The Parish of Kings Norton

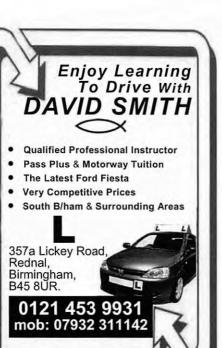
Kings Norton Parish Magazine



February 2007 50p



A Church of England Team Parish incorporating the churches of Druids Heath - Hawkesley - Immanuel - The Parish Church of St. Nicolas e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk



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

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Items for inclusion in the March 2007 Issue to be submitted by:-

Monday 12th February

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 it's 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

Lent – what an opportunity

"We will have so much opportunity from then until Easter Day on 8th April to grow, discover, laugh, be excited – and change."

Lent - what an opportunity

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is on 21st February, with services at 7.30 am. and 8.00 p m in St Nicolas, following Candlelit Church..

We will have so much opportunity from then until Easter Day on 8th April to grow, discover, laugh, be excited – and change.

Shouldn't Lent be gruelling, miserable, self-denying? It can be – if that is what we really need. And for some, it is a welcome time for quiet and recollection.

But it doesn't have to be only about giving things up, as long as we want to change a few things to give it room to grow in us.

What are we doing – in addition to our normal offerings of worship and events?

Stages on the Way

The Two Great Commandments. We introduce these on Sunday 28th January and ask that all will explore and make them their own over the following four weeks.

The Lord's Prayer – to be introduced on Sunday 25th February (Lent 1)

Sacred Space - a morning with Canon Gary O'Neill from our cathedral exploring worship and sacred spaces on Saturday 24th February: from 10.00 a.m. -12.30 p.m.. Exploration and discussion sessions will follow later in March.

Loving our Neighbour This year we are using the Diocesan Lent Course for our Lent Groups and discussions. Look out for full details.

We shall also be offering the **Diocesan** Lent Booklet as last year to church members, friends and to local schools and other community groups.

...and there will be groups for Confirmation and for others who want to know more about faith and living.

...and Holy Communion every Wednesday in Lent at 7.30am in St Nicolas.

Please make Lent yours – with us! If you want more, just ask.

Canon Rob Morris

Lent 2007: Kings Norton



It's true! There are 3000 of the Love Life Live Lent 2 booklets coming to Kings Norton in early February for schools, congregations and pastoral contacts that we are all involved in. Do take the time to have a look at a booklet or perhaps even use one on a daily basis through lent to support our thinking through of the issues raised in the booklet. You may like it so much that you would like to pass a copy to someone else!

In addition, we shall be offering a series of different Lent courses either set up specially or based with existing groups. Do consider carefully if you would like to be part of Lent 2007 with others or making some particular space for thinking on the things of God yourself.

More details will be available soon via the Parish Office, the Parish Website and the Parish Newsletter.

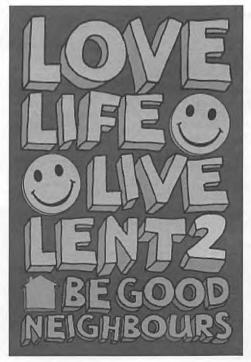
Revd David Gould

Cover Photo



Ruth Snashall, pictured with Bishop David, at her licensing as 'reader'. The ceremony took place at Birmingham Cathedral on Saturday 13th January.

(see page 7)





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HELLO FROM RUTH



Hi! My name is Ruth Snashall and I am a member of Immanuel. In September 2005 I started training to be a Reader and on Saturday 13th January 2007 I was licensed, by Bishop David, as a Reader in the Parish of Kings Norton. I thought I would take this opportunity to let you know something about me. I have been a member of Immanuel for about six years. I play my flute in the music group and am a member of the DCC. During my Reader training I have preached at Immanuel, St. Nicolas and

Hawkesley, as well as leading services at Immanuel and evensong at St. Nicolas. Outside of church life. I work as a paediatric nurse at Birmingham Children's Hospital. This can be very hard, but also very rewarding. I also enjoy socialising when I get the time! As a Reader in the parish I hope to be able to spread God's word in a variety of ways and I am excited to be taking on this new role within the church.

God bless, Ruth Snashall.



Ruth with some of her friends and supporters at the Licensing Ceremony

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CHRISTIAN AID 2007... CHRISTIAN AID 2007



'PLEDGE IT'



Prayer and World Needs Group have launched a new fund raising activity called "Pledge It"

"Pledge it" is an opportunity to join with others in organising fund raising events for Christian Aid.

Anyone and everyone can join in.

All you have to do is link up with other people informally, or as part of a formal group, and come up with a fund raising idea e.g. a sponsored activity, a sale of goods, a coffee morning, car wash etc. the list is endless!!! When you have decided on an event, a member of the Prayer and World Needs group will get you to fill out a cheque from the "Pledge it" book of cheques, making a promise to give the proceeds of your activity to Christian Aid.

You have between now and May when the Christian Aid Event will be held to raise your money. At the event there will be a celebration of all the money raised and the hard work and creativity that has gone into raising it.

To let us know your ideas contact Joan on 0121 458 5709 or e-mail us at: kurwin@blueyonder.co.uk

Help us make a difference and "Pledge It"

CHRISTIAN AID 2007... CHRISTIAN AID 2007

Bishop David's Message for Lent... and beyond ...

Let's Observe Lent in a Disciplined and



THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM www.birmingham.anglican.org

Joyful Way



In 2007 I am asking that we all together observe Lent in a disciplined and joyful way. Instead of a Bishop's Lent Appeal for funds want encourage us all to help people participate Love Life Live Lent 2.

I am excited by the concept and the actions of becoming

neighbours. In fact after a couple of months of getting to know the Diocese, I think that nothing could be more important, in our witness to Jesus Christ, than moving beyond mere tolerance of others to celebration and friendship as we appreciate cultures, faiths and backgrounds different from our own.

It is a great encouragement that so many people in the Diocese have already ordered copies of Love Life Live Lent 2 - Be Good Neighbours. Now you might want to start planning for some of the actions that you may want to arrange with friends from church. school. work or home. These includes a pancake party on February 20th, visiting the Forgiveness Project at St Martin in the Bullring Church from March 4th to March 10th and joining the vigil in support of asylum seekers and refugees on March 19th from 5pm to 6pm.

"I think that nothing could be more important, in our witness to Jesus Christ, than moving beyond mere tolerance of others to celebration and friendship as we appreciate cultures, faiths and backgrounds different from our own."

