

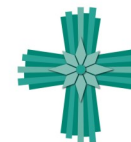
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Photography by David Ash.



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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

May 2011

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**Items for inclusion in
the June 2011 issue
are to be submitted
by:-
Friday 13th May 2011**

Welcome.....



Chris Bowen has been the welcoming face of the Parish Office for the last 19 years. Her retirement was marked at the APCM last month and you can read more about her work on page 9.

The Parish Annual Report is available on the parish website kingsnorton.org.uk but you can read extracts from it starting on page 5. At the APCM, Ann Hughes was elected as Church Warden to work alongside Paul Shelton. I would like to congratulate Ann on her appointment and I'm sure we will be hearing more about her in future editions of this magazine.

Christian Aid Week is 15th to 21st May. Please read the article on page 38 and if you are able to, respond to the appeal for collectors on page 11. Sylvia has provided us with an update on a number of the other charities we support as a parish on page 14.

Finally, this month we have a new regular column from Rev John White. He is going to be bringing us a rant and a rave each month. Why not get in touch with us to respond to what he has to say?

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector

Jesus is Risen - and we with him.



Writing before Holy Week for reading after is strange. Here we are, preparing for Palm Sunday and Jesus's journey to the Cross. When this is published, we shall be fully in the joys of Easter. Today we pray for faithful following of this awful story with Jesus. Reading this in May will be in the church's joy that Jesus is Risen – and we with him.

But that goes to the heart of the life we find – and of the Gospel which is for everyone who comes into the world, in darkness and light. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, "Now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face. Now I know in part. Then shall I know in full, even as I am fully known."

We want happy endings – as soon as possible. But the real world brings hard questions, complicated challenges and often more pain than we feel we can bear. If the church is no more than a PR machine for God's happy ending, honest human hearts will know that it has not touched their own experience. The real Gospel, for Holy Week, Easter and all else, is not that God makes all things bright and beautiful right now. It is that in Jesus and through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God, who has overcome, is in the middle of all that we face. God is with us, inviting us to

be partners in making all things new.

God's promise is not that we shall know everything today. It is that by grace, just like Jesus's first disciples, we shall be built up in God's resilience, character, hope and love – a promise for every human heart and spirit.

Bishop Andrew comes to St Nicolas on 15th May at 10.30am to Baptise and Confirm those who have newly begun to grasp this promise. As in every baptism, he will pray for those newly receiving this precious gift,

"May God who has received you by baptism into his church, pour upon you the riches of his grace that, within the company of Christ's pilgrim people, you may be daily renewed by his anointing Spirit and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory."

Riches of grace; the company of Christ's pilgrim people; daily renewal; coming to full inheritance. This is what we all need in our earthly journey. It is what God gives, unconditionally, in Cross and Resurrection. The glass we see through may now be dark – but we shall see face to face. God says so!

A joy-filled Easter to all.

Rob Morris

umentaries seeking to discover "the truth" behind parts of the Old Testament, such as the stories of King David or, in the final episode, the tale of the Garden of Eden. I ought to declare an interest, as I know the presenter, Dr Francesca Stavrakopoulou, from my time spent studying at Exeter University. I can vouch for the fact that in real life she is every bit as bright and engaging as she comes over on screen. The views she puts forward are often provocative and challenging, and I didn't always find myself convinced by them. But it was great to have a programme about the Bible and archaeology that made its subject matter as gripping as many a thriller. I hope there'll be another series.

At the cinema, the film I have been raving about recently is **Submarine**. If, like me, you get fed up with Hollywood product where vast amounts of money have been spent on big name stars and special effects but no one seems to have thought about having a decent script, then **Submarine** is a wonderfully refreshing change. It's the story of a teenage lad in a small Welsh town, facing the usual strains of growing up, be it bullying, finding a girlfriend, or dealing with the

strain of fractures in his parents' marriage. That may not sound like much; but the film is made with such wit, charm and inventiveness as to make it a real gem. I saw it with my 17 year old son, and we both loved it.

That's it for my rantings and ravings for this month. If you've got any thoughts or opinions on any of the things I've commented on, do let me know. I hope to be back, if the editor agrees, next month with more stuff that has riled or delighted me in recent weeks. Until then - Rave on!

Rev John White





Over the next few months, I hope to offer a personal take on some of the stuff that has been going on in life outside the church. I'm calling these columns "Ranting and Raving" and I promise you will get what it says on the tin. I'll be raving about things I've heard or seen that have fired me with enthusiasm, whilst also having the occasional rant at stuff that has awakened my inner "Grumpy Old Man". I suppose I ought to issue the standard disclaimer: "Opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author, and in no way represent the views of the Parish Magazine of Kings Norton or those of the Church of England." But that will probably become obvious...

So, first up, my Rant of the Month: The Referendum.

By the time most of you read this article, May 5th will have been and gone, and with it the referendum on electoral reform. I don't know what the outcome of the referendum will be, and, to be honest, I don't much care. That's not because of apathy or boredom with politics: I was

sufficiently bothered to turn up to an excellent community conversation on the issue the other weekend hosted by All Saints' Church in Kings Heath, where local MPs and others outlined why they supported or opposed a change to the electoral system.

