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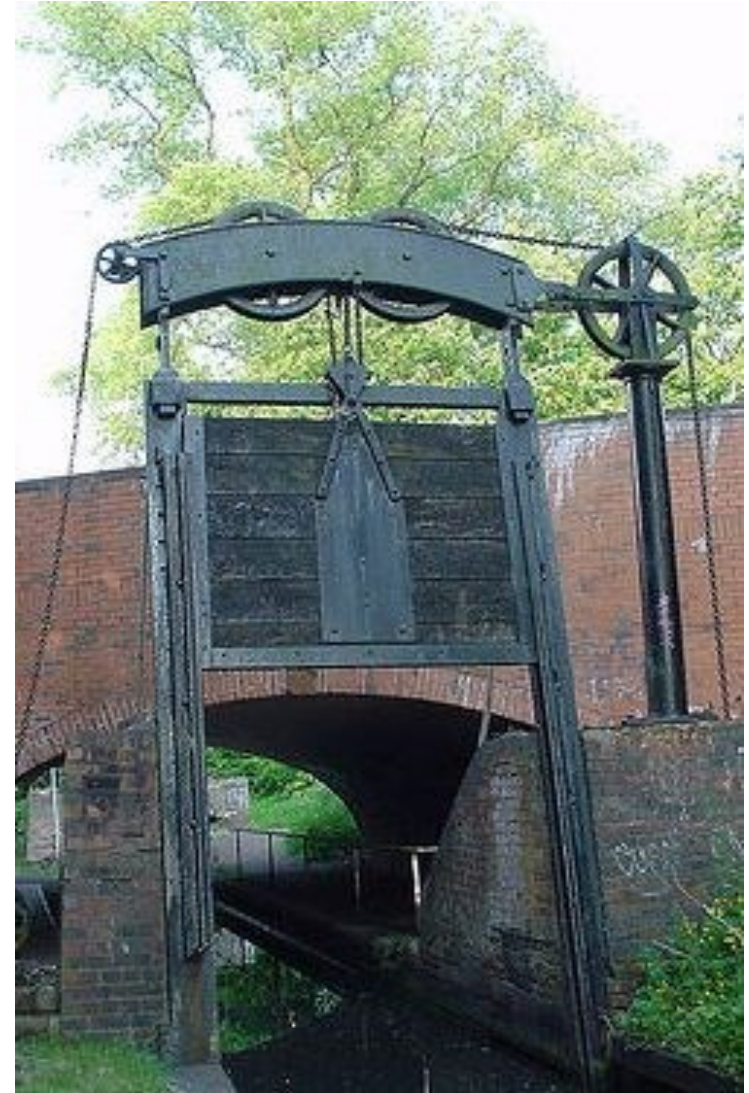
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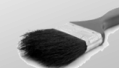
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PRODH

Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath

Hello,

The fortnightly prayer meeting that PRODH hosts is still going well and some of the residents who we have been praying for and are not religious have, nevertheless, passed on their thanks and have asked to meet the prayer group. Small but important steps in the development of God's Kingdom on the estate.

Personally I have just returned from the final week of Nehemiah training which instructed us on how to create a Neighbourhood Delivery Plan. This is our next step and we have gathered a committee together to start creating this plan which will be developed in partnership with the other organisations which serve the area and will improve life for all those who live in Druids Heath. Do pray for this fledgling group as they meet and grapple with the task ahead.

Blessings,
Karen.

Apology

There was a printing error in last month's magazine which meant that two pages appeared twice and two were missed out all together.

Unfortunately, one of the missing pages contained information from four of our advertisers. We would like to apologise for this error and thank them for their understanding in this matter.

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING
BACK TO CHURCH ONCE AGAIN



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THEIR KEYS OR JACKET OR GLASSES

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



Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

Welcome.....

In this month's edition we look to the future. The Rector writes of the challenges highlighted by the parish review and 'Transforming Church'.

The Communications Strategy Group have made some exciting proposals regarding how we are kept informed of all that is going on. These include potential changes to this magazine, which will get a new look next month when we incorporate the new parish logo.

There is more information on 'Back to Church Week' and an invitation to get involved.

We also look back at last month's Kings Norton Festival through photographs taken by Graham Boulton.

Alan Haynes, Editor



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Thank you.

**Items for inclusion in the
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submitted by:-
Friday 14th August 2009**

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A Turning-Point?

At the Extra Parish General Meeting in June and then at Church Council on 16th July, we worked on some large unfinished matters, including:

- Completion of Parish Review
- Appointment of a new Team Vicar
- Quinquennial Inspection of St Nicolas – and development of re-ordering
- Changes at Hawkesley School
- Response to the Diocesan *Transforming Church* initiative

We also caught up with the parish's financial situation and the Back to Church initiative. (I'll be writing soon to all church members on these.)

I am more and more convinced that all these things cannot be separated – and that they are all part of a re-visioning of what we are all about as a Team Ministry in Kings Norton. Since the Team Ministry began in 1974, so much has been achieved – but most work and energy has been given to the separate parts of the

Team; much less to what we are together. At best, this has led to some stunning initiatives and many lower key but worthwhile endeavours. But it has also, at times, created friction, uncertainty and the placing of “our” part above that of others. This has led to times of great joy – and also to frustration and occasional despair.