Bishop David

March 25th is the day on which the Bi-Centenary of Abolition of the slave trade is being marked across the UK. It is an important day to reflect on the legacy left by this unjust and inhuman trade and to remember that human trafficking continues across the world today.

The booklet offers a practical and friendly way of involving friends and families on the edges of church life and I urge you to buy two copies for each member of your congregation. They will be available from the Diocesan Office from the end of January.

In addition this year a distinguished team is assembling supporting study suitable for Lent groups. All-age worship and Junior Church material will also be available. If you have any questions about this vital initiative please contact my of Communications, Foster, on 0121 426 0438

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Druids Heath Christingle, Pancakes and Whatever Next?

For many months now discussions have continued about how, when and where a new ministry could develop in Druids Heath. What would it look like, where would it meet?

On Christmas Eve, a Christingle and Carols service was held in Manningford Hall on Bells Lane and many from Druids Heath joined others from across our parish and deanery. It was great to see such a coming together and a full hall. The obvious question follows: What Next? Well, the answer is a Pancake Party on Tuesday February 20th, 4.30 - 6.30 p.m. at Manningford Hall.

Don't worry though; those of us with appetite will be delighted to go onto the Pancake Party the same evening at Hawkesley Church. Nothing like enjoying two bites at the cherry, err, pancake....

Do watch for further details in the parish newsletter or call the Parish Office for details.

Finally, do pray that as we take these small steps at Druids Heath, building partnerships and developing new friendships, God would be honoured in all that is done. Thank you.

Revd David Gould

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Thank you...

Hawkesley Church Dates for your Diaries

Coffee & Chat which, resumed on Tuesday 9th January, will continue to meet:-

fortnightly on Tuesdays at 10.00am in the Pastoral Centre.

Next Dates: Tuesday 6th Feb
Subject - "TBC"
Tuesday 20th Feb
Subject—"TBC"

Further details will be included in the Parish Newsletters. All are welcome.

Hawkesley DCC Tuesday 30th Jan at 7.30pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening



20th February

at 7.00 for 7.30pm with a fun quiz. We would welcome your support for this annual event which has proved Very Popular.

More news from Hawkesley in next month's Parish Magazine.

Ray Davis (Church Steward)

WEDDED BLISS

Research shows couples rate the Reverend as much as the photo backdrop

More than half of those planning to get married in church say that the vicar who will be officiating at their service is just as important a part of their wedding as the setting of the church for their photos, figures released this month suggest.

The findings show that 75 per cent of those opting for a church ceremony say that one of the main reasons for their choice is that they want a 'proper' wedding. They see church as a positive choice, and not 'just another venue'. In fact, 60 per cent of those surveyed said that their church has a particular meaning for them or their fiancé.

The research, released just weeks before the Church of England host stands at the National Wedding Show at the Birmingham NEC and Olympia in London, was conducted at the same event at Earl's Court and the NEC in October 2006. The Church's stand at the National Wedding Shows in Spring 2007 will allow couples to speak to clergy about their big day and married life beyond it. Volunteers will be on hand to give advice on popular readings and hymns for those beginning to plan their wedding service.

The research shows that more than half of couples make the choice of a church wedding because of their own religious beliefs (56 per cent) or because of the 'spiritual or sacred ambience' of the venue (55 per cent). The findings will challenge the perception that many couples turn to the Church primarily to please their parents: less than one in three indicate that their family's religion was a very important factor in their choice to hold their big day in a church or chapel.

This is the first time that the Church of England has commissioned professional research into the reasons that people opt for a church wedding. The study, carried out by Henley Centre HeadlightVision in conjunction with market researchers Farrugia Leo, involved nearly 1,800 respondents. The findings suggested that four out of ten of the weddings being planned by visitors to the shows were due to take place in church. Official Church of England figures indicate that 31 per cent of first weddings in England and Wales were conducted by the Anglican Church in 2003, the latest year with figures available.

Alex Campos, Marketing Manager for the National Wedding Show, believes the research results demonstrate that for many couples the church plays an important role in creating their perfect wedding: "Brides and grooms-to-be who visit the show have very definite ideas about what they feel are the vital elements which will make up the their wedding and for many the church is a core aspect. We are delighted to have the Church of England as an exhibitor at the National Wedding Show. The show is a great platform for them to offer advice and information to relevant couples planning their future together."

The Revd Lynda Barley, Head of Research and Statistics for the Church of England, adds: "These findings will be a pleasant surprise for those many clergy who make a real effort to make weddings special, but they also point towards wider trends in society. Our attendance statistics at Christmas and Easter, especially at cathedrals and landmark churches, suggest a yearning for authentic religious experience.

"Couples preparing to commit their lives to each other clearly value an environment and support network that is about far more than just being a 'venue'. The Church offers an open door before and after the wedding day itself – and this research shows that people appreciate that."

Source Church of England Website www.cofe.anglican.org

Helpers needed for 247th Guides

Are you a potential leader?

The 247th Guides, Birmingham, who meet each Monday evening between 7.15 and 9.00 p.m. at St Nicolas Hall, are looking for Unit Helpers to assist.

Guide Leader, Lisa Hamblin, told our magazine, "We need helpers and are happy to train the right people to become Assistant Leaders. Ideally they should be people with some experience of working with young people and have undergone, or be willing to undergo, a 'CRB' interview."

Lisa added, "Our groups is fun to be with and being part of it is so worthwhile."

Anyone interested in helping, or finding out more of what's required, can contact Lisa directly on 0121 458 1454 or 07814 199128.

Alternatively, you can write to:-

Lisa Hamblin (Leader)
247th Guides, Birmingham
c/o Kings Norton Parish Office
St Nicolas Hall
30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton
Birmingham, B38 8TN



Women's Evening Fellowship

We meet at the earlier time of 7.00 pm on Thursday 1st February at St Nicolas Church - when we will be joining with 83rd Brownies to do some knitting.

Our March meeting is on St David's Day - March 1st at 7.30 pm, when one of our own members, Annette Dickers, will speak to us on a Royal theme.

Gwen Fox

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Kings Norton History Society meet at 7.30 p.m. on the last Monday of each month in St Nicolas Church. Forthcoming events include:-

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2007

26th Feb Mr Mike Glyde on "Aerial

Archaeology in South Worcestershire"

26th March Mr John Burman on "The

CH

Court Leets"

30th April Mr James Melling on "King's

Norton Miscellany"

21st May* AGM - followed by a talk by

Mr Don Hazzard on "Votes for Women! The Suffragettes

Struggle in the West Midlands"

(* this is third Monday in May)

If you would like more information on the Society and it's activities then please contact the KNHS secretary, Mrs Claire Simpson, on 0121 459 5750.