My gripe is with the question that the referendum is asking: Do we want to keep the present system or change to using the Alternative Vote? I find it, quite frankly, a bit of a rubbish choice – a bit like going to a restaurant and being told you can either have a burger or a cheeseburger. AV is a fairly minor tinkering with the current system of 'First Past the Post'. What if we want something completely different? Proportional representation, perhaps? Even, dare I say it, a directly elected head of state? Well, sorry, that's not on the menu. Bah! Humbug!

Okay, rant over. Now for my ravings...

The TV highlight of the last month, for me, has been BBC2's *Bible's Buried Secrets*: three doc-

Parish Annual Report

Presented at APCM 11th April 2011;
full report is on www.kingsnorton.org.uk

2010 was another year of change, some long prayed, hoped and planned for – and some unexpected.

Growth in Ministry

Church is all of us together in Christ, not the clergy. But unless your clergy get our act together as a Team, all suffer. We welcomed John and prepared to say farewell to Rebecca, thankful for their rich friendship, faith and wisdom. We now work collegially across the parish, rather than dividing the parish's work into separate self-contained bits. We each take responsibility for areas of parish work, but always within the Team as we all continue to learn and grow together in **Enriching Ministry and Mission** within the diocesan **Transforming Church** programme and our Mission Statement. God calls us all to be "members of one another". Your clergy must exemplify what that means so that all learn and grow. Pray that we do!

We have been through good change, to prepare us for more.

Deb Buckley was ordained to ministry in Balsall Heath. Jess Boulton, our Lay Pastor, has moved on to new work. Stephen Plant is now Chaplain to the Longbridge development – but remains firmly here.

Others too have moved away – yet others have discovered new calling and new strength here, including more requests for adult baptism as many find their way into Christ's life through their parish church.

We have been able to renew seating and lay-out in St Nicolas, greatly welcomed by so many, old and new – and are ready for more.

Hawkesley School and Saint Nicolas Place have each come through a difficult year, ready for new futures.

Congregations have held steady, ready for further change from God's prompting of new mission. We now have a very clear grasp of practical needs and tasks, and the human and financial resources we require to make them happen – and so enable new growth.

Where to in 2011?

We are called to be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ, offering God's radical hospitality for all and being steadily equipped for work in God's world.

We must ensure that, in every change in society, we continue as the very rooted inclusive parish church of Kings Norton, growing in faith, life and mission as congregations across the parish, in St Nicolas, the parish's church building, and at Hawkesley School.

We cannot therefore stand still. We must treasure and renew the rich heritage of faith, story and buildings we have received – but ensure that it grows in our own time, ready for whatever tomorrow may bring.

What will be our priorities in 2011?

Growing in faith and understanding

With John's arrival, we are able to grow even more in offering sensitive and rewarding ways in to growth in prayer, faith and understanding. Take-up has been slow so far, although all who have shared in groups and short courses have discovered far more in God and themselves than they expected. We need more, for newcomers and perhaps even more for the long-standing!

Being ready for hard decisions

During 2011, we will face challenge and change across the parish. Funding cuts and big policy decisions by others are likely to affect each congregation, especially Hawkesley and Immanuel. We need by God's grace to embrace change and find God's way through it, so that the parish and its communities grow in God's promised life for all.

Growing in worship and welcome

These do not just happen. Real worship and welcome grow through recognising our own need of God and our need to grow. We do not yet have all the answers! God does. And worship and welcome are for all: for younger people, for those who first come at baptism, wedding, funeral or chance visit – and for us too. Jayne, John, Donald and I, with lay ministers and members, are called to grow! Please do.

Grow in God's world-wide church!

We must grow as members of the whole church, not just our bit.

Stewardship of plant and money

With Restoration complete, we can now see hopes and needs very clearly. We know that we must find a further £12000 to fund mission and work in 2011. We shall find it. We are also preparing boldly for full lively use of St Nicolas Church, Saint Nicolas Place, the new Community Hub at Hawkesley Team Vicarage - and our churchyard.

- **£14** could buy enough coffee seeds to plant a 0.7 hectare plot of coffee and start one farmer on the path out of poverty.
- **£2,170** could pay for a processing plant, allowing farmers to process the coffee they have grown and then sell it for a better price.

'I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines,' says Eladio.

Eladio knows that transformation is possible. He is driven by the example of a nearby community, where Gustavo Adolfo Talavera and the members of the Los Alpes cooperative have been supported by Soppexcca for 12 years. In that time, they have successfully worked to establish a school and a health centre for their community.

The hopes of the people of La Paz del Tuma are hopes held for the whole community. Eladio works every day towards his dream of a purpose-built school, clean water and latrines for all the farming families of La Paz del Tuma.

Soppexcca's support for coffee cooperatives like La Paz del Tuma and Los Alpes allows communities to see a bigger picture, full of possibilities for the future.

