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most of his life in France and eventually become Bishop of Poitiers in 599. He wrote both these poems to provide procession hymns for the solemn ceremony at which relics of the Holy Cross were presented to a new convent near Poitiers in late AD 569. Dr J. M. Neale (1818-1866) created the translation

tions of the texts that we know today – along with many other ancient hymns he rescued from obscurity.

(Some information taken from Frank Colquhoun's "A Hymn companion")

Sylvia Fox

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
sing the last, the dread affray:
o'er the Cross, the victor's trophy,
sound the high triumphal lay,
how, the pains of death enduring,
earth's Redeemer won the day.

Faithful Cross above all other,
one and only noble tree,
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peer may be;
sweet the wood, and sweet the iron,
and thy load, most sweet is he.

When at length the appointed fullness
of the sacred time was come,
he was sent, the world's creator,
from the Father's heavenly home,
and was found in human fashion,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Bend, O lofty tree, thy branches,
thy too rigid sinews bend;
and while thy stubborn hardness,
which thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the limbs of heav'n's high Monarch
gently on thine arms extend.

Now the thirty years are ended
which on earth he willed to see,
willingly he meets his Passion,
born to set his people free;
on the Cross the Lamb is lifted,
there the sacrifice to be.

Thou alone wast counted worthy
this world's ransom to sustain,
that a shipwrecked race for ever
might a port of refuge gain,
with the sacred blood anointed
Of the Lamb for sinners slain.

There the nails and appear he suffers,
vinegar and gall and reed;
from his sacred body piercèd,
blood and water both proceed:
precious flood, which all creation
from the stain of sin hath freed.

Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One;
One in might, and One in glory,
while eternal ages run. Amen.

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**Items for inclusion in the
May 2010 issue are to be
submitted by:-
Friday 16th April 2010**

Welcome.....

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

The waiting is over and Easter is here. In this month's edition of the Parish Magazine, Rob Morris reminds us of the message of Easter in his article and there is also an Easter theme to the Children's Page.

In previous editions, we have been hearing about 'Transforming Church'. In Kings Norton we are preferring 'Enriching Church' and we have lots of detail about how the now complete clergy team will be leading in their different areas of ministry.

As well as all the regular features, we have an interesting feature on the work of FEBA in Afghanistan. We are hoping to bring you more information in the coming months about the various charities the parish support through Outward Giving. Christian Aid Week is approaching in May and it would be great if readers could respond to the appeal on page 31 for collectors.

Once again, I would like to thank all the contributors this month. If you have any comments about anything that has been written or any feedback for the editorial team, it would be great to hear from you. Our contact details are on this page.

Alan Haynes, Editor

From The Rector

“We need...to give the Easter stories our full attention of heart, mind and spirit...”

Happy Easter! As we shall shout at the Lighting of the Easter Candle, “May the light of Christ, risen in glory, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.”

We all need a good alleluia now and then – and this is the time for renewing that possibility. But however cheering it is to have a day of rejoicing, flowers and chocolate, “normal” life soon returns, so often and so quickly shrouding certain hope in all too familiar worries.

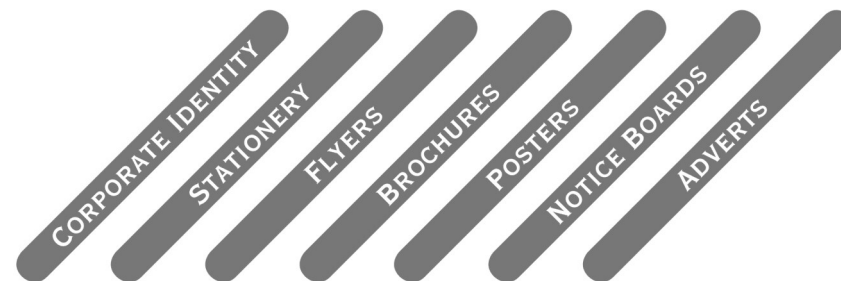
That’s why the church keeps Easter for seven weeks, not just one day. We need that time (at least) to give the Easter stories our full attention of heart, mind and spirit. They are not about escapist visions or brief and grand illusions. Each one is of Jesus, risen from the dead, meeting friends again in small rooms, at meals, on walks – and in their daily work. It is all very close to home, theirs and ours.

Good Friday is about the confrontation with soldiers and

crowds in city streets. It is about confrontation with those who are powerful in politics and religious life. It is a public victory over death and darkness.

Easter is about the way that victory of the Cross comes to life – but firstly and vitally in making ordinary life a place of extra-ordinary hope. Only then can the Gospel of Jesus, Risen and Crucified, break out into the public life of communities, cities and nations, as it must. Many here have journeyed faithfully through Lent. Do stay faithfully with that journey. With Easter, the really interesting bit is about to begin.

Rob Morris



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“SING MY TONGUE THE GLORIOUS BATTLE”

This ancient hymn was written by Venantius Fortunatus somewhere in the 6th Century and brought back into usage by the prolific researcher and translator J. M. Neale in the mid 19th century.

