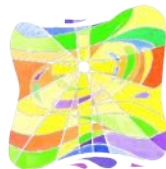


The Parish of Kings Norton March 2009

50p

# Kings Norton Parish Magazine



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

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

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Fairtrade Fortnight  
23rd February to  
7th March 2009

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*Thank you.*

**Items for inclusion in the April  
issue are to be submitted by:-  
Friday 13th March 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

*"In Jesus, God-with-us, Immanuel, the maker and sustainer of all, comes in love into the middle of all that is made, of all that is changing and all that we are..."*

## PARISH REVIEW

**T**ime does not stand still – much as we might want it to. In every age the world moves on.

The world economy, the place and nature of religious faith and the way we discover how to live together justly in all our differences are all in great change – as they have been in every age. They affect all that we are and do together. And we change as people, alive in this shifting world. We are each touched and changed by grief, hope, success and failure, by our experiences of being loved or unloved, confident or fearful, trusted or ignored, bored or excited – or, most often, in between them all.

But in every age, God is here. The core of Christian faith is that God has made all things, but does not stand far off. In Jesus, God-with-us, Immanuel, the maker and sustainer of all, comes in love into the middle of all that is made, of all that is changing and all that we are – laughter, tears, hopes and fears. Through Jesus's birth, life, cross and resurrection, God shows for ever that Love, not death, is the last word, as it is the first. And Love's gift is the Holy Spirit, God dwelling in all

who trust, to renew us and fill us with all that is needed to be fully human,

loving people in Christ, transforming the whole of creation in this life and all that is to come.

That is true in every age, whatever else changes. The Church's task is therefore always to rest in God's love, to live it in word and action, to be light in Christ for all – and to respond to all change with Christ's faithful hope. And that is our task as the parish church of Kings Norton (which isn't just St Nicolas – but Hawkesley, Immanuel and all the other bits working together.)

Where are we going as the world changes? What do we need? What is God calling us to be and do as God's people in and for the Kings Norton part of God's creation? What do we keep? What do we change? What new work should we be looking to discover and do?

Last September we began to look in depth at all that we do as a Parish. The Parish Review (the 5-yearly required Team Review) has taken longer than we expected. We were very stretched before Christmas – but are now returning to full strength of body, mind and spirit.

The most significant factor for delay has, however, been the concern to map all that we do before looking at gaps and seeking to discern God's ways forward. And there was far, far more of "all that we do" than we



thought. (Just for starters, did you know that there were 72 weddings and 87 funeral services in St Nicolas last year?) The raw results are at [www.kingsnorton.org.uk/profile](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk/profile) and will soon be in hard copy for each congregation. They are startling in the range and complexity of what we do – and they reveal that we have much more to do in growing our many mission opportunities, in faith learning/nurture and in sharing together.

We have plenty of Ephesians 4. 7-11, but we need much more of Ephesians 4.1-6 and 4.13-16 - a recurring story in the life of the whole church, here and everywhere else. In Christ, that can change. Please pray this Lent that it does – and us too.

## **CONFIRMATION - Sunday 10th May at 10.30am in St Nicolas with Bishop Tony**

**A** number of people have already asked about Confirmation - and there are quite a few others who are thinking about whether this year is the time.

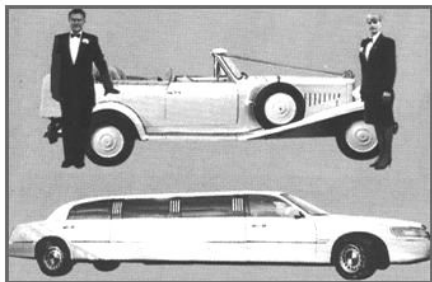
We like to prepare for Confirmation as a journey together - not as a series of "classes". We find that those of us already Confirmed always have much to receive as well as to give those who, as yet, are not.

Our first meeting - for all who would like to be part of the journey - is on Thursday 5th March in St Nicolas Church at 7pm. If you would like to join but cannot meet at that time, we can arrange another for you.

And if you're long-confirmed, but would like a refresher, please feel free to join us. Do have a word with Clergy or Readers.

Rob Morris

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## LENT – PRAYER AND LEARNING

**C**afé T, Candlelit Church and house groups have already begun to discover what we share in our Baptism – and are moving on into Lent study and prayer of what it means to be those who follow Jesus's command to take, bless, break and share bread and wine in Him. Do join them on Tuesdays at 8pm in Saint Nicolas Place, on Wednesday mornings or at 8pm each Wednesday in St Nicolas Church. And if you can't make any of those times, there will be further sessions in St Nicolas Church - and a leaflet for all to use, learn with and grow.

**We have begun with Baptism**, with what begins in the pouring of water in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What do we belong to through Baptism? What does the Bible say about belonging?