You can be part of the story of transformation which is unfolding right now in Nicaragua.

By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives.

To find out how, visit www.caweek.org or talk to your local Christian Aid Week coordinator.

To give to Christian Aid Week, visit www.caweek.org or call 08080 006 006.

Help people in poverty out of poverty

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Christian Aid Week 15–21 May 2011



'I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines'

Eladio stands on the site on where his community hopes to build a school

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community.

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.

What full lively use?

St Nicolas Church: Stephen Price will soon complete his full study of St Nicolas furniture and fittings. We shall use his findings:

To plan the best ordering of the front nave area to benefit all our many uses – with worship first – and to ensure that our church building is fully accessible

To develop a detailed full church interpretation scheme to complement Kings Norton Restoration Trust

Saint Nicolas Place: We continue to work towards full sustainability and shared resources, under our new Director, Abigail Roberts.

New Community Hub at the old Hawkesley Team Vicarage. Fully funded work begins in May with full opening from September.

Churchyard: We are now doing a full mapping and audit of the whole churchyard. From this we will plan for the best use of every area and also grow detailed plans for full conservation and environmental development of the churchyard as a place of rest and peace for all.

In prayer and gratitude

An Annual Report gives opportunity to record our heart-felt thanks to so many people who contribute to the life of the church. Those who give so much to the life of Hawkesley and Immanuel will have been celebrated and thanked at their own AGMs. For St Nicolas, we do this through Report to the Parish Annual Meeting. We could not have such a range and depth of worship and welcome week by week without the (currently) over 60 servers, Communion assistants, readers, sidespeople and prayer leaders who share in its offering, along with those who help to clean brasses, prepare linen, decorate the building, offer refreshments and conversation – and those who care for our churchyard. There are too many to name individually – but all are precious and deserve our thanks. We do, however, mark Molly Barron's special ministry that in bringing gifts to the altar, newcomers are always welcomed and included. We also thank our flower team, led by Alison Blumer, who consistently brings fresh imagination and creativity in the changing life of our church. We need also to thank all who enable Open Church, Saturday Coffee, Women's Fellowship and Candlelit Church.

They all make a difference to our welcome - and to our being truly the parish church of Kings Norton.

We also have a too often unseen band of handy-persons, including Gerry Moorcroft, John Bowen, Richard Harper, John Jelfs, Stephen Plant, Deb Buckley, Sylvia and Tony Fox who have kept St Nicolas well-lit, well-managed and well-furnished with inspiration to worship and prayer. Thank you to you all. Please join them!

We also record our deep gratitude to key people:

All involved in Saint Nicolas Place, new friends and familiar ones, especially Barbara Hedgeland and her team and Gerry Moorcroft and John Jelfs who have stepped down from Kings Norton Restoration Trust. We owe them much. We have also been very pleased to welcome Abigail Roberts, our new Director.

Among Parish staff, we thank as always John Clark, our friend and tireless support, Chris Bowen, Chris Gadd and Sylvia Fox, our Parish Office team and Clifford Skirrow and Nathan Crooks our vergers.

Chris Bowen is now retiring after 19 years service, often crucial in sustaining the whole parish's life. We cannot adequately thank her for all that she has so faithfully given – in good times and in hard ones.

We rejoice at Rebecca's appointment as Vicar of Immanuel Highters Heath – another calling nurtured here by the whole church. Alleluia!

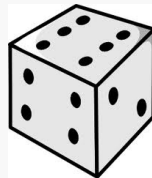
But we're not left as orphans! We are of course deeply thankful for the continuing faithful service and friendship in ministry of Fay Fearon and Ruth Howman our Readers, Donald Sampson our Methodist colleague and my wonderful Team Vicar colleagues, Jayne Crooks and John White. They are such a strong, graceful and lively team.

Canon Rob Morris



You are warmly invited to the
Parish Beetle Drive!
Fun for all ages...Social event...Easy to play!

Saturday 21st May, 5.30-8pm
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Tickets are available from the Parish Office and each Church.
For more information, contact Rev Jayne or Susan Haynes.

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faces

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Please bring:

Food for lunch – (Sunlounger!)

If you are interested in joining us please
contact Rev. Jayne via the Parish Office.

plus a range of indoor and outdoor games!

Mrs Chris Bowen

For 19 years, Chris Bowen has been the friendly voice on the Parish Office phone and the welcoming face for all callers. When the phone and enquirers stopped, she has got on with so much 'behind the scenes' work to ensure that all has run smoothly in church and churchyard, with baptisms, weddings and funerals, with meetings and events – and much else. With husband John, she has also given much in her own time to keep buildings and people on the go.



During the interregnum in 1998/9, her role in the middle was crucial. The parish kept going through the faithful prayers and work of so many people, but they needed someone to ensure that all services were covered by clergy or Readers, to keep a sensitive and deft finger on the parish pulse – and to keep all the tiny but essential details in place. Chris was that person. The parish owes her so much from that time alone. Chris's role was just as vital during the 2004 Restoration campaign – although that did have the benefit of working less with clergy than with some very personable production teams.