The words can be found at A&M(NS) 59 or HON 602 and it never ceases to amaze me that hymns written so long ago, and in another language, can still be so relevant to our faith today: a small reminder that Christ really IS for all times.

The hymn takes its background from another by the same writer – “The Royal Banners Go” [at A&M (NS) 58; HON 663]. They both take a triumphalistic view of the Cross and then encourage us to meditate on the physical nature of Christ’s suffering on the Cross. The Davidic prophesy mentioned in The Royal Banners is based on an incorrect translation of part of Psalm 96, which, in some medieval psalters said “Tell it out among the nations, that the Lord is Reigning from a tree”, rather than “...that the Lord is King”. From this mistranslation came a deep meditation on the Cross and Passion.....Makes you think about how God can make even our mistakes into something worthwhile!

There were originally 10 stanzas of “Sing my Tongue” which was split into two halves in most medieval breviaries. The modern day version now has seven verses, split into two halves (of 4 and 3 vers-

es respectively) with a final doxology. The first half celebrates that the battle is over and that Christ has won redemption for all humankind. The Victim has become Victor. It takes the events of Good Friday and turns them into a meditation for us. The second part dwells specifically on the Cross itself – and was written at a time when all physical “things of faith” were highly venerated – to own or even touch a portion of the true cross would have felt like being in direct contact with God for the medieval Christian pilgrim. Most churches of any “worth” (in human terms) held at least some small reliquary of a saint, and the more influential a church, the bigger the reliquary or the more “important” the saint so a piece of the Cross would have ranked very, very high in these circumstances. The next best thing to touching it, our seeing it, would have been to reflect deeply upon the Cross and all that happened upon it and beneath it – and here we are given the text to do just that.

We usually sing the words to Pange Lingua [pron. Pan-day ling-u-a] – a plainsong melody which has probably supported the words for most if not all of its life as a hymn. “The Royal Banners” also has a plainsong melody – called Vexilla Regis, but we sometimes use a 20th Century tune called Gonfalon Royal by P. C. Buck for this hymn.

Fortunatus was the leading Latin poet of his day. An Italian by birth, he spent

Continued on p42

Enriching Church - a big difference

What on earth does this all mean for Kings Norton?

We each have commitment and accountability to God, to one another, to lay ministers and leaders and to the whole people of God. When we do this, God’s mission grows. When we don’t, it falters. So, with Rebecca, Donald, Fay, Ruth and others, the Team clergy share fully in:

- ◇ Prayer,
- ◇ Preparation and conduct of worship,
- ◇ Mission and pastoral responsibilities,
- ◇ Baptism, marriage and funeral ministries across the parish
- ◇ Enabling and supporting lay gifts (including resource ministries of churchyard and building care, hospitality, administration, finance and communication).

Within these, we have areas of common work, led by one of the Team:

- ◇ Leadership and pastoral care of each congregation,
- ◇ Hawkesley Church Primary School and other schools,
- ◇ House-bound people and care homes,
- ◇ Young people,
- ◇ Communications,
- ◇ Finance/Admin management,
- ◇ Candlelit Church.

These are the bedrock of our life as Kings Norton Team Parish - but just ensuring that these are done is not enough. We live in a changing world – and cannot stand still, resting in the familiar. We have to cherish and use all that is “old”, but must be open to God’s change and growth in all that we do – and grow with it.

So that we do not gently decline, but grow in confidence, faith and love, the three Team clergy will lead us all (including each other) in newly-shaped responsibilities – for growth! You will see on page 8 of this magazine John’s report on our very helpful morning – and also find details of our new tasks. More will be shared at our annual Meeting on 19th April – and then the work, prayer and conversation will really begin for all of us.

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school I got involved with some Youth For Christ projects and at 13 years old I made a commitment to following Jesus for myself (not just living off my parents' faith). I had lots of supportive role-models around me as a teenager who helped me to grow in my understanding of the Bible and faith, for whom I am very grateful. Our faith is central to our family unit, seeking God's ways in small and big decisions and living it out in practical ways. I chat to God constantly during the day and rely on him for guidance, strength and all that I need.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I like anything social, being able to catch up with friends; I like us to go out as a family (which is a bit restricted at the moment due to having a pushchair, but that will soon change!) – walks, play centres, etc. I'd like to say reading and swimming, but I haven't had a chance to do them for a long time! Oh, and I always keep up with Coronation Street and Neighbours!!

What are your best memories?

There are many! A happy childhood, enjoying my work and the people I have met through that, meeting and marrying Alan, getting to know my children and all their "firsts" – first steps, first words, etc.

What's your favourite holiday place?

We really appreciate being able to visit Alan's parents in Weston Super Mare.

