

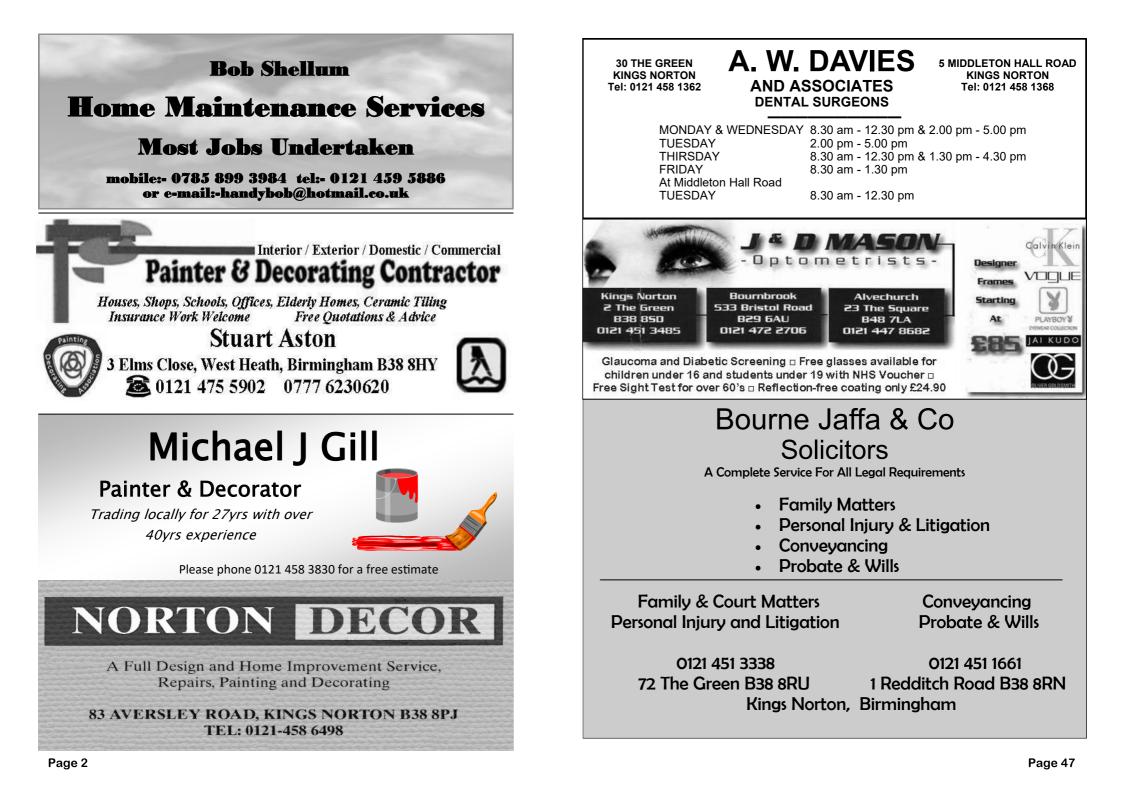


Kings Norton Parish Magazine | August 2010 | 70p



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

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Ida is an inspiration to all who meet and work with her; over the last 27 years, she has fostered over 50 children, almost all of whom are orphans. "I believe you should help those in need as much as you can. This means at work and at home I give 100%. It's so satisfying to see the benefits of our work pay off when families and whole communities leave poverty behind for good."

David Bragg, Senior Programme Coordinator

David was one of the founding farmers who sent cows to Africa over 20 years ago. He's still working at the heart of the organisation today, using his farming experience to ensure that Send a Cow delivers its promises on the ground. Whether working with our projects regularly in Africa or working here in the UK, he brings learning and guidance to expand the Vision he helped to begin. "In 1995, I visited a cow [she was called Gracie] in Uganda that had come from my farm. I was so inspired by the difference she had made to her Ugandan family that I came back to the UK and sold my dairy herd to free up some of my time to give more voluntary support to Send a Cow. To work for Send a Cow is to be able to live out my God given and guided passion to see farming families released from poverty and restored the right to make choices"

Boniface Rwabizambuga, Extension worker, Rwanda

Boniface is one of our longest serving extension workers, having worked in Rwanda for almost 10 years. He plays a vital role in supporting rural farmers with expert advice on animal care, vegetable growing techniques and group development. Travelling between groups in his region, he currently works with over 300 farmers, sharing his knowledge and skills.

Amsalu Haile, Ethiopian farmer, Send a Cow trainer

Amsalu lives in Bonke, one of the most remote areas of Ethiopia. Almost a decade ago, his 10 children were hungry most of the time. With Send a Cow's help, he started to grow food and is now a successful farmer with land and a house. He can pay for his children to go to school. He has a bank account. Amsalu's success means that he now wants to pass on his knowledge to others to help them enjoy a better life; so far he has trained 20 other farmers.

"God willing, I have a plan to educate other farmers to change their life situation. Currently I am supporting four children in the community, buying school materials for them. I also have a plan to change houses built using mud and straw in towns to bricks and blocks built houses."

www.sendacow.org.uk

Sylvia Fox

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Items for inclusion in the September 2010 issue are to be submitted by:-Friday 13th August 2010

Welcome.....

This month we look back at last month's Kings Norton Festival. There is a photographic reminder on page 38 of the events held on the Saturday. The Rector's message also remembers the services held on the Sunday and we have printed Rebecca's sermon from the evening service on pages 8 and 9. Rebecca has written about some of the other things she got up to that week in her diary on page 40.

'Send a Cow' is the latest of the parish's outward giving charities to be featured in the pages of this magazine. I hope you are finding it interesting to hear a bit more about the causes we give to (page 44).

Our Parish Person this month is Peter Smith who is one of the Stewards at Hawkesley Church. You can read his interview on page 42 where he reveals his hobbies, travels and his faith. Peter is currently battling with cancer so please remember to keep him in your prayers.

