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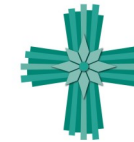
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Women's World Day of Prayer

This year, on March 4th (first Friday of Lent), women all around the globe will, once again, meet together in prayer and fellowship. Here in King's Norton, the afternoon service is at St Nicolas at 2.00 pm and will follow the form of service being used throughout the English speaking churches of the UK. Bible Readings, prayers, stories from the ladies of Chile who have prepared this year's service, a talk about Chilean life and songs/hymns make for a lovely time of worship together, with ladies from churches in Kings Norton, Cotteridge, Stirchley and sometimes beyond.

There will also be an Evening service at 7.00 pm at St Nicolas. This latter will have a meal as a central part – with the prayer, Bible readings and worship taken from the resource of the afternoon service. There are likely to be several teenagers at this service – so if you are a school/college-aged young lady, and aren't sure if it is for you...you will have some ready-made friends.

There is something rather amazing about knowing you are in the company of millions of women praying the world over – please join us at 2.00 pm or 7.00 pm if you are able.

Sylvia Fox

A thought from my allotment

One of my neighbours returned to his plot yesterday (mid Feb) after an extended gap over the winter. The metal shed he had inherited from the previous plot holder had been tipped over by the strong winds of the winter and been bashed up rather badly. Other neighbours have also lost more frail sheds/poly-tunnels, etc, and I was seen some weeks ago, along with a young friend, rescuing my crop frame from the hedge (aka brambles). Only because I got there a few days after it had taken flight, and had a willing helpmate, did I manage to rescue it.

The metal shed is beyond repair; my neighbour will have to make some other arrangement; and yet, in some countries, the remnants would end up being fixed together somehow as a shelter, not just for our tools, but to live in. My second hand shed (that now tilts more than last autumn, but is supported by the water butts) would resemble a palace. It made me think.

Sylvia Fox

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**Items for inclusion in the April 2011 issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 11th March 2011**

Welcome.....

Lent starts this month. It is often used as a time to give things up, but maybe this year you might like to take something on instead? There are details of times and dates for Lent on page 6 and we also have a feature on 'Asking the Impossible', this year's Lent Course being run by Rev John. Don't forget Hawkesley's Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, 8th March.

Last month, we included the first two parts of 'Gripped by Worship'. I hope you found them helpful. Part 3 is in this month's magazine on page 28.

John White's new feature 'Adventures in Cyberspace' continues on page 40. John reflects on social networking and its increasing use to bring about change.

There are two 'Favourite Bible Passage' articles to enjoy (page 32). Sylvia Fox writes about Psalm 91 and Sarah Crooks about Matthew 6. Please send us your contributions to this feature. I would love to be able to print as many as possible during this 400th anniversary year of the King James Bible.

Thank you for reading. I hope you enjoy this edition. Please let us know if you did (or didn't).

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector God's invitation to see things differently – and grow



Lent begins on March 9th - Ash Wednesday. For centuries, it has been seen as a time of giving things up. But giving up isn't the point of Lent, helpful though it might be to waistlines and odd habits.

We give things up in Lent so that we have room for others. And the most vital of these "others" is grasping afresh God's presence, promise and purpose in every part of life, declared for ever in Jesus's dying and rising - Holy Week and Easter. We go on throughout the year with days and times set in a very earthly pattern. And so we must. But within and through them all is God; always making, redeeming and sustaining. So much squeezes out thought of God - joys, griefs, daily responsibilities. But, noticed or not, God is in the middle of them all.

And that makes all the difference. If God is in the middle of all that we are and do, our habits, failures and burdens are not the last word. Within them all, God breathes always with new hope in our despair, new love in our emptiness, new possibility in our failures, new purpose in all we say and do.

Lent is, above all, the season for letting God breathe afresh through life - and diaries - making the impossible possible. But for that to happen, we have to make room for God to help us see things differently.

In our life together as church on Sundays

Each Lent Sunday, morning and evening services will bring stories of people whose lives and hopes were changed for ever when they met Jesus. Our services will give space and time for us to grasp that these stories are not far away in time and place. They are for now. Please join us.

The capacity of the internet to enable near-instant communication amongst world-wide circles of friends and contacts makes it a very attractive tool for those mounting campaigns and protests. A morning spent handing out leaflets in the city centre may reach a few hundred; a few seconds posting a comment or a link on a social networking site has the potential to spread almost limitlessly. Of course, the voice of my inner cynic, who is never very far away, whispers to me that this is all too easy. Signing a virtual petition may make me feel better, but will it make any difference? Do you really think you can change the world at the click of a mouse? The sheer abundance of different campaigns and petitions on the internet is bound to diminish the impact of each one. Never mind fifteen minutes of fame; they'll be lucky to get fifteen seconds. But I'm reluctant to let my inner cynic have the final word. Yes, there are, as ever, good reasons to be cautious. The internet is not going to solve the world's problems at a stroke. But there are also grounds for hope. Can Facebook change the world? Well, yes. In fact, you could say it just has.