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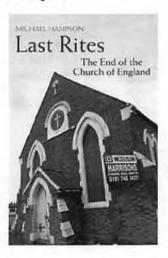
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BOOK REVIEW reviewer Revd David Gould

Last Rites: The End of the Church of England

Michael Hampson Published by Granta £12.99 ISBN 1862078912

Like Christianity itself the demise of the Church of England has often been predicted. More often this is by those outside its sphere or by those who have something to gain or something they want to strike back at the church for. Rare then it is for somebody who has spent thirteen years of his life as a priest and crucially retains a hope for the Church of England to conclude that, without radical change, this really is the end of the Church of England.



I read many books, often improving books that aim to show how the Church, you and I can be more useful in God's hands as the agent of witness to Christian faith. The last I read was by many serious thinkers, many of whom I had met or even knew. However it was only when I read this book that I realised how distant they all were from the day to day life we all have as priest and people. Here is a book by an insider, somebody who until very recently was caught up in the day to day of parish life as a priest. Because of that alone I found myself needing to listen carefully to what he had to say.

Michael traces the fault lines in the Church of England from the reformation onwards and how even now that event or series of events finds visibility today. He argues that many of today's issues so often reported in the press are the visible parts of the otherwise submerged iceberg. He recounts tales from his own experience with a piercing candour that made me wince.

Finance, theology, organisation, lack of hope, declining attendance, moribund, ineffective priests colluding with an almost casual hope that perhaps all is not as bad as it seems contrive together to paint a deeply gloomy picture. Out of that gloom comes the hope after radical change, surgery would be a better word, that there remains hope. That would need a leap of imagination and faith probably not seen since the reformation but he persists with the possibility.

This is why at the end of the book I want to commend it. Perhaps read it for Lent and reflect on the way things are in your experience, how much needs to be changed, or does it? One of the most disturbing statistics was that most of those ordained with Michael gave up ordained ministry before he did and, for varied but similar reasons of disillusion, depression and deep frustration with the organisation amongst other things.

Not an easy read, not easy to dismiss either because when hope remains in the writer I do think it must be taken seriously. My fear is that his words will be dismissed by those who have to strong a hold on the keeping of things as they are which brings me back to how distant so many writers are from the coal face. Michael is not distant and he deserves a hearing...

Revd David Gould

Kings Norton Parish Trip to Spring Harvest



31st March to 5th April 07 places now available

There are several places now available for Spring Harvest this year at Minehead. The cost per adult place will be £190 for self-catering accommodation.

If you are interested in joining us at Spring Harvest or would like more information please email Ruth Snashall at:-

ruth.snashall@

cheerful.com or call on 0121 477 5407 as soon as possible.

If you would like to come but find the cost a hindrance please let me know as arrangements can be made.

> God bless, Ruth Snashall

Prom Praise

a unique and joyful fusion of performance with worship

A delightful blend of sacred and concert music and a unique and joyful fusion of performance with worship, that combines the spirit of Songs of Praise with the world-famous 'Last Night of the Proms.'

At Symphony Hall, on Saturday 3rd Feb 2007. 7:30pm. and under the energetic and inimitable of Principal direction Conductor and Artistic Director, Noël Tredinnick, Prom Praise is a feast of orchestral and vocal music. There is an element of celebration, too, when Noël and the Orchestra invite the audience to stand and join in to sing some favourite hymns and worship songs.

On this return visit to Symphony Hall the Orchestra is thrilled to be joined by a host of exciting guests, including a choir drawn together by Roger Jones of Christian Music Ministries, which will feature in various items including highlights from their latest musical 'Jailbreak'.

Sarah Moorcroft

KIDS Don't ya just love 'em



IT'S THE VICAR, MOMMY

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the vicar, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

FAMILY BIBLE

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mom, look what I found", the boy called out." What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Have your children said funny things? We'd love to hear of them. Let us know by sending to editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

CH

The Church of England today

The Church of England plays a vital role in the life of the nation, proclaiming the Christian gospel in words and actions and providing services of Christian worship and praise.

Its network of parishes cover the country, bringing a vital Christian dimension to the nation as well as strengthening community life in numerous urban, suburban and rural settings. Its cathedrals are centres of spirituality and service, and its network of chaplaincies across continental Europe meet important local needs.

The Church of England plays an active role in national life with its members involved in a wide range of public bodies. Twenty-six bishops are members of the House of Lords and are engaged in debates about legislation and national and international affairs.

The Church of England is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.



Community Involvement

- More people do unpaid work for church organisations than any other organisation. Eight per cent of adults undertake voluntary work for church organisations while sixteen per cent belong to religious or church organisations.
- A quarter of regular churchgoers (among both Anglicans and other Christians separately) are involved in voluntary community service outside the church. Churchgoers overall contribute 23.2 million hours voluntary service each month in their local communities outside the church.
- The Church of England provides activities outside church worship in the local community for over half a million (515,000) children and young people (aged under 16 years) and 38,000 young people (aged 16 to 25 years). More than 136,000 volunteers run children/young people activity groups sponsored by the Church of England outside church worship.

CH

Sources:

Church Statistics 2003/4 and 2004/5
Opinion Research Business national polls



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GREETINGS FROM

IMMANUEL CHURCH

Susan Haynes

e-mail - immanuelchurch@kingsnorton.org.uk



Over recent months we have been exploring "worship". This was started in a conversation at our music group meeting where the question was asked "What is Worship?" Of course, we talked about the whole of our lives being worship - our lifestyles, our choices, our words and actions, etc. but also about the worship that we share in when we get together on a Sunday or mid-week.

We now have 9 service leaders at Immanuel who lead the services alongside the clergy. We have begun to meet together for support and encouragement and to consider ways of development. As we have grown in confidence over the past couple of years in this role, we are being encouraged to plan our own services with a fresh approach within the boundaries of Common Worship. This

has led to more creativity and variety, which we hope to build upon. In March, some from Immanuel will be again taking part in the "Prism of Praise" event in Sutton Coldfield, a day of exploring and learning about worship with another 1,000 delegates! We hope that we will gain more insights that can be brought back to Immanuel. In July we have our weekend away and again, the theme is going to be worship, both in terms of enjoying worship times together and in learning more, particularly regarding the Gifts of the Spirit and how to bring these into our worship in an edifying way.

