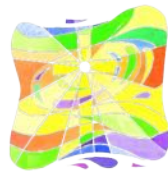


The Parish of Kings Norton January 2009

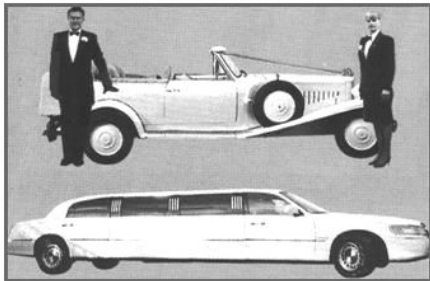
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Thank you.

**Items for inclusion in February
issue to be submitted by:-
Friday 16th January 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

LEARNING IN FAITH

Jesus's first disciples had three years of shared personal tuition, example and supervised practice before they were commissioned as the Church through the giving of the Holy Spirit. Much of it was, as we now say, individually tailored. A fisherman, a tax collector, a peasant girl and a rich woman are likely to have very different gifts, abilities and learning needs – and not all became leaders. Others grew in very different kinds of service and witness to Christ crucified and risen.

This sounds like today's training for the church's licensed ministry (clergy, readers and full-time lay workers) - intensive shared training; active practice; discovery and sharpening of individual gifts and needs – and then off they go.

Where does that leave everyone else? For many, learning about faith is a mix of half-remembered Confirmation preparation, helped by favourite songs and hymns and bits of sermons and sayings from others, sometimes lit up by living experience of God's presence and purpose in special moments. Some read or go on courses and conferences. Some share in Bible study groups, Café T and Candlelit Church. Many struggle to find the time and space.

Does it matter?

Not if we just want to stay as we are, fed only by past memories, however rich. But we change. The world changes. The church changes. God doesn't. And in each change, good and bad, we need to discover afresh the living hope of Christ. If we don't, we will be as "children tossed to and fro, and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming" (*Ephesians 4.14*) and by every turn of events that life brings.

But this isn't what God wants – and nor do we. It isn't about cleverness or about knowing detailed answers to questions about the Bible, the church, worship or moral issues. It is about growing in a confident, mature faith in God, which gives strength in confusion, courage in danger and love amidst division.

And some knowledge helps! As we seek to be renewed as a Parish, fully "re-remembered and re-missioned", we and all church members need a greater awareness, depth and confidence in the core matters which shape and feed our life in the Trinity: Bible, Prayer, Worship, Mission, Baptism/Confirmation and Eucharist. We do these in bits in different parts of parish life – but

and feed our life in the Trinity: Bible, Prayer, Worship, Mission, Baptism/Confirmation and Eucharist. We do these in bits in different parts of Parish life, but not in a way which affirms and engages with everyone in their different faith stories and learning needs.

So, in 2009 we will be offering some core teaching and learning on all these. We begin in January with crossing the threshold of faith and Baptism/Confirmation. During Lent, we want our study to be shaped by the pattern of Christ's life in Holy Communion and after Easter, we will engage more deeply with living out our faith in the world in Mission and Discipleship. All the way through, we would seek to enlarge people's confidence in praying and using Scripture, offering short

sessions to encourage, enlighten and discover fresh faith as our journeys require.

Please look out for details early in January.

There will be a place for you.

Canon Rob Morris



If you've attended a Parish event over the last 3 years or so, this will have been a familiar sight.

Chris Holmes, the Editor of this magazine, sadly died last month, following surgery. It has come as a great shock to us all. On page 20 you can read a moving tribute to Chris by Rob Morris.

God's world is a gift on trust: Theme for Education Sunday 2009

Churches are being encouraged to 'save the date' for next year's Education Sunday – which will highlight the role of schools and colleges in helping young people lead lives that recognise the vital importance of caring for God's creation.

Education Sunday is the national day of prayer and celebration for all those involved in the world of education, traditionally marked on the ninth Sunday before Easter, which falls on **Sunday 8th February** in 2009.

In a briefing note for churches, the Rev'd Dave Bookless of Christian nature conservation organisation A Rocha UK introduces this year's theme, suggesting: "Perhaps we can reflect on how education can prepare pupils for responsible stewardship of God's world, or how education can recover a vision of connecting people with a sense of

the joy of planting, growing and eating food, and reflecting on our dependence.

"Rather than encouraging us to see the world as our oyster – something to admire, consume or exploit and then discard – perhaps education needs to see the world as a gift on trust, a family heirloom to treasure, enjoy and pass on intact."

