will be represented, along with numerous craft stalls plus cakes and jams, plants, toiletries, photographic display, Penny Arcade, books, tombola, burger and donut stalls, etc.

If you have any books or tombola prizes, we'd be delighted to have them delivered to Saint Nicolas Place by 10th July.

Thank you.

Barbara Hedgeland.



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CHILDREN'S PAGE...

.....with Zoe Childs

Hi everyone! My name's Zoe and I'm 36. I have lived in Kings Norton for the past 10, nearly 11, years and have been coming to St Nicolas Church for almost as long.

I live with my 11 year old daughter Lucy, who is due to start senior school this September – a big and scary step!! (I remember my first day well.) She has been a member of St Nicolas Church Choir for the last couple of years, which she adores. She decided to get baptised and confirmed last April (at St Nicolas of course). That was a memorable day witnessed by myself, her Dad and Grandad and we were all very proud. I have offered to do the children's pages this month and have decided to do it with reference to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-38). It isn't very long, but it is one of my favourites.

In a nutshell, it is about a poor man who gets robbed, beaten and left on the side of the road. Two strangers pass on by, whereas the third helps him and gives him first aid, comfort and takes him to shelter.

Now, I used to be a Brownie (many years ago) and we were always told to try and do a good deed every day. Or, in other words 'do unto others as we would have done to ourselves'. I think in these busy times, with all manner of technology which is supposed to make our lives easier, it would be a good thing if we could all just reach out a helping hand every now and again in whatever way we can.

I shall let you in on a little secret that I have discovered by doing this myself. It actually makes you feel good about yourself too – which can't be a bad thing can it? So go on, enjoy the lovely weather and bring out the Good Samaritan in you!



Parish General Meeting: 22nd June

Our April Annual Parochial Church Meeting had to be held before several major matters were complete. So we held another. If you were there, you will know what happened – and this is written a week before. But we can say:

1. The Parish Review will be completed by 31st August.
2. We are carefully renewing all our Parish finances in the light of many new demands in a tight situation for us all.
3. Appointment of a new Team Vicar is now in hand.
4. The Quinquennial Inspection of St Nicolas is complete. There are no major nasties, but we need more tightly managed repair.
5. Hawkesley School changes are in hand – with much to pray about in the appointment of a new Head for a new future.
6. The Diocesan *Transforming Church* initiative is going to help us look at all we do in a fresh light. And we are planning **Back to Church Week** at the end of September - a time to encourage all with links to Hawkesley, Immanuel and St Nicolas, to renew or re-discover their relationship. There will be many more details in the August and September Parish magazines – and many different events for all to share in. If we each invite just one person to re-visit, we shall be transformed!

Rob Morris

Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd July at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room at St Nicolas Place. This will be the AGM followed by a light supper by Classic Catering. We look forward to you all being there. There will be no meeting in August. We will resume again on Thursday 3rd September. Details to follow.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman

KINGS NORTON YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REUNION

Sunday Lunch at St Nicolas' Place on 10th May 2009 was a very special occasion for those present.

In the summer of 1949, a unique happening took place in Kings Norton, just after the installation of the Parish's new incumbent, Rev.E.G.Ashford. A Youth Club already existed but it was closed to all but Confirmed members of the Church of England. It was not particularly progressive or vibrant. It had only sparse membership and was presided over by the local Curate.

The incoming Vicar was keen to increase the Club's relevance in the area and met with three young (19 year old) lads to discuss his ideas. They proposed that the members themselves should run the Club and that it should be opened to all young people from whatever background. Ted Ashford was aggressively opposed to the idea, contending that there was no prospect of its being successful. In the event, he was proved wrong, but he accepted the outcome with magnanimity and the Kings Norton Youth Fellowship was born.

By Christmas 1949, with over one hundred members, its future was secure and the Vicar and his wife accepted an invitation to join the members for a meal - in the Saracen's Head, no less!