We love the beach and the walks. We go down there as often as we can. We try every year to go to Spring Harvest, a Christian holiday at Butlins in Minehead at Easter time. We usually bump into someone from our dim and distant pasts, which is great. But I also love seeing my children enthusiastic about worship. I think it's really important that they come to see that The Church is bigger than our weekly experience and the local church and that LOTS of people follow Jesus. This was a comfort for Sam especially when he realised for the first time that not everyone at school believes in God.

Apart from them, we honeymooned in Tunisia and have also been to Crete and Cyprus. All were interesting places to learn about and all had sunshine!

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

To continue to grow together and reach out with God's love and hope to those around us.



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

This month we get to read about Susan Haynes, who is the co-ordinator of Christian Aid collections in the Parish and a regular at Immanuel and Tiny Tots...



Where were you born?

In Sutton Coldfield. I lived with my family until I was 18. I am the Middle Child (with its syndrome!), having an older sister and a younger brother.

What is your occupation?

I was a Community and Youth Worker for 15 years. At 18 years old, I went to work with British Youth For Christ. This meant working for one year in Bolton, Lancashire, in a team of four people running youth projects - a drop-in centre for the long-term unemployed, schools work, detached work and supporting a church youth group. After my year there, I moved with YFC to Tamworth where I developed youth projects in a community centre as well as church and schools work. After 3 years, I decided to work for a qualification in Community and Youth Work so came to Westhill College, Selly Oak, where I completed my Degree (Bachelor of Philosophy in Education no

less!!) whilst working in several youth and community settings. I continued to work in this profession until 7 years ago when I left work to have Sam. My last job was with Cornerstone Christian Charity as a Project Worker overseeing their community work across the Midlands, such as toddler groups, parenting courses, after school clubs, youth work, holidays for single parent families and staff training. I'm a full time parent now to Sam (7), Katie (2) and Ruth (1) and I love it! I'm actively involved at Fairway Primary School as a Governor and parent and I'm also involved in Parish life!

Why Kings Norton?

I moved to Kings Norton in 1992 to be closer to my college course in Selly Oak. I was asked to help set up "SPLITS" (the forerunner to Impact!) youth project. Through this I came into contact with Immanuel Church and stayed. I then met Alan at Immanuel, was wooed and married and we are happily settled here. All my family still live in and around Birmingham and I like to be near to them.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

My faith has always been a big part of me. My parents took us to church from when we were tiny. Dad was the church organist, Mum the Sunday School Superintendent. I was always aware of God's presence and care for me. At

Enriching Discipleship and Leadership - John

I see this role as being the very exciting one of working with others to help and encourage the whole people of God in this place to live out the implications of our baptism. In baptism, we are called by God to follow Christ, to grow in him, and, in our service of God and of our neighbour, to shine as lights in the world. My role includes:

- ◇ ensuring opportunities for young and old (in years and faith) to be nurtured and to develop in their faith and understanding, and to become confident disciples of Christ in the world.
- ◇ leading the discernment, development and deployment of the gifts of God's people.

The practical outworking of these includes:

- ◇ Identifying both the gifts and the training needs, of both individuals and congregations.
- ◇ Overseeing the development of a coherent parish programme of short courses for Christian learning, including opportunities for us all to grow in our faith and understanding, and to reflect on the ways in which our faith can be lived out in our homes, places of work and communities.
- ◇ Ensuring the provision of suitable training for people called to particular roles and responsibilities inside and outside the church. I would expect by the summer to have drafted a 12 month programme of courses, to take effect from September 2010.
- ◇ Having a key role in working with individuals to help in the discernment of vocations to particular forms of ministry.
- ◇ Ensuring that the varied gifts of team colleagues are fully used.

Enriching Relationships and Outreach - Jayne

Much already goes on to make this happen, through the welcoming that we do on Sundays, on Wednesdays, on Thursdays; through the introduction to church, baptism and marriage sessions; through the baptism and funeral follow up; through outward giving; through home communions and through the monthly parish healing service. We now need to help those who are already a part of these, to appreciate how their little bit feeds the bigger picture and thus makes them a vital part of this bigger picture and draws others in. Some immediate (or at least under way by September 2010) practical things that could happen are:

- ◇ Together with John in his role as lead on faith, learning and ministry development, to develop a list of lay training needs for welcome, pastoral care, for newcomers and for the longer established.

- ◇ A review of Parish databases—to make them better tools for outreach and follow up.
- ◇ Review of parish notice boards, website and other parish literature.
- ◇ To give Outward Giving and Stewardship a higher profile and to grow our understanding of what these mean.
- ◇ To strengthen our links with the uniformed organisations.
- ◇ Messy Mornings for adults and children.
- ◇ Diary of Parish Social events.

Enriching Worship, Presence and Partnerships - Rob

Our parish Mission Statement says that we believe the church in Kings Norton is called to be a worshipping, transforming partnership in Christ.

Jesus still says to his disciples “You are the light of the world, the salt of the earth.” He also taught that we are the leaven in the lump of the world’s dough. Faith and Christian life are not fulfilled only in what we each do by ourselves. God has a better way and a much deeper calling; that together, in all our variety, we should be Christ’s Body, servants together of his Kingdom of life, love, peace and justice in this world and the next.