I'm writing this article the day after hearing the stirring news of the resignation of Egypt's dictatorial president, Hosni Mubarak. He did not stand down because he read an online petition for his removal; but it is clear that the rapid spread of information through new technology, including social networking sites, played a crucial role in the early stages of the mobilization of protest that ultimately won the day. It was telling that one of Mubarak's final acts, as he tried to cling to power, was an attempt to quash the use of computers and mobile phones. Inevitably, the attempt failed. Rather like the invention of the printing press several centuries ago, the internet revolution makes it far, far harder for those in power to silence the voices of dissent and protest. Through the courageous actions of the thousands who took to the streets of Cairo in response to those voices, the world was most definitely changed. So, whether or not we happen to be Facebook users, the message I think is the same. We have a voice. And it's up to us how we use it, and how we shall act when we hear the voices of others. Facebook can't change the world; but people can.

And if that's all been a bit heavy, I hope next month to have a look at the lighter side of going on the internet. And so, logging off until then...

Rev John

Rev John's Adventures in Cyber-Space

Episode Two: Can Facebook change the world?



In last month's article, I touched on how internet sites such as Twitter and Facebook can, for all their dangers, be a force for good. This month, I'd like to explore that thought a little bit further. Can social networking contribute to social justice? Can Facebook change the world?

It's fair to say that changing the world was never the ambition of Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook. If the Oscar-nominated film of his story, *The Social Network*, is anything to go by, he was motivated rather more by humiliation and pique at being dumped by his girlfriend. Facebook began, apparently, as a webpage on which male college students could rate the physical attractiveness of women on the campus. Scarcely an auspicious start for those interested in this technology's potential as a force for good! But, bit by bit, the medium has come to be used in ways that its founder could never have foreseen, including that of seeking publicity and support for all manner of campaigns and causes.

Over the course of the last week alone, I have added my name to three on-line petitions and, through Facebook, invited others to do the same. The first was to protest against Birmingham City Council's decision to make potentially disastrous cuts to the funding of CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) agencies in the city. The second was to voice my support for multiculturalism in the wake of David Cameron's recent ill-timed and ill-judged attacks upon this ideal. The third was to campaign to save the Modern Languages department at Glasgow University, where my daughter is a student. But will any of these petitions do any good? To be honest, I just don't know.

In our life together during each week

Each week in Lent, groups will meet to prepare for each Sunday's stories. John gives details later in this magazine. Do join us.

In our prayers

For many, praying is a struggle. For others, it is a delight. For most of us, it is probably both. But God's desire that we know his presence, purpose and promise in our own prayer can only happen if we do it.

For those who are free in the day, we would be delighted if more joined us in St Nicolas for Morning Prayer each Lent Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9am or for Communion every Lent Wednesday at 12.15pm and Thursday at 11am.

Candlelit Church every Wednesday in St Nicolas (6.30pm – 8pm) and our other Open Church times are there for you to sit, to pray quietly, to light candles - and let God breathe life in us.

And for all of us, whether days are too busy or too empty, there is always time, short or long, for quiet prayer if we want to make it.

In our living and choices

The Lent stories this year are full of hopes and questions answered by Jesus in word, action and new beginning. Daily life for those who asked the impossible of him was never the same again. Some found their whole lives changed as they moved on with Jesus to new places, new tasks and new fulfilment. Others stayed just where they were, earning their living in the same way, with the family and friends they always had - but looking at all they met in a wholly new way with a new deep sense of God's presence and purpose for all.

That will perhaps be God's answer to most of us this Lent - although for some there will be great surprise.

As we journey towards Jerusalem this Lent in the company of Jesus and his friends, new and old, can we be open to surprising answers as we dare to ask the impossible? We need to offer God's gifts to us of our time and resources. We need to be ready to discover and accept new things. But in Christ, we shall grow. Do come with us.

Rob Morris

Times and Dates for Lent

Tuesday 1st March: 7.30pm in St Nicolas
Introduction to Lent for all: Stories, music and prayers.
Come and discover the stories and music
we shall be using in Lent services and Lent groups.

Tuesday 8th March; 7pm at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre
Hawkesley's very special annual **Pancake Party** – for all.

Wednesday 9th March: **Ash Wednesday**

7.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

12.15pm Holy Communion – and every Wednesday in Lent

8pm Holy Communion with music and ashing
(Ashing is an ancient ceremony for Ash Wednesday where all who wish are signed simply with a cross using ashes made from last year's Palm crosses – a simple reminder of our need of God's grace and of our wanting to journey with him through Lent. It is an offering to those who wish to receive – not a requirement for all!)