During her time driving the Parish Office desk, Chris and colleagues have arranged some 750 burials, over 5000 funerals, nearly 2000 baptisms and around 1500 marriages alongside so many other events, meetings and simple warm conversations. What a lot of people!

Chris retired at the beginning of April – although Seniors' Club and many other things will still keep her busy. We marked the occasion with a presentation and much gratitude for all she has given so tirelessly. Chris, from us all, thank you very much indeed.

Stephen Plant

Stephen has stepped down as Church Warden after four years of faithful service, wisdom, warmth and prayer. He is definitely not going away, being willing to remain as vice-chair of the PCC, a key person in our care of building and a faithful, prayerful friend. He is also now part-time (unpaid) Chaplain of the Longbridge development, building care and partnerships which will influence our whole area and the church's mission within it for many years to come. Thank you, Stephen, so much. We're all looking forward to the next part of the journey.





The Palm Sunday
Procession and
Parade Service at
St Nicolas' Church
17th April 2011



Photography by David Ash



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

Flea Market and Craft Fayre - every last Saturday in the month.
Tables, just £10 each, need to be booked and paid for in advance due to the increasing popularity. Doors open at 10am until 2pm.

Sunday 5th June, 12 noon - 3pm "The Big Lunch".
Fancy a picnic?! Come along with a packed lunch and join us for a day of fun picnicking on The Green.

Saturday 25th June 11am - 3pm "Take a Bite into History!" Civic Day
Experience food through the ages with our event, sample culinary treats from different eras of time. We promise you won't go away hungry!

Kings Norton Farmers Market

The Green Kings Norton Birmingham
2nd Saturday each Month

Get
FRESH

**Next Market is 14th
May 2011
9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**



We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church.

The next one will be on Saturday 14th May. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!

KINGS NORTON FARMERS' MARKET

Kings Norton Farmers' Market was re-established in 2005 and we meet on The Green, Kings Norton on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9am to 2pm.

The Market has proved to be a popular venue with shoppers and has won the FARMA (National Farmers' Market Association) Midlands Farmers' Market of the Year Award in 2007 and 2008 and was Regional Finalist for 2010.

There is an average of 30 stalls selling a wide range of produce varying from fresh vegetables, green grocery, bread, fresh and cooked meats, pastries, cakes, pies and eggs – all locally produced. Other vendors sell fish, home made soup, honey, plants, flowers and many other products



combining to make a visit to the Market a unique shopping experience.

Our motto is "GET FRESH" because we believe in local fresh produce being made available to the general public directly from the producers.

We are a Community Interest Company and all profits generated by the Market are used to support local community projects.

Please note that whilst parking is at a premium on The Green, there is free parking available in the car park of the Navigation Inn, in Wharf Road, a short walk from The Green.

For more information, please go to our website: www.kingsnortonfarmersmarket.org.uk or telephone Terry Bowen (0121 459 9383) or Alan Johnson (0121 689 6560). Thank you.

Terry Bowen



**CHRISTIAN AID
WEEK,
15-21 MAY**

COULD YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS FOR CHRISTIAN AID?

Susan Haynes is co-ordinating the House to House collections again this year and would love to hear from you if you could help. It can be tempting for us to think that individually we don't raise much, but when added together, our Parish total with events last year was £4545, which is fantastic! What's more, when added to others' totals across Britain, Christian Aid Week raises an amazing £10 million each year which really does make lives better for some of the poorest people in the world. Every penny counts and every collector is hugely appreciated, so please do consider taking part. For more information, please call Susan on 459 4711 or pick up a Christian Aid Response Form available at each of our churches.

CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE

Immanuel Church will be including some of this year's Christian Aid material in their Communion Service on Sunday 22nd May. All are welcome to come and find out more about this work and to pray together for all involved. It will be held at 10.30am at The Fairway Centre, 2 The Fairway, Kings Norton.

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

Please also support Hawkesley's Coffee Morning for Christian Aid on Saturday 21st May - see page 31 for details.

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

We have begun to celebrate Immanuel (formerly Wychall Lane) Church's 35th anniversary. At our AGM, which was a part of a Thanksgiving Service, we heard five very different, but equally moving, testimonies from the congregation about how their faith and involvement at Immanuel has changed their lives. The children worked hard to make a banner which was presented and displayed. We are preparing to put together a book of the first 35 years, ensuring that this look back over the past is used to encourage us for the present day and the times to come.

At the AGM, we gave thanks to people who have served the church in particular roles, from which they were now moving on. Thanks were expressed to Gerry Moorcroft (Warden), Sarah Crooks (DCC Secretary), Evelyn Finn (Treasurer), Tony Hill (DCC Member), Marie Sansom (DCC Member) and Pam Moorcroft (part of the Moundsley Hall visiting team). Elections then took place for the coming year at which Alan Haynes was appointed as Warden, David Maynard as DCC Member and Katherine Mee as DCC Member. All who had been appointed to serve the church in the coming year were thanked for their willingness and commissioned in prayer. The congregation was urged to continue to pray for them throughout the year in the discussions and decisions that will be taking place.