So I see my role in leading the enriching of our worship, presence and partnerships firstly as helping us to grow as that worshipping, transforming partnership in Christ we need to be.

Working closely with John, Jayne and all who share in making these happen, I want by September to have enabled us to grow a long way in:

- ◇ Helping every congregation to reflect on the worship they currently offer and see how it may grow.
- ◇ Leading our planning together for repair and re-ordering of St Nicolas.
- ◇ Ensuring that we have strong partnership with Hawkesley Church Primary School, Saint Nicolas Place, PRODH and any new ventures for change in the parish.
- ◇ Developing the list of contacts, causes and needs we gathered on St Nicolas Day and then leading our action on gaps and opportunities.
- ◇ Ensuring that we are present and active in the community life of the parish and wider church – and understand better why and how we do this.

15th

15th March is my birthday and so this year I took the day off to really enjoy it. I had a brilliant time! Friends came around in the morning and I was taken out to a rather nice lunch. I had lots of lovely cards and some rather lovely gifts including a fab new handbag and a very special and beautiful necklace. I went to bed feeling loved and very contented. However, the celebrations didn’t stop there. I also had two more lunch dates during the week and a night out on the 19th so by the time I reached the weekend I was really feeling my age!

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE AND
THANKS FOR READING MY
DIARY!



We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers’ Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church. The first one will be on Saturday 10th April. These will be 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!

Rebecca's Diary...

Here are some extracts from my March Diary:



1st

As usual on a Monday morning, the Team gathered for Morning Prayer and a staff meeting afterwards. We talked about the week ahead and discussed various issues. Later in the morning, I had a brilliant time visiting Hawkesley Church Primary School Nursery. The children are so responsive and really enjoyed the very large teddy bear I had taken along to leave in nursery as a 'Prayer Bear,' that is a bear the children can pick up and hold when prayers are being said. If they are feeling upset during the day, they can also just hold him. The idea is to help children see prayer as a good and safe thing to do. Needless to say, everyone had a hug of the 'Prayer Bear' and he stayed!

3rd

In the morning, Jess (our Lay Pastor) and I took Holy Communion along to a group of older people who gather once a month in the large lounge of their accommodation. We had a good sing and shared Holy Communion. It is a really lovely group and I always enjoy going. There is something very special about being with a group of mature Christians from different denominations who have been faithful followers of Christ for many, many years. They also produce a rather nice cup of coffee and biscuits!!

13th

Today I took my first wedding of the year and it was great! The sun shone, the couple (Daniel and Emma) were as happy as anything and we all had a really lovely time. Afterwards, I popped into the Card Shop on The Green to get myself armed with lots of birthday cards for the following weeks. I like going in there and having a browse and a chat. It has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. I spent quite a bit of time looking at the funny cards. One in particular said, 'You know you are getting old when you need to use the Sat Nav to get out of the garage!!!!!!' That really made me laugh!!!

Enriching Church

On Saturday, 6th March, about thirty people from across the parish responded to the open invitation to gather in St Nicolas Church to explore further some of what 'Enriching Church' might mean for us in King's Norton. This was to build upon the new vision of how the team ministry in this parish can best work, namely by sharing together in parish-wide responsibilities, rather than each acting in largely separate areas. The morning offered a chance for Rob, Jayne and myself to put a bit of flesh on the dry bones of this vision and to set out something of how we expect the re-shaped team to work out in practice - and for everyone present to respond with comments, questions and insights.

On this new pattern, Rob, Jayne and I have each been given the lead responsibility for certain aspects of our common work to ensure that the gifts and energies of everyone in the Team and congregations can best be developed and used to further God's work across the parish. These lead responsibilities reflect different parts of the Parish Mission Statement as well as different areas within the Diocesan 'Transforming Church' Programme. Thus, Rob will have a particular focus on our call "to be a worshipping, transforming partnership in Christ" through enriching Worship, Presence and Partnerships; Jayne's focus is on our call "to live out God's radical hospitality for all" through enriching Relationships and Outreach; and for myself the focus is on being "equipped

for work in God's world" through enriching Discipleship and Leadership. The three of us then outlined some priorities and areas of work that we see as belonging to those roles and also gave an indication of some of the things that we would hope to have made significant progress towards by September. In the conversations and responses that followed, it was made clear that the proof of the pudding is in the eating; there is an understandable hope and expectation that these changes will lead to more fruitful and effective work.

A lot of very valuable comments about the particular challenges and opportunities that face us as a parish were made on Saturday; these will provide plenty of food for thought and stimulus for action for us as a Team and a Parish over the coming months. Many thanks go to all who came and who contributed that day. If you missed it, do not fear. This was, as we were reminded, part of a "work in progress"; this will not be the last you will hear about "Enriching Church", nor will it be the last opportunity to play a part in shaping our response to these issues. This process is not about change for change's sake; it is about how we can all work together most effectively and most faithfully in the service of God. I hope and I pray that that is something that we will all want to join in with.