Sundays in Lent

Usual service times in each church.

At 6pm in St Nicolas on Sundays March 13th and April 10th we shall offer Holy Communion with Anointing and Prayer for Healing.
Taize worship is on Sundays March 6th and April 3rd.

Monday 11th April at 7pm in St Nicolas
Annual Parish Church Meeting

Sunday 17th April **Palm Sunday** – Holy Week begins at last!

to do with the Ocean too and can be partial to a bit of sailing and fish!
Generally, I would say I have many hobbies and interests and I am not too scared to try anything once! (I tried Skidooing/snowmobiling once at -15°C in the dead of night with horizontal snow. Well never again!!! ONLY ONCE!)

What are your best memories? My best memories have to be my family times. And these are from throughout my life, from spending many a Saturday throughout my childhood with my Grandmother to making my parents proud Grandparents and watching my own children grow up.

What's your favourite holiday place? Anywhere by the sea is great... I have a fondness and a soft spot for a lovely place on the Cornish and Devon cusp called 'Kingsand' and we have spent many a summer holiday there as a family investigating the rock pools and sampling the local seafood and ale.

If you went on Desert Island Disks, what would be your luxury item and book? Luxury item - Feather Pillow. Book - SAS Survival Guide, How to survive in the Wild, on Land or Sea - I am not a big reader at the moment so a survival guide would go down well!

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton? My hopes, I suppose, are not so much for the church and its foundations, but more for the all important community. I hope more people get to use our beautiful church, even if it is to come and buy a wonderful hand knitted hat from a craft fair or to visit us at Tiny Tots and share a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit! I hope that everyone in the community, my friends and my family benefit from everything Kings Norton Parish has to offer and get to appreciate it as much as I do.

Do you know anyone who would make an interesting 'Parish Person'? Are you willing to be interviewed? If so, please contact Alan, the Editor, on 07801 551274 or by email - editor@kingsnorton.org.uk Thank you.



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

Tiny Tots regular, Zoe Brady, answers the Parish People questions



Where were you born? Leamington Spa.

What is your occupation? Full-time Mother and Design Marketing Consultant at my husband's agency.

Why Kings Norton? I have lived in Kings Norton for 8 years now, but resided in Birmingham since 1995 - my good old University days!



How did you come into contact with the church? It is a place we have always been very fond of. Just the sheer history and architecture is an inspiration. We were married at St Nicolas on 16th May 2005, both our sons Olyn (6) and Devon (15 months) were Christened here and we have attended Tiny Tots with Revd Jayne Crooks. They have both loved exploring the church and Marlene's biscuits!

Why is the Christian faith important to you? To me, at this point in my life, it is about the community, the friendship and the support. I always feel so welcome and I have an extended network of support and friends which is a complete privilege and fun, even if one too many Gingernut biscuits comes into it!

What are your hobbies and interests? I love anything creative, from photography, illustration, writing to knitting! I am one of probably a few people today that works in a field they love. I get to exercise my creative juices by creating concepts and designs for a whole spectrum of projects and agendas when at work. I love gardening with a passion and have a complete oasis of vegetables, apple fan trees and cockle shell shingle in my back garden. Every year my fingers become a little Greener! I love anything

Who is my neighbour in the Big Society?

We cannot doubt our Prime Minister's honesty and passion as he promotes the Big Society. He means it. He appeals to all that is best in our nature – commitment to others in their need, local responsibility, ingenuity, community action and willingness to offer skills and time.

But the Big Society is not new. It has been embedded in the life of church and community for centuries. It's called the Kingdom of God and its core text is the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5.1-16*). We haven't always served it well – but it is seen across the ages whenever humans have dared to trust God's bigger vision and purpose for themselves and for all creation.

There is, however, a large 'But'. Mr Cameron's call comes at exactly the same time as proven and trusted projects which care for the most vulnerable in our communities – the very heart of the Big Society – are having their core funding removed. Wonderful youth work on the Three Estate, Druids Heath and the Longfellow and Chaddesley areas, changing young lives for good, is likely to disappear. Also likely to go is much of the support for young carers and for the many community groups in which the hard-pressed find welcome and friendship.

Over twenty years ago, our neighbours at Cotteridge Church began a wonderful partnership with City Council and local community to care for local elders with special needs. It provides a safe and stimulating space and gives much needed day time respite to families and friends - a perfect example of the Big Society in action. Of their 65 current users, 35 live in our own parish of Kings Norton. They serve us! They are now told that their present funding will end on March 31st. Unless substantial continuation funding is found by 2nd March, they will close. It is awful. Please pray and act on their behalf and of the many others who are already doing the Big Society – but without change will be unable to do so any longer.