The Church of England's National Society – the body which began mass education in this country, and today exists to inform and encourage Church schools and to promote Christian education – has always played a key part in the co-ordination of Education Sunday, which is observed in different ways by most parishes and church schools in the country, as well as many cathedrals.

place and belonging experiencing

Dates for your Diary

Prayerful Listening Saturday Workshops and Prayer in the style of Taizé Wednesday evenings

Sat 24th January 2-4pm St Nicolas Place

Prayerful Listening Workshop: Abwoon Prayer Circle (Mina Coalter):NOT TAIZÉ

Sat 28th February 2-4pm St Nicolas Place

Prayerful Listening Workshop (details TBC)

Sat 28 March 2-4pm St Nicolas Place

Prayerful Listening Workshop (details TBC)

Abwoon Prayer Circle

TAKE A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY INTO THE TIMELESS WISDOM OF JESUS WITH AN ABWOON PRAYER CIRCLE led by Mina Coalter.

By studying the words of Jesus in his native Aramaic language, we are able to experience his teachings on a deeper level and in an entirely new way.



Mina Coalter

A brief introduction into Aramaic Abwoon study will lead into an understanding of the healing ministry and teaching of Jesus as seen through Aramaic eyes. Then, using the first three Beatitudes as tools, we will move onto how we can use these teachings and practices to deepen our spiritual insight and bring healing and wholeness into our own lives. The prayer circle will include sung Aramaic meditations also known as body prayers.

Mina Coalter is a trained Compassionate Listener and Quaker Spiritual Healer who lives in south Birmingham. A lifelong Christian, she has studied the Aramaic teaching of Jesus through the work of the Aramaic scholar and author Neil Douglas Klotz.

Happy New Year to all our readers



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SUNDAY LUNCH WITH HENRY SANDON

Henry Sandon (Antiques Roadshow) recently came to see relatives in Kings Norton and requested that they should take him to see the restoration work carried out on The Saracen's Head. He was delighted to meet the guide, Judith Shilton, and to have the tour of the Old Grammar School and the restored old buildings he remembered from previous visits.

After enjoying a snack lunch in the café, he made a suggestion that I should organise an event, and he would give a talk, to raise funds for The Saracen's Head. I have, therefore, carried out his wishes as far as I can, with the approval of Canon Rob Morris.

So far, we have arranged the venue, the date and time, the food and now we need the people, without whom we are doomed!!

First of all, I need helpers to run either a Raffle or Tombola, or both? Henry has agreed to give us a piece of his Bronte Pottery, made in Malvern, which I would like to Raffle or Auction. I know

there are people in the Parish who are more qualified than I am to take on this wonderful aid to raising funds.

If you are willing to volunteer your services, please contact me as soon as possible.

Sunday Lunch With Henry Sandon will be held at Kings Norton Golf Club, which is allowing use of their Ballroom free

of charge. Henry will arrive at noon on Sunday 8th March 2009 and is willing to value some small items of your porcelain or pottery after the lunch is completed.



The menu for lunch will be advised in next month's Parish Magazine. Tickets will be on sale for £25 each, from 2nd January 2009.

I hope to hear from some valuable volunteers very soon. Thank you.

Shirley Hamilton.

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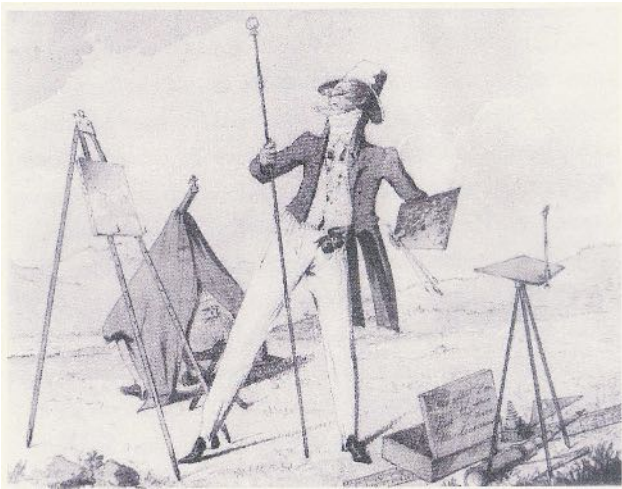


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There will be lots of tutored water colour painting with hints and tips and help with the use of modern source material, such as photographs. Were you given a digital camera as a Christmas present? You will be given advice on using these amazing devices as an aid to your creation of mature works of art. If you were not so fortunate, then don’t worry, all source material will be supplied.

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Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on 8th January 2009. This will be the second Thursday of the month, not the first Thursday. We meet at our usual time of 7.30pm at St Nicolas Place. All new people and guests will be made very welcome. Our guest speaker this month will be George Burfitt from the West Midlands Fire Service. He will give us a talk on Fire Prevention, which will be of interest to us all.

I hope everyone has a very enjoyable Christmas and wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Marlene Collyer (Chairman).