John White

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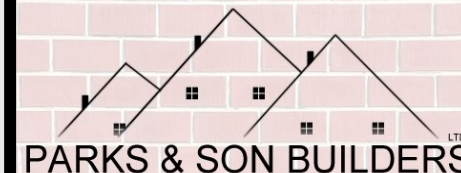
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ask for Barry**

It's Friday. The sky grows dark, the earth begins to tremble, and He who knew no sin became sin for us. Holy God who will not abide with sin pours out His wrath on that perfect sacrificial lamb who cries out, "My God, My God. Why hast thou forsaken me?" What a horrible cry. But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. And at the moment of Jesus' death, the veil of the Temple that separates sinful man from Holy God was torn from the top to the bottom because Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. Jesus is hanging on the cross, heaven is weeping and hell is partying. But that's because it's Friday, and they don't know it, but Sunday's coming.

And on that horrible day 2000 years ago, Jesus the Christ, the Lord of glory, the only begotten Son of God, the only perfect man died on the cross of Calvary. Satan thought that he had won the victory. Surely he had destroyed the Son of God. Finally he had disproved the prophecy God had uttered in the Garden and the one who was to crush his head had been destroyed. But that was Friday.

Now it's Sunday. And just about dawn on that first day of the week, there was a great earthquake. But that wasn't the only thing that was shaking because now it's Sunday. And the angel of the Lord is coming down out of heaven and rolling the stone away from the door of the tomb.

Yes, it's Sunday, and the angel of the Lord is sitting on that stone and the guards posted at the tomb to keep the body from disappearing were shaking in their boots because it's Sunday, and the lamb that was silent before the slaughter is now the resurrected lion from the tribe of Judah, for He is not here, the angel says. He is risen indeed.

It's Sunday, and the crucified and resurrected Christ has defeated death, hell, sin and the grave. It's Sunday. And now everything has changed. It's the age of grace, God's grace poured out on all who would look to that crucified lamb of Calvary. Grace freely given to all who would believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary was buried and rose again. All because it's Sunday.

At the end of the message the pastor shouted out:

It's Friiidaaaaay!

And the whole congregation responded:

But Sunday's Coming!

("It's Friday, but Sunday's coming", Tony Campolo, W. Publishing Group)

Services for Holy Week and Easter 2010

MAUNDY THURSDAY

1st April

11am: Holy Communion (BCP)
8pm: **Communion of the Last Supper**,
with Footwashing. Watch of Prayer until 10.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

2nd April

10.30am: **All-Age Worship** with Communion at St Nicolas
10.30am: **Morning Worship** at Immanuel
12 – 2pm: **Christ's Passion** told in prayer, music, silence.
2 – 3pm: **At the Foot of the Cross**
7pm: Stations of the Cross at St Paul's

EASTER EVE

3rd April

8pm: **Service of Light and First Communion of Easter**

EASTER DAY

4th April

8am: Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am: **Easter Communion**
at St Nicolas, Hawkesley and Immanuel
6pm: **Evening Worship** for Easter Day
7.30pm: Holy Communion

BOOK REVIEWS

As I write this, I wonder how you view the person of Jesus. Is He for you a figure in stained glass, a cut out two-dimensional figure, a dim and distant memory from long-gone history, or even as for many in our society in this time, simply a swear-word? Or maybe a well-loved teacher who died a terrible death, even perhaps the Son of God?

This week I have been re-reading a book from the Immanuel library, a favourite book, which is for me a most powerful and moving account of one man's encounter with Jesus. The man is Bruce Marchiano, an actor from America, who was chosen to play the part of Jesus in a film called "The Visual Bible - Matthew" and that's just what it is, word for word from the New International Version. Boring? Boring? It is not!

"In the Footsteps of Jesus" is his account of his experience. Starting from the ways that he was unknowingly prepared for the task ahead of time, he relates how Jesus became so real to him, discovering in Jesus' humanity a physical and vivid figure, a man of purpose, accustomed to hard work in his carpentry, no wimp, nobody's pushover, a real Man amongst men. An outstanding teacher and man of warmth, compassion and love, but above all, joy.

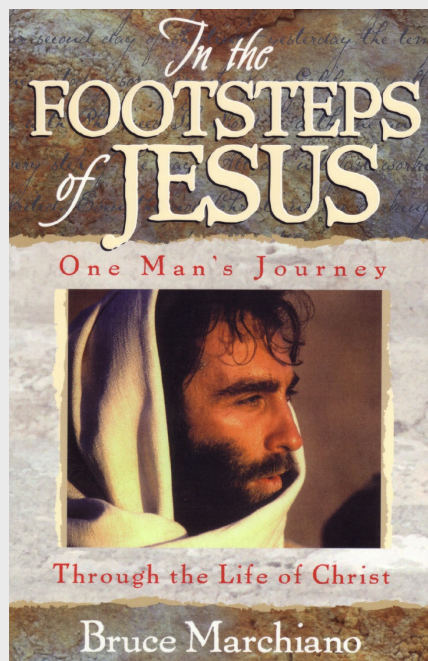
Over and over again, we encounter Bruce crying out in despair - "Lord, I don't know how to do this - just make me a puppet on your string!" And finding that his Lord

was there already, bringing it all to life. This book shows a man of great integrity and simple faith being used in ways far beyond his understanding by a God whose love and capacity knows no bounds.

