

The Parish of Kings Norton

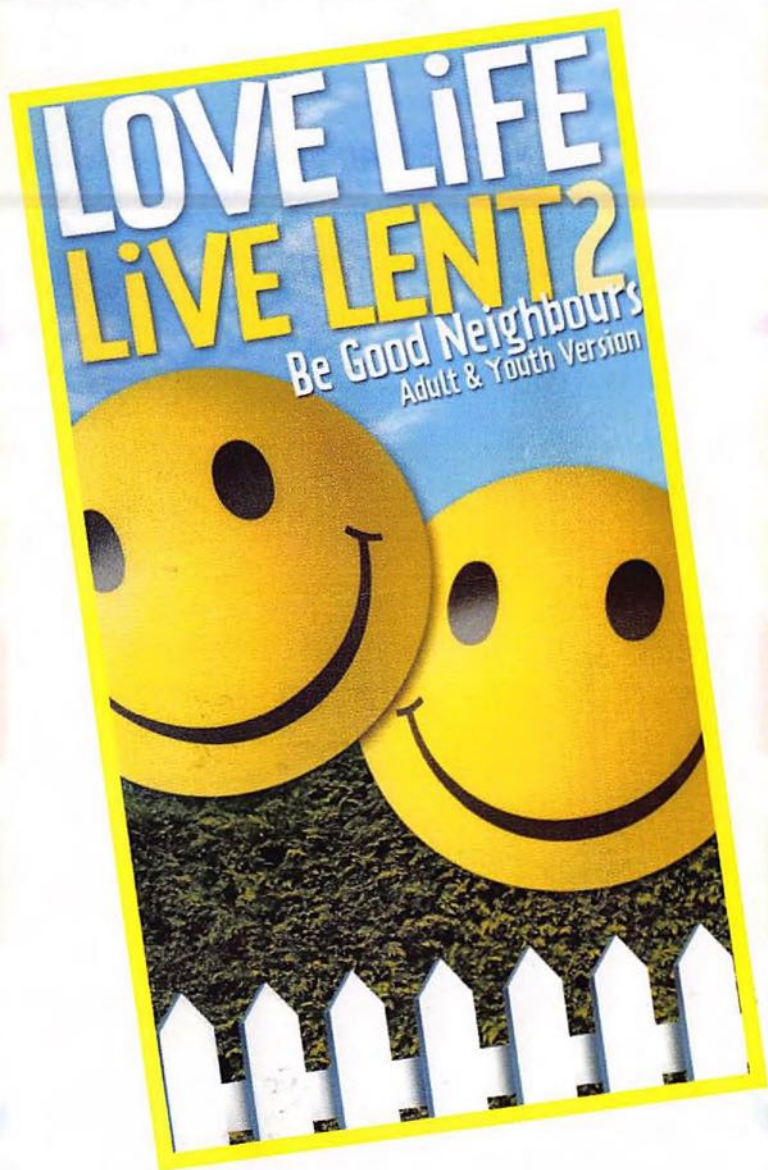
Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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March 2007 50p

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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

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CONTACT US AT:-

Kings Norton Parish Office
St Nicolas Hall
30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton
Birmingham, B38 8TN

tel:- 0121 458 3289

fax:- 0121 486 3954

e-mail:-

editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk

website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Editorial Team

- Revd. David Gould - Chair
- Mr. Chris Holmes - Editor
- Mr. Jeff Tinker - Editor Emeritus
- Mrs. Alison Blumer - Treasurer
- Revd. Jayne Crooks - Advertising
- Mr. Alan Haynes
- Miss Karen Urwin
- Mrs. Jess Boulton
- Mr. Graham Boulton
- Mrs. Gill Gould
- Mr Jim Clarke
- Mrs Joan Urwin

e-mail: editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

If you have cause for concern regarding any of the material published in this or any edition of the Kings Norton Parish Magazine contact
Revd David Gould at:- 459 5144
or by e-mail:- david.gould@kingsnorton.org.uk

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to be submitted by:-

Monday 19th March

The views, opinions and comments expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the *Kings Norton Parish Magazine*, the *Kings Norton Parish Team*, or it's *Staff*. Material must contain the Name and Contact Details of the 'sender'. Wherever possible material submitted for inclusion will be produced in full, but the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit such items, whilst retaining the correct context. We entrust the 'submitter' to ensure that, where necessary, copyright permission has been received to use the material.

From The Rector

God's continual promise is to be with us...

"Do we need anything more than the Cross of Jesus to tell us this?"

Lent, Love your Neighbour, Restoration and so much else – it doesn't get any quieter.

We wish for peace, but there always seems to be something to challenge or disturb it. No wonder Jesus said "Peace is my parting gift to you – but not as the world gives it." Within all the opportunities the world gives for new friendship, trust, confidence and brave risk, there so often seems to lurk the unforeseen and unexpected. People disappoint. New ventures run into the sand. Hopes take so much longer to fulfil than we want. We focus on our own needy weakness rather than God's strength and promise.

It matters. God's continual promise is to be with us and to seek our trust in all that happens. One of the easiest triumphs of evil is when it draws us away from that trust. We are drawn in and so quickly overcome by problems, large or small, petty or life-changing – and so forget that God gives strength in *all* things.

Do we need anything more than the Cross of Jesus to tell us this? In Jesus' death and rising, we know that God's love is deeper, stronger and wider than sin, suffering and death, ours and others. The huge trust of Psalm 23; the depth of God's love of our neighbour and ourselves in Jesus' Summary of the Law; the fullness of Jesus' teaching that we pray "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"; all these and so much more point us to the hope that is for us and for all through the Cross and resurrection of Jesus. Ours and others' failings are not the last word. That is spoken by Jesus on the Cross: "It is finished", not as

desperate failure but as God's work of love completed, fulfilled.

This Lent, we are following the Diocesan course "Love your neighbour." As we use it, I pray that we will be taken out of our personal concerns. We may even meet more neighbours, fresh or familiar, whom God has given us. We will be challenged – not in ourselves alone, but in the trust we place in God's peace and promise when all around is strange or hard to bear. I pray also that our use of the texts of Stages on the Way (Jesus' Summary of the Law, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed and the Beatitudes) will strengthen our faith and trust in God's purpose and presence for all, no matter where we are or who we are with. That never fails. We do when we forget it.

Please pray for new ventures on Druids Heath and through each of the three Team churches. Please pray for Restoration as work at last begins. Please pray for Heather as she retires and for us all as we prepare for moving on. Please pray above all that our hearts and minds are more and more fixed on God's faithfulness, so that we may share it in all things, for the sake of the Gospel, of our neighbours – and of ourselves.

This Lent may you grow in the peace of Christ, not as the world gives, but as He does through the giving of the Holy Spirit. His is a peace "which passes all understanding" – a gift wholly undeserved – but freely and lovingly given. Please trust that it is for you.

Canon Rob Morris

Cover Photo



The Smiley Cover of the 'Love Life Live Lent 2' booklets that will be used and available during the coming month.

See **Page 13** for more details and see articles throughout this issue referring to the booklet.

The lovely poem on the right of this page, by Matthew L Gadd, is so appropriate too.

Lets make March a...

'SMILEY MONTH'.