We have long felt that we must “do something” about x, y or z, whether it be young people, mission, care of St Nicolas and churchyard, estate ministry, support for unemployed people, prayer groups etc. The list of what we “ought to do something about” gets ever longer. So does the frustration.

I think that it is time to return to the heart of what are together, in which all the separate parts are mutually encouraged and sustained not just for themselves but as part of the whole.

St Nicolas: a place of gathering and shelter for thousands each year in different need and desire at the heart of Saint Nicolas Place – a truly parish church and churchyard

Those ordained Deacon at Birmingham Cathedral, July 5th 2009



Congratulations to Jo Houghton who was amongst those ordained Deacon last month. Jo previously worked as part of the team here in Kings Norton

From left to right:

Mark Pryce, Bishops Adviser for Clergy CME, **Josephine Houghton, The Handsworth Group**, Andrew Brown, St Mary and St Margaret, Castle Bromwich, John Bridge, All Saints, Four Oaks, Roy Anetts, St Marys Acocks Green, Carole Christensen, St Pauls Blackheath, David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston, Paul Duckers, Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield, Lydia Gaston, Christ the King, Erdington, Sarah Hayes, St Peters Hall Green, Penny Harrison, St Pauls Hamstead, Sue Chandler, St Margarets Olton, Hayward Osborne, Archdeacon of Birmingham, Faith Claringbull, Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Diocesan Synod

Three times a year, Diocesan Synod meets. Representatives from every Church of England deanery, including Kings Norton, meet to decide on large matters and to hear reports.

We last met on July 15th. Part of the business was to agree the diocesan budget for 2010 which includes the total of Common Fund to meet clergy pay and central costs which is shared between all the parishes. It will be over £5 million, all contributed by people like us.

We also heard two stunning presentations. The first was from Barbara Hayes, the leader of Churches Industrial Group Birmingham, on church response to the economic crisis. This has hit the West Midlands even harder than most – because we make things rather than do strange things with money. The second was from Chris Boyle who has just returned from eight years as Bishop of Northern Malawi.

Both presentations were detailed, resourceful, challenging and full of God's down-to-earth wisdom. They faced up to hard, real issues and gave sound practical response. Through them both was the conviction that whether facing the challenges of rural poverty, education, health care and the effects of HIV/AIDS in Malawi or local issues of worklessness and business pressure, this is God's world in which human need and dignity must be served in God's grace. The Gospel

is not just a spiritual matter of personal salvation. The church's life and work must, in God's strength, make a difference to us all in the here and now. If it doesn't, "Thy Kingdom Come" is emptied of its fullest meaning.

But if we focus only on the here and now, we quickly lose the vision, grace and depth which God wills and wants for all – the eternal values of heaven in which we may all find the place given us in the death and rising of Jesus.

During August, the main Sunday Gospel readings take us through Chapter 6 of John's Gospel. (Do read it!) It begins with Jesus feeding thousands with bread and fish. It then leads into a wonderfully complex story of chasing around the lake in boats, to Jesus's declaration that "I am the Bread of Life" and to Peter's question, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." As we follow this chapter in church, please pray that we as the church make corporate response to real human need, others' and ours. And please pray that we are renewed in the reality that God's will and promise is to feed humanity through his church, in the things of this life and of the life to come. They are in Christ as one.

Rob Morris

Immanuel: a place of alternative ways of doing things in local community worship and mission.

Hawkesley: a church and church school which is a light and haven at the heart of deprivation and despair.

"The first task of a mission-shaped church is to ask how it can serve and be a blessing to its local community." (Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading) This is our calling and our first task, in which we all find our true place in God. Unless we do, we have nothing to offer the wider parish, be it Druids Heath, Pool Farm, Chaddesley, Rednal Road or anywhere else.

In this, the distinctive gifts of Hawkesley and Immanuel are vital and will be sustained, but I believe that our first focus must now be St Nicolas - as a place of shelter, gathering and prayer still known and used throughout the parish.

The Parish Review already tells us how much happens in and depends on St Nicolas. We need to ensure that we do it well and warmly.

We have work to do on building maintenance and re-ordering highlighted by the Architect's Inspection Report and the need to renew the nave platform.

Funerals, baptisms and marriages are

increasing again – but in a climate where old understandings have gone out of the window and there are profound complexities of story, grief and hope in which St Nicolas Church building grows even more as an open door to God.

We have so far failed to attract any interest in the new Team Vicar post – and I wonder if God is saying "Build up what you are already doing" more than "Start something wholly new." Should we re-shape this post?

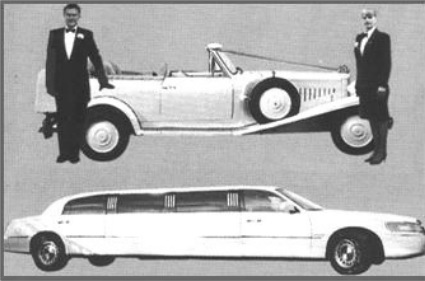
The proposed changes for Hawkesley School need the commitment of the whole parish, not just Hawkesley Church members.