On Pentecost Sunday, 12th June, we shall continue our 35th anniversary celebrations with a Shared Lunch after our morning service. You are most welcome to join us!



In April, we had a rather special service with a visiting speaker, Tim Godwin from West Midlands Police. He gave an illustrated talk about the Armour of God, using his uniform as a visual aid! He also brought with him his humour and it didn't take him long to sense that some of our congregation needed to feel the long arm of the law (see Mavis in handcuffs!)

Susan Haynes

FROM HAWKESLEY CHURCH

Peter Smith 1953-2011

One of the many joys which I have experienced, whilst working in this parish during the past five years, has been to serve alongside Peter Smith. His enthusiasm and commitment to Christian ministry was exemplary. It was no surprise to me that St Nicolas was a full church when we met to celebrate his life and commit him to God's loving care.

Peter was Confirmed by Rev. Mark Santer in May 1996, since when he rendered sterling service at Hawkesley Church and held an active role at St Nicolas. His reliability as a Steward and commitment to detail as to what was necessary for well ordered public worship was a great help to both those conducting it and those in the congregation. He had a consuming desire to see that all folk, especially children, had a warm welcome. This frame of

mind was the result of his own deep experience of God and commitment to Christian living.

During his working life, Peter had been employed as a Royal Mail postman for nearly forty years, being stationed at the Rednal District Office. Thus, Peter was an early riser in order to be at work for 5am. His good rapport extended both to his work colleagues and his customers, as was evidenced at his funeral service.



Personally, when working with Peter, I discovered that although he had challenges in his life, he was blessed with a remarkable memory, singleness of purpose in pursuing the Christian adventure of daily discipleship and planning of future events.

To David, his loving brother, and all the family, we extend our deepest sympathy. This being said, we join with them in celebrating Peter's great life of witness to the Christian Gospel.

Donald Sampson

Women's Fellowship

Our meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 5th May in the Queen's Room, St. Nicolas Place.

This is to be our Charity Evening focussing on Troop Aid which gives support for the injured Troops. Visitors are always welcome.

If you are unable to join us on the evening, but would like to donate items, please leave them in the Parish Office.

Items include sports socks, shower cream/gel, shaving kit, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, face flannel, soap, pen and paper, chewing gum. (Female items are also required.)

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday 23rd May marks the end of the Society's current programme with the AGM to be followed by a talk by Dr Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Council Planning Archaeologist, on "Birmingham Archaeology Latest Discoveries".

Doors open at 7.00 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7.30 p.m.

Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

Michael J Gill

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Mission Focus - a short update on several of our charities

Send-a-Cow: Despite its name, the one thing Send-a-Cow doesn't do, is just send a cow and then clear off. It first engages with a family or a group, working together with that family/group to decide what crops and/or livestock would be best suited to their needs, geographical location and conditions. The charity then stays around for a long time - giving agricultural and basic veterinary training, business training (both personal and co-operative) and enablement to the groups to become more self-supporting. The group family I support has had 8 whole years of support and is about to Graduate. This means they are deemed to be fully self sufficient and ready to support others. Send-a-Cow certainly doesn't do drop-and-run style of aid relief.

Children's Society: One large area where they work is amongst runaway children. Children for whom the thought of a shop door for the night is preferable to what ever situation they have left behind. Nearly 2,000 children run away from home EACH WEEK in the UK. Children's Society workers are often the first people that have taken time to listen to the young person and find out *why* they have run away. Much of their work is through mediation sessions and counselling sessions, as well as drop-ins and liaison with other agencies who can provide support and care. "Safe in the City" is based in central Birmingham and is particularly targeted to support young people in care who run away.

Hamlin Fistula Hospital: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The work of this place continues with its amazing restorative surgery for obstetric damage, but the pinnacle of achievement in the eyes of the co-founder, Dr Hamlin, is that the first graduates from the long awaited midwifery training school are now returning to their home areas, in pairs, to provide quality birth care for their fellow women. She has waited 50 years for this to be a reality and worked tirelessly to achieve it along with her late husband and many colleagues. Each new midwife makes a promise at graduation. "I,, a midwife of the Hamlin College, commit myself before God and before you all, to practice with compassion, integrity and love, using my skills and knowledge to value and protect women and children in my care, recognising that every mother is a family's richest possession." Abrehet Tesfay, a new graduate, said, "I have known many women who have died while giving birth in my area and knowing this encouraged me to become a midwife. I want to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal death. I hope to being a real and lasting change to the health care of women in my community".

Please come and join Hawkesley Church
on

Saturday 21st May

at

Hawkesley Church Centre,
Old Portway (off Shannon Road)
Hawkesley, Kings Norton. B38 9TR
for a

Coffee Morning

from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

All proceeds to Christian Aid.