The poem, 'A Smile', reproduced here, was written by 'a Son for his Mom'.

Matthew Gadd wrote this just for his very special mother, Christine.

A wonderful poem and we thank Matthew for allowing us print it and for us all to share in it's sentiments.



A Smile

A smile sheds a thousand woes,
All it does is good,
It brightens up the darkest mood,
Spreads joy as we all should.

It warms the mind, the heart, the soul,
But that is just a start,
As what it does for others is,
Perhaps the greatest part.

If you smile at a passer-by,
They'll smile back in turn,
To compliment the joy you've spread,
It's happiness you've earned.

They may walk around the corner,
And smile at a boy,
Because of the good mood they're in,
They're passing on the joy.

The boy then smiles at a girl,
Who smiles at a dog,
The dog forgives the cat he's chased,
A happy epilogue.

And so, you see, a smiles great,
For more than just a while,
The benefits are long-lasting,
We only need to smile.

Matthew L Gadd



Bates and Sadler

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A NEW ELECTORAL ROLL!

“it really does matter to the church in Kings Norton – and we hope to you.”

Your pulse may not be racing at this news – but it really does matter to the church in Kings Norton – and we hope to you.

The Electoral Roll is the nearest that the Church of England has to a membership list. We're not a club or a closed society. We are open - for all who live in the parish and for all who live outside but want to share fully in our life and worship.

If you live in the parish or worship regularly here, as long as you are baptized and aged 16 or over, you can join the Electoral Roll - simply by filling in a form. Forms will be available in all three Team churches and from the Parish Office

Why join? Because it shows a commitment to the work of God's church here. In a healthy church, there is a strong and growing Electoral Roll.

Electoral Roll members are also able to vote for Church Council members and to be married in St Nicolas. But it is the sympathy and support for the Church's work that matters most. Part of the assessment of the Common Fund (the sum we pay to the diocese towards clergy and other central church costs) is based on the number of people on the Electoral Roll.

Why a new Electoral Roll?

Every six years, the Electoral Roll is completely renewed. The old one is scrapped and a completely new one made.

Everyone who wants to be on it has to complete a new form. In December we were told that this six-yearly scrapping and re-making of parish Electoral Rolls due in 2008 is to be brought forward to 2007 . . . and it must be completed two weeks before our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**. To give us time for proper renewal, the APCM has been moved from 29th March to Monday 23rd April at 7pm in St Nicolas Church

What else?

In the past, the Renewal of the Electoral Roll has given us a very valuable opportunity to renew the whole parish membership list and also to approach everyone about Christian Giving and encourage renewal of affiliation to the church's life and work.

We did this very usefully in 2002 – and now we want to do it again. .

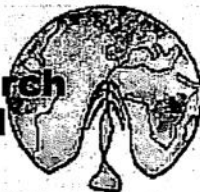
During Lent, we want to ensure that all present and potential ER members have been invited to complete ER forms - and also to review their Christian Giving. Many will also want to have the basics of church finance and Christian Giving explained to them.

Can you help? Will you think about responding - encourage others. It does matter!

Canon Rob Morris

**Women's World
Day Of Prayer
Friday March 2nd
at 2.00 p.m.**

**Join Us At
St Josephs Church
Station Road
Cotteridge**



CHRISTIAN AID 2007... CHRISTIAN AID 2007
Prayer and World Needs Group have launched
a new fund raising activity called
'PLEDGE IT'

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

Anyone and everyone can join in.

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

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

To let us know your ideas e-mail us at: kurwin@blueyonder.co.uk

Help us make a difference and **"Pledge It"**
CHRISTIAN AID 2007... CHRISTIAN AID 2007

Stunning picture of 'Churchyard in February Snows'

©Karen Urwin



READERS LETTER

To the Editor

Hi, Wondered if you were able to put the following in the next newsletter/parish magazine?

After reading the reminder about the 'Pledge-It' event for Christian Aid in the last magazine, I popped on my thinking cap and have come up with the following.

I am asking friends and family to sponsor me for each pound in weight that I loose between the 9th January (which is when I joined Weight Watchers) and Christian Aid week in May. If anyone would like to sponsor me please do not hesitate to approach me.

Many thanks
Jeanette Brown
(AKA Sophie's Mom)!

Editors comment: *I've contacted Mrs Brown and, if you wish to sponsor her, she is present at Sunday Service at St Nicolas. I know that all will join this magazine in wishing Jeanette every success with her sponsorship project.*

READERS LETTER

Dear Editor,

I hope that many readers of the Parish Magazine will have noticed from the "Who's who" pages that Mesdames Deb Buckley and Sian Smith have taken on the organising of the Seniors' Club meetings. I applaud their willingness to undertake this responsibility in addition to the other good works they carry out for the Parish and Church.

However, I have not seen any article recognising the work performed single-handed for this Club over many, many years by Mrs Mina Day. She undoubtedly deserves thanks and publicity for the sterling works that she did, and continues to do in other ways.

Perhaps you can rectify this omission, unless she has already ticked the box for "no publicity"

Yours sincerely,
Norman Hoadly

Editors comment: *You are certainly correct and I know your views are echoed by countless people throughout our parish Mr Hoadly. All I can say for now is 'watch this space'.*



Mena Day



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Deb Buckley

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Congratulations



To Nicky and David

It is a great delight to be able to announce the engagement of Nicky Crooks and



Photos Chris Holmes

David Moorcroft. Nicky heads up the children's ministry at Immanuel Church and is also one of the leaders of Impact! David produced the beautiful calendar for 2006 and the Christmas (2005) cards that we sold in the parish in aid of the Restoration project. He too is a leader of Impact! They are planning an October wedding - so watch this space.

David Moorcroft and Nicky Crooks

Revd Jayne Crooks

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Lent 2007

Kings Norton

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

Café T is following the Lent course that goes with Love Life Live Lent 2 on Tuesday evenings beginning on Tuesday 27th February at 8-9.30pm at Gill and David Gould's home, 53 Wychall Park Grove. You do not have to have been coming to Café T to join the special Lent course!

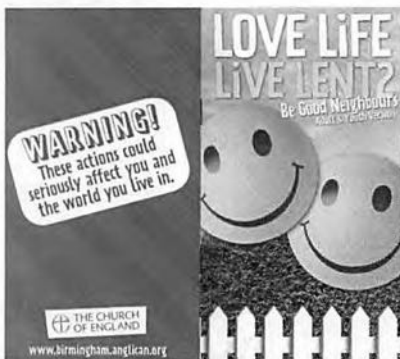
Do consider carefully if you would like to be part of Lent 2007 with others or making some particular space for thinking on the things of God yourself. If you would appreciate help or guidance about materials to assist your spiritual journey during Lent do speak to one of the clergy, we would be delighted to assist. The book review in this month's magazine (*page 16*) is of The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2007.

Do you know someone in need of a visit?

If you are aware of a parishioner who is unwell, in hospital or in need of a visit could you please contact the Parish Office on

0121 458 3289.

Whenever possible, we can try arrange for a visit.



Immanuel Church Mid-week study group, who meet 10.30 a.m. to 12 midday on a Wednesday morning, are using the book Power and Passion by Samuel Wells as the basis for their Lent reflections. If you would like to join them in this please call Carol Wozencraft on 433 3675 for details of where they meet each week as the venue moves around!!!