Hawkesley Church

Our Christmas Bazaar, which was held on 29th November, was our most successful ever and raised the sum of £850. Our thanks go to many people, too numerous to mention individually, for their hard work in making the day such a success and bringing a warm community spirit to the whole event. Thank you all for your support.

Our Coffee and Chat Group's next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 10am in the Pastoral Centre when our future programme will be planned. Details will be given in newsletters and the magazine. Our meetings are on alternate Tuesdays and a warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to join us.

Jim Clarke

Churches gear up for Year of the Child 2009

Church leaders are being encouraged to help make 2009 'a year to remember' for young people and the Church with the launch of an Interdenominational Year of the Child to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of the Child.

A group of Children's Advisers from across the Church of England's Dioceses, alongside representatives from the Methodist Church and other denominations and agencies, identified widespread interest in making a distinctive Christian contribution to this anniversary. In light of this enthusiasm, the network plans to promote 2009 as an opportunity for local churches to review the work they do with and for children and young people, and to do more to recognise and celebrate their contribution in the life of the church and society.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, comments: "In the lead up to the Year of the Child 2009, it is my hope that individual churches and Christian denominations throughout the country will opt in and make available the resources needed to make it a success. Young people all over the country need to hear the words of Christ's love for them in all manner of ways. So too, we the Church need to hear afresh God

speaking to us through the life and witness of children. Come and join the

celebration, be challenged and inspired."

Some of the early initiatives already being prepared for next year include:

- From **Lancashire**, a pilgrimage of 14 – 21 year olds from the Diocese of Blackburn to the Diocese of Free State, South Africa. The young people will spend two weeks next summer in local schools and churches and will also get involved with practical community projects – such as working with people with HIV and AIDS – with the aim of building on the two Dioceses' existing twinning relationship;
- In **West Sussex**, the Youth and Children's Work department of the Diocese of Chichester is running a conference on 'Changing Childhood' in July, in collaboration with the University of Chichester;
- Again in **Lancashire**, up to 3,000 people are expected at a 'Big Day Out for the Family' at Lytham St Anne's in June. This will include music, worship, games and other special activities as the Blackburn Diocese celebrates the Year of the Child on school playing fields at the seaside;
- In **Northamptonshire**, the Diocese of Peterborough has issued a list of 30 tips for churches interested in getting involved in the *Year of the Child*, including ensuring that children and young people's work is discussed

at every Parochial Church Council meeting, that young people's concerns are expressed in intercessory prayers at the main Sunday service, and that churches consider donating books to a local school;

- In **Liverpool**, the Diocese is continuing to develop a 'Child Friendly Church Awards Scheme' recognising those Parishes which have adopted various aspects of good practice in children's ministry – and nearby **Manchester** Diocese is planning to promote the scheme to its Parishes;

- In **Cornwall**, the Diocese of Truro is planning a pilgrimage to The Isles of Scilly for children and their families in July. The Diocese's other plans - including the distribution of a booklet packed with practical suggestions for marking the *Year of the Child* compiled by the Diocese's Children's and Youth Team - will culminate in a day of festivities held in Truro Cathedral in November;

- In **Norfolk**, the Diocese of Norwich's Youth Task Force hopes to develop a web-based youth forum to improve communication between young people across the rural county.

events, but rather to create a spotlight to help churches focus on their work with children and to explore partnerships with other churches, both locally and globally. We are hoping that 2009 will be a year in which the issues, injustices and challenges facing young people today can be highlighted, and for work with children and young people to be celebrated," she comments.

Updates on the activities taking place under the Church's *Year of the Child* umbrella will be published periodically during 2009 and distributed to local churches. Parishes interested in finding out more can find inspiration at www.yearofthechild2009.co.uk.

Early next year, the Church's official publisher – Church House Publishing – is due to release 'Through the Eyes of a Child', a book drawing together a range of contributions on children's theology to help extend the legacy of the *Year of the Child*.

The Rev'd Mary Hawes, National Children's Adviser, stresses that *Year of the Child 2009* is not a prescriptive project or even a centrally driven programme: "It is simply an open invitation to the Christian Church in the UK to join in by making 2009 a special year for children and young people. There are no plans for big national



Rebecca's Diary...

Hello everyone...



It's hard to believe we are now in 2009! I just don't know where 2008 went. Let's all pray for a peaceful new year for ourselves, our neighbours and our world.

Here a few extracts from my December diary 2008.

2nd: Had a day working in my study to try and clear the decks. I had a very successful day and felt very pleased with myself. At the end of the day, I had managed to do a lot of work on my computer and clear my desk. Mind you, I am a messy worker, so I know it will not be clear for very long!