Rob Morris

Lent 2011 “Asking the Impossible”

Some things just can't happen – or can they? During Lent, the Sunday Gospel readings tell of a series of dramatic encounters that a variety of people have with Jesus. In what is said, and in what happens, some of their common sense assumptions about what is or is not possible are brought sharply into question. A secretive visitor is told that he must once again be born. A woman with a hidden past is told her secrets and is promised a limitless supply of water. Someone whose eyes have never opened since birth is given the ability to see clearly. And a dead man lives again...

Our Parish Lent Course this year offers the opportunity to explore these extraordinary stories as we prepare to enter into them more fully during our Sunday worship. Meeting in small, friendly groups at a variety of times and places, all Lent groups are open to anyone. There are five sessions in the course, but each one stands on its own, so don't worry if you can't make it every week – though it would be lovely if you can! So come along, and share your own thoughts and questions as together we ask the seemingly impossible question, “How can this be?”.

Groups will meet to “*Ask the Impossible*” at the following times and places (and maybe others besides)...

In **St Nicolas Place** on **Tuesday evenings** from **7.45 to 9pm** from 15th March.

In **St Nicolas Church** on **Wednesday mornings** from **10 to 11.15am** from 16th March.

In **St Nicolas Church** on **Wednesday evenings** from **8 to 9.15pm** from 16th March.

No need to sign up. Just turn up! See you there.

If you'd like to know any more about *Asking the Impossible* have a word with Rev John or any of the clergy and reader team.

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Confirmation 2011

The Parish Confirmation Service will take place this year in St Nicolas Church at 10.30am on Sunday 15th May. Confirmation is always a wonderful service as the Bishop lays his hands upon the candidates and prays that God, through his Holy Spirit, will confirm them in their faith. As such, Confirmation follows on naturally from Baptism and, in the Church of England, has traditionally been seen as the sign of taking on the joys and responsibilities of full adult participation in the life of the church. There are no fixed age limits – everybody's journey in faith and life is different – but we would normally expect the candidate's age to at least be in double figures!

During Lent, a group will be meeting most Sunday afternoons to explore what Confirmation is all about. If you have not been Confirmed, do have a think about whether it may be the right step for you. And if you're not sure, don't worry – coming along to the 'Exploring Confirmation' course commits you to nothing. If you feel after a few weeks that Confirmation is not right for you at this stage, that is absolutely fine. And if you **have** already been Confirmed, but would like the chance to think about some of the basic building blocks of faith in a friendly and relaxed group, then do also come along. It is for you.

Session 1: Sunday 13th March at 4pm at St Nicolas' Church.

Session 2: Sunday 20th March at 4pm at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Shannon Road.

Session 3: Sunday 27th March at 4pm at St Nicolas' Church.

(No meeting on Mothering Sunday, 3rd April)

Session 4: Sunday 10th April at 4pm at St Nicolas' Church.

Session 5: Sunday 17th April at 4pm at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Shannon Road.

If you cannot make Sunday afternoons, but are interested in exploring Confirmation, do **please** have a word with me, Rev John, as soon as possible. It is very likely that we will have an additional group at a different time, to suit those who might wish to take part.

Rev John

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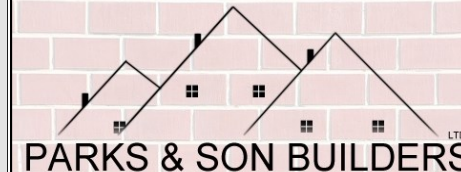
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We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church.

The next one will be on Saturday 12th March. 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!



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My favourite Bible passage

I really love Matthew 6:25-34. Its subtitle is *Do Not Worry*. This was a reading I chose for our wedding. I think it helps to put things into perspective. We often worry ourselves with how much money we have, shopping, what we eat, what we wear etc. yet this passage reminds me that God will provide.

God looks after the birds, he looks after the flowers and yet sometimes we find ourselves being weighed down by what we haven't got. We should rejoice in the fact that if God can take the time to feed the birds, to look after the flowers in the field then why should he not look after me?

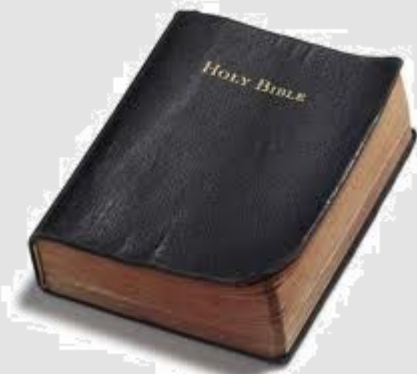
My favourite part of this passage is verse 34:

'Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

I'm not one for surprises. I like to know what I'm doing and when I'm doing it. BUT I know that this is not the case in everything I do. I have this verse written on a little piece of paper in my purse and it reminds me that no amount of worrying for what tomorrow

may bring will help me get through any troubles of today! I know that each day has its own ups and downs and I need to focus on one day at a time – knowing that God will provide for me rather than worrying about the unknown that I have no control over. I know that God has mapped out my life and that He will not let any harm come to me. Thanks be to God!