We look forward to more growth in our worship, building on all that God has been doing amongst us so far.

Susan Haynes.



HAWKESLEY CHURCH PANCAKE NIGHT

Tuesday 20th February - 7.00 p.m. Contact Ray Davis or Peter Smith For more details

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Feast of Candlemas

February 2nd is The Feast of Candlemas. This is when Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple to consecrate their first born son to God and to offer a sacrifice according to the Jewish Law. You can read the fuller story in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2 verses 21 - 40... but two devout and elderly Jews realised that this small baby is the long awaited Messiah... they rejoice deeply and fervently. The Messiah has been introduced to those on the edges of the active world: despised and impoverished shepherds; foreigners and now elderly folk... This festival is regarded as the final part of the Christmas story - and the Liturgical year turns our gaze towards the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday (Feb 21st).

Sylvia Fox

THE GREENERY

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Events Diary February



Send your events to:Kings Norton Parish Office, 30 Westhill Road,
Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8TN
tel:- 0121 458 3289
e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk

February 2007

2ns Feb

The Feast of Candlemas

Feb 17th 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Quiz/Treasure Hunt

St Nicolas Church

(Special Friends Event) Refreshments available.

20th Feb 4.30 -6.30 p.m.

Pancake Café

Manningford Hall

PRODH (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)

invite you to a Pancake Café

20th Feb 7.00 p.m.

Hawkesley Pancake Night

Hawkesley Church

Contact Ray Davis or Peter Smith for details

21st Feb 8.00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Evening Service St Nicolas Church (following Candlelit Church which commences 6.30 p.m.)



Listed here are some of the forthcoming events in the parish and wider community. Details are as accurate as possible. Further information may be obtained from:- The Parish Office 0121 458 3289

THIS IS YOUR SPACE

Tell us of your upcoming events



A Morning with Gary! Saturday 24th February:

Saturday 24th February: 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. in St Nicolas

Gary O'Neill, Canon Liturgist at Birmingham Cathedral, is coming to help us explore how we can make the best use of church spaces in worship and mission - with some music as well.

If you've been in our Cathedral recently, you will know the inspiring and imaginative use they make of their building and music in worship. Gary leads that - and has much to offer us so that we can grow in the same here.



Canon Liturgist, Gary O'Neill, at work in his office

Why not come - and be quietly challenged!

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

The Parish of Kings Norton is a Team Parish comprising the parish church of St. Nicolas and three other District Churches.

WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:		
	tor), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX 458 32	89/459 0560
	am Vicar), 195 Monyhull Hall Road B30 3QN	458 3483
The Revd. DAVID GOULD (Team	Vicar), 53 Wychall Park Grove, B38 8AG	459 5144
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):	•	
The Revd. Donald SAMPSON		476 7223
Hon. Assistant Curate:		
The Revd. JAYNE CROOKS, 15 (Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP	459 3733
Lay Staff:		
Mrs. FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o	Parish Office or	451 1914
Church Wardens		
St. Nicolas	Miss KAREN URWIN	459 7086
	SIAN SMITH c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)	Mr. JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086	
	Mr RAY DAVIS	458 5774
	Mr. PETER SMITH	453 9931
Immanuel (Warden)	ALAN HAYNES	459 4711
(Deputy Warden)	DEBBIE MALONE	
(Deputy Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	
Immanuel (Warden) (Deputy Warden) (Deputy Warden) (Deputy Warden)	STUART WHITBY	
P.C.C. Secretary	Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT	
P.C.C. Treasurer		458 3289
Parish Office:	30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8TN	458 3289
The second of th	(Office: 10.00 a.m 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fa	x: 486 2825
Parish Administrator	30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8TN (Office: 10.00 a.m 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fa Mrs. CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289
Parish Administrator	Ms. RACHEL BANNISTER	458 3289
Finance Administrator	Ms CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289
Organist and Music Director	Miss SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA 07	778 449170
Choir & Orchestra Practices	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.	
and the second of the second o	Friday: Juniors 6.45-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.0	0 p.m.
	Sunday: Before Evensong 5.30-5.45 p.m.	•
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SUSAN HAYNES, 42 Marbury Close, B38 8YX	459 4711
Sunday School/Junior Church Superinten	dents:	
Oasis (St. Nicolas)	MISS SARAH MOURCROFT	
Hawkesley		
The OASIS (Immanuel)	MISS NICKY CROOKS	
IMPACTI (Vouth Group)	Every Sunday, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., at St Nicolas Hall	
MPACTI (Touti Group)		
Hawkesley Anglican	Leader. GARETH JONES	
Drimary School	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR	
Headteacher	Mr. BOCEP WOOI DRIDGE	459 6467
negateacher		x: 459 6468
	···	JJJ UTUU
Rell Pingere	Practice Tuesdays at 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower	
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Secretary	Mrs. JO NELSON, 77 Garland Way, B31 2BT	
	Practice on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Mobile 07970 852280	or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	Mrs. J. CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS	458 3328
Women's Evening Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in St Nicolas Hall Secretary: Mrs. VAL HAYNES	459 3121
Seniors Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon in St Nicolas Hall DEB BUCKLEY & SIAN SMITH	702 2063
Scouts and Cubs (198th Birmingham)	At St Nicolas Hall:- Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: Mrs. PENNY HATTERSLEY	628 5694
	Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m7.45 p.m. Leader: Mr. JOHN HATTERSLEY	628 5694
	Scouts (aged 101/2-151/2): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m9.30 p.m.	
	Leader: Mr. ROB KEENAHAN	244 0789
Scouts and Cubs (129th Birmingham)	At the Bells Farm Community Centre:- Cubs (aged 8-11): Thursdays-6:30 p.m 8.00 p.m. Leader: Miss KAREN URWIN	459 7086
Guides and Brownles	At St Nicolas Hall:- Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m7.30 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. mainly at St Nicolas Hall Contact: JOHN ALEXANDER	445 1312
Kings Norton History Society	Last Monday (or last but one if Bank Holiday) from September to May (exc. December) in St Nicolas Church at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
	Secretary: MIS CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m. in St. Nicolas Hall	
Parish Magazine Editor	Mr CHRIS HOLMES contact via Parish Office E-mail editor@kingsn	628 5284 orton.org.uk
Parish Magazine Treasurer	Mrs. ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	Revd JAYNE CROOKS, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	Mr GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website www.kingsn	orton.org.uk

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

Could all included in this section please inform Parish Office if and when contact details change

or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

During the restoration construction period, from July 2006 to January 2008, venues and times may vary from time to time. The Parish Office has temporarily moved to 30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8TN.