Totally self-governing, KNYF became a catalyst for discussion, entertainment, creativity and sporting prowess in the Kings Norton area. It gave so many

young people the opportunity to socialise, organise their own affairs, display their latent talent and broaden their horizons. It prospered and flourished for over ten years and is remembered with great fondness to this day.

To celebrate its 60th Anniversary, past members returned, for a Reunion, to their old stomping ground. The recently restored 'Saracen's Head', smartened-up and renamed, was the venue. But it was remembered, like an old friend, the way it was - welcoming, reassuring and full of life - those sixty years ago. There, where they had stamped their not inconsiderable group personality on the down-at-heel building.

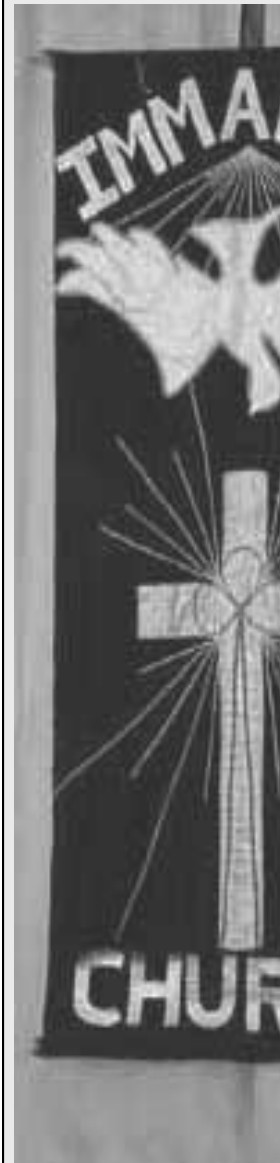
Of the over ninety people that accepted the invitation, seventy were past members. Now in their seventies (some no longer in the best of health), they travelled from all parts to meet and have a meal together.

I know of no other Youth Club, completely self-sufficient in this way, that can boast a following of seventy plus, sixty years later.

Our thanks are due to the Restoration staff, many helpers and particularly Jacqui Parsons and her team of cooks and waitresses for ensuring that the event was an unqualified success

Phil Haycock

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



Our new Chalice and Paten arrived in time for Pentecost – an apt present for the Church's birthday. They were bought in memory of two of our church members who are no longer with us, Emma Stuart and Bess Sutton.

Immanuel is looking forward to our weekend away in July to the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer. We went to this venue the last time we went away as a Church and we really enjoyed the time away together. We are all preparing for this weekend by completing a questionnaire about life at Immanuel and in our parish.

Our Mission and Outreach Group is continuing to work behind the scenes and is planning a prayer walk for June/July around our neighbourhood; watch out for more information about this in the newsletter if you would like to join us. By the time you read this, Oasis (Sunday School) will have organised and led their first all-age service at Immanuel – more news on this next time!

We are in the process of planning a picnic in the park social event and a day trip to Weston-Super-Mare. More details to follow...

Nicky and I have been working hard at finding out about human trafficking in our area. We have emailed the Police, Government, Birmingham City Council, Social Services and many more to find out in more detail what these organisations are doing in the fight to end human trafficking. We have already received some exciting responses. Please pray for the area in which we live and pray for those that are doing the trafficking that their hearts will be changed!

Sarah Crooks

SUMMER BREAK FOR CAFÉ T!

Café T will be taking a break for the summer and will meet again from Tuesday 8th September, when all are welcome on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in St Nicolas Place.

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Back to Church Sunday & Back to Church Week Sun 27 Sep - Sun 4 Oct

Back to Church Sunday is an established national initiative which Birmingham Diocese has embraced. Churches in Birmingham are being encouraged to join in. *Back to Church Sunday* is designed to encourage people to come back to Church. It also aims to inspire congregations to look closely at what they are offering to people coming back. Inviting people back to Church requires a realistic view of what we offer and what makes Church accessible. We will need to ask the question, 'What might make coming back to Church a real possibility for people?'