Sarah Crooks



A Matter of Life and Death

Bill Shankly, the legendary Liverpool football manager, is often quoted as saying: "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death. I can assure you, it is much, much more important than that." After spending seven years as Director of Operations at The Football Association, how good it is to be joining The Church of England as Diocesan Secretary in Birmingham to continue the pursuit of matters of life and death as we seek to transform our church. At first sight, the Church of England in Birmingham and The Football Association may not appear to have much in common. Well, The Football Association is (you may find it hard to believe) a not-for-profit organisation with a remarkably similar structure:

- ◇ built up from the grassroots of clubs and leagues (like parishes and deaneries);
- ◇ clubs and leagues receive assistance and governance from County FAs (like dioceses);
- ◇ County FAs are affiliated to the national football association (like The Church of England);
- ◇ The FA is part of the world wide family through UEFA and FIFA (like The Anglican Communion).

Issues of how to develop sustainable local activities which rely on a dwindling volunteer force are all too familiar. But there is much new for me to learn and I look forward to listening to many of you over the coming months as I get up to speed with the peculiar issues of our church here.

Enough! For those of you who dislike football, don't write me off from the start. Much more important than football is my passionate personal interest in this role. I was born and brought up in Birmingham and have been part of the community for most of my life. I have been a committed Christian from an early age. Both my grandfathers were Methodist ministers and missionaries and my father was a local preacher in Birmingham. I was recruited from the local church primary school to the parish church choir at the age of eight and have sung regularly there with both choir and band. More recently, I have been able to use my systems background from 3i, Kone, WPP, Saatchi & Saatchi and Blue Circle in improving Parish-wide Communications.

So, here is the challenge for us all to transform church in Birmingham:

- ◇ How do we strengthen our proclamation of the Good News of Jesus to all God's people in Birmingham?
- ◇ How do we best organise, resource and serve the communities to do this work?
- ◇ How do we afford our mission?

Rooted in our Christian values, let the context of the Gospel drive our decision making, however tough those decisions may be. As we embrace the change that is needed, let us work together to transform our church to be larger, younger, deeper and wider. Above all, pray for our parishes, priests and people in these challenging times. And please pray for us too in Harborne as we try to transform Church House to better serve you.

Andrew Halstead

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Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent
you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honour them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

A hymn paraphrase of the same psalm,
written by Timothy Dudley Smith
can be found in Common Ground at 106:

Safe in the shadow of the Lord
beneath his hand and power,
I trust in him, I trust in him,
my fortress and my tower.

My hope is set on God alone
though Satan spreads his snare,
I trust in him, I trust in him,
to keep my life in his care.

From fears and phantoms of the night,
from foes about my way,
I trust in him, I trust in him,
by darkness as by day.

His holy angels keep my feet
secure from every stone;
I trust in him, I trust in him,
and unafraid go on.

Strong in the Everlasting Name,
and in my Father's care,
I trust in him, I trust in him,
who hears and answers prayer.

Safe in the shadows of the Lord,
possessed by love divine,
I trust in him, I trust in him,
and meet his love with mine.

My favourite Bible passage

I'm attempting to cover two things at once: the call from Jayne to share a favourite passage of scripture (to help as we celebrate 400 years of the translation of the King James Bible; the first real route to bringing the English Bible into every church) and also to share another hymn or two.

I have lots of special verses and Gospel stories, but if I'm going to pick a complete passage, it will be a psalm. Having been brought up in the services of Matins, Evensong and, more latterly, Compline, I am very lucky as I have been introduced to all the psalms – some many, many times over. One psalm that is an integral part of Compline is Psalm 91. The translation here is from the NRSV (the red pew Bibles in St Nicolas Church), but I will use other translations and hymn settings this month and in future months.

The bits I like the most in this psalm are the parts about protection. The idea of being in the shadow of God is pretty awe inspiring; giving all the different forms and types of protections that are mentioned in the first paragraph. I don't pretend it means that things don't go wrong sometimes, but if I'm still in God's shadow, then He can't be far away and is likely to be with me when it is going wrong.

I very much like the way the hymn writer has extracted the idea of "meeting God's love with mine" - a rather unequal meeting, but if you go up a line or two in the last verse of the hymn, it suggests we are already possessed by "love divine", so I guess that gives a head start for the meeting. It's not a totally "easy" psalm and the last paragraph makes it a bit exclusive for my liking: "Those who love me, I will deliver"... and I question, "What about those who haven't had the chance to even know you yet?" I don't really know the answer – but then a God who I understood would be a bit finite and small and useless wouldn't it? I'll keep singing it and questioning.