"Transforming Church" In different ways – and often using very different language and methods - we are already covering much of the diocese's Transforming Church agenda. We need to say this clearly and not be distracted from the calling and task we already have.

Will you pray over all these things? During August and September, we shall be offering a short course, intended for everyone, to help us all grasp what we need to do together to ensure that God's grace in Christ is, through the working of the Holy Spirit, available through his church to more and more.

Rob Morris

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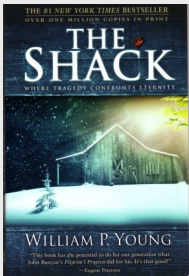


Kings Norton Festival

(Part 3)



BOOK REVIEW



The Shack
by William P Young
ISBN: 9780340979495
Pub: Hodder & Stoughton

Since it was first published in 2007, this novel has sold nearly 5 million copies. It's a gripping read and so different from other Christian novels in which the main characters seem to live charmed, victorious lives.

In this book, the author confronts evil in all its ugliness – the abduction and brutal murder of a 5 year old child. The story is set some four years later, when the father of the child receives a note in his post signed by 'Papa', his wife's name for God. The note invites Mack to spend a weekend with Papa at the Shack – the place of Missy's murder. Mack accepts the invitation and the story unfolds, as Mack is forced to confront his feelings through a series of encounters with four main characters, Papa, Jesus, Sarayu and Sophia. The genius of the book, however, is that in encountering these characters, the reader is also forced to take a long hard look at his/her own conceptions of God – as Father, as Trinity, as Creator of all (good and bad) and ultimately as

the one through whom all creation will be renewed.

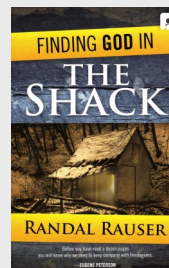
Randal Rauser, a Canadian professor of theology, received so many enquiries from students and pastors regarding the book that he decided to write a theologian's response to *The Shack*. In *Finding God in the Shack*, he explores in more depth the theological issues raised in the novel, namely, The Trinity, The hierarchy of the Trinity, Evil, Hope in the midst of pain and the Redemption of Creation.

Both books are easy reads and not very long, but be prepared to laugh and cry in the course of *The Shack*. Randal's book is a great way into theology, drawing as it does on the scenes and conversations that take place within the Shack.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading both books and am still unpacking in my own mind the topics raised.

PS. I think Papa is wonderfully unexpected and full of surprises!

Jayne Crooks



Finding God in The Shack
by Randal Rauser
ISBN: 9781606570326
Pub: Paternoster

Kings Norton PCC Communications Strategy

A number of us have been working on this. On 16th July, the Church Council received and approved our report.

So, what's new?

Logo: We shall have a new parish logo, based on the cross from the green altar frontal in St Nicolas, which was made by church members. We shall use it for all parish stationery from September. It will also be used in redesigned external notice boards for St Nicolas. The old black noticeboard will be removed and lockable board moved into its place. There would be much simpler core text on the new board – and more space for other posters.



Welcome leaflet for St Nicolas. We need a new one. It is nearly done.

"Donations paper" We shall also have a new leaflet to encourage donations but we thought it wise to leave until we are clearer about what exactly we were asking people to donate to..... eg, it costs £xxx to run St Nicolas for one day/one week etc. This will be clear when we have set 2010 budget.

Review of magazine, newsletter, etc and readership

We are going to make the **weekly newsletter** simpler. It will be a single A4 sheet with worship information for the Sunday, prayer needs for all and brief diary of the forthcoming week.

The **magazine** has a large readership. Many are valued friends who may not want to be regular church attenders. We need to think about our magazine becoming more a church-centred magazine for friends in the wider community, rather than the main communication for actual church members.

And we also need a new simple monthly "**church bulletin**" with essential information for all who feel that they are members of our congregations, with a sure way of getting it into the hands of all who wanted, whether or not they were in church each week. It would contain a diary of events for the forthcoming 4-6 weeks, long term dates and information and summaries of main matters for the prayer and action of all of us.

Do let us know what you think.

Rob Morris

Back to Church Week, 27th September – 4th October

Food, Friendship and Fun

At the Kings Norton Festival, many diverse people were consulted about what would bring them to Church. Food, friendship and fun were three things people were keen to find. Sharing food with friends is a clear priority for Jesus. People also felt a need for music and for laughter. The promise of food, friendship and fun with music and laughter is something which would encourage some to come to Church and some to stay.

Back to Church Week is encouraging people to celebrate those areas of life which already offer these things. In our community, we offer friendship, food, music, laughter and fun to one another as gifts from God. This doesn't mean we all have to have 'fun' and be 'happy'. It means that we can find these things in the bleakest moments of life and not be alone in our despair as much as it means sharing joy.