Love Life Live Lent 2 booklets are available through the Parish Office, Tel 458 3289, and from Hawkesley, Immanuel and St Nicolas Church's.

Revd David Gould

Women's Evening Fellowship

“back in St Nicolas Hall”

We are back in St Nicolas Hall again, at 7.30 pm on St David's Day, March 1st.

Annette Dickers, one of our own members and a past Chairman, will speak to us about preparing for a Royal visit.

On April 5th we are to have a Fashion show arranged by the "Bon Marche" Chainstore.

Gwen Fox - Chairman

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

'the snowdrops and crocuses have been in flower around the Churchyard and the daffodils are waiting their turn to delight and welcome us to spring'

As you will have noticed the snowdrops and crocuses have been in flower around the Churchyard and the daffodils are waiting their turn to delight and welcome us to spring. These flowers, the trees and grass all need care and attention and this work has been carried out by volunteers. As we all appreciate volunteers are not immortal and each year we need a regular influx of new volunteers if we are to keep up the maintenance of the Churchyard. Are you able to help us out?

There are basically two volunteer groups which carry out care and maintenance work in the Churchyard and their current tasks are outlined below:

Wednesday Evenings

There is a Wednesday evening mixed group (Churchyard Caring Team) which meets on alternate Wednesday evenings between April and September from 7.00 pm to about 8.30 pm with refreshments provided at half time. If the weather is very wet we will meet on the next evening (Thurs). This group carries out light work including grass cutting and tidying around the cremation plots to the right hand side of Mirey Lane and adjacent to the northern boundary of the Rectory garden.

The dates for 2007 are:-

April 18th - May 2nd, 16th and 30th
June 13th and 27th - July 11th and 25th
Aug 8th and 22nd - Sept 5th

Thursday Mornings

The Thursday morning group meets most Thursday mornings between 9.30 am and 12 noon (except for a period of 4 to 6 weeks around Christmas time). The work carried out is medium to heavy work and includes trimming bushes, tidying neglected graves, removal of self-set trees, brambles, ivy etc., filling and seeding sunken graves and any other minor tasks that arise during the season.

Both groups require further volunteers to replace those who have moved from the area etc. if the maintenance of the Churchyard is to be kept up to standard. The Churchyard is a good advertisement for the Church and in addition has a considerable effect on the choice of venue for couples wishing to get married.

if you are interested or know someone who may be keen in joining either group even on an occasional basis or would like further information please contact Ian Manson (459 3165), Richard Harper (458 1549) or the Church Office (458 3289, open 10-1, weekdays). Volunteers who are not regular worshippers will also be made most welcome and you will be allowed time off to take your holidays and days off!

THE GREENERY

THE FLORIST ON THE GREEN

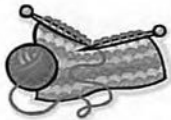
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Knit,



Are you a great knitter? Do you prefer crochet? Or is needlework your passion? Then come along and join the Knit and Stitch group.

Knit and Stitch is a drop-in group where you can come along with your stitch work, meet other knitters or stitchers and have a good old natter and a cup of tea.

Don't worry if you can't knit, there's bound to be someone willing to teach.

If you haven't a project on the go then join in the making of the Kings Norton Prayer Shawls and Quilts. The idea is that everyone helps to knit or crochet a shawl or create a quilt. Prayers and blessings can

Stitch



and Natter



Everyone welcome - knitters, stitchers, beginners, children.

More details from Jess or Pauline via info@kingsnorton.org.uk or the Parish Office.

Pauline Weaver

A. W. DAVIES

AND ASSOCIATES

DENTAL SURGEONS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

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TUESDAY

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**5 MIDDLETON HALL ROAD
KINGS NORTON
Tel: 0121 458 1368**

BOOK REVIEW

reviewer Revd David Gould

Power and Passion: Six Characters in Search of Resurrection

Samuel Wells Published by Zondervan £8.99 ISBN 0-310-27017-0

This book is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Official 2007 Lent Book and with that on a sticker staring up from the cover you may well dismiss it if you tried his recommendation last year...

However you would miss not only a good book but one from who Dr Williams calls an "outstanding thinker and an outstanding pastor". Dr Williams also says that he found in this volume "an encounter with the crucified and risen Jesus".

So, does the book live up to the Archbishop's words? I picked it up and flipped through it and noticed first of all the very straight forward language, language that nonetheless succeeded in handling some hard thoughts. I liked the way that a series of characters was treated to a thorough examination, comparisons made across the gospels and explorations were made into background that let one enter into the stories of the peoples' lives.

I bought the book and quite soon into it realised that the Archbishop was right, that here was a person used to dealing with people in a parish and not shying away from hard thinking. Samuel Wells looks at the whole issue of how passion and politics relate, about what happens if our



understanding of politics has no place for resurrection and then the big question, We are God's passion; is he ours?

The characters examined are Pontius Pilate; Barabbas; Joseph of Arimathea; Mrs Pilate...yes that is

not a misprint; Peter and Mary Magdalene. After each is a series of questions and a prayer which invite us to allow time for thoughtful reflection and the recognition that, speaking for myself, I learnt something new about each person as I turned the pages of this fascinating book.

You will receive this magazine a little after the start of lent. Do not let that deter you from adding this book to your next shopping list! It may well have the effect of changing how you approach lent this year, adding to the richness of all you have brought to your Lenten journey over the years.

Revd David Gould

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Happy Birthday John

John Joubert, Anna's Dad, is 80 on March 20th. Over the year there will be many celebrations of his music. Birmingham will have more than a few. Details are on www.johnjoubert.org.uk and also in church. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN**

Rob



John Joubert

Photo © John Morris

Joubertiade

John Joubert is one of the greatest choral composers of the last 50 years, and a longtime Birmingham resident. This year Birmingham celebrates his contribution to music and to Birmingham. Please visit his website for details of this year's celebrations dedicated to this much-loved composer.

<http://www.johnjoubert.org.uk/>

Here is just one example of these celebrations:

Wings of Faith; Celebrating Joubert at 80

Thursday 22 March 2007, 7.30pm – The Oratory, Birmingham

In honour of his 80th birthday, Ex Cathedra and musicians from the CBSO join forces for the first complete performance of Wings of Faith (Parts I and II).

Free pre-concert talk 6.30 pm - John Joubert in conversation with Christopher Morley

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Birmingham Central Library 0121 303 2323 Tickets £8.00 - £23.00 (concessions available)

Jess Boulton

IN FATHERS FOOTSTEPS...

Quite apart from being such a charming and dignified man, John Joubert is also the father of profession cellist Anna Joubert, a wonderfully talented musician in her own right. Anna most recently played at the Royal Shakespeare Company for their brand new Shakespeare musical *The Merry Wives of Windsor* starring Dame Judi Dench. She regularly plays for the most regularly contracted ballet orchestra in the country, the BRB Royal Ballet Sinfonia. She is frequently working at prestigious events, (sometimes involving royalty!) right across the country. She is also known to us here as Anna Morris, a regular member of our congregation at St Nicolas, and is married to the Rector with



two wonderful children. If you have a chance to hear her play, don't pass it up. I feel sure you will make the most of any opportunity to attend some of the celebrations of her father's work and life. (I couldn't let Anna know I've written this, as she is far too modest to allow me to put it in. She might even be a bit cross. But I am sure you will agree that it is worth the risk.) Sorry Anna.