This is no ordinary book. Read it with a box of tissues handy! And then watch the DVD. Both are still available and I commend them both to you.

For indeed he did walk in the footsteps of Jesus. And was changed.

Tony Hill



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FRESH

Next Market is
10th April 2010
9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

St Nicolas Church will be open 2-3pm every third Tuesday of the month for those who have experienced loss through bereavement. There will be the opportunity to light candles, be quiet and reflective, chat to Rev. Rebecca and others, and be amongst those who themselves have had or are in the process of bereavement.

In April, this will take place on Tuesday 20th.

Tea and coffee will be available. Come as and when you feel the need. For more information, please contact Rev Rebecca on 458 2950.

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

On Monday 26th April, Keith Clenton will take us on a "Walk Through the City Centre Back in Time" featuring photographs from Carl Chinn's Birmingham Live's Archives.

Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings. Doors open at 7.00 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7.30.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

It's Friday. But Sunday's coming.....

Dr. Campolo recalls the very brilliant message which his Pastor preached. It was a simple sermon, starting softly, building in volume and intensity until the entire congregation was completely involved, repeating the phrases in unison. The sermon went something like this.

It's Friday. Jesus is arrested in the garden where He was praying.
But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. The disciples are hiding and Peter's denying that he knows the Lord.
But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. Jesus is standing before the high priest of Israel, silent as a lamb before the slaughter.
But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. Jesus is beaten, mocked, and spit upon.
But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. Those Roman soldiers are flogging our Lord with a leather scourge that has bits of bones and glass and metal, tearing at his flesh.
But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. The Son of man stands firm as they press the crown of thorns down into his brow.
But Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. See Him walking to Calvary, the blood dripping from His body. See the cross crashing down on His back as He stumbles beneath the load.
It's Friday; but Sunday's coming.

It's Friday. See those Roman soldiers driving the nails into the feet and hands of my Lord. Hear my Jesus cry, "Father, forgive them."
It's Friday; but Sunday's coming.

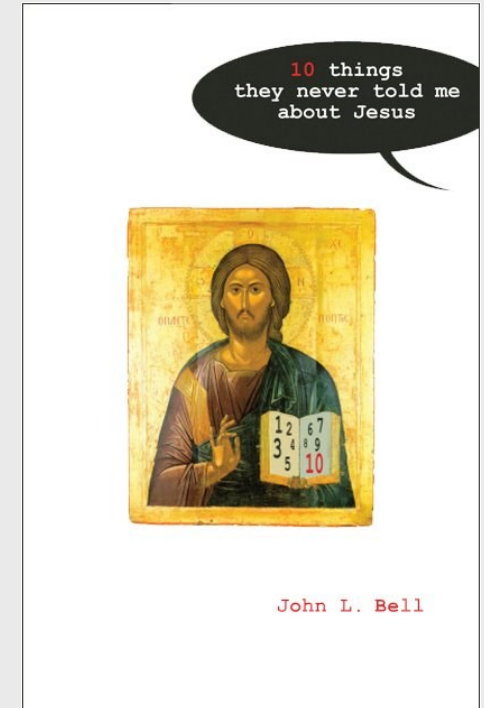
It's Friday. Jesus is hanging on the cross, bloody and dying.
But Sunday's coming.

continued on p34

My attention got caught by the title in a catalogue "10 things they never told me about Jesus: a beginner's guide to a larger Christ". It sounded interesting; and it is. I'm not a great reader as I'm very slow, but with this book you can manage a chapter at a time and they are each self contained.

Each chapter looks at something we don't know or have never looked at, such as "Did Jesus have a sense of humour?" and re-reading the Bible to see what the REAL human Jesus was like. It is thought-provoking and funny in equal measures and makes you think about the way we portray Jesus in art, poetry and our minds. It is by John L Bell and published by Wild Goose Publications. It's £10.99 and to buy it, try www.ionabooks.com

Sylvia Fox



Women's Fellowship

Our meeting on 1st April will not take place as we will be attending the Maundy Thursday service at St Nicolas Church at 8pm.

For our meeting last month, we had to do a quick change at the last minute and were very pleased that Roy Britain could step in for us. We had a very enjoyable evening.