The telephone number remains the same.

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE 0121 458 3289

If you or your group are still unsure where you will be able to carry on YOUR meetings and activities, please contact the Parish Office where staff will be happy to assist you.

December 2006 Baptisms

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

3rd December 2006 Jie Hua (John) Phenix

December 2006 Weddings

"Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

16th December 2006
16th December 2006
29th December 2006
Paul Turley and Karen Bird
Timothy Bowden and Kerry Witherford
Paul Michael and Amanda Elliott

December 2006 Funerals

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

4th Dec 2006	Sheila Iris Mills, aged 71.
	Service in St Nicolas; Burial in Churchyard
5th Dec 2006	Harold Sidney Whitehouse, aged 97.
	Service in St Nicolas; Interment of ashes in Churchyard
7th Dec 2006	Charles (k/a Charlie) Albert Fletcher, aged 47.
	Cremation at Robin Hood; Interment of ashes at Kings Norton Cemetery
7th Dec 2006	Celia Doubleday, aged 67.
	Cremation at Lodge Hill
7th Dec 2006	Ronald Joseph Larvin, aged 79.
	Interment of ashes in Churchyard
12th Dec 2006	Baby Lillie May Hawkins, Stillborn.
	Service in St Nicolas; burial at Kings Norton Cemetery
13th Dec 2006	Sidney Samuel Morris, aged 83.
	Cremation at Lodge Hill
14th Dec 2006	Thelma Amelia Bayley, aged 75.
	Cremation at Robin Hood
14th Dec 2006	John Kenneth Dennick, aged 82.
	Interment of ashes in Churchyard
19th Dec 2006	Anthony Frederick Ward, aged 67.
	Cremation at Robin Hood; Service at St Nicolas
19th Dec 2006	Poppy Jean Neeld, aged 78.
	Cremation at Lodge Hill
20th Dec 2006	David Thomas Bodman, aged 65.
	Cremation at Lodge Hill
22nd Dec 2006	William Thomas, aged 54.
	Cremation at Lodge Hill
28th Dec 2006	Derek Arthur Walters, aged 62.
	Service at St Nicolas; burial in Churchyard

SERVICES

St. Nicolas

EVFRY SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 6.00 p.m. Evening Worship (various)

EVERY 1st. 3rd and 4th SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (sung Communion with Oasis 5/7's)

2nd SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Parade Service

'Oasis'

11.45 a.m. Matins (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Family Service

EVERY MON/ WED/THURSDAY

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

EVERY THURSDAY

9.30 a.m. Tiny Tots

for children aged 3 to 11, EVERY SUNDAY (except for Parade Service) at 10.30 a.m.

4th SUNDAY

The children join the congregation in church towards the end of the service.

Tiny Tots for 0-5's and parents/carers - each term-time Thursday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. - in Church -

for play, coffee and chat.

Candle-lit Church meets EVERY WEDNESDAY 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. Creating a Candle Lit Church where anyone can come and enjoy a peaceful creative space in this busy city. Tea and coffee will be available and all are invited to feel free to come and go as you

please throughout this time.

Hawkeslev Anglican/Methodist Church

- meeting at the Hawkeslev Pastoral Centre, Shannon Road/Old Portway EVERY SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Family Service and Sunday School.

EVERY TUESDAY 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Immanuel Church

- meeting at Fairway Day Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.

EVERY SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Morning Service/Communion.

Oasis - Every Sunday 10.30 a.m. (except for All-Age Worship service)

Druids Heath Services here are currently suspended pending an exploration

of future possibilities.

Café T meets each week at the home of Gill and David Gould and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a home based context. Call the

Parish Office for details.

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGES

Forms and particulars obtained at the Parish Office, 30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B/ham, B38 8TN,

General Enquiries:- Parish Office Mon to Fri 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. e-mail:-info@kingsnorton.org.uk

Web Site:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Please visit the Parish Website on www.kingsnorton.org.uk for more information on services on a weekly basis.



ANNE ELLIS

Anne Ellis, Founder of Bournville Children's Choir, has lived in Bournville for 18 years and works in the Community as a private piano teacher. In addition to her work with Bournville Children's Choir, she is Director of Music at the



Church of the Ascension in Stirchley. She originally trained as a primary school teacher, but her career has been adapted to cope with the changing needs of her four musical children. Anne has worked in nursery, infant, junior and secondary schools, teaching mainly music, but also Religious Education and Special Needs, including eighteen months with the Home Teaching Service. She believes that everyone should have the opportunity to learn to sing and enjoy making music with others, and it was this belief that prompted her to begin Bournville Children's Choir in 1986, when singing in many schools was neglected.

The Bournville Young Singers, celebrating the end of their 20th year, led a highly successful Christmas concert in aid of the ongoing project to restore the 'Old Grammar School' and 'Saracens Head' on Saturday night.

St Nicolas Church was packed with a 200-strong audience, and the evening raised over £900. Vivaldi's Gloria, made popular by the recent BBC programme The Choir, brought together soloists Liberty Bunce, Jenny Sharp, Alice Botham, Madelaine Woodey and Ruth Houghton, the full strength of the Bournville Young Singers (aged 4 to late teens) as well as a 20-strong group of ex-choristers and friends. Anne Ellis founded the choir to bring the opportunity of choral singing, both participation and appreciation, to more young people and their families.

Canon Rob Morris, Kings Norton Team Rector, adds: "The Friends of Historic Kings Norton are vital supporters of the Kings Norton Restoration Project. After winning BBC Restoration 2004, we're all working together in church and community to restore our cherished buildings as places that link us with our past, but at the same time provide a living, breathing, focal point for the people of Kings Norton and beyond. It was a joy to have the church full of people of all ages, celebrating Christmas, sharing that vision and supporting the talents of their young people, and the dedication of leaders like Anne Ellis."

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'The Pink Lady' **Dame Barbara Cartland** More than just a romantic novelist

Say the name "Barbara Cartland" and I guess most of us picture a lady in fluffy pink clothes, dictating romantic novels. "Kings Norton" would not be part of that picture and yet she is one of the famous people born in this area.

Barbara was the daughter of Major Bertram Cartland and his wife Polly. She was born in July 1901 and nearly died at birth. She had two younger brothers, Ronald and Tony.