**Through Lent we focus on God's gift of Holy Communion – the Eucharist**

**Take** - Word, Bread, Wine and ourselves - How and why do we gather?

**Bless** – What/who is blessed? Who does the blessing – and how?

**Break** - What/who is broken? What is our response?

**Give** - What is given? What is shared? Who receives?

**What then?**

Growth in prayer and use of the Bible will run through it all.

**And it all leads up to Holy Week and**

**Easter** – God's gift of a very special time for us to be renewed in what we really are – sinners whom God takes, blesses, breaks and gives in love for the renewing of all.

**We need the whole story.** Every year, I'm delighted that churches are full on Palm Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> April this year) and Easter Day (12<sup>th</sup> April) and that many also share in Good Friday. But I do pray that many more would see the other days of Holy Week as equally vital. From Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week there are simple services with reflection and prayer.

**And I so long for more to share in two other great times - Maundy Thursday and Easter Eve.**

On both days at 8pm in St Nicolas, great things happen. On Maundy Thursday, we prepare for Good Friday by recalling Jesus' gift of himself in Communion, by the washing of feet (only for those who are willing!), by receiving Jesus' new Commandment that we love another – and by stripping the church ready for watching and praying with Jesus through his agony in Gethsemane. On Easter Eve, we bring the new Easter light into a wholly dark church – and we celebrate with Baptisms and the very first Communion of Easter 2009.

Please place both these in your diary now – and if you are able to join in, I promise that you will be very glad that you did. These too are at the heart of our life in God as his people. Please don't miss out.

Rob Morris

# LENT

**T**he season of Lent developed as a period of preparation of Christians for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ in Holy Week and Easter; a season of expectation. Initially, it was primarily for Baptismal candidates, preparing to be initiated into the Church during the Easter Liturgy. It was also for those preparing to re-enter the sacramental life in time for Easter, following a period of penance for serious sin that had caused them to be temporarily excluded from Holy Communion (excommunicated). The season was marked by penitence, expressed in prayer, study, self-denial [maybe in the form of fasting] and alms giving. Slowly, the entire Church began to realise the benefit of such a season, and adopted it for themselves.

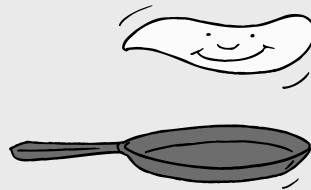
It may also be viewed as a time that follows Jesus' 40 days of testing in the Wilderness [Matt 4 v 1-11; Mark 1 v9-13; Luke 4 v1-13], as well as the 40 years that the ancient Israelites spent journeying through the desert [most of Exodus and Deuteronomy tell their story].

The last three days before the beginning of Lent are known collectively as Shrovetide. This comes from the old English word "scrifen," meaning to shrive or to confess. It was a time of revelry, riotous sports and dancing, as well as confession. There

were feasts to use up the foods that could not be eaten during the Lenten fast (such as eggs, butter, meat, cream, fats, etc.). The Sunday of Shrovetide – Shrove Sunday is also called Quinquagesima – the 50th day before Easter (excluding Sundays).

The Monday is sometimes known as Collop Monday after the traditional dish of the day - collops of bacon served with eggs. These collops used up the foods forbidden during the Lenten Fast and also provided the fat to make the pancakes with the following day. The evening gave way to more riotous sports and revelries, including football with strange area-specific rules (or none at all!) and cock-fighting – and is called Nickanan Night in Cornwall. To go "a-shroving" was to go round singing for money at Shrovetide.

Shrove Tuesday is the day when all the fats, creams and eggs were used up by



making pancakes from batter made with flour, milk and eggs and then fried. Sweetness is now added with sugar or maple syrup, but may have been added with honey in the past. These are the pan-

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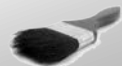


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cakes that give the day its current name, the name of Pancake Day. Pancake races and tossing competitions occur around the UK – often with long histories and superstitions of fertility rites, marriage predictions or devil-banishing attached to them. In medieval time and some centuries after, people used to attend Confession on Shrove Tuesday, so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began. The church bell would ring at 11.00 am and call people to confession and to the beginning of their half-holiday. It was called the Shrove Bell – and eventually earned itself the name of the Pancake Bell – as it acted as a reminder to make the pancake batter too. Shrove Tuesday is both a season of penitence and celebration.

In France and in Sweden, the name is Fat Tuesday [Mardi Gras and Fettisdagen, respectively] after the fats used to cook the pancakes. In parts of France, Mardi Gras is a major carnival period with processions, concerts, street theatre and masks to wear. In Iceland, the day is called Bursting day – referring to the feasting [Sprengidagur].

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and from the Middle Ages, it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The Ashes of Ash Wednesday are traditionally made from burning a few old palm crosses that have been kept from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The ashes may then be mixed with holy water (water which has been blessed) to make a greyish paste, or they may just be used as they are. The Palm ashes help to link the celebrations of Palm Sunday and Easter with the penitence, sacrifice and defeat of Good Friday and the love shown on Maundy Thursday.