We are tailoring the *Back to Church Sunday* concept to suit our context by developing it into a *Back to Church Week*. We are all aware that Church is not only about Sundays. So much happens in Churches everywhere in addition to busy Sunday formal services. This is true of Kings Norton where one person's Church involvement can be very different from that of their neighbour's. Both are of equal value and each brings value to the other. We are very diverse but we are interconnected, belonging together in our variety. It is this interconnectedness that we will

cherish and celebrate during our *Back to Church Week*. It is the value of this which will speak to those returning.

We have extended our *Back to Church* involvement into *Back to Church Week*. This gives a variety of different opportunities for people to come back to Church in the way that feels most appropriate for them. It also gives our Community an opportunity to celebrate the many different ways in which we serve one another and to share all that we are. Our *Back to Church Week* will raise awareness of our different gifts. This will be true within the community involved with 'Church' and those who do not currently consider themselves involved.

Benefits to existing Church members

Feedback to *Back to Church Sunday* organisers clearly shows that there are many benefits to the existing congregations of being involved in *Back to Church Sunday*. These benefits are more multi-faceted than a simple increase in attendance. On average, organisers found that there is a 15% increase in attendance in the long-term as a result of *Back to Church Sunday*. It is

Book Review **“Why go to church?”**

Timothy Radcliffe OP

Continuum Books

This is the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2009 Lent Book. It asks the big question for all who go to church – and for the many more who might like the answer to be “Don't.”

Timothy Radcliffe's answer is an easy read – but not a quick one. He writes in short sentences with lots of stories – but each one is full of meaning for us to ponder – and they are very close to what all sorts of us feel. He is a Dominican friar, but one with a rich affection for people and deep understanding of what humans feel like and seek in our daily lives.

He also understands why people don't go to church and his answer is very far from “Because you should!” He knows that “church” can be difficult or boring or strange, because that's what he sometimes feels himself. He knows that church life sometimes feels so far away from what seems “normal” that it looks to have no meaning for the way we live.

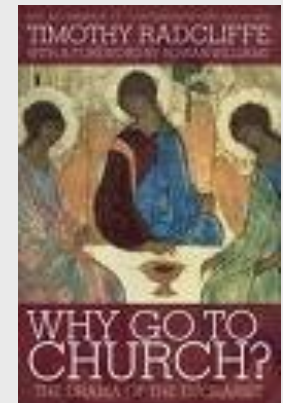
His answer takes us through the heart of what we do in church with bread and wine in Communion – the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist, we can be taken through the crises and challenges of faith, we can be caught up in the hope that was and is Christ's on Good Friday – and formed afresh as people who are capable of love.

On the way, Timothy Radcliffe touches so many questions of faith and living – and lets us share his own struggles and his experiences of it often seeming boring and pointless. But he also lets us see the grace which he knows and feels in Eucharist and the ways it has shaped him, if sometimes falteringly, in love.

I loved it.