Jess Boulton

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GREETINGS FROM Susan Haynes immanuelchurch@kingsnorton.org.uk

IMMANUEL CHURCH



In our Mission and Outreach, we would like to thank you very much for a tremendous response to our appeal for reading volunteers for our two local schools, Fairway and Wychall Primary. 10 people responded! Some have started already; others are in the process of having CRB checks. Thank you. We have been delighted to offer to pay for a Christian Theatre Company (Rhema) to perform at both schools – and both have gladly accepted! We are also ensuring that each child from both schools receives a copy of the children's version of "Love Life, Live Lent". We are going to put the adult versions of the booklets in

key community places, such as the doctor's surgery, shops and schools for people to take home if they would like to. We organised a meal for people to bring friends to, which included thought-provoking Christian discussion. We have had positive feedback from this and are looking to organise another. Our four carol-singing events went well – although one in particular was VERY cold! Apparently, we were the talk of the local shops on the following day (in a good way)!

From a Pastoral Care point of view, we are developing an Intercessory Group to meet weekly during Lent, after which its viability will be assessed according to interest. The group will receive prayer requests as well as interceding for the church as a whole, the community and the wider world. Linked with that, those from Immanuel who are on email now have the option to join an E-Prayer Group, exchanging prayer information on email and making a commitment to pray for each other in the requests made, whether big or small.

The Men's Curry Nights have taken off and become a monthly event, including men from Immanuel, Hawkesley and St Nicolas' Churches. It's a great opportunity for men to relax together and to bring friends along if they want to. The next one will be on Monday 12th March, 8pm at Balti Bazaar. Please call Alan Haynes on 459 4711 in advance if you would like to go so that he can book the table.

On Sunday 4th March, we will be having a Combined Service at Hawkesley and we hope that we soon have a "return visit" back at Immanuel. We are looking forward to welcoming Grace Guinness, our CMS Partner, to Immanuel on Sunday 11th March. All are welcome if you would like to come to hear her speak. On 25th March we are incorporating our AGM into a Thanksgiving Service, giving praise to God for all that he has been doing amongst us in the past year. **Susan Haynes.**

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St Patrick's Day

9th March culminating with the
Parade on Sunday 11th March 2007



St Patrick's Day is on 17th March but the Birmingham St Patrick's Festival, the worlds third biggest St Patrick's Day celebrations (after New York and Dublin), will begin on 9th March culminating with the Parade on Sunday 11th March.

3 Days of Lively Irish
Community
Organised Events.



DO YOU KNOW THEM?

Can you recognise these two 'well respected' and 'dignified' Kings Norton Parishioners taking part in last years St Patrick's Day Festivities?



See Page 30 to reveal their identities

Please support our
ADVERTISERS

they support
Our Parish Magazine



Thank you...

Hawkesley Church

Dates for your Diaries

Sun 11th March Annual Church Meeting: to be followed by Shared Lunch

Sun 1st April Palm Sunday Service: to which Uniformed Groups are invited.

Coffee & Chat

continue to meet:-
fortnightly on Tuesdays
Details will be included
in Parish Newsletters

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

Ray Davis (Church Steward)

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

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

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2007

26th March Mrs Audrey Duggan on
"Mendelssohn in Birmingham"

30th April **AGM** - followed by Mr James Melling on "King's Norton Miscellany"

21st May* Mr Stephen Price on
"Primrose Hill Farm"

(* this is third Monday in May)

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

EVENTS

DIARY



Send your events to:-

Kings Norton Parish Office, 30 Westhill Road,

Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8TN

tel:- 0121 458 3289

e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk

Early morning communion services at **St Nicolas Church** at 7.30 am each Wednesday

March 7th - March 14th - March 21st - March 28th - April 4th

Kings Norton Festival

Plans are underway for the 2007 Kings Norton Festival which will take place in and around the Parish Church of St Nicolas on

Saturday 14th July

Watch Website, Parish Newsletters and this mag as details unfold



**THIS IS
YOUR
SPACE**

**Tell us of your
upcoming
events**

FUTURE

Friends of Historic Kings Norton
EVENTS

University of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Concert

Date: Friday 29th June 2007 The University of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will be performing a concert in St. Nicolas Church organised by the Friends of Historic Kings Norton. More details to follow nearer the time.

Restoration Barn Dance

Date: Friday 10th August 2007
A Barn Dance will be held in St. Nicolas Hall.
More details nearer date....

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

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:

Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX 458 3289/459 0560
The Revd. HEATHER FLACK (Team Vicar), 195 Monyhull Hall Road B30 3QN 458 3483
The Revd. DAVID GOULD (Team Vicar), 53 Wychall Park Grove, B38 8AG 459 5144

Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Revd. DONALD SAMPSON 476 7223

Hon. Assistant Curate:

The Revd. JAYNE CROOKS, 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP 459 3733

Lay Staff:

Mrs. FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or..... 451 1914

RUTH SNASHALL (Reader), c/o Parish Office

Church Wardens

St. Nicolas Miss KAREN URWIN 459 7086

SIAN SMITH c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) Mr. JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455

Mr. RAY DAVIS 458 5774

Mr. PETER SMITH 453 9931

Immanuel (Warden) ALAN HAYNES 459 4711

(Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE

(Deputy Warden) GERRY MOORCROFT

(Deputy Warden) STUART WHITBY

P.C.C. Secretary Dr. CATHERINE BENNETT

P.C.C. Treasurer Mrs. JAN ANSON, c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Office: 30 Westhill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8TN 458 3289

(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fax: 486 2825

Parish Administrator Mrs. CHRISTINE BOWEN 458 3289

Parish Administrator Ms. RACHEL BANNISTER 458 3289

Finance Administrator Mrs. CHRISTINE GADD 458 3289

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

Choir & Orchestra Practices Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.

Friday: Juniors 6.45-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.

Sunday: Before Evensong 5.30-5.45 p.m.

Immanuel Music Group Leader SUSAN HAYNES, 42 Marbury Close, B38 8YX 459 4711

Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) contact via Parish Office 458 3289

Hawkesley

The OASIS (Immanuel) Miss NICKY CROOKS

IMPACTI (Youth Group) Every Sunday, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., at St Nicolas Hall

..... Leader: GARETH JONES

Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church

Primary School Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Headteacher Mr. ROGER WOOLDRIDGE 459 6467

Fax: 459 6468

Bell Ringers Practice Tuesdays at 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower

Ringling Master Mr. R. ALDINGTON, 18 Queen Mother Court, B30 1TH 471 2266

Kings Norton Handbell Ringers

Secretary Mrs. JO NELSON, 77 Garland Way, B31 2BT

..... Practice on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	Mrs. J. CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS	458 3328
Women's Evening Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in St Nicolas Hall Secretary: Mrs. VAL HAYNES	459 3121
Seniors Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon in St Nicolas Hall DEB BUCKLEY & SIAN SMITH	702 2063
Scouts and Cubs (198th Birmingham)	At St Nicolas Hall:- Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: Mrs. PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: Mr. JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: Mr. ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 244 0789
Scouts and Cubs (129th Birmingham)	At the Bells Farm Community Centre:- Cubs (aged 8-11): Thursdays-6:30 p.m.- 8.00 p.m. Leader: Miss KAREN URWIN	459 7086
Guides and Brownies	At St Nicolas Hall:- 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. mainly at St Nicolas Hall Contact: JOHN ALEXANDER	445 1312
Kings Norton History Society	Last Monday (or last but one if Bank Holiday) from September to May (exc. December) in St Nicolas Church at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m. in St. Nicolas Hall	
Parish Magazine Editor	Mr CHRIS HOLMES contact via Parish Office	628 5284
Parish Magazine Treasurer	Mrs. ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	Rev'd JAYNE CROOKS, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	Mr GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

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



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

The telephone number remains the same.