Don't forget to check out Gail's Children's Page (page 28). It's a good read for adults too. It may well come in handy during the school holidays if you are looking for something to entertain children.

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector

Inclusion around God's table

s we celebrated Kings Norton Festival, the Church of England's General Synod was taking another decisive step on the journey to having women as bishops. We enjoyed the sun and friendship. Synod God's table in the whole church members sweltered in the heat of York and of debate. They deserve our Festival Service. To me, that has to thanks and our prayers for continuing mark our leadership if it is to grow in wisdom, charity and grace.

You may have had to miss the wonderful weekend of our Festival. Even more people than last year shared in the Saturday events. Barbara For next year's Festival, we will work Hedgeland and the Friends of Historic to ensure that even more of Kings Kings Norton, along with so many church volunteers, deserve enormous those we know, those we don't and thanks. Sunday morning's Festival service was also deeply moving, as we inclusively by excluding faithful people all found new voice and confidence to who think differently. And (the really sing together boldly as neighbours in Christ of all in Kings Norton and across the world in Greek, Latin, Urdu, Spanish and Swahili – and even some English.... and were still singing on Monday!

But if you missed the Festival (July $10^{\text{th}}/11^{\text{th}}$ 2011 is the weekend to remember), you can't have missed the Keep praying. God will find the way. pleas of those opposed to having women as bishops. My roots are in

the tradition to which some opponents belong (the "high church" part of the C of E) so I feel for where they are coming from. But these same roots lead me not to oppose but to long for that full inclusion around which was God's gift to us in the our whole life - women and men of all cultures working together in growing prayer, love and faith in Christ so that we and all creation may grow in him.

Norton's people are able to share – those we find difficult. We can't live hard bit) we can't ignore the needs of those opposed to women bishops. They too have a place. Growing the life and gifts of our local communities in events, action, commitment and prayer lays solid grace-filled foundation for all that needs to follow. In Christ, what we all share is so much bigger than our differences.

health and hygiene and HIV/AIDS awareness. This balance of practical farming skills with social, life skills is a potent mix and produces remarkable results.

They don't just provide cows, but supply the livestock, seeds or plants that are most suited to each individual situation. Goats are frequently used, as are chickens or rabbits in smaller land-areas, or for those who don't have the physical strength to manage and care for a cow.

A story of success

Six years ago, Zenah Muhumuza was living in Mubende in Central Uganda with her husband and six children. They were poor, but able to feed themselves. One day however, Zenah's husband lost his job and walked out on his family. It was a devastating time. Zenah did not know how she was going to feed her children and send them to school. She had a small plot of land, but this had become barren. One day, she was walking to market and noticed a van with "Send a Cow" on the side. She stopped and went to ask what it was all about.

This was the start of Zenah's relationship with Send a Cow. Zenah had one acre of land and Send a Cow gave her training and a cow who she named "Madam" and remains her best friend to this day. Madam had a heifer calf which Zenah passed on to another farmer and, six years on, Zenah now has four cows. In 2008 and 2009, Zenah received a prize for the best Send a Cow farmer in Uganda, all down to her excellent work growing food in a sustainable way. She now has 20 acres of fertile land and works as a peer farmer trainer. She is an example to other farmers who visit her farm to learn her gardening techniques. School fees can now be paid for and her eldest son graduated from University in Kampala as a journalist. Her second son is also studying and will graduate this Summer. She has built a larger house and hopes to install solar panels soon to provide her family with electricity.

Who runs Send-a-Cow?

A small and very dedicated team at Head Office in Bath, together with seven teams across Africa, are the driving force behind Send-a-Cow. They bring together skills in management, agriculture, veterinary sciences and social development - it makes for a potent mix.

Let's meet four of the Team:

Ida Hadoto, Gender and Social Development Manager

Working with groups including orphans and disabled people, Ida heads up Send a Cow's social development teams. In each country where we work, she helps tackle issues such as low status, gender prejudice, lack of confidence and health concerns.

What or who is "Send a Cow"?

It is one of the charities that the PCC has chosen to support for the next two or three years.

Each year the charity helps thousands of families in Africa to grow enough food to eat, to sell their produce and to develop small businesses that last. The hallmarks of the charity are supporting families to develop themselves beyond the receipt of basic aid. They provide livestock, seeds and much ongoing support and training.

The charity began with a group of farmers in Devon who transported surplus cows to Africa, followed up with training and support and helped the families to settle into caring for their animals.

Send a Cow helps African farmers grow enough food to feed their families, sell produce and develop small businesses that last. Inspired by our Christian values, we provide training, livestock, seeds and ongoing support; and help families to make the most of the land and resources they already have.

In turn, these families then pass on the first born calf to new families, who are then also given support and training and so the "pass it on" continues – of live stock, seeds and training. This 'Pass it On' principle not only builds stronger communities, it allows us to help even more people to develop skills, confidence and self respect. People are happier and healthier, children are educated, homes are improved and communities are more harmonious. They are enabled to help themselves and their communities – no longer are they in receipt of aid – they are giving it.

Send a Cow doesn't offer a quick fix solution to rural development. In for the long haul, they typically work with groups for five years to effect substantial and sustainable change. They also acknowledge from the outset that issues such as gender equality, health and family harmony are just as vital to the success of development programmes in Africa as simple livestock provision.