Our weekly diary will serve as a template for Back to Church Week. There will be no fireworks or wildly exciting new events which cannot realistically be sustained throughout the year. Instead, we will be incorporating many different ways to make our usual Church week accessible. This simple idea is to show people what we are doing and to invite them to join in. It is the Gospel imperative to "Come and See". What we do every week is what really matters, and for this week we are inviting friends and strangers to "Come and See" what God is doing in this Parish in food, friendship, fun, laughter and music. We are celebrating the various ways in which our

interconnectedness brings us wholeness.

This is what Back to Church Week will offer:

- 'Freshers' Fair'
- 'Skills Exchange'
- 'Bring a Friend'
- 'Photo Exhibition'

'Freshers' Fair'

Universities have a week at the beginning of term where all the societies, clubs and political parties take an opportunity to introduce new people to what they do and invite new recruits. Imagine the Kings Norton Festival or a Fete or Farmers' Market. We will be doing something similar during this week in September. Stalls are laid out but instead of selling food or gifts or crafts we will be selling Church and all that we do, inviting new recruits and explaining the value of what we are and what we do. For example, the Hawkesley School and Hawkesley Church, Immanuel, Women's Fellowship, the Churchyard Carers and Knit and Natter may all have stalls with representatives of their group, photographs or examples of their work. People can come and ask about what they do and how they can become involved. They can find out about how their work connects people, how it offers friendship, food or fun, support through bereavement,

for a wedding and a marriage blessing in the evening. I went to bed feeling very tired but very happy.

11th:
What a great day the Kings Norton Festival turned out to be. Lots of brilliant stalls and lots of people enjoying the day. As usual, I spent too

much money, but I did enjoy myself. I particularly enjoyed the burger I had from the scouts stall - it was smashing! And I managed to avoid the Morris Dancers - last year I got pulled in to do a dance up and down the car park! This year I made a very happy retreat when I saw them coming in my direction!

Continued from page 33

When it was time to go home we realised just how much we had all bonded over the weekend and how important it is to have times like these away from our busy lives.

Up and coming events include a picnic in the park on Sunday 16th August, a prayer walk on 26th July at 3pm and a trip to Weston Super Mare on Saturday 5th September.

We are pleased to report that Oasis led us in an amazing All Age service about 'giving generously'. It made us really think about where our money goes as well as our monthly giving as a church to Martin Frank, our World Vision sponsored child – and also just how talented our children are at Immanuel, we are truly blessed!

Sarah and Nathan Crooks.

Rebecca's Diary... July



3rd: Spent most of the day catching up, having been away on holiday for two weeks. I had a lovely time on holiday visiting family and friends in Derbyshire and, of course, watching Wimbledon. When I was younger, I was quite a good doubles player, believe it or not!

4th: The sun shone on the lovely couple Rob was marrying at St. Nicolas. I had met the bride when she had come to the church to book her wedding and she invited me to come along to the service. It was really lovely. Her baby daughter somehow found her way into my arms which made it very special. I went home feeling that the world is a very good place to be in, especially when you see two people so much in love as this couple.

6th: The day started very quietly as our Staff Team gathered together for a simple Holy Communion service before we began our extended meeting. There is

always so much to discuss at our meetings. Being in such a large parish as Kings Norton inevitably means we are dealing with lots of issues, often very complex ones. Still we got there in the end.

7th: Went on two home visits and, as usual, I was bowled over by people's hospitality and kindness to me. There is always a lovely cuppa and biscuits on offer when I'm out and about. One visit I did in the afternoon was particularly lovely and left me feeling very humbled at the trust people place in me with their life stories. It seems to me that being a priest is a position of great privilege.

9th: My feet hardly touched the ground today. I seemed to be on the go all day from Hawkesley Church Primary School in the morning right through to rehearsals

friendship in depression. People can find what is right for them. They can look for the activities and areas where they might belong. They can seek the groups which might best offer them music, fun or laughter, friendship, activity or even a quiet place to cry. The Freshers' Fair will take place on Saturday 3rd October between 10am and 3pm. There will be food, live music, entertainment for children. Please e-mail or contact the Parish Office if you would like to have a stall or speak to Jess in person.

'Skills Exchange'

The Skills Exchange is another opportunity to become involved. People have offered their skills by offering cartooning sessions, painting sessions, basic cooking skills and many others already. Please offer your skills and we will incorporate your skills session into the week. In this way we can celebrate our many and varied gifts, talents and skills and invite people to participate.



'Bring a Friend'

Throughout the week, everyone is being encouraged to invite a friend to something they feel is appropriate. Our existing weekly diary offers many opportunities and there is likely to be something for everyone. Candlelit Church will be offering a light evening meal and issuing invitations to this. The Women's Evening Fellowship will be involving people in their annual service. Sylvia is planning to invite children from the local schools to 'after-school singing' and opening the choir practice to anyone who is interested. Hawkesley and Immanuel have lots of plans to invite people to their Harvest Festival and other plans too. Please give some thought to how you might make your Church involvement accessible to others, whether you are Uniformed Groups or Brass Cleaners, Flower Arrangers or Bell Ringers. Try to incorporate genuine hospitality by offering food and drink, even if it is only a cup of tea and a Fair Trade biscuit.