Rob Morris



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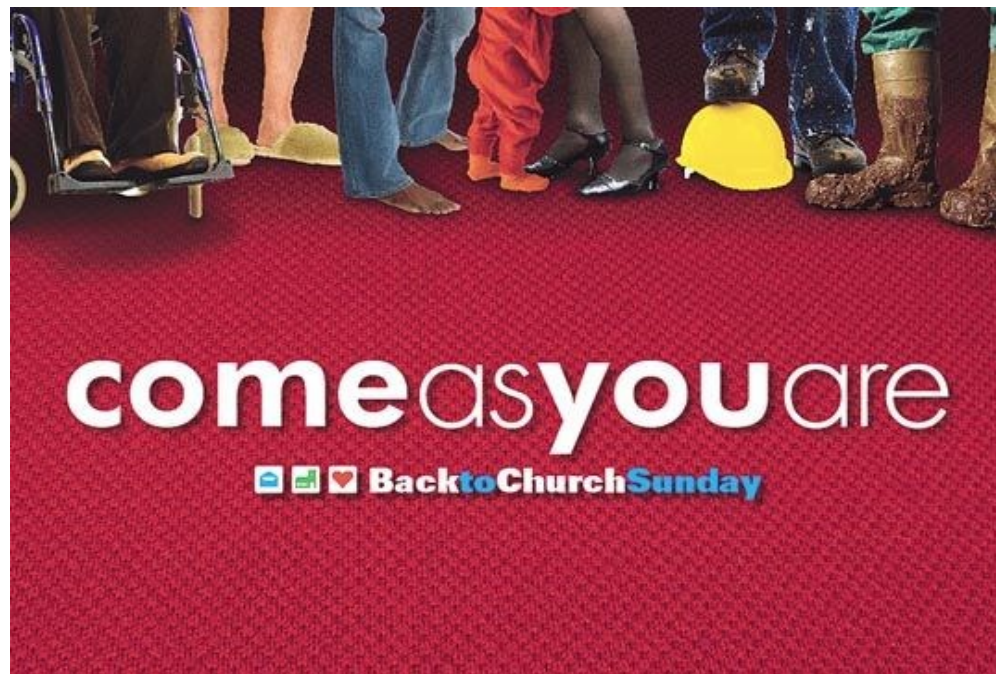


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significant that such a considerable rise in attendance is *not* considered the most important impact of the day upon the Church congregation. Like Holy Week in Kings Norton, it is the shared task to which all are called which brings a sense of shared purpose and unity. People involved in the *Back to Church* event reported a much greater impact upon both Church and 'returners' when planning was meticulously implemented and passionately embraced. When time and commitment are invested in this way, it can transform a Community, as we witnessed during Holy Week. It takes a whole community to be inspired to offer whole-hearted hospitality to strangers before those strangers can become friends.

It is hoped that the week in Kings Norton will be a vehicle with which

to encourage awareness across the congregations of Kings Norton Team Parish. It will help us to see the depth and breadth of our engagement with Community. It will also increase awareness of all that Church has offer to the Communities of Kings Norton.

Benefits to people coming back to Church

Assumptions and generalisations are not helpful. However, we do know that many people have come to Church in Kings Norton because of negative and even abusive experiences of Church in the past. Offering a 'safe' experience of Church will be vital to the project.

Candlelit Church and Open Church are just two perfect examples of this kind of offering. But they are two of

many in our Team Parish. This proposal for *Back to Church Week* owes much to what we have discovered as a community through Candlelit Church among other 'open' initiatives as diverse as Tiny Tots and Afternoon Fellowship on Wednesday afternoons. It also draws heavily upon our experiences during Holy Week. In Kings Norton we encounter people on the fringes of Church, we engage with one another and we are changed by each other as we share our journeys. These non-confrontational, freely structured opportunities for people to enter the Church without conditions being placed upon them are a 'gateway' for people. Kings Norton Team Parish does this well. One of the hoped-for outcomes of this week in September is that we start to understand what is distinctive about our ministry and what we do well.

If you have access to the internet, or know someone who does then visit the *Back to Church Sunday* website: www.backtochurch.co.uk or ask someone to print off some information for you.

If you belong to the congregation at Immanuel have a word with Gerry Moorcroft about what Immanuel is planning for *Back to Church Sunday 27* September.

If you worship at Hawkesley and belong to the Hawkesley congregation have a word with Rebecca or Donald about what is planned for *Back to Church Sunday 27*th September and for that weekend.

If you are involved in the variety of congregations based in St Nicolas, you will find a roll of wallpaper and some pens on the trestle tables towards the back of the building. Please write down your ideas on this wallpaper about how your particular involvement can be useful in inviting people Back to Church.

If you have access to the internet and have queries or suggestions and ideas please e-mail Jess on backtochurch@kingsnorton.org.uk

Jess Boulton

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School, Shannon Road/Old Portway.
Every Sunday – Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):
10.30 am, 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 8.00 - 9.00pm.