Sylvia Fox

Women's Fellowship

Our meeting will take place in the Ashford Hall, St. Nicolas Place, on Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

There will be a Bring and Buy Stall in aid of Annawin and a Quiz. Visitors welcome.

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

The Alleluia Banner

This year, Kings Norton is once more going to 'Bury The Alleluia' - a mediaeval tradition where the word 'Alleluia', usually on a scroll, was buried in the churchyard and dug up on the eve of Easter to be used on Easter Day. Alleluia Eggs were often decorated on Shrove Tuesday and put away until Easter Day. Our Alleluia Eggs are pinned onto the banner on Saturday 26th February and will be displayed in St Nicolas Church until Ash Wednesday on 9th March. The banner will then be hidden away and will be brought out again on Easter Eve and displayed in church for all to see.

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

On Monday 28th March, Phillada Ballard, editor of the book on "Birmingham Victorian & Edwardian Architects", will give a talk to the Society on "HIGHBURY PARK" estate of the Chamberlain family. Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings. Doors open at 7.00 pm and the talk will begin at 7.30.

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



Every night before bed time, I read "Topz" which is a children's Bible reading comic. The other night, it suggested that if I struggle in my faith, I could talk to older Christians about it. My mum asked me who I could talk to and, as well as my parents, I named lots of people at Immanuel. It made me think how happy I am to have a church family with Christian role models.

I like Immanuel because people are really friendly and they are interested in me. They always ask me how school is going and how I'm getting on in my football team. In the services, there is a time to say about things we are thanking God for and I

sometimes speak up.

I like having the words up on the screen in the services because it means I don't lose my place and get muddled up. I like it when it's my turn to operate the projector.

I like the songs, especially the cheerful ones. My favourite song is "Shine". I like it when we sing the songs I know from home or Oasis.

I like Oasis because it's fun and interesting. The leaders aren't bossy and they help us understand the Bible. The talk at our level so it's not complicated. We talk together about our week.

I like the all-age services when we meet altogether. We have fun activities that help us understand the Bible stories. Sometimes I help lead parts of the service and I enjoy that.

I like the biscuits at the end...I have loads!

I like going to St Nicolas Church as well for Parade Services and I sit with the Beavers (but soon I will be a Cub). Sometimes I'm chosen to bring the flag up to the front. I go to Messy Church some Saturdays and that is fun. It's nice to meet other children there and bring home the things we have made.

Some people say church is boring, but I don't think it is. I hope some more of my friends will give it a try sometime.

Sam Haynes.

FROM HAWKESLEY CHURCH

Pancake Party

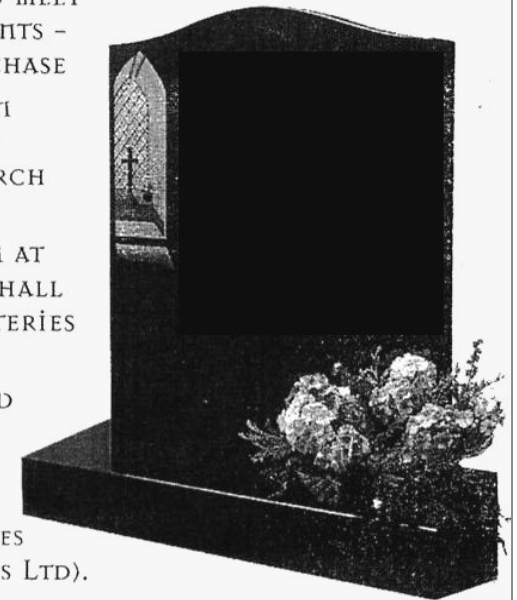
**Tuesday 8th March, 7pm at
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Contact Jim Clarke to find out more
(see page 24 for contact details)



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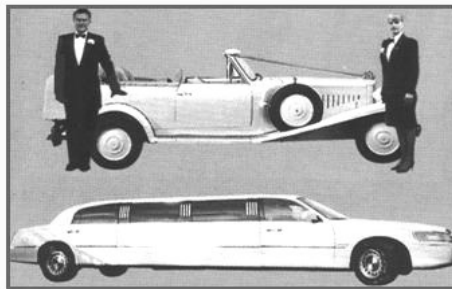
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We thought about different kinds of public worship:

Baptism Holy Communion Marriage Funerals

They are very different, but we still find the same pattern.

We **gather**. **God speaks**. (What might God be saying in each one?)

We respond (by doing what?) We then **go out**, moving on in Christ.

In each service how does this pattern help remake us as God's people?
How is God proclaimed as the one who called us out of darkness into his
marvellous light?

We often use the word "Sacrament" for services where actions happen. "An
outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace" - *or* "Jesus promises
'Do this' and I'll turn up." (The performative Word as John called it.)

(And what about Word/Prayer services where there are no big actions?)

We looked at Romans Chapter 12.

It tells us who we are and how in Christ we are related in one another.