So, in addition to ongoing training in animal wellbeing, sustainable organic farming practices and natural resource management, the work also provides courses in subjects such as gender equality, conflict resolution,



Some News and Notes from PCC meeting on 15th July

- The ordinations of Deb Buckley and Jo Houghton on June 26th and 4th July had been both very moving and very memorable.
- There has been a significant increase in requests for adult baptism, including from men about to serve in Afghanistan. We are responding.
- New Parish Action and Care groups: PCC asked clergy team to firm up proposals and engage more people in the whole work of the church. We will be completing this ready for September.
- Immanuel Church had held a very successful day away at Earlswood. The new buildings at Kensington House (Moundsley Hall) have been blessed by John White. We celebrated Betty Griffiths' 90th birthday!
- All is going steadily at Hawkesley Church
- Hawkesley School's inspection on 8th/9th July had been tough but very encouraging. We have two new members on the governing body and a new determination to make real demands of the Local Authority. A new acting Head Teacher would be starting in September. There is of course still much to be achieved but we are on the way.
- Kings Norton Restoration Trust meeting on 19th July will consider the appointment of a new director and agree the new business plan. Later during the week there will be a meeting with HLF to agree the business plan with them and then to obtain the final grant release. Kerry Horsfield (Business Manager) and Megan Nass (Heritage and Learning Officer) have managed the project very soundly during the interim.
- The gentleman who had made the replica chair for the Old Grammar School has taken four of our old church pews for repair. We hope that the next few weeks will ensure that all pews are safe, refreshed and comfortable.
- All who have heard it have been delighted by the small grand piano on loan in St Nicolas during July. We did not expect it to make such a big difference to our singing and worship. It did. What now?
- Back to Church Sunday will be on September 26^{th.} We shall be inviting all with recent connections to our churches and others as well.
- We are still working on a replacement for the hot water urn in St Nicolas Church and on a full survey of all our electrics and lighting.





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Why is your Christian faith important to you?

I was brought up in a Christian family, my mother had been a Sunday School teacher. I was Confirmed in St Nicolas in 1996. My faith means a lot to me and I feel that it has been sharpened during my current fight against cancer. Church is an important part of my life and I have found the Parish to be very supportive at this time.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I play a lot of chess and was a champion at school. I now play for the Greenlands Club in Longbridge. I have always been interested in Transport and support the Transport Museum in Wythall. I particularly like the old Midland Red buses. I also enjoy listening to Radio 2 and supporting the Church in different ways.

What are your best memories?

I have always enjoyed walking over the Lickey Hills, and at school I remember watching the Midland Red buses drive past. I am Godfather to my great niece and nephew, Shereen and Alexander, and I enjoyed their Baptism at St Nicolas.

What is your favourite holiday destination?

I have travelled around Europe, particularly France, Switzerland and Holland and in 1995 I went to Canada. I also went to visit my brother-in -law who was living in Petra during a holiday I took in Jordan and the Dead Sea.

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

I would take my radio and collection of 'Best of British' magazines. I would also need to have some Cadbury's Dairy Milk.

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

I am looking forward to 2016 when we shall be celebrating 40 years of Hawkesley Church and School. I am thankful for the caring clergy team that we have here and am looking forward to experiencing more of God's love and joy. I am also hopeful for the future of our restored buildings.



Parish People' People from all walks of Parish Life.

Meet Hawkesley Church Steward, Peter Smith.

Where were you born?

I was born in Dudley Road Hospital in 1953. I grew up in the Rednal and Rubery area and moved to Kings Norton towards the end of the 70's.

I attended a number of schools including Underwood School in Erd-ington.

What is your occupation?

I have worked for Royal Mail for 40

years and have delivered post to the same homes in Rednal and Cofton Hackett for the last 17 years. As a result, I have built up many links with the local community and am part of the Neighbourhood Watch. I have received a lot of support from the people I deliver to during my recent illness which I have found to be a great comfort.

I am looking forward to the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Cofton Park, especially as this is in the middle of where I live and work.

Why Kings Norton?

My late mother got a house in Sandpiper Gardens in Hawkesley in the late 70's and we lived there for about 26 years. We have seen the Hawkesley estate grow and develop and, although my brother and I now live in Rednal, I still have a great affinity for the area. We still worship at Hawkesley Church and I have been a Steward for many years now. We started going to Hawkesley on the Mothering Sunday after our mum had died to give thanks to God for her life. It wasn't long before I became a Steward and I have been one ever since.

I am also a Sidesperson for Baptisms at St Nicolas and enjoy attending Candlelit Church and Open Church during the week.



A Gift for All

have deep joy in how we have discovered and grown in God's gift of living creatively with difference in the parish's ministry team. If your clergy and readers do not strive to love and encourage each other, to cherish and nurture each other's varied gifts, to support each other in weakness – and be grateful that we are each different – how can we preach these virtues and enable their growth in every church member?

And if they are not seen and known in church members, how can we expect others to be remotely interested in "church" and Gospel?

My hope is always that growth in faith in Christ is infectious – "caught not taught" is the old phrase. Much is made of individual witness – often leading to guilt that we are not better at it. Far stronger in a divided world is the witness of how, in all our difference as team and parish, we journey together. It is only in taking risks together trusting in the promise of God that we find that true friendship in Christ and with others for which we are all made.

My prayer is that God's promise, risk and friendship discovered here over the centuries is day by day renewed in all that we do and say, whether in the wider discussion of church, mission and bishops - or in our local mission as God's people in and for Kings Norton.



One joy for me, of course, is that in a Team we get to hear God's word from such different voices, insight and experience. Over the last month, we have been given Ruth's words after the terrible events in Cumbria and Jayne's heartfelt reflection on her visit to the Holy Land. Fay and Donald are faithful guides in God's wisdom – and from the Kings Norton Festival service we shall not forget John's insistence that all we are called to do is "Love God; love our neighbour – it's that simple!" (He did allow that working this out can be a bit more complicated.)

That same evening, Rebecca preached. As on most Sunday evenings, around thirty of us were gathered – and were privileged to hear God's word through her. I feel that more than thirty would be grateful for what we heard, so we have printed it overleaf.

Rob Morris

Rebecca's sermon at Evening Worship, 11th July 2010. Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Colossians 1:1-14

ery often it seems we live out our lives in a world filled with negative thinking. Our view of the world, of each other, of ourselves, our church is often seen and experienced though a negative lens.

The other week I was talking to some folk from another church. They have a fantastic priest, lots of children and family work going on, they are welcoming and vibrant and yet all the time they kept saying, when I pointed out how good things were, "Yes but we don't have any weddings." It's the same here in our parish. When people make positive comments to us, we too tend to say the "yes but...."