Ronald had an unhappy time at school, but instead of becoming bitter, he determined to fight for truth and justice. He went into politics and in 1935, with Barbara's help, he managed to get together enough money to stand for Parliament in Kings Norton. Our area had previously been a safe Labour seat, but Ronald won it for the Conservatives.

A lady of great style

His time in Parliament was cut short by the War. He enlisted and died at Dunkirk, the first MP to be killed in action. Tony died at Dunkirk too, but it was not realised until several months later that they had died within 24 hours of each other.

Those who remember the War may be able to put themselves in Barbara's shoes - her father had been killed in 1918 and now she

had lost two brothers. She became a passionate advocate for the underdog. This did not stop her, however, from designing and flying the first aeroplane-towed glider and organising the first allladies motor car race at Brooklands.

She had married Alexander McCorquodale and given birth to a daughter. Raine, who would become the stepmother Diana. Princess of Wales. The marriage did not last and she later married his cousin.

"Has Kings Norton

produced anyone



Dame Barbara Cartland

Most people associate Barbara Cartland with romantic novels - 620 were published in her lifetime and she left 160 unpublished scripts, which are gradually being released. But she was very much a

woman of good works. Her home was Camfield Place at Hatfield. She became a Hertfordshire County Councillor and ran many successful campaigns including providing a permanent home for genuine else quite like this?" Romany gypsies, so their children could go to school. She also founded the

National Association for Health.

When the Saracen's Head building was in need of restoration in 1972, the Vicar, Anthony Balmforth, wrote to Barbara Cartland. He said, "I know with what great affection many here still remember your late brother and I feel sure that you must still have an interest in this place." In her reply, she regretted she could not consider anything outside Hertfordshire. "I am so overwhelmed at the moment with my work for the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Midwives here besides many other things and of course my work which I do speaking all over the place. As you can understand, if I do a thing I do it properly!"

She wrote her novels by dictating around 8,000 words per session. She believed God gave her inspiration for each new story and she prayed for his help. She died in May 2000.

Has Kings Norton produced anyone else quite like this?

Rev Heather Flack

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What is the Church's Year?

Why don't we just do the same every Sunday?

We're used to times and seasons. We keep birthdays. We keep anniversaries of deaths or marriages or special events. We need special occasions, sad and happy, to tell the stories, to get out the photos, to celebrate good things, to be together in hard ones and to remember with laughter, tears and love – and we need ordinary day-to-day times to just get on with living.

We can't do the whole story all the time. It's too big, whether it is ours, our family's, our school's, our friendships — or whatever we are part of. The Christian story is even bigger — and so the Church has its own Calendar of events and special days, times and seasons, mixed in with Ordinary Time for straightforward living.

Why? So that we can know and grow in the full story of God's love and purpose for all — a big story indeed. Each Sunday and special day has its own set of Bible readings (the Lectionary). Nearly everyone knows Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, but we need to explore and live in God's story throughout the year — because there is so much more.

Do read on - but remember that the whole point of the Calendar and Lectionary is to help us live and grow in Christ as part of his world-wide Church, not a Mastermind special subject.

Twenty years of preparation led in 1997 to the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). This took the Roman Catholic pattern of Bible readings each Sunday over a three year cycle (Year A - Mark; Year B - Matthew; Year C- Luke). This was already being used by Methodists and by many Anglicans outside the UK. Some small changes made it acceptable to ail the main churches. Methodists in Norfolk, the Pope in Rome, Anglicans in California and Kings Norton all use the same readings each Sunday and the same Liturgical Calendar for the year. Alleluia. The only exceptions are when local churches have special local events (or where they decide that their ideas are much better than all this combined work and do their own thing.)

Why not just carry on using the "old" calendar and readings?

We still use the "old" 1662 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) at St Nicolas at 8am and a few other times. This has different readings for each Sunday and a few differences in the names of some Sundays. But BCP was based on two assumptions which no longer stand up.

- People would go to church at least twice on Sundays. Few now do. BCP Communion readings are very limited. Not much from Luke; almost nothing from the Old Testament. This did not matter much if people went later to Morning or Evening Prayer, where they would hear readings from the Old Testament, from Luke and from much else. If people only go once, the BCP readings for Communion give a very small view of Scripture.
- 2 People used to celebrate great feast days whenever they came. Now we don't.

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day are never on Sunday - but churches were full. Today they are not. Most of us have lost the habit of "going to church" on any day but Sunday. A pity - but there it is. Some feasts like Epiphany, Candlemas, Transfiguration, All Saints, All Souls and every Saints Day are tied to special dates - which could be any day of the week. But unless they fall on a Sunday, hardly anyone turns up – a gift of centuries spurned.

The new Lectionary and Calendar ensures:

- Every part of the Bible is used for our main Sunday service at least once in three years.
- Every major weekday feast can also be celebrated on the Sunday before or after it so that it becomes something for all rather than just a few. So we have Epiphany, Candlemas, Ascension, All Saints and St Nicolas Daynow celebrated on a near Sunday as well as on their special weekday.

More next month!
Canon Rob Morris

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The computer swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed Grandma Yes, honestly it's true She pressed 'control' and 'enter' And disappeared from view

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Or been eaten by a 'worm'

I've searched through the 'Recycle Bin' And files of every kind I've even used the Internet But nothing did I find

In desperation I asked 'Google' My searches to refine The reply from him was negative Not a thing was found 'On-Line'

So, if inside your 'Inbox'
My Grandma you should see
Please 'copy', 'scan' and 'paste' her
And send her back to me

(For Kathy)

from Anne Morrell



Is your chocolate 'Traffik Free'?

How are your new year's resolutions holding up? If any of you gave up chocolate and are starting to waver here is a sobering thought that might stiffen your resolve. Did you know that nearly half the world's chocolate is made from cocoa beans from the Ivory Coast and that 12,000 children have been 'Trafficked' or bought up to work on the cocoa farms there? Unless you know the source of your favourite chocolate bar's cocoa beans then you have no guarantee that your chocolate is 'Traffic free'.

Stop the Traffik at www.stopthetraffic.org are using the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade by Wilberforce to highlight the ways many people are still sold in to slavery in the world today. They have produced a Good Chocolate Guide of those that are guaranteed to be 'Traffik Free'.

The good news is that Fair Traded brands such as Divine and Green & Black Maya Gold which are readily available have this guarantee. Sadly neither Cadbury or Nestlé can currently give this assurance.