The calculation of the 40 days of Lent has varied considerably in Christian history. In the West, it is now usual to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays); so Ash Wednesday is the 6th Wednesday before Easter and the last day is Holy Saturday.

The 4th Sunday of Lent was allowed as a day of relief of Lent and was called Laetare or Refreshment Sunday. The Feast of the Annunciation [the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to tell of the birth of Jesus] also almost always falls in Lent. These two breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the 4th Sunday of Lent.

As Lent passes the relief of Mothering Sunday, the atmosphere of the season darkens. The readings begin to anticipate Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the fifth Sunday of Lent its name of Passion Sunday.

In church, the penitence is marked by "giving up" things – the Gloria (in Holy Communion), flowers in church, Alleluias and other joyful shouts, colourful banners, etc. Some churches veil crosses and statues (throughout Lent until Palm Sunday or Good Friday), but this should



be seen as hiding away the rich, lavish and expensive, rather than obscuring the cross itself. Most churches will encourage personal or corporate prayer and Bible study – and giving to specific causes and charities.

Sylvia Fox

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- Double cream
- Low fat natural yogurt
- Traidcraft fairtrade Demerara Sugar

Approx equal quantities of pineapple, cream & yoghurt, adjusted to taste or dietary requirements, eg. more yogurt to cream to reduce fat. Less sugar if wanted.

## Method

- Prepare at least the evening before required and can easily be prepared 24hrs beforehand
- Prepare pineapple pieces. If using tinned pineapple – open tin & drain
- Whisk double cream until thick in a bowl
- Fold in natural yoghurt
- Fold in pineapple pieces
- Turn into serving dishes
- Sprinkle a good layer of Fair Trade Demerara sugar over the top (do not stir)
- Cover with cling film and keep in fridge until required
- Stir at point of serving. The sugar will have soaked in to a point.

(Recipe by Penelope A Bridstrup for Traidcraft)

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# Women's Fellowship

**O**ur next meeting will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room in St. Nicolas Place. Our speaker for the evening will be Patricia Boyd, who will be talking to us about "What the Bride Wore". Do please come along and enjoy an evening with us. You will be made most welcome.

Can I just remind everyone that 6<sup>th</sup> March is Women's World Day of Prayer which is being held this year at Cotteridge Church at 2.00pm. Anne Ullathorne is the organiser this year. Please give your support.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman.

## **HAWKESLEY CHURCH – Coffee and Chat**

**O**n Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, our Coffee and Chat group met at Midday for a carvery lunch at the Toby Inn Cotteridge. There were nineteen of us and we were pleased to include Donald Sampson and Rebecca Pullin in this number. We enjoyed a lovely meal and there was plenty of chat. All in all, a very pleasant social occasion!

We continue to meet on alternate Tuesdays in Hawkesley Church Pastoral Centre at 10.00am. All are welcome. Our next meetings will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The topics for these will be notified in the Kings Norton Parish newsletters.

Ray Davis

To help us celebrate the Year of the Child, this month we would like to introduce...

## TINY TOTS



“If you go down to St Nicolas Church,  
You’re sure of a big surprise.  
If you go down to St Nicolas Church,  
You’d better go in disguise.  
For Thursday morns are Tiny Tots time  
and lots of fun is had by all, ‘cos



Thursday’s the day the Tiny Tots have their own time.”

**B**etween 9.30 and 10.30 am, St Nicolas Church resounds to the sounds of children having fun. Mums, Nans, Dads, Carers and their small charges, aged from about 5mths and upwards, gather to play, to sing and to listen to stories. Sometimes we do simple ‘crafty’ things and at Christmas we have our own special Crib and carol service. For instance, today we had 12 children with their mums and nans and we made snowmen mobiles, thought about the Creator within each of us and played our musical instruments to some of our favourite action songs.

We are very pleased with the new children’s area in St Nicolas, because now our play time is much more comfortable and safe. Thank you everyone for making this possible, but if we keep telling our friends how much fun we have, we may have to ask you to make it bigger!!

Tiny Tots meets in St Nicolas Church on Thursday mornings during term time from 9.30 – 10.30 am. If you are under 5, then you are very welcome to come along, but you must bring an adult with you.

Revd Jayne



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## Prayer on being made redundant

'Redundant' – the word says it all -

'useless,  
unnecessary,  
without purpose,  
surplus to requirements.'

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that in the middle of

the sadness,  
the anger,  
the uncertainty,  
the pain,

I can talk to you.

Hear me as I cry out in confusion,

help me to think clearly,

and calm my soul.

As life carries on,

may I know your presence with me

each and every day.

And as I look to the future,

help me to look for fresh opportunities, for new directions.