Marlene Collyer Chairman

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KINGS NORTON NATURE RESERVE

Why not come along to our monthly guided walk on the last Saturday of the month at 10.30am. The next dates are 24th April and 29th May (Bank Holiday weekend). We meet at the corner of Meadow Hill Road and Wychall Lane. Stout footwear & waterproof clothing is essential and do bring binoculars if you have any.

We would encourage you to join the Friends of your local nature reserve, which includes Merecroft Pool and the River Ray corridor. For more details go to our website www.fknr.org.uk or contact Anne Price on 0121 459 7023.

Café T

(see page 25 for details)

30 th March	Creating for Easter
6 th April	No Cafe T
13 th April	No Cafe T
20 th April	The Resurrection
27 th April	St Mary's Hospice with Esmie Kirk.



**Christian Aid Week,
9th-15th May
2010.**

Please could you spare a couple of hours to raise money for some of the poorest people in the world? I would love to hear from you!

We will be organising House to House Collections in Kings Norton, which raise funds and raise the profile of Christian Aid's work.

We would also like to encourage you to organise a fund-raising activity on your own or with others.

If you can help with either, please call me on 0121 459 4711. Thank you.

Susan Haynes

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AFGHANISTAN AND ITS PEOPLE

What do we know about this country which we hear and see so much about in the media?

The following may be of some interest, especially to anyone who receives the newsletters from our CMS prayer partners, Grace and Pete How.

Afghanistan has been, and still is, at the cross roads of East and West for centuries and remains the scene of conflict between many cultures and tribes. Its 28 million Muslim population is made up of many tribes, chief of which are Pashtun (42%), Tajik (27%) and Hazara and Uzbek (both 9%). As a result, taking up of arms to settle disputes is widespread and there is no history of strong representative or centralized government; instead, loyalty to local family tribes prevails, rather than to a distant centralized government.

While the Taliban held power, they favoured the majority Pashtuns, while the minority Hazaris, mostly Shia followers, were the target for persecution. You may have read 'The Kite Runner', or seen the film, which illustrates this ethnic prejudice very well. Apparently, the producer of the film was a Hazari, who when he first heard the verse from Matthew chapter 5, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," thought that it was impossible on account of the inter-tribal hatred, but has since discovered that hate can never be beaten by hate.

The main national language is Dari and is one of the few unifying factors in this divided country, for at least 50% of the people speak it. Because the literacy rate is so low, newspapers and periodicals only reach a small proportion, but short wave radio is popular and especially valued and used by the minority Christian community, which is not free to worship or share faith openly. Although there is no visible church in Afghanistan, believers meet regularly in people's homes, but sadly those who could record Christian programmes on account of their suitable voices may not be willing to take the risk of being involved for fear of retribution.

FEBA is a Christian organisation specialising in broadcasting in Asia and because programmes cannot be made safely within the country, they are recorded by Afghans who work with its partners in North America, Europe and Australia. These teams work together to fund and develop programmes which address ethnic and cultural differences for the many different groups.

If you would like to find out more about FEBA and its invaluable work, visit www.feba.org.uk, phone 01903 237281 or email angela@feba.org.uk



Ann Morrell

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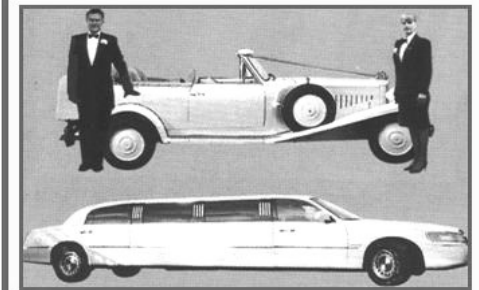
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February 2010 Baptisms

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

- 7th Lucas Andrew Polton
21st Maigey Amelia Allen-Bayliss
21st Chloe-Ann Theresa Sophia Litherland-Ward

February 2010 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

- 20th Adam John Law & Carrie-Ann May Pash.

January 2010 Funerals

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

- 20th John Joseph Ward, 64. Burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
21st Gordon Frederick Townsend, 76. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
21st Hilda Dando-Brookes, 67. Cremation at Robin Hood.
21st Barbara Mary Anderson, 67. Service at St Nicolas Church, Burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
21st Christine Farrington, 48. Service in St Nicolas Church, Cremation at Lodge Hill.
22nd Graham Reginald Chappell, 63. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
25th Stephen John Beddoe, 52. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
26th Lilian May Bennett, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
26th Ernest Francis Lane, 90. Cremation at Robin Hood.
27th Jean Barbara Quittenden, 65. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
28th Shirley Knight, 74. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
29th Felicia Nkrumah Obeng, 54. Service at St Nicolas Church, Burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

We have had a busy month with all the services for Lent and now preparing for all the services at Easter.

We have been trialing singing during the Eucharistic Prayer to well known hymn tunes, which adds variety to our worship and links the themes of Lent each week.

Deb Buckley led our Holy Communion Service with Jayne for Mothering Sunday and we gave out primroses to all the ladies in the congregation as the daffodils are so late this year.