Accepting praise without the 'yes but' tends to go against the grain in the world in which we live, the world's mind set, the world where blame, criticism and not being at ease with the 'good' and the 'positive' is so

common, almost automatic. But this is not the way of God and it cannot be the way of his people or his church.

In our first reading from the book of Deuteronomy we hear about a God who will 'make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings,' It is a beautiful text, a text of a God pouring out his heart to his beloved people - a God who invites his people into covenant with him, into following him in all their ways.

This isn't any old God. This is the God of Abraham, Isaac, the God of Rachel, Moses and of Miriam. Ultimately, this is our God; the one who calls us again and again into a loving relationship with him, with each other and with our world. Our God does not call us to live our lives by some rigid, obscure, life-draining set of rules and regulations, but into a relationship of freedom and love. Do read verses 11-13 again.

"This commandment that I'm commanding you today isn't too much for you, it's not out of your reach. It's not on a high mountain - you don't have to get mountaineers to climb the peak and bring it down to your level and explain it before you can live it. And it's not across the ocean - you don't have to send sailors out to get it, bring it back, and then explain it before you can live it. No. The word is right here and now - as near as the tongue in your mouth, as near as the heart in your chest. Just do it!" Deut 30:11-14 (The Message)

Monday 12th July

I was looking out of my lounge window and spotted a bird's nest in my one of my trees. I quickly ran upstairs to get a better view and was just in time to see a female black bird (I think) feeding three little chicks. I have become quite obsessed with them, checking they are still ok in the morning, throughout the day and before I go to bed. I have told everyone about them and I know I am behaving like a 'mother hen' myself, but I think most people would feel the same. Well, I hope so anyway! I will keep you posted on their progress!



Tuesday 13th July:

The Hawkesley Coffee and Chat group met for a meal at a local Carvery before they broke up for the summer. I was very pleased to be invited along and enjoyed good company and a very nice meal indeed. I was also due to go out with the Café T group in the evening for another meal. By the end of the day I felt very much like the 'Vicar of Dibley' in one of the Christmas episodes, where she gets invited to lots of Christmas dinners and I ended up feeling very full indeed!

Rebecca's Diary...

Friday 2nd July:

I decided on my day off to go and spend a **Ouiet Day over with The Mercy Sisters in** their Covent in Handsworth. I love going there and just having time and space to reflect on life and to pray. I have known the Sisters for about six years now and they always welcome me like a long lost friend. I came home at the end of the day feeling very

refreshed, contented in

Monday 5th July:

my spirit.

A member from our church and I took Holy Communion to two of our church members who are now in Nursing Homes. I spent time being with the lady who is quite poorly, while our church member took the husband off for a walk around the garden. It was quiet in her room and the sun shone gently on us. There was a stillness between us of old friends who didn't need conversation to know each was there We later received Holy Communion in the stillness which a late summer afternoon brings and bade each other farewell until we visit again.

Sat 10th July:

The Green was crowded with lots of people enjoying the sunshine and the Kings Norton Festival. It really was a great day. I purchased three pairs of rather lovely ear rings which I am very pleased with. I also ate a huge ice cream and managed to get most of it around my face, but fortunately only my friend who was with me saw me like that! I felt a good day was had by all!

Paul writes about at the very beginning of his epistle to the Colossians. In these first 14 verses, we are drawn away from negative thinking and into the positive nature of God - into the call to praise, into the great hymn of thanksgiving which follows in verses 15-21. It is full of the most wonderful and uplifting phrases; Paul at his most eloquent.

He is not seeing the people of Colossae through the eyes of the world but through the lens of God himself. And at the heart of what he sees, and of all the affirmation which he pours out in abundance upon the people of Colossae, is the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. God 'has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son, in whom we have redemption of our sins.' (vv 13,14) It is in the good news of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, his victory over death itself that our true joy lies.

In this resurrection life we see God at joy. his most exciting, his most mysterious, his most profound. We see God revealing the depths of his heart and his very nature for the whole world to see. In the death and resurrection of lesus Christ, death itself has ended, life is assured, the true covenant between God and humankind has come to its full fruition.

And it is ours to share. The good news of Jesus Christ is the news which

It is this same freedom and love which can and does transform lives. And it is Christ himself in whom we, you and I, now dwell. It is simply awesome, for in Christ there is no negativity, no criticism, no jealousy, no strife, no hatred, no war, no death - for God's gift to us is of himself.

> God invites us to live our lives differently, to live our lives in him, so that the positive, the building up of each other, the acceptance of compliments and praise become our hallmark. Instead of feeling diffident or embarrassed about our Christian faith. we can stand tall, heads held high in the knowledge of God's complete and passionate love for us and for all peoples right around the world.

This is not an arrogant stance. It is a stance held in the love of God himself. the stance of humility and heartfelt gratitude for all God has given us and continues to give us in Christ. The message of the cross and resurrection of lesus Christ is the message of hope for our world. We are to share it with enthusiasm, with confidence and with

Rebecca Pullin

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3D course, 2010-2011

he **3D** course is the Birmingham Diocesan Course for Developing Disciples. It is described as being "a Bible-based study course for established Christians who want to develop their understanding and discipleship" and runs each year in various venues from September until June. I have particular reason to be grateful to the 3D course; it was whilst leading a group in Harborne a couple of years ago that I first met two rather wonderful people, who told me that they were from the parish of King's Norton. Little did I or they realise that one day that would be my parish too!

Gail and Linda are just two of the thirty or so people from this parish who have been on the 3D course over the last few years. Everyone I have spoken to who has done **3D** has mentioned how much they have grown in their faith, their understanding and their confidence as a result. If you haven't yet done **3D**, now would be a good time to think about whether it would be the right thing for you. It is, in some ways, quite a commitment; the course has 30 weekly sessions, with breaks for Christmas and Easter, and those taking part are expected to come along to as many as possible. However, don't be daunted – it is not an advanced 'academic' course, no previous study is necessary and there are no exams or essays to do! It offers a chance to meet in a friendly and varied group and learn together about the Bible, about God and about what it means to follow Jesus in today's world.