Can you pick out some key phrases? Take your time.

Which comes first, God's Word of mercy and grace - or our response?

Can you see that this chapter has lists of many things we ought to do?

What do they include?

How does God enable us to trust that we might do them?

We then look at verses from John Chapters 13, 14 and 20

After Jesus has washed the disciples' feet, so that they have a part in him
(v.8), he teaches them many things. Look at v.34, then at chapter 14 v.12,
then v.16,17 and finally at John 20 v.21.

How do these verses highlight all that we have discovered as we seek to
be Grippled by Worship?

Gripped by Worship 3: Responding as God's People

Public worship is more than going to church. Something happens together.

What did we discover in the first two parts of our journey?

We found that four things happen in every act of public worship -

Gathering Listening to God Responding Going out

We found that public worship was once the local community at prayer, woven into the rhythms of day and night, times and seasons, sowing, reaping and winter. It is now far more in the company of strangers or those we only know through church. School, work, media and family diaries have almost entirely replaced the church's calendar. We have few common stories.

But when we meet in public worship, we are still doing in our own time and place what Christians have done for 2000 years. It's not just a personal thing. It's what marks church - right from the beginning.

Many people have to be involved in inviting, preparing and running worship - and we build life-changing relationships together as we do it.

As in every good gathering of people, there is a good host - God - who enables us to come as individuals but leave as companions.

And in worship, we are remade by God's grace as "once no people, now God's people, in order that you may proclaim the triumphs of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." *1 Peter 2:9,10*

That is why we are called together - to praise, to receive God's mercy, to listen - and then go out with renewed common purpose.

Remember what we found last week in Mark's Gospel. Jesus spoke - and those who listened then did something which restored or renewed them in the company of others - but with a story to tell together, which challenged those who thought the story was all theirs.

In worship we Listen - and then Respond. We don't just respond with mind and heart. We do something challenging - and renewing of all.

And then, renewed, we are sent out to live God's life in God's world.

Mission Focus - The Children's Society

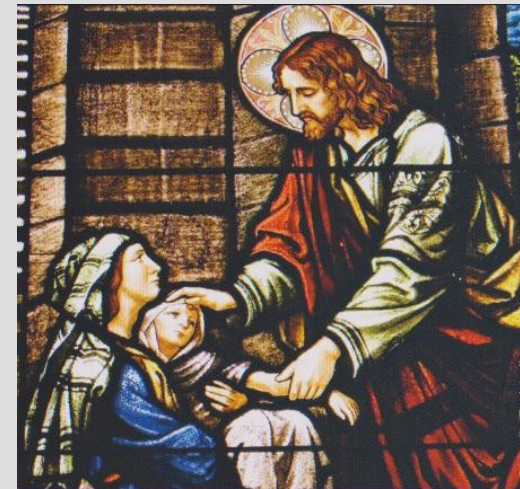
My grateful thanks, once again, for the continued generous support of all contributors at St Nicolas Church. This year's total of £540 brings our running total to £16,493. Congratulations! Your financial support is needed more than ever in these difficult times.

I would also like to thank, on the Society's behalf, all those who worked so hard for the lovely Christingle Services throughout the parish.

Pat Dovey, Box Secretary.

Immanuel Church also raised funds for the Children's Society - £274 from Box Holders plus an Outward Giving donation of £200 gave a total of £474. Thank you to all involved.

Evelyn Finn, Immanuel's Treasurer.



Lord, your Son taught us that to welcome
a child is to welcome Him.
Today we pray for children at risk on the streets.
Help us to see these lost, lonely children
through your eyes.
To seek solutions for them.
To find ways for them to be heard,
To be safe.
And to be enveloped in love.
Amen

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I	C	C	H	A	N	G	E	O	S
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G	M	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E
G	A	E	F	Y	T	M	N	O	X
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ACT
CHANGE
CROWD
DISCIPLE
FEEL
FRIEND
FOLLOW
GROWING
JESUS
STEP AWAY
THINK



Dear God,
Help us to be good disciples and follow you.
May we always think, feel and act in the way you
have taught us.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Gail.



Hello everyone!

Matthew's gospel tells us that when Jesus preached his Good News, he attracted 'Great Crowds' (Matthew 8:1). Matthew separates the crowds from the disciples, referring to them as two different groups. What is the difference between these two groups and are they both true friends of Jesus?

Together, let's explore this further...

Take a moment to think about what it means to be a disciple?

SOMEONE WHO PRAYS.
SOMEONE WHO DOES WHAT JESUS DOES.
SOMEONE WHO LOVES GOD AND JESUS.
SOMEONE WHO LOVES THEIR NEIGH-
BOUR.



Maybe you thought of some others too?

Can you remember what we learned last time when Jesus called his first disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)? He simply said to them, 'Follow me.'

To be a disciple of Jesus is to follow him.