For Young People

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

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

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.

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PRODH

Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath

There isn't much to report on PRODH at present. The Festival is nearly upon us, the builders for the Recycling Project are waiting until my return from annual leave, so I thought I'd give you an insight into my motivation instead.

Often I have heard or been asked the question, "What makes your Christian project different from any other community project?" It's a hard question to answer, but I think, for me, it is about what I see in people. When I'm helping folks on the estate, I don't see it as 'helping the needy'. Each time I look into someone's eyes, I see a beloved of Christ, someone that he sees of immense value and therefore, to me, of endless potential. A potential that generally hasn't been realised. I see my task as encouraging that realisation and once one person in that situation starts to find their way out of the mire, then others see it and think, "If they can do it, I can too!" and it becomes like a chain reaction as people start to realise the possibilities. The community begins to regenerate itself. That's transformation and that is what PRODH is about.

Karen Urwin.



THANK YOU to all who contributed to this year's Parish Total for Christian Aid Week - £4223.47 (including Gift Aid)! A fantastic amount raised, which will help to make lives better for some of the poorest people in the world.

Thank you.

Susan Haynes

Bates and Sadler

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A SHORT HISTORY OF KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society grew out of an Extra-Mural Study Group led by Miss Nicklin in 1960. In 1980, a public meeting was held in Kings Norton Library and the Kings Norton History Society was formed. According to the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th October, 'Mesdames Watson, Hubble and Goodger (Secretary); Messrs Melling (Chairman), Russell and Chinery (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)' were present. Subscriptions were to be '£1 per year for adults and 50p for students under 18 years'. Miss Hopkins, Mr Bull and Mr Smith were invited to join the Committee. Initially, the meetings were held on the 4th Tuesday in the month in the Library. By November, 44 members had paid their subscriptions and the possibility of hiring the Co-op Hall on Pershore Road was investigated and two meetings were held there. A decision was then made hire the Saracen's Head at a cost of £6.

The Society held the first of many exhibitions in the Old Grammar School at the Church Open Day on 11 July 1981. Over the years, the Society has played a large part in drawing attention to Kings Norton's historic buildings. In 1982, it persuaded Birmingham Civic Society to put up a plaque to commemorate Thomas Hall on the Old Grammar School. Funds were raised to purchase a new signboard for the Saracen's Head, which was unveiled by Lord Kings Norton in 1986.

Members of the Society have written pamphlets on a variety of historic subjects. Stephen Price, who attended the original Study Group, has been involved with the Society from the start and we eagerly await the publication of the book on Kings Norton he is compiling with George Demidowicz. Jim Melling carried out substantial early research on Kings Norton and his lectures have always been very popular. He is also a talented artist and the Society's logo is his sketch of the North Range. In his Chairman's report 1981, Jim stated that his "early fears of apathy and lack of interest have now disappeared. Our meetings are well attended and our Society thrives . . . long may it do so."

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

Thomas Hardye Chapel Choir

Thomas Hardye Chapel Choir from Dorchester will be singing the services at Birmingham Cathedral on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July. Please come and support this visiting choir and hear some excellent worship music. The choir comprises girls and boys in their older teens, who enjoy learning and singing a variety of styles and periods of music.

Sylvia Fox

HISTORY OF HYMNS

“Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven” was written by the same man who wrote “Abide with me” – Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). It was first published in 1834 in a small book called “The Spirit of the Psalms” containing a collection of hymns by Lyte. They were not simply par-aphrases, like the old metrical psalms (such as The Lord’s my Shep-herd – Psalm 23), but are poetical re-interpretations. Praise My Soul is a revisit-ation of Psalm 103, with some wonderful lines of poetry to recapture the spirit of the psalm. The original “Praise Him! Praise Him!” cry has been replaced in some hymnals by Alleluias and verse 4 is, sadly, usually omitted now. Have a read of it now – as you may never have met it before – and re-read Psalm 103 again too. The hymn is usually sung to a tune of the same name by John Goss (1800-1880).