Further details and application forms are available from the clergy and in our three churches. To be sure of getting a place at your preferred venue, apply as soon as possible; the official closing date is August 13th, but if you are reading this article after that date don't be put off; it is often possible to accommodate late applicants. A full list of times and venues is displayed in church, but here are some of those that are likely to be most convenient from this parish:

Mondays at 10.30am Mondays at 7.30pm Tuesdays at 7.30pm Wednesdays at 10.30am

Blackwell (Lickey), St Catherine, The Wheel Bartley Green, St Michael and All Angels Bournville, St Francis Youth and Community Centre Central Birmingham, St Philip's (Cathedral Church)

If you are free that night, the Tuesday evening group at Bournville is likely to be the best option; it will be led by the Revd Canon John Oakes, a very good friend to this parish and a wonderful teacher. Do have a word with myself, or with any of the Team, if you would like to know more about 3D, or would like to talk about whether it may be the right thing for you to do this year.

John White

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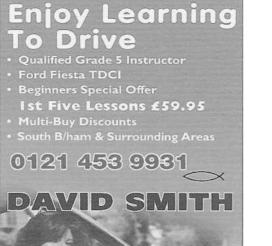
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We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church. The next one will be on Saturday 14th August. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

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

In August, this will take place on Tuesday 17th.

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

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Kings Norton History Society is extremely grateful to the person who donated some Birmingham books and magazines, some of which contain articles and photographs of Kings Norton. The Society is always grateful for such donations. If they are not of particular interest to the Society, we can usually find someone to whom they would be of interest.

Claire Simpson, Chairman



A very special 'Thank You' to the following local businesses who helped to make The Big Lunch happen this year:

King's Norton Farmers' Market L.A Fallon Ltd, Hardware and Plumbing Twist and Curl Unisex Hairdressers James Charles Estate Agents M. A. Edwards Accountancy Ltd. Richards Shoes Every Girl's Dream Ltd. Jackie Thornley from The Chemist Chas Mann Motorcycles Ltd.

Sylvia Fox

St Basil's Update

Lots of people visited the Cardboard House in St Nicolas Church over the Festival Weekend. Several stopped to chat about the work of St Basil's in Birmingham and one of the most heartening things was to hear several people, especially the younger ones, say "but we've never seen it in Birmingham" And that is, primarily, due to the work of St Basil's and other likeminded charities.

One young lady gave all her pocket money – the idea of living on the ground with a bit of cardboard and plastic for protection had made a very deep impression on her (and her reaction made an equally deep impression on her family and me).

Both Sainsbury's (Northfield) and Co-op (Stirchley) helped in the provision of the cardboard to create the house and were very supportive of the whole idea. There are some great people out there, despite what the "popular" press might try to tell us.

Sylvia Fox

Concert at St Nicolas

On Sunday 26th September at 3pm, come to our wonderful church and hear some great music. My friend and colleague, Richard Tunnicliffe, will introduce and play three of Bach's Suites for solo cello. Whether you know and love this music - or you're not sure what a cello looks and sounds like - you will be equally welcome. It will be a wonderful afternoon with tea and cake as well!

Richard is a well known musician with many recordings, broadcasts and concerts to his credit. (We were also baptised together!) Please ask me if you want to know more.

Anna Morris



Thank you for all the support, prayers and best wishes we received for Deb's Ordination on July 4th.The day went really well and we are now looking forward to a new beginning at St Mary's and St Ambrose, Edgbaston and St Paul's, Balsall Heath.

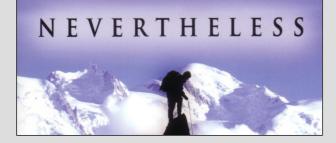
Deb Buckley & Sian Smith

Women's Fellowship

There will be no August meeting but we will meet again in September.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman.

Book Review



.....For such a time as this?

"Nevertheless" tells the incredible story of one man whose vision to bring help to poor and needy people in desperate financial straits, led to the creation of the charity **Christians Against Poverty.**

With extracts from his and other people's diaries and testimonies, John Kirkby paints a powerful picture of God's miraculous provision against all the odds, from early days in Bradford to the international Debt Counselling service still based there that it has become today. Uncompromisingly Christian in his approach, many times experiencing utter inadequacy, rejection and disappointments, he found in the promises and demands of God the grace to carry on. "Nevertheless, in spite of everything..." he writes.

His book is a fascinating account of his journey with God, finishing with events in 2008, before the international financial catastrophe which has befallen us all. Even so, could it be that even in 1992, when his story starts, God was preparing the ground for such a time as this?

"Nevertheless" is published by Christians Against Poverty at £6.99. ISBN 978-0-9546-4107-8.

If you or someone you know is in need of help because of debt, it might be worthwhile making contact with them. They are based in Bradford but have contacts in Birmingham. Their website is www.capuk.org

Tony Hill

Churches Together, Queens Foundation, Worth United, Anthony Collins Solicitors, alongside the Church Urban Fund and the Diocesan Community Regeneration Department.

By the Autumn the team will have met with dozens of existing projects and church workers across the region to establish what resources and support might be required. Key events, including a day with Mark Yaconelli on 1st September, are being held over the summer and autumn for churches, volunteers, clergy and workers to

access valuable tools and knowledge as well as engage with questions over Thrive's priorities for the next year.

For more information, including how you can access the services and signposting Thrive West Midland can provide, please contact Kate Pearson, Sarah Turner or Fred Rattley at the Diocesan Office on 426 0442 or by e-mailing kate@thrivewestmidlands.org

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Our range of St Nicolas Gift Ware.