3rd: I joined the Seniors' Club for their Christmas meal. As usual, it was a great night out with everyone dancing and joining in with the singing. Two of our members donned belly dancing outfits (one was a man dressed as a woman!) and entertained us with some pretty good belly dancing. Of course it brought the house down. The staff and Dave, the singer, looked a bit bemused but we all knew what was going on and loved every minute of it! Older people certainly know how to enjoy themselves, that's for sure!

4th: I took the 11am Holy Communion service at St. Nicolas. It takes place every Thursday morning, so do join us if you can. It only lasts about half an hour. It was a quiet service. Quite a few of the regulars were away poorly or just not able to make it. Even though they were not there in person, we felt they were there in spirit. In the evening, I attended a church business meeting. Amazingly, it finished early, which kind of threw me because I am so used to long meetings! Still, it was lovely to get home and catch a bit of TV. Sadly I missed East Enders!

9th: As a curate, I have to continue to attend training days with other curates from around Birmingham. Today's subject was Mission and two people gave presentations from very different churches. I particularly enjoyed hearing what's happening over in Aston. It's lovely to hear about good things happening in other places. Three of my friends produced lunch for all of us, which consisted of homemade soup and delicious cake. It was also good to catch up with people I had trained with. One of them has recently acquired a pet ferret! She even has a photo of him on her mobile phone! What can I say? She is completely mad, unlike me of course!!

Revd Rebecca Pullin

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Family and local history talks at King's Norton Library:

Saturday 12th January: Due to the success of our Saturday Book Group, we are starting another group which will meet to discuss books on the second Monday of each month at 2-3pm. January's book is "The American Boy" by Andrew Taylor. Copies are available for loan at the library.

Saturday 17th January: Paul Wilkins, a professional genealogist, will be helping people to solve their family history problems if they are "stuck". Advanced booking is essential as very few time slots are available and he will need details in advance.

Wednesday 21st January, 10.30-11.30am: Jo-Ann Curtis from Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery will be giving an illustrated talk about the artist Frank Lockwood who did several drawings of King's Norton.

Wednesday 28th January, 10.30-11.30am: John Yates from Birmingham Registry Office is back by popular demand. This time, he will be concentrating on birth certificates.

There will be further family history talks during February and March. Please phone or call in for details. Advanced booking will be required for all as they are very popular.

For further details of these and other events please phone 0121 464 1532, e-mail kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk or call in to see us on Pershore Road South, opposite the grave yard.

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Tribute to Chris Holmes by Rob Morris

Chris Holmes, our beloved magazine editor and true friend of so many, died on 6th December. We knew that his operation was serious, but his death after post-surgery complications was a terrible shock to us all. He had gone through so much, given so much, stirred up so much to renew and sustain local life in Kings Norton and Kings Heath. Community life in Druids Heath, especially, has been made so much richer through his energy and commitment in schools, community groups, theatre and the restoration of Bells Farm. Our prayers, love, thoughts and warm thanksgiving are with Sheila, Paul and Gary.

typical highly inventive and sympathetic skill - and then led our Seniors' Club in celebrating the 100th birthday of one of its members with all his usual vibrant mixture of lovely singing, comic inspiration and cheeky affection. We all loved it, as we do Chris and Sheila – a real team, always loyal, affectionate and outgoing.

“Faith in Jesus, God’s Word made flesh, is for all times and all places, the darkness and the light – and brings the astounding promise that God really is with us in them all to dwell with us and to bring his new life to us and to all creation.”

One week before, he had produced our December Parish Magazine with

I wrote these words in the December magazine with the world economic



crisis in mind, but hoping that they might also speak of God's strengthening in the personal stories of heartache, grief and despair which any Parish Church worth its place must embrace and carry with faith-filled listening and love. They also grew, with deep gratitude, from God's resilient hope and encouragement given personally to me by so many of you during the highly distorted press coverage of the naming of our Restored buildings.

But none of us thought that the truth of these words would be tested as soon as they have been in Chris's death. His own faith was deep and searching. It was expressed in active love and warm friendship. He didn't hide his own grief on the death in September of Joan Urwin, a close friend of Chris and Sheila for over thirty years – but still celebrated all the laughter and compassion they had shared with her for so long, as we saw in his October edition of this magazine. We must do the same now. In God's grace, in this darkness as well as in the light, we will find the strength to laugh, to cry, to remember – and be inspired by the talent, time and generous commitment of a unique friend. May he rest in peace.

Faith is not about signing up to a set of beliefs. It is about trust – in God and, through God, in one another and about daring to live out that trust for the sake of others. That's what Chris did – and what we must do in remembering him. In God's strength, not ours, we shall not fail. Can that be at the heart of our living in 2009? I pray it is.