'Photo Exhibition'

A photo exhibition will be in St Nicolas Church with photos of people involved in the Church. Their relationships and involvement will be depicted and they will be asked 'What does Church mean to you?'

Watch this Space for a Back to Church Week programme in next month's magazine.

Jess Boulton

backtochurch@kingsnorton.org.uk

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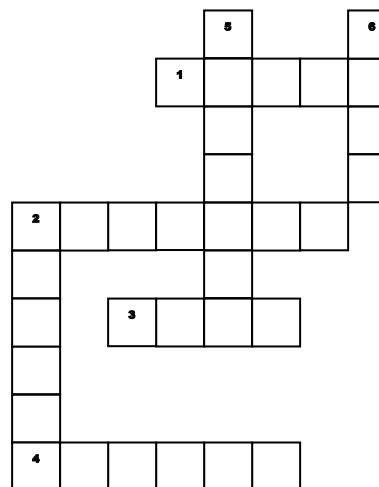
Remember, there is a big difference between what we want and what we need. Do we really need the latest video game or DVD film?

At the end of our prayers we say 'Amen'. This means 'so be it'.

Next time we are going to explore prayer further. Until then, have a go at praying for yourself.

Remember, prayer is our special way of talking with God and we should try to do it as often as we can.

God loves you and wants to know everything about you and how you are doing.



Across:

1. Prayer has a lot of _____. God can do anything.
2. Prayer is _____ with God.
3. We end with this... _____
4. We should always keep our prayers _____ and not use fancy words.

Down:

2. We should give _____ to God for all he does.
5. God will always _____ when we are sorry.
6. You can _____ at anytime and anywhere.

**Dear God,
Thank you for prayer time.
Thank you that we can talk to you about everything,
Anytime,
Anywhere.
Amen.**



CHILDREN'S PAGE...

With Gail



Hello everyone! My name is Gail and I am going to talk with you about Prayer.

In the Bible it talks a lot about Prayer. Jesus very often went off to pray, so it is something that we too should be doing.

Prayer simply means **'talking with God'**.

It is a special way we have been given to communicate with God. God loves us so much that he wants us to spend time with him, talking to him about what's been happening in our lives, whether it is good or bad.

We can pray at anytime and anywhere and God always listens to us when we pray.

You don't have to worry about what words you say either. In fact, God prefers us to keep our prayers simple and not use fancy words. Speak to him as you would a friend - after all, God is the most special friend you will ever have.

Prayer has a lot of power. God can do anything. Because of this, there are things we should try to include in our prayers -

We should praise God - God is good and he deserves to hear our thanks and praise.

We should thank him for all he does and provides in our lives.

An important part of prayer is asking forgiveness for all our mistakes. God will always forgive us when we are sorry.

We need to pray for others and for ourselves.

Taizé : Discovering Joy in Simplicity

If you were asked to point to evidence that Christian faith is alive, well and attracting young people by the tens of thousands, I wonder where you would start? If radio, TV and the press are your only sources of news, your search would, I suspect, be a long one. Our media have chosen our priorities for us and highlighting a healthy interest in Christianity, particularly amongst the young, is not one of them. I am guessing, of course, but I suspect that the number of church congregations in Britain where young people are in the majority is on the small side. Like it or not, the prevailing impression is that few under-50s "take religion seriously" these days.

That is why it is so utterly surprising that, just a day's drive from Kings Norton, there is a church with capacity for thousands which, at those times of the year when people are free to travel, is full to bursting three times a day. Even more astonishingly, it is a church in which you will never hear a sermon, see a drum kit or watch a multi-media presentation. As a first-time visitor, sitting on the floor in the half-light, surrounded by a sea of expectant faces, waiting in silence for a service to begin, you might fall to wondering what it is that brings them here in such numbers. A charismatic preacher, perhaps? The latest worship songs performed by a talented band? An emotionally-charged atmosphere?

This is the next surprise. The tens of thousands of visitors, most of them

young adults, who come from all over the world each year to spend a week with the Taizé Community in France are drawn there by experiences radically different from what contemporary culture offers. In worship, the singing of beautiful, repetitive chants; short, accessible readings; and silence, lots of it in which to listen. Words are used sparingly. Candles, icons, time to think and, at the heart of it all, a community of monks with whom to pray and sing. And between services, opportunities to meet in small international groups to talk and share experiences; short, accessible talks given by one of the brothers; shared meals with strangers who quickly become friends; and, of course, long walks in the beautiful rolling Burgundian hills.

What surprises newcomers of any age, and what radically changed my own understanding of faith on the first of many visits in 1979, is the beauty of the worship. Brother Roger, who founded Taizé in the 1940s, wrote of his desire to create "a community where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the centre of everything." Those principles are reflected in every aspect of life at Taizé. Brother Roger believed that churches should be places of few words: the important thing is to listen to God. Prayer ceases to be a monologue and becomes instead an inward expression of simple trust in Christ, who reveals himself to us through the Gospels. I have come to think of it as something like sunbathing, a joyful, wordless resting in the healing, life-giving presence of God.