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Lots of things for 'History Heads'. Local History, General History, Kings Norton History Society Publications.

Keep your eyes and ears open for news of our Special Promotion Week, Sept 27th - Oct 2nd.

Introducing Thrive West Midlands

and Church Urban Fund have recently joined forc- as well as word. es to establish a new entity called Thrive West Midlands. Funding from the Church Urban Fund has enabled the Community Regeneration team to employ more staff to develop and extend their work particularly in developing collaborative activities with other Christian organisations which will enable churches to contribute more effectively to the transformation of their local neighbourhoods.

The aim is to broaden the support that can be provided to churches who are working to tackle issues of poverty and proclaim good news practically in areas that experience deprivation. The experience of the Community Regeneration team is that there is a great deal of passion, look like. commitment and vision in many of the region's churches which would benefit from well directed and tailored support in order to realise their dreams for their work with their local communities. There are even more churches who have the desire to work with their local community to address their many needs but who need guidance in how and where to start. Thrive West Midlands will be an inter-denominational. West Midlands wide initiative that seeks

he Diocese of Birmingham to equip Christians inspired to spread Jesus' good news in action

> Thrive West Midlands aims to deliver local solutions to local problems and has three areas of work:

I.Resourcing the Sector by providing targeted support and signposting churches and projects to a range of high quality resources and services that our partners provide.

2. Creating opportunity for churches wishing to explore how they can effectively serve their local community through both theological reflection around mission and the practical support required for a church working out what a role serving the community might

3.Spreading Influence by enabling churches who are working to address issues of poverty to speak collectively into policy development and strategic decision making at local, regional and national level.

Thrive West Midlands is currently in its initial development stage, guided and overseen by an impressive steering group of experts and practitioners including representatives from Birmingham

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Vintage Beauford Convertibles Modern & Classic Rolls Royces New Shape American Stretch Limos Pair Jaguars COMPETITIVE PRICES 0121 427 7756 Meanwhile Redeeming Our Communities is launching its Birmingham initiative with A Million Acts of Kindness. ROC aims to bring together the 'urban trinity' of church, city council and police to promote flourishing



neighbourhoods, lower crime rate and Christians' engagement within their localities.

A big showcase event is planned for November 16th at the NIA and tickets are already on sale for just \pounds 5 each. (Visit redeemingourcommunities.org.uk/nia to buy tickets for yourself, your friends and your families.) The event will be magazine-style with music and interviews and will feature local people and organisations that are already bringing change to their neighbourhoods.

ROC is bringing a wide range of church leaders together to plan the event and to pray for the good of the city-region. The themes of lonely, isolated people of all ages and the well-being of young people are emerging for this year. Look out for further ROC conversations being held across the region - where people get together to think about the challenges and opportunities in their neighbourhoods.

At a recent ROC breakfast we talked about mapping the local lights that are kept bright by hard working and committed people - an army of unsung Christian heroes who we find serving through churches and community projects. If these lights were brought together their brightness would be overwhelming but so often we downplay our contribution - or to borrow the words of Matthew chapter 5 - hide our light under a bowl.

In Verse 16 of the same chapter Matthew records the words of Jesus: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

My diary, my e-mails and my conversations show me that it is my privilege to see numerous lights shining in Birmingham and region. Let's make sure the politicians, the policy makers and the people around us see these good works done in the name and power of Jesus Christ and so give glory to our Father in heaven.

David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

Bishop's Comment

Diary Forecasts Rising Spiritual Temperature in Diocese.

Frequently my diary is so full that I cannot answer the question 'What are you doing tomorrow?', let alone the following week. Significant meetings and engagements are ranged back-to-back month after

month and I wonder when I will have time to prepare and pray for all the people and places God is bringing to my attention.

Last weekend was a typical example. On Friday, breakfast with members of all of the major political parties was followed by the opening of a community centre in Perry Common, the launch of the West Midlands Christian Police Network and interviews for a key diocesan Education post. In the evening I licensed a new priest in Hall Green. The next day, Saturday, I celebrated a Patronal Mass at St Albans Highgate and launched the building campaign at St Stephen's Selly Park. Confirmations and baptisms at Dorridge and Edgbaston followed on the Sunday.

These local highlights give some indication of the activity of the Holy Spirit and Christian growth that crosses church traditions, ward boundaries and demographic differences. I dare to hope that the evidence of the diary, emails and changed lives indicate a rise in the spiritual temperature in our region.

I expect we are all aware of the political context in which we are now operating. Cuts are inevitable and the Coalition is calling for more community participation - labelled the 'Big Society'. The Big Society calls for a big response and I believe the Church is ready to do just that.

As well as the local initiatives that are transforming lives and changing communities there are some regional movements that are helping to catalyse the churches' participation in community regeneration and political engagement.

Our own community regeneration department, supported by the Church Urban Fund (CUF) is developing its capacity by establishing Thrive West Midlands that will offer support, advice and networking to all Christian community projects across the region.

June 2010 Baptisms

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

- 6th June. Daniel Michael Finn
- 6th June. Toby Joseph Blake Mawdesley
- 13th June. Joseph Andrew Crooks
- 20th June. Summer-Rose Dainter
- 20th June. Rhyanna Charlie Laggan
- 20th June. Sophie Margaret Linthwaite
- 20th June. Ava Grace Moeini-Taba Tabai
- 20th June. Stanley Fred O'Sullivan

May 2010 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

22nd May. Ashley James Heath and Lisa Susan Harvey; the First Civil Wedding held at the Old Grammar School.

June

5th June. Babak Mashhadi Ebrahim and Victoria Helen Theobald

 $\mathbf{5}^{\text{th}}$ June. Dean Michael Oliver and Tara Louise Price

5th June. Roy and Christine Butler

- 12th June. Michael Douglas Large and Catherine Margaret Anne Clewer
- $19^{\rm th}$ June. Shane John Granville Mills and Andrea Joyce Paget
- 19th June. Paul and Patricia Brigden
- $26^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ June. Nicolas John Miskin and Maria Garcia
- 26th June. Robert Stephen Dewick and Wendy Marie Talbot

26th June. Anthony and Lesley Campbell

Harry L. Marks

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

Our June day trip...