Canon Rob Morris

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

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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 AdministratorCHRISTINE BOWEN 458 3289
Finance Administrator.....CHRISTINE GADD 458 3289

Organist and Music DirectorSYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA 07778 449170

Choir & Orchestra PracticesTuesday: 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 LeaderSARAH CROOKS

Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) contact via Parish Office 458 3289
Hawkesley
Oasis (Immanuel)NICKY MOORCROFT
Impact!GARETH JONES mobile 07929 154003

Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church
Primary SchoolShannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR
HeadteacherGRAEME DOBSON 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

Bell RingersPractice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower
Ringing MasterGEORGE HARRISON, c/o Parish Office
SecretaryCLAIRE CALVER 458 2342

Kings Norton Handbell RingersPractice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.
Secretary.....JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship

Secretary JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS. 458 3328

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

Women's Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
Seniors' Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
PRODH	KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)	430 6005
Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)	Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 244 0789
Guides and Brownies	Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
Guides and Brownies	At Hawkesley Church Centre:- Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
Kings Norton Society	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
Kings Norton History Society	Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.	
Parish Magazine Editor	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
Parish Magazine Treasurer Advertising Manager	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA Evelyn Finn, contact via Parish Office	486 2837 458 3289
Parish Website	GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	www.kingsnorton.org.uk
Historic Kings Norton Staff:-		
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

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

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

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

tel:- 0121 458 3289 fax:- 0121 459 2529

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



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 – 8.00 pm

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) 8.00 – 9.00 pm.

Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time; not a formal church "service". Candles, conversation, creativity, singing, quiet spaces.

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley

School, 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.

Alternate Tuesdays – Coffee and Chat: 2nd & 4th

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.

All enquiries to:

The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, King’s Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU Tel 0121 458 3289 Fax 0121 459 2529

Email parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk www.kingsnorton.org.uk

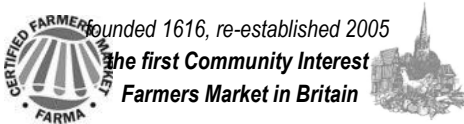
The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries about services, baptisms, marriages, funerals or anything else where we may be able to help.

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October 2008 Baptisms

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

16th November 2008	Daniel Frederick Anthony Smith
16th November 2008	Ava Lilly Valente
16th November 2008	Louise Harriet Karen Palmer

October 2008 Funerals

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

3rd Nov 2008	Dolena k/a Dot Mary Dedicoat, 87	Service in St Nicolas; Cremation at Lodge Hill
4th Nov 2008	Gladys Edna Millward, 76	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Kings Norton
5th Nov 2008	Lionel Edward Worrall, 69	Service in St Nicolas; Cremation at Lodge Hill
6th Nov 2008	David Henry Garner, 65	Cremation at Lodge Hill
7th Nov 2008	Lilian Dorothy D'Abreu, 75	Cremation at Lodge Hill
10th Nov 2008	Baby Kasey Skye Hand, 5mths	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Kings Norton
11th Nov 2008	Ernest Edward Price, 70	Interment of Ashes
14th Nov 2008	Dora Evelyn Shuttleworth, 88	Service in St Nicolas; Cremation at Redditch
14th Nov 2008	Hilda Parish, 92	Cremation at Lodge Hill
20th Nov 2008	Pancia Agatha Richards, 59	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Kings Norton
21st Nov 2008	Margaret Mary Coupland, 85	Cremation at Lodge Hill
21st Nov 2008	Joyce Billingham, 83	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Brandwood End
27th Nov 2008	Jessie Sweet, 85	Interment of Ashes
27th Nov 2008	Arthur Gumbley, 86	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Brandwood End
28th Nov 2008	Olive Davis, 90	Service at St Joseph's; Burial in St Nicolas Churchyard



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'Parish People'

People from all
walks of Parish Life.

This month Sylvia Fox takes time out from choir practice to share some thoughts with us. Interviewer Alan Haynes

Sylvia Fox



Where were you born?

Loveday Street Hospital, Birmingham (near to what is now the Children's Hospital). I lived in Longbridge for my first 6 months and then moved to King's Norton.

What is your occupation?

According to the taxman, I have three jobs:

I am a senior physiotherapist at West Heath Hospital, working on the orthopaedic ward. I have been there for 12 years (including time at Sheldon Complex Care and Palliative Unit and also supporting students doing their NVQ Care Awards). I was at Dudley Road Hospital (now City Hospital) for nearly 12 years before that.



The job most of you know me in is as Director of Music at St Nicolas and that has been since 1993. I had various Deputy roles and was a choir member before that.

The third is very related to the second - as a private music teacher - mostly with choir members, as that's how we each manage to fit it in.

And which do I enjoy the most? Well, there's nothing better to me than introducing a child or adult to a new depth of faith and religious understanding via music and our fantastic buildings.

Why Kings Norton?