Guide me by your Spirit,

and show me your path,

through Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. **Amen.**

[www.cofe.anglican.org/prayers](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/prayers)



# Women's World Day of Prayer

'IN CHRIST THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS YET ONE BODY'

On Friday 6th March over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian Women in Papua New Guinea.

Emma Wilcock, President of the National Committee for Women's World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said:

*'This is always an exciting day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that the first service will begin at sunrise in Tonga and travel around the world until the sun sets in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then, the Day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland alone over 5,000 services will have been held.'*

There will be a service at Cotteridge Church at 2pm; All are welcome.

Further information and resources can be found on the Women's World Day of Prayer website at [www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org).

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## **January 2009 Baptisms**

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

25th January 2009

Ruth Alana Haynes

## **January 2009 Weddings**

*"Those whom God hath joined together"*

17th January 2009, David O'Sullivan and Carrie Monahan

## **January 2009 Funerals**

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

7th January, Ruth Watkins aged 92. Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Brandwood End

7th January, Josie Mary Harrison aged 86. Cremation at Lodge Hill

8th January, Cicely Rose aged 86. Interment of Ashes in Churchyard

12th January, Dennis Thomas Rowley aged 61, Cremation at Lodge Hill

14<sup>th</sup> January, Muriel Viapree aged 91. Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery

15<sup>th</sup> January, Jean Whitley aged 77. Cremation at Lodge hill

16<sup>th</sup> January, John Burgess aged 89. Cremation at Robin Hood

21<sup>st</sup> January, Gertrude May Pitt aged 94. Service in St Nicolas; Burial at  
Brandwood End

22<sup>nd</sup> January, Irene Elizabeth Brooks aged 87. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in  
Churchyard

23<sup>rd</sup> January, Margaret Lilian Bird aged 76. Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Lodge Hill

26<sup>th</sup> January, Emily Eirwen Morgan aged 94. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in  
Churchyard

27<sup>th</sup> January, Patricia Wrenn aged 86. Cremation at Lodge Hill

30<sup>th</sup> January, Mary Teresa Ingram aged 87. Burial in Churchyard

30<sup>th</sup> January, Christopher Stephen Rayner aged 84. Service in St Nicolas;  
Cremation at Robin Hood

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## **BOXHOLDERS' COLLECTION AND DONATIONS**

**T**he amount raised at St Nicolas Church this year is £448.35, bringing the running total raised since 1985 to £15,412. Many thanks to all concerned for their continued generosity and support.

Pat Dovey, Box Secretary.

Immanuel Church make a separate collection and their total for this year was £334.10.

### *Information from The Children's Society Magazine:*

The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK. Our national network of centres delivers specialist services for disadvantaged children; children who are unable to find the support they need anywhere else. Our schools work, children's centres and mentoring programmes help children develop the skills and confidence they need to make the most of their childhood, while our research and campaigning influences the thinking of everyone, creating real change and making childhood better for all children.

*Shearon 's story:*

Shearon is 14 and lives in Bristol. Like many teenagers today, he's got worries about family, friends and school. But for him, with the breakdown of his family, life got even harder.

When he was seven years old, his mother started drinking. Almost overnight, he became the main family carer, looking after his sister after his dad walked out. The increased responsibility meant that soon he was missing days at school. Taking out his frustrations by getting involved in vandalism meant that the police started to take notice. By the time he was 11, his life was out of control and he didn't know where to turn. Fortunately, that's when The Children's Society stepped in and began to work with him, introducing him to a mentor who became his role model. Now he's doing better at school, has a career ambition and knows that he can always drop into Right Track whenever he starts to feel under pressure.

A prayer for The Children's Society:

Heavenly Father,

Your Son loved children so much that he said  
"whoever welcomes a child welcomes me."

Renew us in your Spirit so that together  
we may create a world  
where children and young people  
find a welcome that befits Christ Jesus our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

*Leyla's story:*

Leyla is 7. She has recently arrived in the UK with her mum, after her Kurdish family fled from Iran. She is currently living in a hostel in Birmingham, while her mum waits to hear what is to happen to them. They're not sure what has happened to her dad, who left to come to England before they did, but from whom they've had no word since. Leyla and her mum have been in the hostel for five weeks already. There is nothing for Leyla to do. There is no outside area and no indoor area suitable for play. There are no toys or books; not even scrap paper and crayons.

There are other children, but since their families are likely to be "dispersed" at short notice, forming supportive friendships is difficult. As a result, the hostel's Health Worker has expressed concerns about Leyla's mental and emotional wellbeing.

The sessions run by The Children's Society provide Leyla access to the accessories to a normal childhood: basic toys and activities, a space to be creative, the opportunity to make something she can take back to her room and keep. Through these sessions, The Children's Society is able to help Leyla enjoy at least some of the pleasures of childhood.