We all started to arrive from 11:30am on Saturday 26th June to 'The Log Cabin' at Earlswood. The sun shone down beautifully on us! Gerry had hired a marquee for us to shade under and it was definitely needed! We couldn't believe our eyes when Mavis, Marie, Evelyn and Carol started to put out their lunch...we thought they were feeding the five thousand! After a lovely picnic lunch, some of us went on a walk, played in the field (football, cricket, boules etc), played pin the tail on the donkey as well as a scavenger hunt organised by Sarah. The children (and the adults!) really enjoyed racing to find all the items on their list. Then came the ice cream cornets... what a refreshing end to our games in the sun! Gerry started the barbecue up and Pam, with her merry band of helpers, prepared our evening tea. We had salad, crisps, sausages, burgers, baps and then fruit and gateaux for pudding! It was a fab day and



some of us have already been pestering Gerry to take us again. A highlight of the day for me was watching Mavis try to teach Evelyn how to crochet! Evelyn only wanted to learn the basics, but Mavis was certain she was going to get Evelyn to make a blanket...I never did find out if it got finished!

On the Sunday, Oasis led our All Age service. We had the reading of Elijah and Elisha from Kings. The children read and acted beautifully...What a great weekend!

At Moundsley Hall Nursing Home on Monday $5^{\rm th}$ July, John White went with Fay, Pam and Carol to take part in their usual Holy Communion Service, then afterwards they

were invited over to the new building on the Moundsley site and John White blessed it. Those at Moundsley hope that another Holy Communion service will take place in their new building too.

Sarah Crooks



A big 'Thank You' to our Church family for your support at our son's baptism service on $13^{\rm th}$ June.

Sarah, Jon and Joseph Crooks.



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June 2010 Funerals "I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord" 2nd June. David Paul Rooney, 52. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard. lanet Rita Greenhouse, 63. Service in St Nicolas Church, 4th June. cremation at Lodge Hill. 10th June. Barbara Ann Pritchard, 62. Cremation at Robin Hood. I I th June. Alice Victoria Harrison, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

- Eileen Margaret Brennan, 79. Burial in St Nicolas I I th June. churchyard.
- Suzanne Carol Jevons, 44. Service in St Nicolas Church, 14th June. burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- Dennis Christopher Briggs, 93. Cremation at Lodge Hill. 15th June.
- Karen Janette Hayward, 47. Service in St Nicolas Church, 15th June. burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

- Brian Edgington, 68. Service in St Nicolas Church, 18th June. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- Joyce Margaret Byrne, 71. Service in St Nicolas Church, 21st June. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- Michael William Levey, 58. Service in St Nicolas Church, 22nd June. burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- John Armstrong Young, 65. Cremation at Robin Hood. 24th June.
- 29th June. George William Wright, 84. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- Thomas Bodley, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill. 30th June.

jealous and wish it was our gift. Jesus doesn't want us to be envious, but pleased that something nice has happened to our friend.

To not be envious is to show God's love.

Love is not boastful... When we have something new, sometimes we can show off a bit and we do this because we are happy. We should be thankful when nice things happen to us, but boasting about our good fortunes can make other people feel bad. lesus doesn't want anyone to feel bad so we should be modest and not be boastful.

To not be boastful is to show God's love.

Love is not rude... Do you say 'please' and 'thank you' or 'excuse me' instead of just rushing past? My Nan used to say, 'lt costs nothing to use your manners' and this is very true. In fact, it is polite to use your manners. Jesus always thinks of other people and doesn't like us to be rude to each other.

To be polite is to show God's love.

If we show each other these simple acts of love that lesus taught us then we will be showing just how much God loves each and every one of us.

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Dear God. Thank you for showing how much you love us through Jesus. Help us to always be kind and patient, not envy, boast or be rude. Only then can we share your BIG love with each other. In Jesus' name. Amen.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



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Hello everyone!

Everything we have learned about Jesus over

these last few months has all pointed to one thing - **LOVE**. God's biggest showing of love was giving us Jesus; he did this through his birth, life, teachings, death and resurrection. God did this so we would know just how **BIG** his love for us is. But what is God's loves like? Using I Corinthians 13: 4-5, let's explore and learn together.....

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or rude. I Corinthians 13: 4-5

Love is patient... If you're anything like me, you want things done straight away. I don't like to wait for anything and I become very frustrated and impatient. What don't you like waiting for? God is very patient with us. He doesn't keep bothering us when we get things wrong or take a long time to get to know him and he just patiently waits for us to be ready to know him.

To show patience is to show God's love.

Love is kind... Can you think of a time when you were kind to others, when you have helped someone, perhaps your mum or dad, your teacher or your neighbour? Jesus is always kind; we should be kind to each other too.

To be kind is to show God's love.

Love is not envious... Have you ever wanted something that your friend has got, perhaps a new DVD or the latest game? Instead of being happy for them that they have received a nice gift, we feel

<u>ŇŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮŮ</u>

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ESSENTIALS?

time. "Óh well," I thought, "as morning. long as I have the map, the water, the bedding, the loo, a few clothes and the cooking and eating kit on board – oh, and lots of books – I'll be fine." [They were all there, and I was.]

But it made me think: what are essentials - what are my essentials? Shelter, safe water, warmth/cool (as appropriate), clothes, food and cooking facilities, a bed and a table... and then the Suddenly life has begun to look a little list continues with essentials for the mind ... the books and writing equipment St John's Church, Sparkhill and their and music to make and listen to. But how do you manage if you haven't got any of these and no money to buy them? If you've fled your country as several members of your family have been killed and have "disappeared" and now your own life is in threat, along with 0121 772 0909 or bring items from the it's all gone horribly wrong.