Maybe it should be why STILL King's Norton?! I guess I just stayed here. I trained in Birmingham and all the things I do are so local. And it's so fascinating to follow people's stories and journeys for years.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

It is central to who I am and how I think - about how everything came to be here and how we interact with each other. It gives me a certainty about why we are here and what I must try to do with my life (but a wonderfully gracious God who isn't angry if I mess it up, and ask to start again). I learned all my Bible stories at Sunday School (Saracen's Head and St Nicolas Hall!) and at home, but attending Scripture Union camps each summer from age 12 helped it to become personal. I carried on there until my mid 20's helping out as a Leader. I explored a lot of faith-thinking through all the

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church music I have sung here (since age 11) and with Roger Jones and his musicals.

huge book of all my favourite songs/hymns with beautiful photos to accompany them!

What are your hobbies and interests?

Music (mostly classical, but some surprises too), gardening, sewing and visiting historical or natural sites. I've just taken rent of an allotment at West Heath, only yards from my old school playground, so that's my newest garden project. I've been in the CBSO Chorus for over 25 years, so I've done some fantastic concerts, sung some great works (and some weird ones too!) and travelled all over the country and abroad too. I've done some OU study in music to help understand more about what I sing and play.

I'd just begun an OU course in World Religions when I had glandular fever in 2005. The course had to be abandoned and, as yet, I haven't regained enough energy to give it another go..... but, maybe one day. What it had already done, though, was help me understand people of other faiths better and strengthen my own beliefs.

What is your favourite holiday place?

The SW (Somerset, Devon and Cornwall) and Lindisfarne. I'd like to explore Ireland and the Isle of Man and more of Scotland too, but it won't be in a VW Camper van!!!! (You'll have to ask me about this!)

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

That would be a comfy mattress and a

What is your best memory?

Can I have two?

One is the moment in August 2004 when Griff said "and the winner is the Old Gram..." and got no further for the cheers.

The other is singing in a truly wonderful performance of Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" in Finland. The Finns don't do standing ovations - they are too reserved - but they did that night.

There are a fair number of others too, but these are good ones to share.

What would you like to do with the rest of your life?

I honestly don't know, though I rather hope it doesn't mean staying in the NHS for another 15 years as I've had enough of "reforms" already!

What are your hopes for The Church in Kings Norton?

To carry on, and develop, as a place where people can explore and be nurtured in their faith, in a variety of ways.

SPRING HARVEST

A group of people from Immanuel Church will be making our annual trip to Spring Harvest from Saturday 4th to Thursday 9th April. We are going back to the Minehead site. Spring Harvest is a Christian holiday that takes place around Easter time every year at Butlins sites. The facilities at Butlins are available to us as well as a full programme of:

- solid Biblical teaching to increase our knowledge;
- intimate and powerful worship times to bring us closer to God;
- sessions to make us think about the big issues of life;
- workshops to give us practical skills;
- leisure options to help us relax;
- entertainment to make us laugh.

Each person pieces together their own programme according to how they would like to spend their week from the many options available.

We have a vacant apartment and would love to fill it! The self-catering apartment is for up to four people (so a whole family or individuals who are happy to share). The cost of the apartment is £628, which can obviously be divided between the individuals who use it (so £157 each if shared between four people). If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me in January on tel. 459 4711. (The apartment will need to be cancelled at the end of the month if not needed.)

Thank you.
Susan Haynes.



For all your Decorating Needs

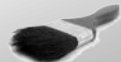


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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH



As we celebrate the Epiphany this month, remembering the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus, we thank God that each of us has gifts and talents that God can use. Lay involvement and lay leadership have long been a feature of Immanuel

Church and many of us have been delighted to find that when we have dared to step out in faith and been willing to share our gifts and abilities, in whatever ways He would like us to, God has used us to help others and to bring glory to Him. Our confidence then grows and we are willing to step out again. And so it goes on.

We have welcomed Jayne Crooks back to Immanuel on a regular basis as she is now the member of the clergy team with pastoral responsibility for us. Jayne is a great example of a member of Immanuel who dared to use her gifts and abilities for God...and continues to do so as Team Priest.

the process of carrying out a Church Audit. It may well take us a year to complete. We will be consulting with all who regularly attend Immanuel (currently about 60 people) to find out their thoughts and feelings about the church. This will include such areas as Mission and Outreach, Worship, Teaching, Pastoral Care, etc. Their thoughts and feelings will be gathered using a variety of methods so that all can relate to particular approaches – questionnaires, interviews, small group discussions and a weekend away in July. The audit will then be used to shape our growth and development as a congregation. We expect to be challenged along the way and to be encouraged in what God is doing amongst us and through us.

On a more personal note, the Haynes clan are looking forward to our new baby's Baptism on 25th January at Immanuel. Ruth will be welcomed into The Church and all are invited to the service and/or the Shared Lunch that will follow.