For lots more information on The Children's Society, visit [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

# 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

## WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

### Clergy:

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

### Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON 476 7223

### Lay Staff:

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

### Church Wardens

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

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

P.C.C. Secretary .....Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT  
P.C.C. Treasurer .....Revd JAYNE CROOKS, c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Office: **81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU** 458 3289  
(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fax: 459 2529

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

Organist and Music Director .....SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA 07778 449170

Choir & Orchestra Practices .....Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.  
Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.

Immanuel Music Group Leader .....SARAH CROOKS

### Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

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

### Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church  
Primary School .....Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR  
Headteacher .....GRAEME DOBSON 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

Bell Ringers .....Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower  
Ringing Master .....GEORGE HARRISON, c/o Parish Office  
Secretary .....CLAIRE CALVER 458 2342

Kings Norton Handbell Ringers .....Practice, 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:*



<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. <b>Secretary:</b> CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
<b>Seniors' Club (Over 65's)</b>	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
<b>PRODH</b>	KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)	430 6005
<b>Scouts and Cubs (198th &amp; 129th Birmingham)</b>	Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. <b>Ahmeek:</b> PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. <b>Leader:</b> JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. <b>Leader:</b> ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 244 0789
<b>Guides and Brownies</b>	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.	
<b>Guides and Brownies</b>	<b>At Hawkesley Church Centre:-</b> 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.	
<b>Kings Norton Society</b>	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
<b>Kings Norton History Society</b>	Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
<b>St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup</b>	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.	
<b>Parish Magazine Editor</b>	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
<b>Parish Magazine Treasurer Advertising Manager</b>	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA Evelyn Finn, contact via Parish Office	486 2837 458 3289
<b>Parish Website</b>	GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	www.kingsnorton.org.uk
<b>Historic Kings Norton Staff:-</b>		
<b>Centre Manager</b>	GRAEME CLARKE	458 1223
<b>Programme Dev &amp; Marketing</b>	CLIFF COTTERILL	458 1223
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<b>Duty Supervisor</b>	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.  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Compline – a quiet and meditative service;  
1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, special services or Evensong (BCP).

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

## Tiny Tots

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

## Open Church

Wednesdays, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm  
and 6.30 – 8.00 pm (Candlelit Church);  
Thursdays, for all Weddings and Baptism enquiries, 6.30 – 8pm  
Saturdays, 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, quiet prayer or to look around.

## Candlelit Church

Meets every Wednesday, 6.30 – 8.00 pm in St Nicolas, with Bible Study (or, on selected Wednesdays, Taize prayer) 8–9pm  
*Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time; not a formal church "service"*. Candles, conversation, creativity, singing, quiet spaces.

## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;  
10.30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;  
10.30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Morning Worship;  
10.30 am, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – All Age Worship.

### **Druids Heath**

Special services are in Manningford Hall and other community buildings – watch out for details.

### **Café T**

Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group context. Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.00pm.

### **For Young People**

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

## **Baptisms and Marriages**

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

### **All enquiries to:**

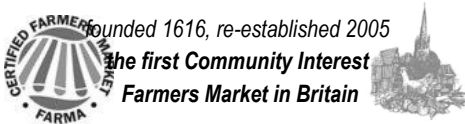
The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham, B38 8RU Tel 0121 458 3289 Fax 0121 459 2529  
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk      www.kingsnorton.org.uk  
The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.

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## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES.....

“Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.” Joyce

“Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.” Larry

“Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in my family and I can never do it.” Nan

“Dear God, If you watch in church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes.” Mickey D

“Dear God, If you give me a genie lamp like Aladdin, I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set.” Raphael

## NEPAL

**W**hen I was in Nepal last year, they were experiencing power cuts most days for 2 – 3 hours or so. This is due to the country just not being able to generate enough electricity. I have since had an email from one of the families I worked with to say that power cuts are now lasting for 16 hours every day.

It is very difficult for the children to study and is making daily life in the orphanage difficult. It is also expensive to buy candles for daily use and they see this problem going on for many years. They have been looking into alternative means of electricity for the

orphanage and would like to buy a solar panel. The price of the solar energy system is US\$650. It has a long life. Therefore, they are looking to purchase this system and ask for our prayers that they will be able to do this.

Also if any would like to give a small contribution towards raising the funds for this project you can contact me on (0121) 608 0658. They have been able to raise so far 15% of the money needed. Thank you.

Stuart Whitby


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# 'Parish People'

People from all  
walks of Parish Life.

This month we meet someone who has been delivering this magazine for over 18 years!

Interviewer Alan Haynes

## Alison Blumer



### Where were you born?

In Loveday Street Hospital, Birmingham. I lived in Kings Norton until August 1981 when I got married to Malcolm and we moved up to Sunderland. We came back to live in Kings Norton in January 1989.

### What is your occupation?

I am an accounts assistant, working for Catercall Technical Services Ltd. I have worked there since 2001. Before that, I was a Dinner Supervisor at Kings Norton Primary School. Originally I worked for Barclay's Bank, but I left when we had children.