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE 0121 458 3289

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

January 2007 Baptisms

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

14th January 2007 **Matthew John Megahey**
14th January 2007 **Joshua William Nowell**

January 2007 Funerals

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

2nd Jan 2007	Marlene Annette Mead , aged 59.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
4th Jan 2007	Dorothy (k/a Dolly) Beatrice Cattell , aged 85.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
11th Jan 2007	Steven Lewis Pike , aged 49.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
15th Jan 2007	John (k/a Jim) Edwin Hemming , aged 84.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
16th Jan 2007	Diane Wood , aged 44.	Service in St Nicolas;
16th Jan 2007	Matthew Thomas Dugmore , aged 32.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
17th Jan 2007	Baby Rhianon White , aged 0.	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Lodge Hill Cemetery
17th Jan 2007	Tasoulla Stylianou , aged 76.	Graveside service at Kings Norton Cemetery
18th Jan 2007	Frederick John Powell , aged 83.	Service at St Nicolas; Burial in churchyard
18th Jan 2007	Maurice Levine , aged 98.	Burial in churchyard
19th Jan 2007	Mabel Betty Box , aged 82.	Service in St Nicolas; Burial Brandwood Cemetery
22nd Jan 2007	John Osbert Kimberley , aged 74.	Service in St Nicolas; Burial in churchyard
22nd Jan 2007	William Joseph Howard , aged 84.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
23rd Jan 2007	Caroline Jeanne Key , aged 48.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
25th Jan 2007	Edna May Antrobus , aged 88.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
25th Jan 2007	Albert Smith , aged 85.	Cremation at Robin Hood
26th Jan 2007	Mabel Treadwell , aged 91.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
30th Jan 2007	Elsie May Dalton , aged 85.	Cremation at Lodge Hill
31st Jan 2007	Diane Marie Seabury , aged 46.	Service in St Nicolas; Burial at Quinton Cemetery
31st Jan 2007	Christopher William Winfield , aged 59.	Cremation at Lodge Hill

SERVICES

St. Nicolas

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY MON/ WED/THURSDAY

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

EVERY 1st, 3rd and 4th SUNDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

9.30 a.m. Tiny Tots
11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

2nd SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Parade Service
11.45 a.m. Matins (BCP)

4th SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Family Service

'Oasis'

for children aged 3 to 11, EVERY SUNDAY (except for Parade Service) at 10.30 a.m. The children join the congregation in church towards the end of the service.

Tiny Tots

for 0-5's and parents/carers - each term-time Thursday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. - in Church - for play, coffee and chat.

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

- meeting at the Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Shannon Road/Old Portway
EVERY SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Family Service and Sunday School.
EVERY TUESDAY 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Immanuel Church

- meeting at Fairway Day Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.
EVERY SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Morning Service/Communion.
Oasis - Every Sunday 10.30 a.m. (except for All-Age Worship service)

Druids Heath

Services here are currently suspended pending an exploration of future possibilities.

Café T

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

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGES

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

General Enquiries:- Parish Office Mon to Fri 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

e-mail:- info@kingsnorton.org.uk

Web Site:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk

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

A NOSTALGIC RETURN

"My parents where married at St Nicolas Church, had their wedding reception at the 'Saracen's' and are buried here in the churchyard., so Kings Norton is very special in our memories and in our hearts."

Whilst visiting family graves at the Parish Churchyard recently, ex 'Kings Nortonites', Patricia Jones & Des Buggins, recalled happy memories of their youth when they both lived here in Kings Norton.

Patricia's mom lived at 33 The Green, which sadly is no longer here. Patricia told me, "My parents where married at St Nicolas Church, had their wedding reception at the 'Saracen's' and are buried here in the churchyard., so Kings Norton is very special in our memories and in our hearts."

She added, "As Des and I are now living in Little Witley, Worcestershire, we only get here occasionally but thankfully my lovely sister, Anne (Turner), who lives in Northfield, is a very regular visitor to the family grave.



Des Buggins and Patricia Jones

Des remembered with affection his youth and the happy times he'd had with friends during their evenings at the 'Boxing Club' which was held at the Saracen's Head

Des remembering great times



As he looked nostalgically at sheltered flats for the elderly Des recalled, "That's where the Kings Norton Picture House once stood." With an air of pride he said, "I was at the opening of that cinema in the 1930's. It was officially opened by Gracie Fields who was to become famous during the war with songs like 'Sally... Pride of our Alley.'" *(The King's Norton Cinema opened in September 1938. The architect was Harold Seymour Scott and it seated 1,142. It closed in June 1983.)*

Patricia and Des were so obviously 'moved' by their visit to 'old pastures' but continued to share their precious moments that can never be recaptured, but will never be forgotten.

With a final melancholy look at the buildings, the Green and the place that was once home, Patricia and Des said, "Kings Norton always was... and always will be a very special place to us."

Chris Holmes



Help poor communities grow a future this Christian Aid Week 13-19 May 07
You add. We multiply.
www.caweb.org

Christian Aid Week

13th to 19th May 2007

Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds projects in some of the world's poorest areas. It works in more than 50 countries, wherever the need is greatest, helping people regardless of religion or race to improve their own lives, and tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. It was set up in 1945 by churches in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Christian Aid Week, which runs from 13 – 19 May, is seven amazing days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. By supporting Christian Aid Week your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world.

The house to house collection has been at the heart of Christian Aid Week for 50 years, and now raises more than £10 million each year - including more than £1 million through Gift Aid.

Claire Greenhill and Joan Urwin are co-ordinating the house to house collections for King's Norton Parish this year. Can YOU help raise money for Christian Aid? If you are able to assist, in a street near you, please contact Claire or Joan on 0121 458 5709. Even if you are only able to collect from a few houses please remember that every little helps.

**Donations made in Christian Aid Week change lives.
Thanks for helping to make a difference.**

Claire Greenhill

We Welcome CMS Mission Partner Grace Guinness in March

Our church supports CMS (the Church Mission Society) by an annual donation and by having a Mission Partner, Grace Guinness, who has been in regular contact with us by quarterly letters from Central Asia. She returned for her first home leave last December having worked full time as a Manager on several community projects. Since January, she has been visiting her supporting churches, and is looking forward to coming to Kings Norton in early March. She will be taking part in the 10.30am service at Immanuel and the 6pm service at St Nicolas on Sunday 11th, and is very keen to meet as many people as possible beforehand. So arrangements are being made to do so at an informal evening on

Saturday 10th March and further details of the place and time will be announced shortly.