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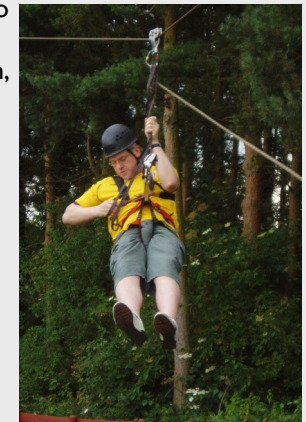
GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



Immanuel Church recently had our weekend away
at the Pioneer Centre near Bewdley. About twenty
people stayed for the whole weekend.

We started on the Friday evening with some informal
worship, then stayed up chatting the night away.

On the Saturday morning, Deb and Sian put us through
our paces leading us on discussions and proposals about
Immanuel Church and all that it entails. It was lovely
that some more of our congregation joined us for these
important discussions. We got into discussion groups
and had to come up with a solid proposal for different
categories about themes picked up from the
questionnaire previously completed by each member of
the congregation. Whilst the adults were hard at work,
the children were being thoroughly entertained by Jon,
David and Nathan with many different balls games as
well as an 'inflatable activity' called BIG BOUNCE. We
ended our afternoon off with an all age rounders game,
football and running races. In the evening we all went to
watch those brave enough to
take on the Zip Wire. All
harnessed up Georgie, Steph,
Karl, Akheem, Nathan, Alan
and Kai took the ladder up
to the platform ready to zip
down the wire! It was
extremely entertaining for
those of us keeping our feet
firmly on the ground!



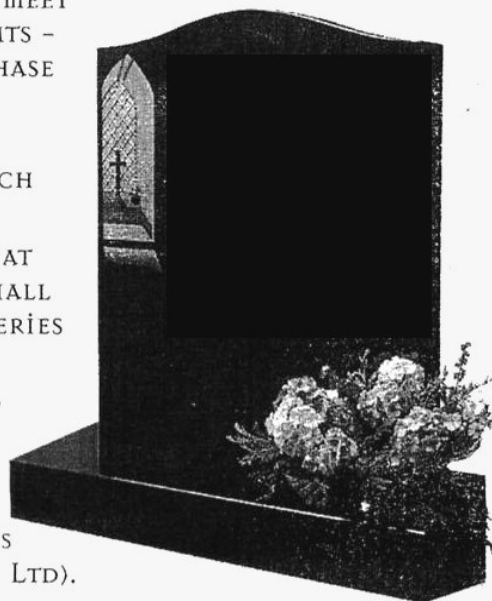
On the Sunday we had a
lovely informal service, led
by Jayne, where the children
got involved in Lego building
(well the adults too) and some songs that had some
actions.

Continued on page 37

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The Gospels, the Psalms and other carefully-chosen sources supply the texts on which Taizé's unique style of singing is based. The chants, usually no more than a sentence long, are designed to be sung repetitively, so that the words have time to percolate inward, to be digested in a way and at a level that traditional songs or hymns, with their succession of ideas and images, do not allow. *"Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship,"* writes one of the brothers. *"Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God."*

across the world whose worship has been influenced by Taizé. St Nicolas is one of them. In September 2008, we revived the tradition of holding Taizé-style services once a month. They have attracted growing numbers and are appreciated for the oasis of stillness which they provide. Ancient icons enhance the beauty of the building and aid meditation. Dates and times tend to be a little erratic, so we have set up a website on which you can find them. The web address is given below. If you are in search of an uncluttered space in which to listen to God in the company of others, with no pressure to participate, this may be what you are looking for. Do join us.

<http://taizeprayer.wordpress.com>

There are now thousands of churches

David Ash

Bereavement

St. Nicolas Church will be open 2-3pm on Tues 18th August for those who have experienced loss through bereavement. There will be the opportunity to light candles, be quiet and reflective, chat to Rev. Rebecca and others, and be amongst those who themselves have had or are in the process of bereavement. Tea and coffee will be available.

If you can't make Tuesday 18th August, don't worry, the church will be offering this space on the third Tuesday of every month at the same time. September 15th is the next date. Come and go as you feel the need.

For more information,
contact Rev. Rebecca on 458 2950 or the Parish Office on: 458 3289.

3D Course

A year ago, I was searching for ways to develop and build upon my understanding of my Christian calling and to further my knowledge of the Bible. I could not contain the urge to step out into something new. So, with a little reservation and a strong sense that this was what I was looking for, I “signed-up” for the 30 weekly study sessions that make up the 3D Course.

All participants from churches across the diocese met at the Cathedral in September for an opening service of worship and to thank God for bringing us to this point in our lives.

The course covered all the topics I had been so hungry for and was divided into three parts. We looked at major events in the Old Testament; Jesus’ life and ministry in the gospels; Church membership - calling and living.

For me, the course was thoroughly enjoyable, exciting and rewarding, working alongside people I very soon felt comfortable with and fond of, led sensitively whereby all contributions were valued.