### Why Kings Norton?

I grew up in Kings Norton. My parents used to take me with them to St John's, Sparkhill, but then my dad joined the choir at St Nicolas and I started going to the Sunday School. I have been coming here ever since.

### Why is your Christian faith important to you?

It is something that I can rely on to help get me through the week. Coming to church on a Sunday 'charges' me up again. I like to be involved in the life of the church and have been a magazine distributor for over 18 years and the magazine treasurer for at least 10 years. I have also co-ordinated the flower rota for St Nicolas for about 10 years. During the time Eve Pitts was a vicar in the parish I used to be in a singing group during services and also helped to run Tiny Tots.

### What are your hobbies and interests?

I like listening to music and going to the cinema and theatre – although I've not been for a while. I like musicals and had planned to go to one in London last summer while I was visiting my son, Kevin. I did get to see Joseph and his Amazing



Technicolor Dreamcoat with Philip Schofield when it was on at the Hippodrome in Birmingham. I also like murder mysteries like Morse and Midsomer.

I was actively involved (Treasurer) with the Parents Association whilst the children attended Kings Norton Primary School.

### What is your favourite memory?

My wedding day. We got married at St Nicolas on a sunny Saturday in August 1981.

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

My luxury would have to be a CD player with a mixture of pop and classical CD's. I would like the book to be a Murder Mystery like the Ruth Rendell collection I'm reading at the moment.

### What are your hopes for the Church in Kings Norton?

I would like to see us grow together in harmony.

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we'll be there*

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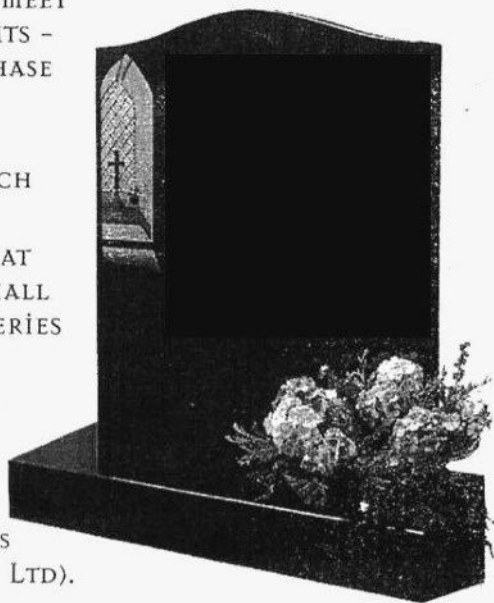
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# GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH

**D**uring Lent, we are encouraging people to increase our prayer for mission and outreach in Immanuel's neighbourhood. Sadly, prayer meetings are often the worst attended meetings in any church, so instead we will incorporate some extra prayer about our neighbourhood into Sunday services.

We are asking people to sign up to spending some time praying for the neighbourhood on one day during Lent (say for half an hour that day) and then contacting the next person on the list to hand over the responsibility for praying on their day. Forty people covering forty days. This will include a prayer that can be shared over the phone, text, email or during a visit. We will also have a Prayer Focus for our neighbourhood for each week of Lent, introducing it each Sunday and including a linked challenge, such as praying for local businesses and the challenge being to buy something

from one of the local shops that week.

In the spring we will be organising a Prayer Walk around the neighbourhood. We will also be producing regular PrayerWorks Bulletins to help people by providing some suggestions of what to pray for in our mission and outreach.

Susan Haynes



## **BIRMINGHAM ICKNIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR**

The Birmingham Icknield Male Voice Choir is appearing in the Birmingham St. George's Day Concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sat 25th April. This choir gave a concert in St Nicolas last September, to help raise church funds.

Sylvia Fox

# CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Karen

Dear friends,  
With March has come the season of Lent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for Easter by thinking of how we have been this year, how sorry we are for the times when we have upset others and try to think of ways we can do better. My story is just a bit of fun, but it does have an important message.

Karen

## The Little Monster

There was once a little girl called Carrie. She was eight years old and she had had one of those days. You know, the ones where everything you do goes wrong. First, when she got up in the morning, she could only find one shoe and when she told her Mum, expecting her to come and help her look, her mum had just said, "Well you'd better look some more. I'm fed up of you never looking after your things. You took your shoes off last night, you'd better find it this morning!"

It took her ten minutes to find her shoe and then everything was a rush. She was trying to be so quick eating her cereal that she spilt the

milk all down her school blouse and, as the other ones were in the washing machine, she had to wear one of her old ones that was really too small.

At school, because she was in a bad mood, she shouted at her teacher when he came over to try to help her with a sum that she was stuck on, so he sent her to the Head Teacher for her bad attitude and she had to stay in at play-time. Carrie sulked for the rest of the day, meaning that none of her friends wanted to sit next to her in the hall at dinner-time because she kept snapping at them and her best friend wouldn't even talk to her at the end of the day when they were waiting to be collected.