CMS Mission Partner
Grace Guinness

As this is Grace's first visit to our church, a special invitation is extended to everyone to these events, so that we can encourage her by showing an interest and support in her work of 'Sharing Jesus, Changing Lives', the CMS Mission Statement in one of the poorest war torn countries in the world.

Anne Morrell

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Close 'Knit' Community

Women's Evening Fellowship and the Thursday Brownies Working Together



As St Nicolas Hall was being used for Blood Donors on the 1st February, both the Women's Evening Fellowship and the Thursday Brownies needed another venue – and decided to hold a joint meeting for the first time.

Both groups spent the evening in St Nicolas Church with the ladies of the Fellowship teaching the Brownies to knit. All the girls were concentrating hard but remembered

to talk to their helpers as well. The evening was a huge success with lots of new friendships being made.

Thursday Brown Owl said 'It was tremendous to see the two groups working so well together. There was a real spirit of friendship in fact one Brownie said 'haven't we made lots of new friends tonight.'

Gwen Fox



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Parish Website

www.kingsnorton.org.uk

The Parish Website received at least 1445 visits for the month of January 2007.

Education Officer

This month the advertising of the Restoration – Education Officer post increased the number of people visiting the Website, particularly the Restoration News page which had a five fold increase in visitors. There were over 150 visits initiated from the Times Educational Supplement website where the post was advertised as well as 15 visitors from the Fish4Jobs website.

Pages Visited

The most visited pages were, in descending order, the Home page, Restoration News, News, Restoration Home, Contacts, The Churches (St Nicolas), Services, The Churches (General), Magazine Home & Magazine Items.

Summary

The website is visited by people looking for information about the Parish, so if you have something that you think should be on the Parish website please let me know.

Graham Boulton (webmaster)



IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

The two 'well respected' and 'dignified' Parishioners from page 20 are:-



Sheila Holmes
(Editors Wife)

Karen Urwin
(Churchwarden)

Tiny Tots

Invite you to join them for
**Playtime, Songs and
Stories**

in
St Nicolas Church

between

9.15 am & 10.30 am

Thursday mornings
during term time



The Church at Druids Heath

part of the Parish of Kings Norton

For many months a growing team of people have been looking at two strands of work for renewing the ministry of the church on Druids Heath. Broadly this falls under two heading: Community Regeneration and Church Services of some sort. I only chair PRODH< Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath; its effectiveness as a team derives from the commitment of some from the wider parish, deanery and diocese and some from the community of Druids Heath.

These people have given generously of their time and creative thinking. The net result as of today, 11th February 2007 is that we are about to recruit somebody to work on the community regeneration task under the auspices of The Nehemiah Project, an initiative under the Forum for Community Regeneration of The Diocese of Birmingham. This post will be part funded by a Civic Renewal Grant from London which encourages experimental attempts to rejuvenate local communities and their civic aspirations. Birmingham City Council is also a major partner.

This piece of work will provide the profile for the renewal of Church life under the auspices of The Parish of Kings Norton, working in partnership with many other agencies on Druids Heath and I have been grateful for their welcome into the community life and its networks.

We had hoped to share use of The Phoenix but are now looking to work out of Manningford Hall on Bells Lane, working with its committee and other users. We have begun to build contact with two other churches in the area and look for ways of real co-operation in ministry in the area.

The first evidence of church services was the Christingle held last Christmas and the forthcoming Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday. We are beginning to look at the possibility of a service at Easter and the development of services on a regular basis after that. In all this I am delighted that much of the initiative comes from those living and working on Druids Heath and that we as Church can serve that initiative in what is hopefully a sensitive and supportive way.

Do pray that this work will go forward with care and courage and that the many things currently going on in the area the church can play its part in making very best uses of the resources at our disposal.

My thanks to all who have supported and prayed to date. Do feel able to call or email me if you would like to ask questions or make suggestions, they will be warmly welcomed!

Telephone: 0121 459 5144

email: david.gould@kingsnorton.org.uk

For My friend, Joan

I know you've been a bit poorly and I could write you a sloppy poem. But I wont.

I just say... Stop being so inconsiderate and get back home soon. You've left me here with Chris, Paul and Karen... and I've got no-one to 'fight me corner'.

Your bestest friend, Sheila



Joan Urwin

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A.N. Orak



Why do people give something up for Lent?

Why do people give something up for Lent? Well a quick search on the Internet can provide you with no end of information. A good place to start is Wikipedia, the online encyclopaedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lent> where you can get an in depth description of everything you could possibly want to know. Wikipedia is a fantastic free resource which anyone can contribute to, although entries are moderated to ensure no-one posts a load of nonsense (or worse).

Alternatively, go to www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/lent.html which puts it in easier language aimed at

children. Once you have digested all this information you can test yourself at www.refuel.org.uk/curric/festivals/lent/puzzle_stu.html

When you have read all this and are stirred into action then you can visit the Live Life, Love Lent website at www.livelent.net and sign up for daily email or text messages. This is a Church of England initiative which we are promoting in the parish and you may have received a booklet all about it already. If you want an alternative you could do the Ship of Fools 40 ideas for lent instead <http://ship-of-fools.com/lent/index.html> although be aware that this was first published for Lent last year.

Finally, when you have reflected on your Lent activities you might want to contribute to a blog that has been set up for the purpose. Sign up for your day at www.nealb.co.uk/lent/ there are plenty of spaces as I write, but I expect they will be snapped up quickly. You can always just visit to read the blog entries.

Keep up to date with what is happening in the parish during lent at www.kingsnorton.org.uk and become part of the webmaster's statistics.

Happy Surfing

Kings Norton Parish Trip to Spring Harvest 31st March to 5th April 07 *places now available*



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

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

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

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

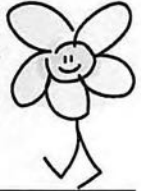
God bless, Ruth Snashall



CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Karen

Dear Friends

I can hardly believe that Lent is upon us again. It seems such a short time since Christmas, and yet here we are looking towards the other end of Jesus' life. Jesus prepared himself and His disciples for His death and resurrection, the time we know as Easter, and we need to be prepared too. Our Parish has again got the 'Love Life, Live Lent' booklets to help us get ready for Easter. Jesus always thought about others first and that is just what the Love Life, Live Lent books encourage us to do. Don't worry if you cannot manage to do everything they say, or cannot do them on the day it suggests, sometimes you may want to adapt the activities. The important thing is that it makes us think about other people first. My story this month is about two children who tried to do something for Lent.



The Lent Sacrifice

Do you know what sacrifice means? It means giving something up. Jesus gave us the greatest gift when He gave up His own life for us. At Lent often people give up something to try to remember people living around the World who do not have as much as we do. At school one day two friends, Sarah and Jessica, were chatting about what they were going to do for Lent.

"I always give up chocolate for Lent." said Sarah. Jessica pulled her Love Life, Live Lent booklet out of her pocket. "I thought I might try doing this for a change this year." she replied.

