

Thought for the Day

'Life's not fair'. How often have you heard that? How often have you thought that? Well, today's Gospel reading from Matthew 22.1-14 always strikes me as one of the oddest parables, in that it is apparently blatantly unfair. Just to remind you. It's the story of a king giving a wedding party for his son. Lots of people make excuses and so he sends out his servants to gather in guests from the streets. Then, when they arrive, he notices one of the guests who is not wearing a wedding garment. He gets this poor soul bound hand and foot and thrown out, because they are not wearing the proper wedding clothes! I mean! This person may not have had even a change of clothes!

Various explanations are given, like this is a blend of two parables with different messages: one about welcoming the stranger and the other about preparedness. Well, it could be so. However, I wonder whether in fact Jesus is challenging us to react to the ways in which life deals unfairly with circumstances beyond our control. The key message, like that of several parables, is 'Be ready!' (And, I would like to remind us, don't always think you have to identify the leading figure as God. This is a human story about human reactions).

So, how shall we be ready for what may come to us? The lovely passage from Philippians 4.1-8 is a real help here. What does St Paul say? 'Rejoice in the Lord always'. 'Let your gentleness be known to everyone. Tell God everything in prayer, and do not worry. Let the peace of Christ live in your heart.' And then he gives us qualities to aim for at all times: *'whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, ...*

I can't think of better advice than this on how to deal with all that life throws at us. So, next time you are tempted to rage at something that has happened to you, think: 'Am I being gentle and am I being honest to God in prayer. Can you help me Lord to see what is true, pure, just, pleasing and commendable? In this way we find our peace and we spread a bit more peace among those around us.

Martin

NOTICES

PRAYER MINISTRY

Will be available after the service in the Lady Chapel on 18th October and 1st November. If you would like prayer at other times, please approach one of the Ministry Team.

DISCIPLESHIP

A new group is starting on in St Nicolas Church at 10 am, looking at passages from the Bible together: held fortnightly on Monday mornings at 10am (Oct 19; Nov2 etc.).

POPPY CASCADE

Our poppy cascade looked sad last year so it has been deconstructed and the poppies washed. We need a team of people to sew the poppies onto a new cascade. If you could help there will be a second session in St Nicolas on Wednesday 14th October between 10 and 12. Please come and help!

MEN'S GROUP

You are welcome to join members of Men's Group on Thursday 22 October, from 7.00, when our speaker will be Barry Ross who has a profoundly deaf son. It will be an enlightening, educational and emotional evening. Please do come and give your support.

Please Remember in your prayers:

Mason Green, Paul Cowley, Siobhan and Darlene, June McCoy, Pauline Wells, Joyce Hancock, Maureen Black, Steven Fearon, Gabriella Young, Matthew Coulter, Margaret Roper, Eddie Matthews, Mary Barnes, Kate Charalambous, Donald Bullas, Angela Brady, Annette Dickers, Byrnic McMullen, Claire Phillips, Thelma and Neville Mitchell, Olyn Brady, Carol Devic, Jean Hooper, Val Fletcher, Roger, Kazia and family and Andrea Cohen Richards. 🖤

Those Who have died and those who grieve for them: Greta Lacey

THIS WEEK	(at St Nicolas, unless specified otherwise)
SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2026	9.00 BCP Matins 10.30 Morning Praise 10.30 Holy Communion at Hawkesley Church 12.00 Meeting for home communion & pastoral visiting teams 6.00 pm Holy Communion with Anointing
MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER	Organ tuning – to complete phase 2
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER	Baby Loss Service 7pm - for anyone who has lost a baby or child, recently or many years ago
WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER	10.00am-12 noon Open Church at St Nicolas 10.00am-12.00 noon Knit & Natter @ Hawkesley Church B38 9TR. 2.30pm Greta Lacey funeral
THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER	9.00-11.00am Tiny Tots at St Nicolas 10.00-12.00pm Churchyard Team
FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER	Adult choir please speak to Sylvia if interested
SATURDAY 17TH	
SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER	9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Morning Prayer at Hawkesley Church 6.00 pm Compline

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 24th October Orchestral Concert with Eroica Camerata

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Service at 1030

Saturday 28th November Wreath Making workshop at 2pm – booking essential, cost £35

Sunday 29th November Parish Communion at Hawkesley Church at 10.30 am with shared lunch following

Sunday 29th November afternoon and evening – Stargazers the musical – learn and perform in a day.

11th October 2026

St. Nicolas, Kings Norton

The Nineteenth after Trinity

Incorporating Hawkesley LEP

Part of the Church of England



TODAY

Philippians 4: 1-9 (p.196 NT)

Matthew 22: 1-14 (p.23 NT)

NEXT WEEK

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (p200 NT)

Matthew 22: 15-22 (p.23 NT)

Collect for the Week

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

QR to Donate! Alternatively, donate at the back of church or using our donation boxes!



Contact Details

Parish Office, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU

Tel: 0121 458 3289 Email: parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk

Website: www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 10 – 1 pm Closed on Fridays