You were pushed into a detention centre they have sufficient of the others) first then interviewed lots of times by people you couldn't understand and didn't seem to believe your story; made to retell those awful, awful moments when your menfolk were killed; now housed with many others in a cold, damp Cotton wool house – where you and the children are crammed into one bed and are often ill and hungry and cold.

And suddenly something goes right again. Also, they currently need a double You hear from another refugee about St pushchair for newborns. John's, Sparkhill and their Narthex project. They suggest you turn up. You

ecently planning for a trip away pluck up huge courage to trust yet in the Camper, I realised I was another so-called support provider and seriously running out of packing you go the next Friday to their drop-in

> There you find someone who listens and understands you, who finds a translator for your own language, helps you with your forms and who provides some food suitable for your faith needs and the ages of your children. They guide you to medical care and provide you with much needed friendship.

> less bleak. Who has made this possible? Narthex Project (www.narthex.org.uk or www.stjohnsparkhill.org.uk). What can we do to help them to continue to provide this help?

Contact them on the website above or your three children; you've arrived in the list below and place them in the basket in UK thinking that all will now be well, but the North Aisle of St Nicolas Church and they will be taken to St. John's regularly: Nappies for 2-5kg (this size only please -Maternity sanitary pads **Breast Pads** Food (no pork), non perishable (no soups) Powder milk Baby bath Holdalls for mums going into hospital to take supplies with them Baby changing mats (not disposable ones)

Sylvia Fox

Shannon Road/Old Portway. Every Sunday – Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's): 10.30 am, 1 st & 3 rd Sundays – Holy Communion; 10.30 am, 2 nd & 4 th Sundays – Morning Worship. Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.				
Immanuel Church Meeting at Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane. Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary school age. 10.30 am, 1 st & 3 rd Sundays – Holy Communion; 10.30 am, 2 nd Sunday – Morning Worship; 10.30 am, 4 th Sunday – All Age Worship.				
Druids Heath Special services are in Manningford Hall and other community buildings – watch out for details.				
Café T Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group context. Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm.				
For Young People Oasis/Sunday School at each Church (see above) Uniformed Organisations and Choir—see the 'Who's who' pages or contact the Parish Office.				
Baptisms and Marriages Forms and particulars are obtained from St Nicolas Church on Thursday evenings between 6.30 and 8.00pm.				
All enquiries to: The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU 0121 458 3289 parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk www.kingsnorton.org.uk The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.				

SERVICES

St Nicolas C Sundays:	St Nicolas Church						
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. 2 nd 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: 2 nd Sunday, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing; 3 rd Sunday, Compline – a quiet and meditative service; 1 st /4 th /5 th Sundays, special services or Evensong (BCP).						
Every Mon/Wed/Thursday: 9.00 am Morning Prayer.							
Every Thursd 11.00 am	lay: 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 Churc	h Wednesdays, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 6.30 – 8.00 pm (Candlelit Church); Thursdays, for all Weddings and Baptism enquiries, 6.30 – 8pm Saturdays, 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, quiet prayer or to look around.						
Candlelit Ch	Candlelit Church						
	Meets every Wednesday, 6.30 – 8.00 pm in St Nicolas, with Bible Study (or, on selected Wednesdays, Taize prayer) 8–9pm <i>Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time; not a formal</i> <i>church "service"</i> . Candles, conversation, creativity, singing, quiet spaces.						
Hawkesley A	Anglican/Methodist Church Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,						



Drop into the Saracen's Head Café for coffee and a cake. and pick up a plant



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e ,	tor), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX	458 3289/459 056
The Rev'd JOHN WHITE (Team		
	am Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8Y	P 459 3733
The Rev'd REBECCA PULLIN (C	Curate)	458 295
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):		
The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON		476 7223
Lay Staff:		
FAY FEARON (Reader),		451 191
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader), c/o	Parish Office	
Church Wardens		
	STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)		838086 or 550 3455
	PETER SMITH	453 9931
Immanuel (Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	243 0573
Candlelit Church Co-ordinator		
Strain Agentication		450 2200
P.C.C. Secretary		458 3289
P.C.C. Treasurer	JONATHAN CROOKS, c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Office:	81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B3	8 8RU 458 3289
	(Office: 10.00 a.m 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 459 2529
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		07778 449170
Choir & Orchestra Practices	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.	
	Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00	-9.00 p.m.
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SARAH CROOKS	
Sunday School/Junior Church Superin	tendents:	
Oasis (St. Nicolas)		458 3289
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Oasis (Immanuel)	NICKY MOORCROFT	
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Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church		
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Headteacher		6467 Fax: 459 6468
Bell Ringers		
Ringing Master	IIM DUNN	744 6334
Secretary		
	Practice. Mondays at 7.30 p.m.	
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers	·····	
		2280 or 208 4013
Secretary		2280 or 208 4013
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers Secretary Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary		

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

1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Women's Fellowship	Ist Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
Seniors' Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)	At Oddingley Hall, Oddingley Road, Northfield. B31 3 Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15-7.45 p.m. Leader: KAREN URWIN Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00-9.30 p.m. Leader: ROB KEENAHAN	3 BS 628 5694 430 6005 244 0789
Guides and Brownies	Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15-9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00-7.30 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: JOHN BOWEN	458 3747
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
Parish Magazine Editor	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
Parish Magazine Treasurer	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	EVELYN FINN, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website		www.kingsnorton.org.uk ster@kingsnorton.org.uk
Saint Nicolas Place:	Cafe and Shop open 10am - 4pm Mon-Saturday 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU To plan and book <u>your</u> event: Telephone: 0121 458 1223 Email: info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk Website: www.saintnico	olasplace.co.uk
The Staff Team:	Acting Centre Manager: Ed Hart Commercial Manager: Kerry Horsfield Heritage and Learning Manager: Megan Nass Bookings & Enquiries: Emma Hancox Duty Manager: Ben Waddington	

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

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

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