Regular readers of this magazine, and visitors to the web site will already know about 'Living Generously'. Why not pledge to only eat chocolate that is guaranteed 'Traffic Free'.

Happy Surfing



CHILDREN'S PAGE... Dear Friends

I hope you are all well and wrapping up warm against the cold winter weather. My story this month is from the Old Testament part of the

Bible and concerns a man who had a terrible disease of the skin called Leprosy. What I always find amazing about Naaman was that he had not stopped what he was doing, gone home and rested or moaned about his condition, he just got on with it, coping with his problems from day to day. Finally, he has the chance to have his leprosy cured and nearly misses it due to his own pride.

I hope you enjoy the story, Karen

Naaman Healed of Leprosy

Naaman was the commander of the army of the King of Aram. The King thought of him as a great man for he had won many battles and he was a very good soldier but Naaman had leprosy.

Naaman's wife had a slave girl who had come from Israel and she went to her mistress and said, "If only my Master would go to Israel there is a great Prophet there who would cure his leprosy"

Naaman went to the King and was allowed to go; the King even gave him money and clothing in case the Prophet asked for payment.

They went first to the King of Israel but the Prophet Elisha heard they were there and instructed the King to send them to him. When they got to Samaria where the prophet Elisha was living, they stopped at his door. Elisha sent a messenger out to say to him, "Go and wash yourself seven times in the River Jordan and your leprosy will be gone."

Naaman was furious, he was an important man and this prophet could not even be bothered to come out of his house to greet him. 'What is so important about the River Jordan?' he thought, 'We have many great rivers in Damascus, why did I have to come all the way here to be healed? If all I have to do is to wash in a river I could have stayed at home and done it!' So Naaman turned away and left.

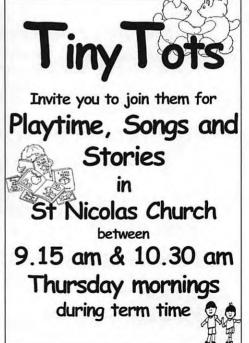
Naaman's servants ran after him, "Sir," they said, "If the prophet had asked you to do something really difficult to heal your leprosy would you not have done it?

Why not try this then which is something so simple?" Naaman thought about what they said and realised that they were right. He went down to the Jordan and dipped himself in the waters seven times. When he came out of the water his skin was like new, all the disease had gone. Naaman knew he had one last thing to do. He went back to Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is only one God and that is the God of Israel. Please now take a gift as my thanks for what you have done for me." Elisha knew that it was not himself that had healed Naaman but God, so he would not take the gift, even though Naaman pleaded with him to do so.

Many of us have times when, like Naaman,

we think we are more important than others. Maybe we have come top in the class at a test or we can do more tricks on our skateboard than our friends or get to a higher level than anyone else in a computer game gets, these are all things to celebrate and strive for but they do not make us better than others. God gave us all skills and talents that we should use to help other people and sometimes we may not be able to see the talent in another person. We have to have faith that God is looking after us all and loves us all whether we come top or bottom in our tests and if God loves all of us then we should try our best to love one another, which means to look after one another and help one another when and where we can





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CALOR GAS STOCKIST

CALOR

Café T

The Parish of Kings Norton

an Experiment in Exploring Faith

Café T—An Experiment in Exploring Faith that was the intention anyway when we launched Café T in 2005! We hoped that by offering a safe place where people of little faith or much faith, a long involvement in church life or even none at all could come together and address faith related issues without worrying about what someone else might say. We might even go as far as to call Café T a sacred space, a space set aside in time and place for consideration and use in sacred things.

Since 2004 we have explored all sorts of subjects, enjoyed the ministry of many people both as leaders of discussion and also, at least as importantly in the quiet thoughts shared one to one or with the wider group by someone who is not known for speaking up, which probably means they need to be listened to very carefully!

Currently we are pushing the boat out a bit and looking at things as diverse as the Gospel of Judas and Angels. Do have a look at the current brochure which is available in Hawkesley, Immanuel and St Nicolas. In there some of these thoughts are enlarged on and you are assured of a welcome. That is important to Gill and I because we believe that welcome and context, hospitality and a safe space are terribly important if we are al to feel confident of our own place and invitation to speak and think about matters of God, faith, doubt and the searching for questions, never mind the answers!



Gill and Revd David Gould

We really do welcome you to Café T, to our home which is the home of Café T. We welcome you with the promise that if you decide not to come back you will not be chased and we welcome you in the confidence that all who use Café T as a place for encounter with God and fellow seekers after God will make you very welcome also.

Finally our thanks to all those who have enriched our lives by their contributions through Café T, spoken, acted and prayed.

Gill and David Gould



Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty that takes place in May. Plans are already underway for this years 'programme'.

Claire Greenhill and Joan Urwin will be co-coordinating 'house to house' collections in Kings Norton Parish for Christian Aid week in May 2007. Watch this magazine, the Parish Website and the Parish Newsletters for details as and when they become known.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Parish Website Visitor Statistics for December 2006

The Parish Website (www.kingsnorton.org.uk) received at least 934 visits for the month of December 2006.

The 'visits' are counted as single hits on the website – so if a person jumps from one page to another for a dozen different pages it will only be counted as one visit. The 'visits' total <u>excludes</u> crawlers or spiders or robots (automatic tools that search the web for useful information or links).

Country of Origin

71% of visitors come from this country, with about a fifth from the USA and the rest from a wide range of countries including Belgium, Australia, Poland, China, Canada, Germany, Denmark and France.

Pages Visited

A number, though not all, of the pages within the website are monitored to see how often they are visited. The most visited pages were, in descending

order, the Home page, News, The Churches (St Nicolas), Services, Contacts, The Churches (General), Restoration Home and Magazine Home.



Searches

About of third of visits are from those using search engines (like Google). Of the 306 search queries used to find the Parish website, the most used search queries involved the words 'kings norton' with the addition of 'church' or 'parish church' or variations of them.

Summary

Hopefully the above has given you a flavour of what people who visit the website are interested in and I hope to provide similar reports each month. The website is visited by people looking for information about the Parish, so if you have something that you think should be on the Parish website please let me know.

Graham Boulton (webmaster)



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Thomas Bray

"one man with his faith and enthusiasm started something that is still educating and inspiring people in the Christian faith over 300 years later..."

Whilst doing some internet surfing as research for the Children's page this month I accessed the Church Lectionary, which provides guidelines for the prayers, psalms and readings for each week. It also indicates Saints or people who were important in Church History and who should be remembered. One of these for February 15th is Thomas Bray. I had never heard of him and thought his story was worth sharing.