<p>Praise my Soul, the King of Heav- en, to his feet thy tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing? Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise the everlasting King.</p>	<p>Frail as summer’s flower we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on: Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise the high Eternal one.</p>
--	--

<p>Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress; Praise him still the same for ever, slow to chide and swift to bless; Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Glorious in his faithfulness.</p>	<p>Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face; Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space; Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise with us the God of grace.</p>
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<p>Father-like he tends and spares us, well our feeble frame he knows; In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes; Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Widely as his mercy flows.</p>	<p>Sylvia Fox</p>
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May 2009 Funerals

“I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord”

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 6 th May | Iris Lillian Lyons, 85. Cremation at Robin Hood. |
| 7 th May | Valerie Catherine Fitzgibbons, 63. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 8 th May | Phillip Dutton, 60. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 11 th May | Carl Williamson, 45. Service at St Nicolas Church,
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery. |
| 15 th May | Ansil Coombs, 22. Service at St Nicolas Church,
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery |
| 20 th May | Muriel Kathleen Goodwin, 83. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

William Edwin Hodgetts, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

Eileen Winifred Allen, 79. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 22 nd May | Rowena Balding, 94. Service in St Nicolas Church,
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

Doreen Betty Bennett, 78. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 26 th May | Veronica Torkington, 81. Cremation at Lodge Hill

Inge Teisen, 91. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation at
Redditch.

Annie May Collins, 80. Service at St Nicolas Church,
Burial at Brandwood. |
| 28 th May | Connor James Green, 28. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

John George Darrow, 71. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |

May 2009 Baptisms

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

3rd May Liam Gary Nation
Ryan Terry Nation
Samantha Mary Lemmon
Ruby Godsill
Max Oliver Carter

17th May Libby Michelle Finnegan
Ellie Jean Morgan
Amelie Holly Smith

May 2009 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

9th May Matthew Harris and Natalie Letts

16th May Mark Somerville and Jade Duffy

23rd May Malcolm Norman Groves and Susan Jayne Carter
Andrew Law and Lucy Dewing

30th May David John Ash and Judy Lynne Tomasino
Karl Shellard and Michelle Gardner
James Walker and Emma Harris

April 2009 Funerals

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

27th April Valerie June Brown, 70. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
Geoffrey Philip Peters, 64. Service in St Nicolas Church,
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

28th April Richard Mason, 57. Cremation at Lodge Hill.



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WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:

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

Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON 476 7223

Lay Staff:

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

Church Wardens

St. Nicolas.....STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office 458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455
RAY DAVIS 458 5774
PETER SMITH 453 9931
Immanuel (Wardens) GERRY MOORCROFT
ALAN HAYNES 459 4711
(Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE

Candlelit Church Co-ordinator.....JESS BOULTON 458 6925

P.C.C. Secretary Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT

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 DirectorSYLVIA 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

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Headteacher 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

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SecretaryCLAIRE CALVER 458 2342

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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

PRODH KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath) 430 6005

Scouts and Cubs Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. 628 5694
(198th & 129th Birmingham) **Ahmeek:** PENNY HATTERSLEY
Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. 628 5694
Leader: JOHN HATTERSLEY
Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m.
Leader: ROB KEENAHAN 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 459 4711
email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

Parish Magazine Treasurer ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA 486 2837

Advertising Manager EVELYN FINN, contact via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Website GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk
or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

St Nicolas Place Staff:- www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk

Centre Manager GRAEME CLARKE 458 1223
Programme Dev & Marketing CLIFF COTTERILL 458 1223
Financial/Administrator Asst KERRY HORSFIELD 458 1223
Heritage/Learning Manager EMMA BANKS 458 1223
Duty Supervisor ALAN KAVANAGH 458 1223
Duty Supervisor BEN WADDINGTON 458 1223

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,
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