Sarah made a face, "But you don't give anything up with that, it's just a book filled with lots of silly things to do!" Jessica felt a bit silly and went quiet. She wondered whether she should forget the booklet and give up chocolate like her friend but when the Vicar had introduced the booklets to everyone at the school assembly it had seemed like a good thing to do so she decided to carry on.

Over the next few weeks Jessica didn't tell anyone what she was doing but she kept a diary of everything that she did.

She got her mum to take her over to her Nan's house and had a long chat with her about her childhood because her Lent booklet told her to talk with someone of a different generation. Jessica thought it would be boring but she really enjoyed learning about the 1950s when rock music started and there were no computers or DVDs. She went and talked to another girl whom she did not know very well, who always sat on her own in the playground. Jessica and Terri found they had lots in common and Jessica had soon introduced Terri to all her other friends as well. She went on to the 'web' on her computer and found out all about Oxfam and then held a coffee morning with her mum's help for her family and friends to raise money for them.

Sometimes it was hard work but Jessica found that she really enjoyed everything she did. She enjoyed seeing people's faces when she did something special for them. She enjoyed seeing how her new friend, Terri became happier and more confident. She enjoyed sharing and learning from all the different people she talked to. About halfway through Lent Jessica's teacher was teaching them about Easter and how

people try to get ready for it. She asked if anyone was doing anything for Lent. Sarah put her hand up first. "Yes Sarah, what are you doing?" asked their teacher. "I've given up chocolate for Lent, Miss." said Sarah.

"That's right Sarah, you keep complaining about how hard it is." replied her teacher. "It is hard, Miss but I haven't eaten any." Sarah stated proudly.

"Why have you given up chocolate Sarah?" asked the teacher.

"Errr, 'cause that's what you do for Lent, Miss, you give things up."

"I'm not quite sure that, that is what Lent is about, Sarah, I think it is about thinking of others. What have you been doing Jessica? Miss Miles asked.

"I've been doing my Love Life, Live Lent book, Miss." replied Jessica hesitantly. "I've kept a diary too. "

Miss Miles smiled, "Could you read out some of your entries, Jessica.

Slowly Jessica read out some of the things she had done. Miss Miles encouraged the children to discuss what they had heard. All of the children agreed that the Love Life, Live Lent books were a great idea and a number of them said that they would try to do some of the activities over the remaining weeks. Sarah was looking very disgruntled, nobody had said anything about what she had done.

Miss Miles went over to her. "Sarah, don't be so fed up, what you are doing is difficult and you have tried very hard but there is no use doing something unless you know what it is for. People give up things at Lent to remember children and adults who are less fortunate than they are but if you get all the attention by going on and on about how hard it is, it takes the importance away from why you are doing it and

centres the attention on you. Jessica did not tell anyone what she was doing, she also worked hard and what she gave up was just as precious as what you gave up, you see she gave her time and her energy and in doing so helped others as well."

Sarah carried on with not eating chocolate for Lent but she understood what Miss Miles had told her and she went on to the Christian Aid website to understand better about people who lived in poor countries round the world. She found out all about Fair Trade also and encouraged her family to support them all year round.

Jessica carried on with her Lent booklet and the following year she and Terri did one together.

Both girls had found the real meaning of Lent and when it came to Easter they enjoyed eating all their Easter eggs but neither of them forgot that it was really about celebrating Jesus and how He gave up everything for us.

Sudoku Rules

The numbers only go up to 6.
There needs to be all the numbers 1-6 in every box and every line.

	6		5		3
				1	
			1		5
		5		3	6
3	4		2		
6		1		2	

'Parish Mag'

She's here to answer your questions...



You can contact her at agonyaunt@kingsnorton.org.uk or write via the Parish Office.

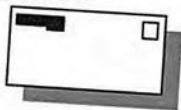
Dear Margaret,

I keep hearing about something called Fresh Expressions, is this a workshop about innovative non-verbal communication? Will the clergy team be using this technique in their sermons instead of words, I am concerned that some people might get the wrong end of the stick.

;-)

Dear ;-)

I'm afraid it is you that has got the wrong end of the stick. Fresh Expressions is about considering how we can 'do church' in different ways for example going out to where people are already meeting rather than expecting them to come to us; learning about their culture rather than imposing ours on to them. The possibilities are endless and you can find out more by attending the Fresh Expressions Day at Hawkesley School on May 12th. For more information you can email FreshExpresions@kingsnorton.org.uk or speak to David Gould.



Dear Margaret,

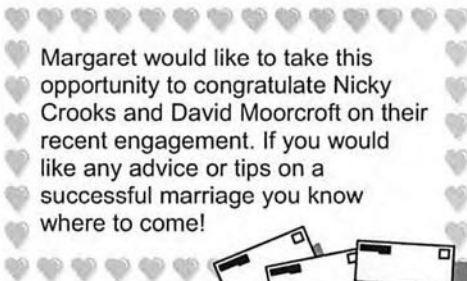
Aliens have landed! No-one saw it happen but they have left their spacecraft behind on the Green outside the Saracen's Head. Who knows how long they will be there, blocking all the parking spaces, just when the Restoration building work is about to start as well. At least it proves that aliens are a higher life form than us humans, how they got them to fly beats me.

Ford Prefect.

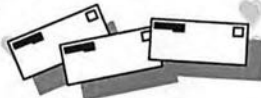


Dear Ford,

I think we should set up a 24 hour watch, hiding behind the Lych Gate to see if we can spot the aliens going in and out. I bet it will generate more publicity than when we won Restoration. Live long and prosper.



Margaret would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nicky Crooks and David Moorcroft on their recent engagement. If you would like any advice or tips on a successful marriage you know where to come!





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'Comms Group' to Thank 'Our Posties'

**Parish Magazine
Distributors Invited
to social chit-chat**

The Parish Communications Group are to invite our Magazine Distributors to a social 'get together' to say a thank you for all of the invaluable work that they do on behalf of this magazine and the parish in general.

Group Chairman, Rev David Gould, said, "At our recent Communications Group meeting we thought we would like to take the opportunity to write to each distributor to say thank you and invite them to a brief occasion at which we could share some cake and a drink."

He added, "It would show our appreciation and also give us an opportunity to hear 'first hand' some of their stories and seek feedback which can hopefully help us take the magazine forward as we continue to strive to improve. We look forward to sharing this small celebration with them."

Magazine Distribution Co-ordinator, Mrs Alison Blumer, said, "A 'Thank You' for all they do to get the Parish Magazine into so many letterboxes so regularly is well deserved. Not only do they help keep people informed about parish life, but many provide friendship, warmth and a sense of caring to some parishioners who are unable to attend church or other activities, something that we can often take for granted."

The 'meeting' is planned to take place at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre between 11.00 a.m. and 12 noon on Saturday 3rd March and if 'distributors' would appreciate a lift please contact Mrs Alison Blumer on 486 2837 or Revd David Gould on 459 5144.

Chris Holmes

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Sarah Hitchin's Story

Where I work, there are hundreds of people. We receive hundreds of e-mails every day, many of them junk. An extended and detailed version of the e-mail below was forwarded to our entire region. This is how the e-mail began...there isn't room to repeat it all:

PLEASE READ AND PLEASE HELP.
I NEED A BONE MARROW DONOR!