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port this important Charity





boy has had a chance to explain. The dirt and the smell are ignored (the boy had, after all, been living in a pig sty). The father's overwhelming reaction is one of compassion: he feels his pain and confusion, he understands and the past no longer matters. We find no hint of disapproval here, only forgiveness. And the mood quickly turns to celebration as the fatted calf is killed and the party begins.

If life, or even church, has given you a mental picture of God that is unattractive or threatening, this story may give you pause for thought. In my experience, the images of God that we pick up second hand, from the media, from our upbringing or from our education, are at best pale reflections and at worst unrecognisable caricatures of what the Bible really says. And the heart of the message is simply this: we are loved more than we imagine possible by a Father who seeks a relationship of love and trust with us. Nothing we can do will deter him. Nothing we can do will make him love us less. Or, in the words of St Paul, *"What can separate us from the love of God in Christ?"*

David Ash

does not ask for an apology or a confession before granting his grudging forgiveness. The boy is not made to humiliate himself before he is welcomed home. Yes, he apologises, but his apology is almost brushed aside. This father surprises us, because he has none of the reactions which we might expect in the circumstances. All he cares about is being reunited with his child.

In this story, it is the father who takes the initiative. He is running almost as soon as his son appears on the distant horizon. He is hugging and kissing him before the



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Ifakara Bakery: As well as all the free loaves that are ensuring the children and patients in the kindergarten, orphanage, leprosy village and hospital have nutritious food (provided by generous donations from here and elsewhere), the bakery has now helped to make the whole village so pro-active that it has managed to install more wells and irrigation – meaning two crops a year and more food, better health and more income. And more income means the ability to install electricity, allowing for light at night – and time free for study rather than fetching water. The vision of one family and the gifts of many, have given life to thousands.

Church Urban Fund: Look them up on www.cuf.org.uk CUF grew from the hugely influential 1985 Church of England report "Faith in the City". It remains the Church's main support for ministry and service in socially disadvantaged (but so often faith-rich) inner and outer city areas. We also give thanks that PRODH (Project for Regeneration of Druid's Heath) has received significant support from the Church Urban Fund. PRODH, a local project for local people, is now independent, but was begun and nurtured by Kings Norton Team Parish.

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believe, is it enough to say that
what is "true" for you is good
enough as long as you let me
believe what is "true" for me?

Jesus was a master of the use of
images. His parables paint vivid
picture stories in the mind, through
which anyone, from the youngest
child to the most learned scholar,
can grasp something of the nature
of God. They seem to have
inexhaustible depth, constantly
offering up fresh insights to those
who read and re-read them. This is
what the Letter to the Hebrews
means when it describes the Word
of God as "alive and active". The
Bible is no mere book: it is a
conversation which reveals God to
us and us to ourselves. It is also a
rich source of images to which we
can turn when seeking reliable
anchors for our picture of God.

Of all the images in the Bible, the
most powerful and moving for me
is to be found in the story which
tradition calls "The Parable of the
Prodigal Son", though many prefer
to correct the focus and call it
"The Parable of the Forgiving
Father". Scandalously, for a Jew,
Jesus consistently refers to God as
"my Father" and encourages his
followers to do the same ("Our
Father..."), even using the Aramaic



word for "Daddy" when he teaches
them to pray. Again and again, he
encourages his audiences to put
their trust in the love of the Father
who wants the best for them. Each
time I read this story of the boy
who turned his back on his dad,
went his own way, hit rock bottom
and came home because he had run
out of options, I am astonished and
reassured by the deep compassion
which compels the father to set all
dignity aside and run to welcome
his wayward son.

We miss the point if we fail to
notice Jesus' choice of vocabulary
or the sequence of events. The
father does not walk to meet his
rebellious son with a scowl of
disapproval on his face, he runs,
propelled by love for his boy. His
first words are not words of
rejection or condemnation. He

My Favourite Bible Verse

Luke 15:20

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

“Tell me the first thing that comes into your head when you hear the word ...” You pause, even though you have been told not to; for you know that the next thing you say could determine how the interviewer sees you. Your answer, be it profound or quirky, risks revealing something unexpected about how you see the world. No wonder you feel nervous. You might discover something about yourself of which you had not previously been aware.

Word association games can be just harmless fun when played among friends; but they are sometimes put to more serious use because, some believe, they are able to shed light on what is going on beneath the surface of our minds. If I say “slug” and you reply “cute”, you are probably unsuited to a post as a market gardener. (There are a few other questions I would want to ask you



too, but they lie outside the scope of this article.)

What, then, comes into your mind the moment you hear the word “God”? The image which this word triggers will be different for each of us and it will be the result of a huge range of different inputs, from the images we have seen to the books we have read, from our experience of worship (if any) to encounters with people. Art, television, architecture, the natural world and our own inner life may all contribute.