Susan Haynes.

In January we are going to start

CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Karen



Dear Friends,

It is the beginning of a New Year. Many people at this time of the year make a promise which they call 'A New Year's Resolution'. It is a promise to do something better than before (like being kinder and more helpful to your little brother or sister) and it is supposed to last for the whole year. Unfortunately, many people who make one have forgotten about it long before the year is finished but at least they tried. I have written a little poem about the New Year. I hope you like it.

Have a wonderful 2009.

Karen

*New Year's Day has come once more,
Flying through the open door
And travelling round to every place,
Bringing a smile to every face.*

*And every person sits and stirs
As they think about the last few years;
Times when they snapped or got in a rage
And so they turn over a brand new page*

*And make a promise for the year
To be better than they ever were
And, if we want, we can do that too -
Be kinder and nicer and simply brand new!*

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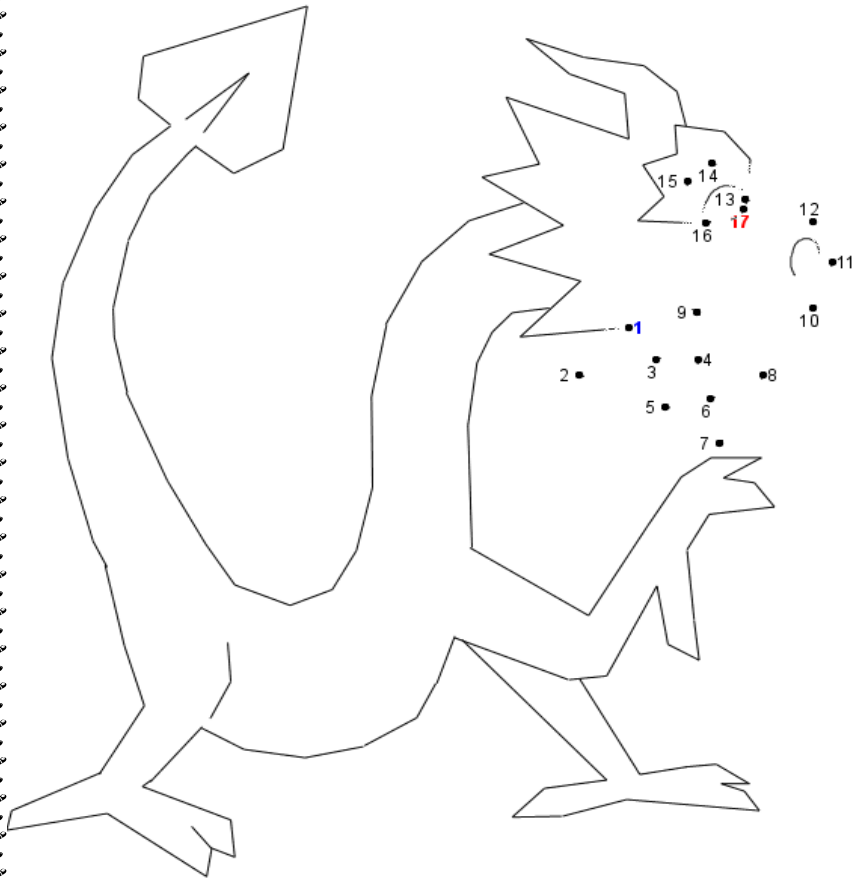
Sudoku Rules

A little different this month. I thought you might like to try one with letters. The words are:

IT'S NEW

So you have to include all the letters of those words in every line and every box.

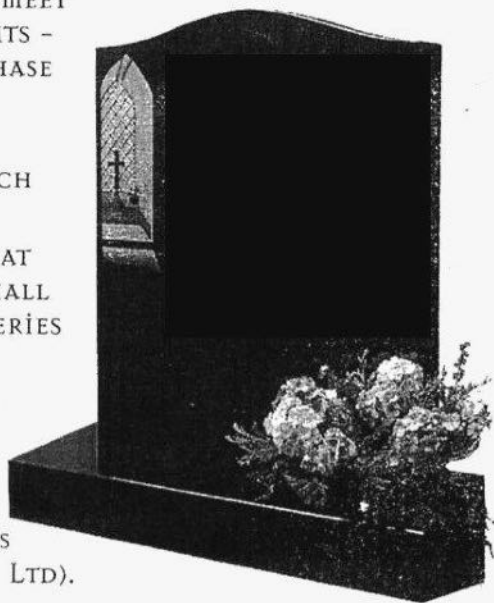
Also in January this year comes the Chinese New Year. I don't know about you, but I love finding out about different people and cultures and discovering the way they live. For your activity this month, I thought you might like the chance to complete a Chinese Dragon... Enjoy!