Her mum asked her if she had had a nice day at school and Carrie shouted, "NO! I've had a horrid day and it's all your fault!" As soon as they got home, she ran up to her





Carrie's mum thought she would be better left alone, so she made herself a cup of tea and sat down to watch EastEnders.

Upstairs, Carrie was still cross. "I HATE SCHOOL!" she shouted and threw her teddy bear on the floor. "I HATE MUMMY!" she yelled and threw her doll out of the door. "I HATE EVERYTHING!" she screamed and threw her books one by one all over her bedroom.

Exhausted, Carrie sat on her bed and it was then that she noticed her feet had changed into paws. And as she looked at them in amazement and shock, she watched as her legs suddenly became furry. And it didn't stop there. The fur kept growing all up her body, down her arms and then it started to grow on her face.

Carrie ran to the mirror and watched her nose change from pinky skin to a wide brown nose like a lion's. She watched as her eyes changed from brown to green and her hair changed to the same fur that now covered the rest of her. "OH NO!" she cried, "I've changed into a monster!" and then she did a sensible thing, the first sensible thing she had done all day.

"MUMMY!" she called, "HELP!"

Carrie's mum came running up the stairs and, at first when she saw the monster, she thought that this was what was hurting Carrie.

"Where's my daughter, you horrible thing? What have you done with her?"

"But mummy, it IS me!" said Carrie. Her mum was surprised. She put her hands on her hips. "Well I

never!" she said. Then she stood looking at her daughter. "So it's finally happened. You've turned into a little monster."

"But Mummy I don't WANT to be a monster!" Carrie cried.

"You don't seem to have been given much of a choice!" her mother answered. "Still, it might not be permanent, but you will have to work hard if you want to get back to being Carrie.

"I do, I do! I'll do ANYTHING!" Carrie exclaimed.

"Okay, well you have to be sorry for all the people you have upset today. And I mean really sorry. You won't change back just by saying the word. You will have to mean it in your heart."

Carrie dropped her head. "I have been horrid today haven't I? I was cross because I couldn't find my shoe, but if I had put them together last night, I would have found them together this morning. If I had found my shoe, I wouldn't have been late and spilled my milk and then I wouldn't have had to wear my old blouse. I was horrid to you and it was all my own fault. Then I was mean to my teacher and my friends, just because I was in a bad mood and they were trying to be nice to me. I'm sorry, mummy, and I will ring my friends now and say

sorry to them too and maybe I could write a letter for my teacher to apologise to him as well.

Carrie got to work straight away. First, she made her mum a nice cup of tea and then she started ringing round her friends. After each phone call, some of the fur

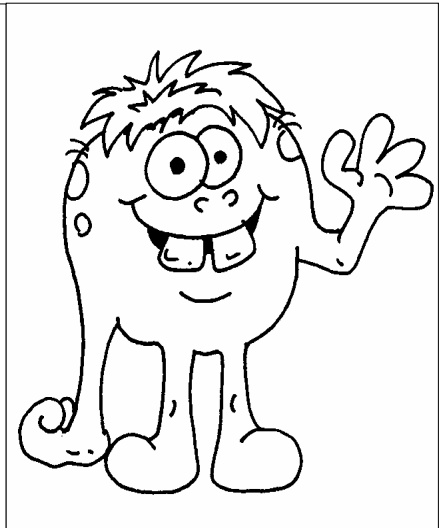
she had talked to them all, she looked perfectly normal, apart from her feet. She sat down and had her tea. Then she wrote a letter to her teacher and took extra time doing her homework in her best handwriting and making her story twice as long as usual. As she finished, she looked down and breathed a big sigh of relief to see all ten toes wriggling under her stripy socks.

It had been a long day and a busy evening and Carrie was more than ready to go to bed. As her mum tucked her in she kissed her head and said "Good night my little girl and remember, even when you are a little monster, I will always love you." Carrie snuggled down in her bed and said "I love you too mum and from now on I'm going to try really hard never to be a little monster again."

We all have times when we are cross or tired and we act like little

little monsters out!

I've got a picture of Carrie as herself and as a little monster below. Perhaps you would like to colour them.







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## KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

At the Society's meeting on Monday 30th March, Diana Perowne will give a talk to mark the bicentenary of the death of the Birmingham entrepreneur Matthew Boulton. The meeting will start at 7.00 pm and the talk at 7.30. Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman





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## HISTORY OF HYMNS

**M**arch this year sees us journeying through Lent. A very traditional Anglican hymn for Lent is "Forty days and forty nights". It was first written by Rev George Smyttan in 1856 and had 9 verses. Francis Pott and Percy Dearmer each revised it and it is the former version printed below. It does not really deal much with the inner spiritual conflicts that were the greater part of Christ's temptations, but only the outward and physical sufferings attached to them. It uses the short account from Mark 1 vv 12-13 rather than the longer accounts in Matthew 4 vv 1-11 or Luke 4 vv 1-13 as the basis for the hymn.