Our particular group ranged in age from 17 to 70s, which made responses in discussion interesting and refreshing. I found comfort in the depth of faith in our youngest person, balanced by the quiet strength, commitment and trust of years of the eldest in our group. Not only have

I gained the knowledge I hoped for when I set out on 3D, but also a deeper awareness of how God is active in the lives of others (and myself).

As I sat in the cathedral at the closing act of worship alongside everyone else with whom I had begun this 3D journey, words from Ecclesiastes 3 sprang to mind, as they had done ever since I contemplated joining the course:

“There is a time for everything, and a season for everything under heaven...a time to plant and a time to build...”
Words which speak to me especially.

3D has been a positive and wonderful experience for me, well worth my efforts and I am thankful to those who encouraged me to join and to those who run the course. I would definitely encourage others to try it. I’ve had a taste and now I’m looking to do something else!

Linda Bridgewater-Budgen

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



What is your favourite holiday place?

Any Greek island – but Lefkas is my favourite.

What is your best memory?

I really can't think of just one! I rather think of it like this: Life is not measured by the breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away – so you should have lots of best memories.

What would be your luxury and book if you were stuck on a desert island?

If I couldn't take my friends and family, my luxury would be a toss up between my dog and a bath, but as I could probably make some sort of bath, I would have to say my dog! I love reading so it would have to be either a complete works or some sort of DIY manual!

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

Win the lottery and run a beach bar in Greece!

What are your hopes for the Church in Kings Norton?

That everyone can work together to ensure its future and that we can make anyone who walks through the doors truly welcome.



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June 2009 Baptisms

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

7th Noah Field

7th Lauren Elizabeth Walker

7th Benjamin Thomas Hannon

7th Jake Munnerley Campbell

7th Rebecca May Bishop

21st Lee Neill Doucette

21st Jorja-Ann Philpot

June 2009 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

6th Roderick Ernest Wetton and Julie Karen Peach

19th Karl Lawrence Barker and Beverley Harrison

20th Stephen William McGowan and Linda Glover

20th Michael Bird and Kerry-Anne Dearlove

26th Till Scherer and Carla Jones

27th Richard Dowling and Kelly Embley

'Parish People'

People from all
walks of Parish Life.

This month's 'victim' is Brownie leader Pauline Weaver



Where were you born?

I was born in Romford, Essex – yes I am an Essex girl and proud!

What is your occupation?

I run my own business. It's supposed to be a project management consultancy but I've diversified into all sorts of things.

Why did you choose to live in Kings Norton and where have you lived before?

I've lived in Kings Norton for 13 years, moving here to be near good schools for my daughter, Rebecca. Before that we lived in Stirchley and I've also lived in Lancashire and various parts of Essex.



How did you become a Christian?

It may surprise you to know that I don't think of myself as a Christian! That's for many reasons, but particularly as I am at the beginning of my faith journey and am not sure where it will end.

Why is the Christian faith important to you?

The aspect of Christianity that I see in Kings Norton that I think is vital is Community - everyone working together to help and support each other. That's why I love Saturday morning with coffee morning and Knit and Natter – the mix of friendships, skills and caring for each other is so important.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I do all sorts of things from being Brown Owl of Thursday Brownies here in Kings Norton, to helping with an organ donation charity and helping with Knit and Natter and Tiny Tots when I have the time. If I do get any spare moments, knitting, card making, painting, music and reading.

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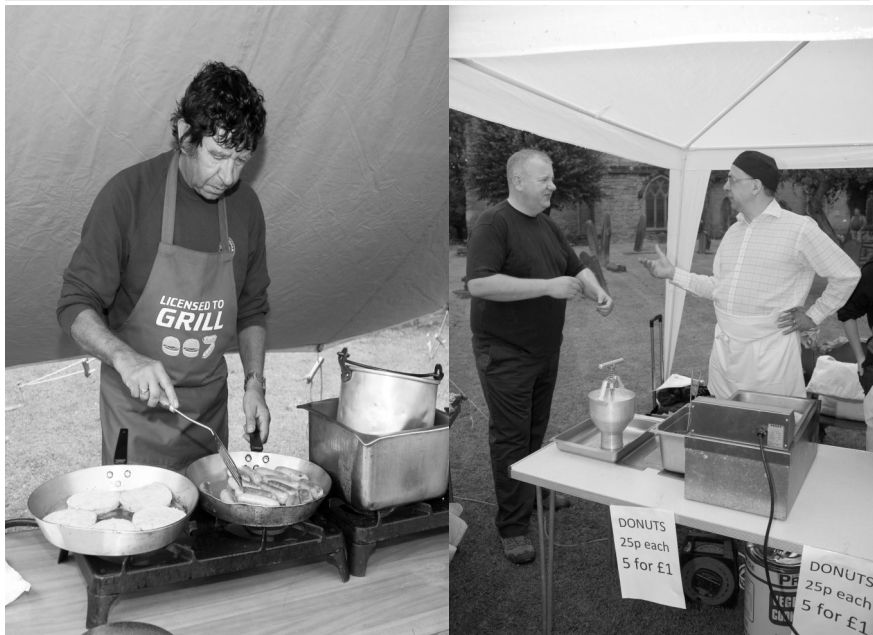
June 2009 Funerals