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KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Kings Norton History Society starts the 2009 Season on Monday 26th January in the North Hall of St Nicolas Place with a talk given by Bredan Flynn on "The Painters of Birmingham 1840-1940". Doors open at 7p.m. and the talk will start at 7.30. Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman



take part again this year. We hope that you will!

Last year's house-to-house collections and fund-raising events resulted in our sending over £4,200 (including Gift Aid) to Christian Aid from Kings Norton Team Parish. Thank you to all who helped in this.

We are also looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please do contact me on tel. 459 4711. The role involves delivering Christian Aid envelopes around the agreed road(s) and then calling back to collect donations later in that week.

Christian Aid Week will be upon us again in May. I will be writing to all who have been involved in the house-to-house collections over the past two years to invite you to

Funds all add up to help some of the poorest people in the world. For more information about Christian Aid, please visit www.christianaid.org.uk. Thank you.

Susan Haynes.

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Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a daydreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was ugly
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
David had an affair and was a murderer
Elijah was suicidal
Isaiah preached naked
Jonah ran from God
Naomi was a widow
Job went bankrupt
Peter denied Christ
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
Zaccheus was too small
Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer..AND
Lazarus was dead!



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Parish Child Protection Policy

The revised Parish Child Protection Policy is now available on the Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk as well as in each of the churches. The accompanying Diocesan Child Protection folder is available in each church. Could all involved in working with children and young people please read this information and familiarise yourselves with it? Thank you.

Our thanks to Simon Brown for his work in putting to-

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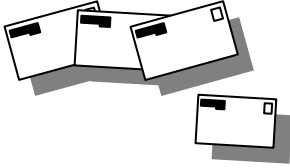
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Readers' Letters



Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of the renaming of our restored buildings.

I have been a volunteer since we won Restoration and I feel very strongly that the 'unofficial' name Saracen's Head is not good enough for the wonderful combination of old and new. It deserves an 'official' name, one that draws in visitors and so secures its future well beyond the end of our days.

A volunteer.
(Name and address supplied.)

Write to:-

**Kings Norton Parish Office,
St Nicolas Place
81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38 8RU
or e-mail:-
editor@kingsnorton.org.uk**

The views, opinions and comments expressed in letters are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the *Kings Norton Parish Magazine*, the *Kings Norton Parish Team*, or its *Staff*. Letters must contain the Name and Address of the 'sender', which will not necessarily be printed.

Editorial Team reserve the right to edit letters whilst retaining the correct context.

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the staff at St Nicolas Place for a lovely morning "Seeking Santa" on 13th December.

Some ladies, dressed in Olden Days clothes, said hello to us, a group of about 12 children with their Grown Ups. We set off on our search, calling "Santa, where are you?" all the way around! It was raining as we walked through the churchyard, but we barely noticed. We reached The Old Grammar School, where we wrote a letter to Santa, sang "Rudolf, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and heard clonking noises from upstairs, which was the sound of the elves making presents! As we left the room, we were given a gingerbread man and a bag to collect more treats in.

Then we followed the Olden Days ladies to the Parlour, where there was some Christmas Cake mixture in a bowl. We all took turns to have a stir and make a Christmas wish, then we sang "When Santa got stuck up the chimney".

We moved onto the Queens Room (checking all the way there that Santa wasn't hiding somewhere). There was a big chest of presents and a poem giving clues as to our next move. We were each given a coin to put into our bags. We solved the

clues and moved into the North Hall where there was a lady cleaning a silver candlestick. She gave us each a sugar mouse for our bags and we sang “Jingle Bells”.

We listened very carefully and we heard snoring! It was coming from the other end of the room. It turned out to be Santa, having a little nap! Our search was over! We called to him and he woke up and spoke to us. He read out some of the letters we had written earlier and he said he’d do his best to bring us the presents we’d asked for. I was picked as a helper to give out a gift to each of the children. I opened mine straight away - it was a very cute teddy bear! Santa wished us a Merry Christmas and waved us on our way. He said he needed another nap!

We all had a lovely time, so “thank you” to everyone who organised it. My mum was also thankful for the nice staff helping her to move a double buggy around the buildings! Thanks again – we’ll be back next year!

From Sam (aged 5) with Katie (16 months) and Ruth (3 weeks)

x x x



The Parish of Kings Norton



Men's Curry Nights 2009

Balti Bazaar, Pershore Road, Stirchley @ 8pm

For Information and to
reserve your place
please contact
Alan Haynes

Phone: 0121 459 4711

Mobile: 07801 551274

E-mail:

alanhaynes@kingsnorton.co.uk

12th January

9th February

9th March

13th April

11th May

8th June

13th July

10th August

14th September

12th October

9th November

14th December