The tune we usually use for it is called Heinlein or Aus der Tiefe and is probably by Martin Herbst (1654-81) in a collection called Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch of 1676.



Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:

Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrows share,  
and from earthly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
glad with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;  
holier round us too shall angels  
shine,  
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

Jean Holloway of Scotland has written another hymn beginning with the same opening line. This more modern hymn links the desert tempta-

tions with the story of Christ's Passion. The whole of Jesus' ministry comes between the two events in real life, but it is only now in our Christian calendar that the 40 days of Lent lead straight into the remembrance and reliving of the events of Passiontide. In verses 1-3 & 5, the first half verse retells the story and the second half verse is a prayer, asking for strength in our own journey of faith.

Forty days and forty nights in Judah's desert Jesus stayed;  
All alone he fought temptation, all alone he fasted, prayed.  
When the heat of passion rules me, when I feel alone, betrayed,  
Lord, you meet me in the desert, strong in faith and unafraid.

In the garden, his disciples slept the darkest hours away,  
But our Lord did not condemn them when they would not watch or pray.  
Make me constant in your service, keeping watch both night and day.  
Give me grace that I may never such a love as yours betray.

When the rooster crowed at daybreak, Peter's fear and panic grew.  
He denied three times the charge that Jesus was a man he knew.  
When my love for you is challenged, when the faithful ones are few,  
Give me courage and conviction to proclaim my Lord anew.

Soldiers came, the Galilean was arrested, bound and tried,  
And upon a wooden cross the Son of God was crucified.  
In the darkest hour of torture, Jesus raised his head and cried,  
"Why hast thou forsaken me?" and, faithful to the end, he died.

With a sword they pierced his side – himself, they jeered, he could not save;  
Joseph then prepared the body with sweet spices for the grave.  
This, the precious, broken body which for me my Saviour gave;  
Such a love as his I long for, such a faith as his I crave.

*The book I have been using for some of my information is called "A Hymn Companion – Insight into 300 Christian Hymns" by Frank Colquhoun.*

Sylvia Fox

# PRODH

Project for the renewal of Druids Heath

Hello,

**P**RODH has two integrated aspects to its work. The first is helping the community in practical ways to fulfil its potential; The other is developing a spiritual presence on the estate. Not bringing faith to the estate but providing a focus for God's work that he is already doing there.

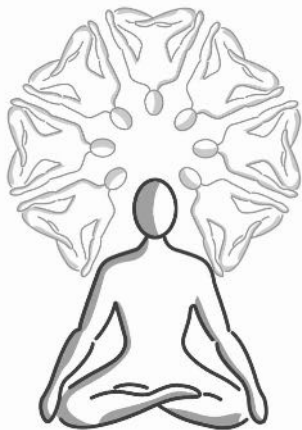
As I mentioned last month, we have been running fortnightly prayer meetings on Friday afternoons at Dell Meadow in partnership with Pavilion's Church and Dickens Heath Village Church. These have been very successful and have been an incredible source of strength for me in my work. We have decided to begin also meeting fortnightly on Wednesday mornings, so that there will be a Prayer Meeting every week. These will start in April. We have just distributed publicity posters and the Oaks Primary School have agreed to sending leaflets out with every child with all the relevant dates, so we hope to get some residents joining us soon.

I attended the first session of a course entitled 'A Church Shaped for Mission' last Wednesday. It is being run by 'Together in Mission' in partnership with the Diocese of Birmingham. I found it really interesting and it gave fascinating

information that was very inspirational, leading me into completely new ways of thinking. There are six sessions, approximately one a month, so watch this space in the future for a final report.

The Community Consultation, that I mentioned before, will be done through Focus Groups. Small groups of six to twelve people who live on the estate, the members of each group chosen having something in common with one another. I will need some help with recording what they say and Canon Rob Morris has been very supportive resulting in a training session being run for a number of church members, which will hopefully lead not only to having people to choose from to aid me in my work, but also church members with the capacity to use this consultation device for future uses within the Parish.

God's Blessings  
Karen



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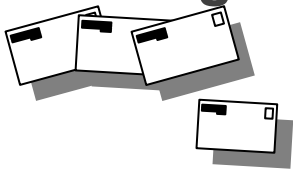
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# Letters Page



Dear Readers,

I wonder whether you could include my brother in your prayers. His name is John Maybury and he died in Canada on Saturday morning, 31 January 2009 at the age of 66. He was christened at St Nicolas' Church (by Rev Audrey), attended the Church, was a member of the Youth Fellowship and was also married there.

I would very much appreciate if you could include John in your prayers as St Nicolas' Church played an important role in all our lives and we were all born and brought up in Kings Norton.

Kate Clark.

Write to:-

**Kings Norton Parish Office,  
Saint 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.

# Sudoku

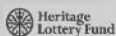
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