Since so much of our experience can speak to us of God, how can we know whether the image which the word “God” creates in our minds comes anywhere close to the truth? In fact, is the truth about God knowable at all? Or, as popular culture would have us

March 2011 Baptisms

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”

6 th March	Daniel Bradford-Walker
6 th March	Jack Christopher Cox
6 th March	Shayla Chanae Purse
6 th March	Lola Josephine Whittaker
20 th March	Scarlette-Jay Davis
20 th March	Melodie Veronica Green
20 th March	Isabel Elisabeth Peake
20 th March	Amie Kathleen Suzuki

March 2011 Marriages

“Those whom God has joined together”

26 th March	Jason James Bartley and Lisa Clare Fletcher
27 th March	Wayne and Judith Stanton

Harry L Marks

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on the shore. It was Jesus. Peter swam to shore to greet Jesus, who had already lit a fire. "Let us cook and eat together some of the fish you caught," he said. After eating, Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. "Yes, you know that I do," replied Peter. Jesus asked Peter this same question a further two times. Each time Peter replied, "Yes, you know that I do." Jesus asked Peter to follow him and to always care for the other disciples.

In this story, we see Jesus, who was dead but is now alive, sharing a meal with his friend Peter. Jesus loved Peter very much and Peter also loved Jesus. Earlier in the gospel, Peter had denied knowing Jesus, not just once but three times (see John 18:15-17; 25-27). Here, Peter is seen acknowledging his love for Jesus three times. Just like Peter, there may have been a time in our lives when we too have denied knowing Jesus. Here though, Jesus is showing Peter that he forgives him for this denial and shows this by asking him to still follow him.



Jesus asks this of us too. Jesus is always calling us back to him, asking us to follow him and be his friend.

**If Jesus asked you today "Do you love me?"
what would your reply be?**

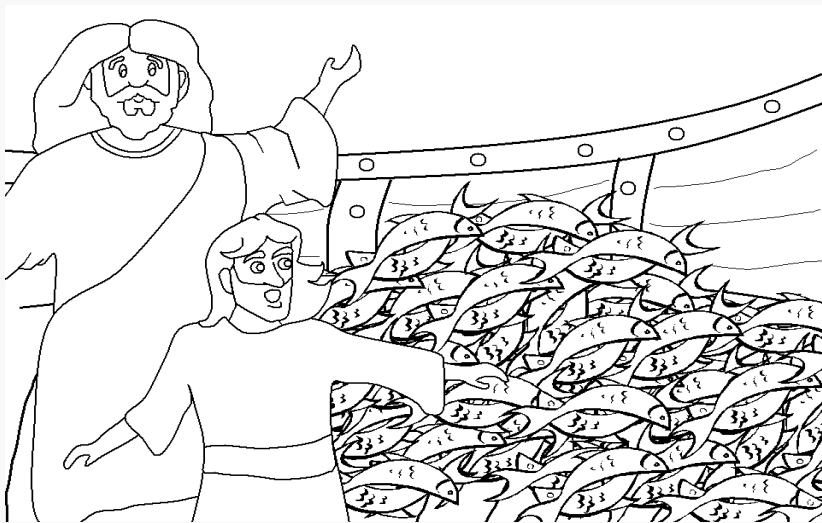
CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Gail.

Hello everyone!



After his Resurrection on Easter Day, Jesus appeared to his disciples on many occasions. One of these occasions is found in John's Gospel at chapter 21. Together let's take a look at it...

Shortly after Jesus had risen from the tomb, Peter and some of the disciples were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. They had been fishing all night but hadn't caught one fish. Suddenly, a man who was standing on the shore shouted to them, "Throw your net over the right side of the boat." Nobody knew or recognised this man, but they did as he said. When they pulled the net out of the water, it was full to the brim with fish, 153 of them. "Only Jesus could have done this," said one of the disciples. Instantly, Peter recognised the man standing



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March 2011 Funerals

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

- 1st March, Dennis Thompson, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 1st March, Roger John Morris, 74. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 2nd March, Patricia Kemp, 67. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 2nd March, John William Clarie, 68. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 3rd March, Sarah Mirabel Sowden, 93. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 4th March, Joan Edwards, 86. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 4th March, Mary Elizabeth Satchwell, 92. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 7th March, Lillian Edith Madeley, 87. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 10th March, Albert Henry Morris, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 10th March, Luenton Junior Thompson-Smith, 26 weeks gestation.
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 11th March, Joan Parker, 80. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 16th March, Graham Lane Osborn, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 16th March, Peter Smith, 57. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 21st March, Marion Sophia Cooke, 88. Service at St Nicolas Church,
burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 21st March, Roy Peter Hammon, 61. Service at St Nicolas Church, Burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 23rd March, Emma Elizabeth Tatton, 89. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 25th March, Benjamin Woodrow Reid, 83. Service at St Nicolas Church,
burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 28th March, Deborah Jane Hart, 44. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 29th March, Mildred Shaw, 97. Cremation at Robin Hood.