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

- 1st Frances Elizabeth Nicholls, 86. Service at St Nicolas.
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery
- 3rd Leslie Norman White, 58. Service at St Nicolas. Burial in Churchyard
- 4th Bernard Welch, 92. Service in St Nicolas.
- 10th Elliemay Johns. Service in St Nicolas. Burial in Churchyard
- 12th Leonard Gerald Miskin, 84. Service in St Nicolas. Burial in Churchyard
- 12th Harry Evans, 86. Cremation at Robin Hood
- 16th John Thomas Bryant, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill
- 18th Raymond Eric Sammons, 85. Burial in Robin Hood Cemetery
- 22nd Margaret Mary Dodwell, 75. Cremation at Redditch
- 23rd Wilbert Alexander Spencer, 78. Service at St Nicolas.
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery
- 24th Peter Roy Hounsell, 51. Cremation at Robin Hood
- 25th Florence Ellen Capewell, 90. Cremation at Robin Hood
- 25th Phyllis Florence Fenemore, 84. Cremation at Robin Hood
- 29th Rita Anne Reid, 63. Cremation at Lodge Hill



Kings Norton Festival (Part 1), 11th July 2009



Kings Norton Festival (Part 2)

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

Druids Heath

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

Café T

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

For Young People

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

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

SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP – a quiet service with traditional language).

10.30 am Holy Communion with activities for 5-11's at Oasis.
2nd Sunday: Parade Service – All Age Worship at 10.30 am followed by Matins – a traditional BCP service at 11.45 am.

6.00 pm Evening Worship:
2nd Sunday, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing;
3rd Sunday, Compline – a quiet and meditative service;
1st/4th/5th Sundays, special services or Evensong (BCP).

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

Tiny Tots

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

Open Church

Wednesdays, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
and 6.30 – 8.00 pm (Candlelit Church);
Thursdays, for all Weddings and Baptism enquiries, 6.30 – 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,

From Birmingham to Blantyre and Beyond

Thirteen young people aged from 15-20 from across the Diocese of Birmingham have been raising a thousand pounds each to fund a once in a lifetime trip to the twin Dioceses of Malawi.

The Malawi Youth Encounter marks the "International Year of the Child" and will give the young people, who come from across Birmingham, for an understanding of culture and life for children and young people in Malawi through a hands-on programme that includes tea picking, fishing and life in an urban environment.

They will begin their visit by staying at Zoa Tea Estate in southern Malawi. While there they will work alongside local workers: picking tea and coffee, drying fruit, fishing for Chambo and visiting the clinic and training centre. Most afternoons will be spent in Mwaya, a village on the Estate, where they will meet and interact with children and young people through games and craft activities.

In their second week they will travel to Blantyre, Malawi's second city, where they will meet and talk to Christian young people from around the Southern Diocese. Through conversations and interaction young people from Birmingham Diocese will be able to compare their involvement in church life and future

leadership with that of their peers in Malawi.

The experience will finish with a visit to Lake Malawi and Liwonde National Park. The young people have all raised £1,000 to go on the trip and are very excited about the project. They travel to Malawi from July 24th. Initiatives to raise the funds range from a formal dinner in a Birmingham hotel to head shaves, bike rides, cake sales, bell ringing peals and quiz nights.

The trip was launched on Thursday July 16th at Birmingham Cathedral. The young people will have a Chichewa lesson from the Acting Dean of the Cathedral, Peter Howell-Jones and learn to tie a chitende - the Traditional cloth worn in Malawi. They will have a final briefing about the trip and commissioning from the Acting Dean. There will be a chance to talk to the young people as well as the Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry, Helen Tomblin, who has organised the trip.

Helen Tomblin said: "We hope this trip will be life-changing for the young people from Birmingham as well as for those they meet in Malawi. The city and the Diocese of Birmingham have had a long relationship with Malawi and we hope this trip will build on those 40 years of friendship.

www.birmingham.anglican.org

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.....STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office 458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455
RAY DAVIS 458 5774
PETER SMITH 453 9931
Immanuel (Warden) GERRY MOORCROFT 243 0573
(Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE

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)

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

Organist and Music DirectorSYLVIA 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 LeaderSARAH CROOKS

Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) contact via Parish Office 458 3289
Hawkesley
Oasis (Immanuel).....NICKY MOORCROFT

Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church

Primary SchoolShannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR
Headteacher 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

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**Bible Reading Fellowship
Secretary** JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS. 458 3328

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

Women's Fellowship 1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. **Secretary:** CAROL DEVIC 458 3289

Seniors' Club (Over 65's) Every Wednesday afternoon
CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN 458 3289

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Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m.
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m.
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m.
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.

Guides and Brownies At Hawkesley Church Centre:-
Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m.
Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m.
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.

Kings Norton Society Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m.
Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON 459 5750

Kings Norton History Society Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from
September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON 459 5750

St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.

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email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

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Duty Supervisor BEN WADDINGTON 458 1223

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.

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