Is being part of the crowd the same as being a follower?

Being part of a crowd can be fun and I do think that the crowd might be a good place to start. After all, the crowds did follow Jesus around and in Matthew 7:28 it says, 'The crowds were astounded at his teaching.' But is this enough to be a disciple?

Disciples are those who act and follow. You can't just be part of a crowd. Discipleship is about growing in God and this is not easy. This means that at some point, we have to step away from the crowd to change the way that we think, feel and act.

To be a true friend of Jesus you have to choose to be one of his disciples.

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January 2011 Funerals

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

- 29th December Deborah Diane Egan, 44. Cremation at Lodge Hill, Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 4th January Jozef Ryrych, 86. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 6th January Jacqueline Melia, 65. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 7th January Mildred Murray, 92. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 10th January Joan Betty Williams, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 11th January Lynne Marie Maddocks, 55. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 11th January Clifford Mills, 84. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 13th January Joyce Mary Kennerley, 97. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 13th January Steven Thomas, 55. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 14th January Pauline Jones, 80. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 18th January Valerie Widdowes, 70. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 18th January Rosemary Bullock, 59. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 19th January Paul Leslie Ebbitt, 51. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 19th January Raymond Hanson, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 24th January Joan Margaret Donnelly, Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 24th January Beatrice Nicholls, 95. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 25th January Eileen Nightingale, 91. Burial at Brandwood Cemetery.
- 26th January Ronald William Sly, 86. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Brandwood Cemetery.
- 27th January Iris Lilian Humphries, 91. Cremation at Redditch.
- 28th January Alice Addicott, 86. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 28th January Isaline Linda Braithwaite, 78. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 28th January Elsie June McKenzie, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

At Saint Nicolas Place

Women's Fellowship 7.30pm 1st Thursday; Secretary: Carol Devic

Seniors' Club (Over 65's) Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Christine Bowen & Revd Rebecca Pullin

Guides and Brownies
Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursday 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Monday 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies
at Hawkesley Church Centre
Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 pm
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Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 pm

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Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45 pm Karen Urwin 430 6005
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

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Kings Norton Parish Office

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e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Monday to Friday.
Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Please use Parish Office to contact clergy and lay officers, to place prayers and notices in our weekly newsletter and monthly events diary – and for all churchyard enquiries.

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

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

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

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	Peter Smith	453 9931
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Christian Giving Officer	Christine Bowen, Christine Gadd, Sylvia Fox	
Churchyard Care Team	Jean Brownsword	458 3289
Bible Reading Fellowship	Richard Harper	458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Julie Caley	458 3289
Organist and Music Director	Alison Blumer	486 2837
	Sylvia Fox	07778 449170

*Tuesday: Training and groups 5.45-8.30pm;
Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 pm, Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.
Handbell Ringers, Mondays 3.00 – 4.30 pm; but ring to check we are meeting first.*

Immanuel Music Group

Susan Haynes 459 4711

Oasis/ Sunday School

Immanuel
St. Nicolas and Hawkesley

Nicky Moorcroft (Oasis leader)
contact via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Magazine: Editor

Treasurer (Subscriptions)

Advertising Manager

Parish Website

Bell Ringers

Ringling Master

Alan Haynes 459 4711 editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

Alison Blumer 486 2837

Evelyn Finn via Parish Office 458 3289

David Ash e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower

Jim Dunn 744 6334



midlands co-op
funeral services



As the region's leading funeral director, Midlands Co-operative Funeral Services have been providing a caring and sympathetic service for more than 70 years.

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828 Bristol Road, Selly Oak 0121 472 2459

All Midlands Co-operative Funeral Homes in the region can be contacted on the numbers above, these include: Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Great Barr, Hall Green, Kingstanding, Kitts Green, Oldbury, Pype Hayes, Quinton, Redditch, Rubery, Selly Oak, Shirley, Solihull, Weoley Castle, West Bromwich, Yardley and Yardley Wood

www.undertakers.uk.com



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The Church in the Parish

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

We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists:
To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ
To live out God's radical hospitality for all
To be equipped for work in God's world

St Nicolas Parish Church *on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Holy Communion Our main service - Oasis for 5-11's

2nd Sunday: 10.30am Parade Service - All Age Worship 11.45am Matins (BCP)

6 pm Evening Worship

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

1st Sunday Taizé Prayer

2nd Sunday Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday Compline (Night Prayer) with a reflection

4th/5th Sundays: Special services or Evensong (BCP)

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist) *at Hawkesley Church Primary School*

on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Portway Kings Norton, B38 9TR

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church *at The Fairway Centre*

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

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;

4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Open Church

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

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

Open Church times

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

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

Thursday 6.30 – 8pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries,

Saturday 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, prayer
with **Messy Church** for all ages every 2nd Saturday (Market Day)

Candlelit Church

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

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music

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

Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

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