Thomas Bray

Thomas was born in 1656 in a place called Marton in Shropshire. He was educated at the local school in Oswestry and then went to Oxford to All Soul's College as a 'poor student'. On graduating, he was ordained in 1681 and became Rector of Sheldon and then the incumbent at St. Bodolph's, Aldgate, London.

In the 17th century, Church of England clergy working in America were few and far between and under the authority of the Bishop of London. In 1696, this man, Henry Compton, appointed Thomas as the Commissioner for Maryland, particularly to try to encourage more clergy to go there to work. Thomas immediately appointed a curate for his Parish in

Sheldon and moved London. He gathered a group of very influential people around him and even gained the support of Princess Anne (daughter of James Thomas had already written a five-volume tract on the Christian Catechism that had proved to be a best seller and he fervently believed that literature was vital in his task. To encourage clergy become missionaries in the 'New World' he created a pack for them that consisted of fifty-two books, a cassock, a gown a hat and tracts (leaflets) for general distribution.

The group that he had developed worked Thomas to create the Society the Propagation of Christian Knowledge that began its work in 1699 and continued the work that Thomas had started. They believed immorality and wickedness was growing and that this was because people did not know enough about the Christian religion. They saw their task being to encourage education and to produce and spread Christian literature. They hoped that the result would be a more learned clergy and for people over a wider area to come to know the basics of the Christian faith.

Seeing the printed word as very powerful, **Thomas** encouraged SPCK to begin by creating their own tracts and pamphlets. SPCK is still in existence and is the third oldest publishing house still operating in England. Throughout the 18th century SPCK was the largest producer of Christian literature in Britain by far and went from pamphlets aimed at groups such as farmers. prisoners, soldiers and others, aiming to show them how to improve their way of life, to more general works subjects such as baptism, the holy communion and Praver Book.

As time went on books that are more substantial and volumes were created, initially on Christian topics and, from 1830 onwards, on general educational topics also. SPCK estimate that they have produced over twenty thousand titles during their three centuries of publishing.

An incredible example of how one man with his faith and enthusiasm started something that is still educating and inspiring people in the Christian faith over 300 years later.

Karen Urwin

Stages on the Way

A Parish Programme for January to May 2007

On Sunday 13th May our new Bishop of Birmingham is coming to Kings Norton for Confirmation - at 10.30am in St Nicolas. Bishop David's first visit will enrich and inspire those who are to be confirmed - and help renew us all in our journey of faith.

From now until May 13th we invite you to share as you can in Stages on the Way

What are we inviting everyone to do?

- We invite you to make the last Sunday of each month a day to be in church at 10.30 am at Immanuel or Hawkesley or at St Nicolas at 8.00 am, 10.30 am or 6.00 pm.
- 2. We invite you to pray for our growth together in God's faith, love and hope.
- 3. We invite you to share as fully as can in the journey God calls us to.
- 4. We invite you to make four key Christian texts your own one each month.

The Four Key Texts

- Jesus's Summary of the Law (Mark 12.28-34)
- The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6.7-13)
- The Apostles Creed used in nearly all our services
- The Beatitudes (Matthew 5.3-11)

We know the words – but we all need to know and live them fully in our heart.

On 28th January, 25th February, 25th March and 29th April, the text for the following month will be given prayerfully to everyone at each service – with an invitation to explore and make them our own as God leads each of us.

Every other part of our church's life will continue;

Worship, service, learning, Confirmation preparation, Lent groups, outreach, giving renewal, care of people, resources and buildings.

But we need to let these texts, month by month, be in our hearts as we:

- · Affirm and renew all that we hold in common in Christ
- Gratefully celebrate, encourage and deepen God's rich variety here
- Draw in those who feel on the edge of church life

Please join us on your Way and ours – in all its Stages Our journey begins on Sunday 28th January. Please be with us – and bring others

Confirmation

10.30 a.m. - 13th May at St Nicolas

Our new Bishop is coming to confirm and celebrate with us.

Confirmation is often thought of simply as us confirming the vows made on our behalf at our baptism. It is so much more!

"Confirm" really means "strengthen". The special gift of Confirmation at the Bishop's hands is a sign of God's commitment to us, not first of ours to God. It is a gift to strengthen us for new full life in the worldwide Church, the Body of Christ. In our baptism, we are each made "the child of God, the member of Christ and the inheritor of heaven." In Confirmation and in Communion we receive God's help through the Holy Spirit so that we fully become all those, growing true, loving and strong in faith, hope and joy in all things.

We all need to be there, to support those being confirmed - and to renew the sense of wonder and commitment which I hope we knew in our own Confirmation!

If you're not confirmed - or are not sure what it means and would like to discover more please ask one of your clergy.

Canon Rob Morris



"Our new Bishop is coming to confirm and celebrate with us."





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Parish Mag

your questions...
You can contact her at

agonyaunt@kingsnorton.org.uk or write via the Parish Office.



I'm so glad that you reminded me that the bats in the churchyard will be hibernating in their lovely new bat boxes. Maybe someone could wire up some tiny loudspeakers to each box and play some gentle lullaby music to help them sleep.

Bart

Dear Bart

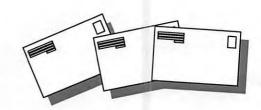
I think that is enough letters about bats.

Dear Margaret,

I love February because it means Shrove Tuesday and lots of lovely pancakes. The only trouble is when I try to make them they just seem to stick to the pan or fold up in a big lump. Do you know where I'm going wrong?

Nigella





Dear Nigella,

Cooking the perfect pancake takes years of practice. Why not go down to Hawkesley Pastoral Centre on the evening of the 20th and join in with their pancake night instead.

Dear Margaret,

I read with interest in last months magazine about 'Pledge-it'. If someone wants to go round my house with a can of Pledge and a duster, that's fine by me. Please will you let me know who to contact to get it arranged.

Kim and Aggie

Dear Kim and Aggie,

I'm not sure if you read the article properly but you seem to have the wrong end of the stick I'm afraid. The idea is to organise activities to raise money and to 'Pledge-it' to Christian Aid. Maybe you could offer to clean other people's houses to raise some money, I'm sure there will be plenty of takers. You will need to let the PAWNS group know what you are planning on doing.

NEW CHRISTIAN COMEDY CLUB

The Laughing Sole Comedy Club

Date: 27 February 2007

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E-mail: info@thelaughingsole.org.uk



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