Hi, my name is Sarah and I was diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia) on December 22nd, 2004. I was in remission by September 2005, but unfortunately it resurfaced in July 2006. At the moment I am in need of a bone marrow transplant and am unable to find a match as I have a rare tissue type. The only hope for me now is that someone like you comes forward and proves to be a match for my tissue type. Quite simply, it's a life or death situation.

Sarah goes on to describe ways in which people can offer their blood for analysis when donating and gives details and contacts. Many of the people in our office have been deeply affected by their friend's sudden illness. She moved many miles away, left the office, her job, her home, her family to be near a specialist unit. Her office friends kept in touch, feeling helpless, missing her lively personality and energy. She finishes as follows:

I would like to express a HUGE thanks for your time in helping. If you have any further questions, please email me on sarahhitchin@btinternet.com.

Please feel free to pass this email on to anyone you can think of. We really need as many people as possible to join the register. You are our only hope.

Thank-you Sarah

I read this e-mail on Wednesday but by Friday there was a full-scale operation to recruit enough blood donor volunteers to justify employing an Anthony Nolan nurse to visit the office and take blood on the premises. A friend of mine is close to Sarah, and said that though he hated pain, and didn't know if his bone marrow would be a match, that he would definitely have the operation if it would give her a better quality of life. My friend professes no religious belief at all, he just loves his friend.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends' John 15 v. 13 (NRSV New Testament p175)

Please remember Sarah and those that love her in your prayers.

Have a look at www.anthonynolan.org.uk
For a full copy of Sarah's e-mail please e-mail Jessica.boulton@lsc.gov.uk

Jessica Boulton

Friends of Historic Kings Norton

Restoration News winter newsletter is now available for download from our website. If you click on the following link it will take you straight to the relevant page: <http://www.historickingsnorton.org.uk/> to download click on 2007 Winter Newsletters.pdf

Membership Renewal

Current membership of the Friends group will expire on the 31st March. I am pleased to say that the subscription for 2007-2008 will remain the same as last year £5 per adult and £2.50 for concessions. You are invited to renew your subscription by sending a cheque to: Restoration Office, 30 West Hill Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8TN. Cheques should be made payable to "KNPCC/Restoration"

AGM: 14th April 2007 at 10 a.m. in St Nicolas Church

This is your opportunity to meet the current committee and elect the members for next year. It is also an opportunity to tell us what you want out of the Friends group. Please remember you will need an up to date membership card which will need to be shown at the door

Keep up to date with events:

Our website now includes information on events that are scheduled for 2007. The events calendar can be accessed directly from the home page by selecting "Events Calendar" from the Latest News items or via the News and Events menu.

Regards David Calver
(For the Friends of Historic Kings Norton)

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Fresh Expressions

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Fresh Expressions of church are new and different ways of being church in a changing culture. Fresh expressions of church begin where people are and make church and community there. The Fresh Expression initiative has come out of the concern of Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, to encourage new ways of being church in a changing culture in the United Kingdom. The following is taken from the Fresh Expressions website:

Changes in church and society

Our society is changing all the time. Overall, Church attendance has gone down for many years but in many places you will also find growing congregations.

There are different ways to describe the changes. Here are some of them.

From the centre to the edge

Church has moved from a central role in our society to the edges. At the same time, the "centre" of our society is moving around. As churches, we need to learn to live at the edge again – to rebuild community there.

From geography to network

For hundreds of years, people in Britain have related to one another primarily because of where they live: in the same town or village. People from the same place would go to school together, grow up together and often work together.

For all that time, the church also related to people because of where they lived. The whole of England is divided into parishes. Each one has a church and most have a vicar.

Over the last fifty years, society itself has changed. People move around more. They work in different places. Most of us live in cities not villages. People

get to know one another now through networks of friendship, through work colleagues, through sharing the same interests.

It is no longer enough for the church simply to relate to people because of where they live (although we still need the parish system). The churches need to serve the whole of society. That means relating to networks as well as to areas.



On Saturday May 12th The Parish of Kings Norton is hosting a National Vision and Training Day for Birmingham for Fresh Expressions at Hawkesley School from 9.30 to 4.00pm. In this we are building on the work being done at Druids Heath to develop a new way of relating to the community of Druids Heath. We will be joined for the day by the Dean of Birmingham Cathedral and the Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District together with members of the Fresh Expressions team. There will be special seminars to encourage our thinking including ones led by people from this parish with thoughts from our experience as well as from friends across Birmingham.

We do hope you will want to be part of this day and may even consider playing a part in the planning for and operation of the day. Please watch for further details or call/email me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Revd David Gould
0121 459 5144

david.gould@kingsnorton.org.uk

RESTORATION STOP PRESS

press release 'Building Contractors Assigned'
'Work to Commence Soon'

Restoration Winners Appoint Building Contractors: Work to Commence Soon

Birmingham's winning BBC Restoration 2004 project has announced the appointment of Staffordshire-based building contractors Linford-Bridgeman Limited to carry out the £3.9 million construction work starting on February 12th.

Linford-Bridgeman Limited has a substantial track record in conservation and historic building restoration. Following detailed tender, Kings Norton Parochial Church Council (PCC), the owners of the Saracen's Head and Old Grammar School, awarded them the contract to complete this landmark project. The architects are the Birmingham-based APEC, responsible for the landmark church St Martin's and many other local projects. With the specialist knowledge now on board from APEC, and Linford's conservation and restoration knowledge, The Restoration 2004 winners are confident they have the right team in place to complete the work sensitively and effectively.

Canon Rob Morris, Kings Norton Team Rector, says: "As BBC TWO Restoration winners, we're delighted to commence the main building work which the programme did so much to encourage. Project volunteers and our project team have worked so hard over the last three years to ensure that everything is done to the high standard which these buildings, our local community and our city deserve. We've worked closely and gratefully with the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Birmingham City Council, The Restoration Fund and the Wildlife Trust and have an excellent team of professionals willing to go the extra mile."

Linford-Bridgeman Limited, based in Staffordshire, has been the appointed building contractor for many restoration projects nationwide. The restoration and building work in Kings Norton is expected to be completed by mid-2008.

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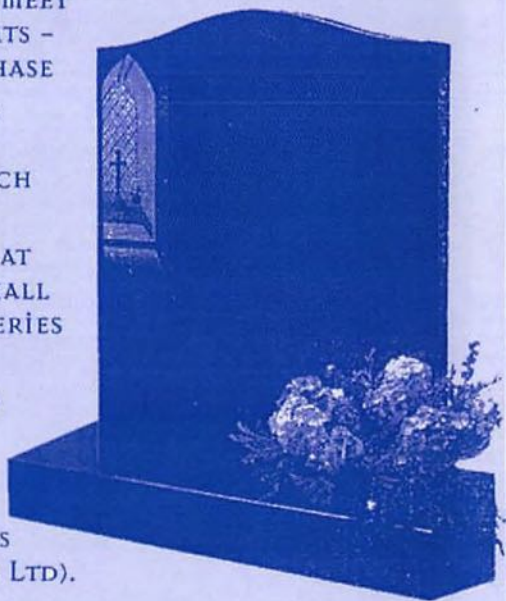
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