At Saint Nicolas Place

- Women's Fellowship** 7.30pm 1st Thursday; Secretary: Carol Devic
- Seniors' Club (Over 65's)** Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Christine Bowen
- Guides and Brownies** Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursday 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Monday 7.15-9.00 pm
- Guides and Brownies** Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 pm
at Hawkesley Church Centre Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 pm
- Scouts and Cubs** (198th & 129th Birmingham)
Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall, Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm Penny Hattersley 628 5694
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45 pm Karen Urwin 430 6005
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School

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Kings Norton Parish Office

St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU. 0121 458 3289
e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Monday to Friday.

Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Please use Parish Office to contact clergy and lay officers, to place prayers and notices in our weekly newsletter and monthly events diary – and for all churchyard enquiries.

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

Please use our website www.kingsnorton.org.uk, ask at services or Open Church times or at the Parish Office on 0121 458 3289 (Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm). Weekly newsletter and monthly events diary have the latest information. Churchyard enquiries to Parish Office

MINISTRY TEAM:

Canon Rob Morris (Team Rector)	458 3289 / 459 0560
The Revd Dr John White (Team Vicar)	458 3289 / 07854 412949
The Revd Jayne Crooks (Team Vicar)	458 3289 / 459 3733
The Revd Donald Sampson (Methodist Minister)	458 3289 / 476 7223
Mrs Fay Fearon (Reader)	458 3289 / 451 1914
Mrs Ruth Howman (Reader)	458 3289

WARDENS

St. Nicolas	Ann Hughes & Paul Shelton	458 3289
Hawkesley	Jim Clarke	550 3455 / 07939 838086

Immanuel	Alan Haynes	459 4711
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PCC (Church Council)

Parish Administrators:	Secretary: Sylvia Fox
Christian Giving Officer	Judy Ash, Christine Gadd, Sylvia Fox
Churchyard Care Team	Jean Brownsword 458 3289
Bible Reading Fellowship	Richard Harper 458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Julie Caley 458 3289
Organist and Music Director	Alison Blumer 486 2837
	Sylvia Fox 07778 449170
	<i>Tuesday: Training and groups 5.45-8.30pm;</i>
	<i>Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 pm, Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.</i>
	<i>Handbell Ringers, Mondays 3.00 – 4.30 pm; but ring to check we are meeting first.</i>

Immanuel Music Group	Susan Haynes	459 4711
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Oasis/ Sunday School

Immanuel	Nicky Moorcroft (Oasis leader)
St. Nicolas and Hawkesley	contact via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Magazine: Editor

Alan Haynes 459 4711 editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

Treasurer (Subscriptions) Alison Blumer 486 2837

Advertising Manager Evelyn Finn via Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Website David Ash e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

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The Church in the Parish

We are a Church of England Team Parish in partnership with the Methodist Church, serving all in Kings Norton through St Nicolas Parish Church and Hawkesley and Immanuel District Churches.

We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists:

To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ

To live out God's radical hospitality for all

To be equipped for work in God's world

St Nicolas Parish Church *on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Holy Communion Our main service - Oasis for 5-11's

2nd Sunday: 10.30am Parade Service - All Age Worship 11.45am Matins (BCP)

6 pm Evening Worship

Every Sunday evening we offer prayer, music and quiet for all to share in as you wish. Do come.

1st Sunday Taizé Prayer

2nd Sunday Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday Compline (Night Prayer) with a reflection

4th/5th Sundays: Special services or Evensong (BCP)

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11 am Holy Communion (BCP)

BCP is the Book of Common Prayer from 1662.. Other services are a mixture of ancient and modern words and music, mostly from the Common Worship Service Book 2000.

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist) *at Hawkesley Church Primary School*

on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Portway Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Sunday 10.30am Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church *at The Fairway Centre*

on the corner of Wychall Lane and The Fairway, Kings Norton, B38 8XJ

Sunday 10.30am Worship - and Oasis for children of primary school age.

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;

4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Open Church

We open St Nicolas Church as much as we can so that all may share God's peace and promise in a space where they have been found and trusted for centuries. There is a place for you within its story. Please pray that more will know it as a safe place for prayer and healing, where sorrow and joy are held in God's love.

We welcome volunteers to share in our offering of welcome, refreshment and care through St Nicolas, Hawkesley and Immanuel, to steward St Nicolas in Open Church times and care for our churchyard, flowers and brasses. Do ask.

Open Church times

Do visit, pray, light a candle or share quiet conversation over coffee as you wish

Wednesday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 6.30 – 9pm (Candlelit Church)

Thursday 6.30 – 8pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries,

Saturday 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, prayer

*with **Messy Church** for all ages every 2nd Saturday (Market Day)*

Candlelit Church

Every Wednesday, 6.30 – 9 pm with informal learning together at 8pm

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music

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Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

We are growing fresh ways for all to grow in faith – those making their very first step, those who have made many and those who are discovering God's love afresh after times of change. Please ask in each church for details.

Baptisms and Marriages

Please visit St Nicolas on Thursdays between 6.30pm and 8pm to ask any questions and arrange bookings with our clerks. One of the clergy is also present to help if there is a question over whether your service can be held in this parish.

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

It costs around £800 each week to keep St Nicolas open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, please ask how you may Gift Aid your offering.