Our reports are prepared for the AGM on Sunday 21st March and we thank Evelyn for putting all this together.

I will be stepping down as Music Group Leader at the beginning of April to prepare for a new arrival to our family. Susan, David Ash and Phil and Lorrie are stepping in to lead the worship at Immanuel.

It has been lovely to welcome some of our children into key roles at Immanuel, such as operating the laptop for All Age services, leading readings, joining in with the thanksgivings and helping to welcome people when they arrive at church.

I led the last All Age worship and we

were thinking about being apprentices of Jesus, learning from our master (Jesus) and hearing about the different ways in which the Bible teaches us to live, learn, grow and work.

A key Bible verse was:

Matthew 11:28-29 *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart."*

We look forward to joining together with you all for Palm Sunday and sharing in this special service with you.

Sarah Crooks

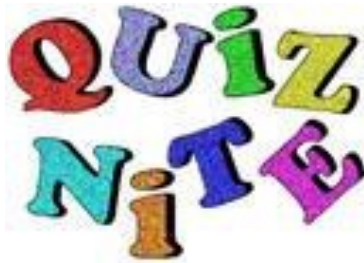
EVENTS AT HAWKESLEY CHURCH

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

6th April Subject to be arranged
20th April “Humour”

We meet on alternate Tuesdays in the Pastoral Centre at 10.00am – ALL ARE WELCOME.

Ray Davies



QUIZ NITE & FISH AND CHIPS SUPPER 2010

Saturday 25th April, 7pm for a 7.30 start.
£6 per person (£3 quiz only).

Bring your own drinks.

Contact

Jennie McLaren 0121 628 2715

Jim Clarke 0121 550 3455

Allan Cook 0121 604 4575



February 2010 Funerals

“I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord”

- 1st Janet Virginia Reynolds, 49. Service in St Nicolas Church,
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 2nd Joan Ellen Mortimer, 88. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 4th Victor Gough Whetell, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 5th Patrick Joseph Glennon, 72. Burial in St John Fisher Churchyard.
- 5th Mavis Moseley, 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 5th Lawrence Duckhouse, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 9th Roland Charles Harrison, 89. Service in St Nicolas Church, Cremation at
Lodge Hill.
- 9th Mabel Clements, 98. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 9th Rebecca k/a Ruby Thompson, 83. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 10th Raymond Jeffs, 84. Service in St Nicolas Church, Burial at Lodge Hill.
- 11th Destiny Grace Truman, 3 days. Service at St Nicolas Church, Burial in St
Nicolas Churchyard.
- 11th Linda May Edwards, 64. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 15th Gladys May Reynolds, 95. Service in St Nicolas Church, Cremation at
Lodge Hill.
- 17th Stanley Smith, 84. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 17th Edward John Cain, 73. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 17th Roy David Radbourne, 70. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 17th Maud Olive Broadfield, 92. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 18th David Johnson, 70. Interment of Ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 19th Lauren Ferdinand Rose, 78. Service in St Nicolas Church.
Burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 19th Yvonne k/a Rosie Rosemary Hall, 56. Service in St Nicolas Church.
Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 25th Joseph k/a Harry Henry Room, 74. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

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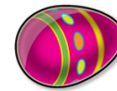
This puzzle is called a Cryptogram. I've always loved doing them! At the top there is a KEY that lists all the letters from A to Z. Each of the letters has a corresponding number. The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
21	19	3	6	1	12	2	25	10	22	18	9	14	26	16	13	5	11	24	23	4	7	17	8	20	15

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Dear God,
Thank you for loving us enough.
Thank you for the new start we have in
the resurrected Jesus.
May his life be our life.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



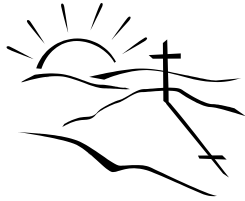
CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone!

Easter time is when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. Together let's learn what this means for us.



Jesus came to show us how to live a good life - he showed love and kindness to all people and he taught us that this is how we should live too.

Sometimes we don't get it right, sometimes we make mistakes. At times we can be selfish and unkind to each other.

Wouldn't it be good if we could just start again?

Wouldn't it be good if someone loved us enough to give us a fresh start?

Jesus does love us this much...
Jesus died for us!

When Jesus died on the cross, he showed us that God loves us and forgives us. He is offering us a new start, a new life.

All this happened on Good Friday. But three days later, on Easter Day, God brought Jesus back to life again - death had been beaten!



Jesus' resurrection is the promise of a new life, a new start with God FOREVER.

Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life" John 11:25

When God brought Jesus back to life he showed us that Jesus is life and that death is not the end. Whoever believes in Jesus will be given a new start and a life with God forever, a life that even goes beyond death.

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Every Sunday – Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):

10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

10.30 am, 2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Immanuel Church

Meeting at Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.

Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary school age.

10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

10.30 am, 2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;

10.30 am, 4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Druids Heath

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

Café T

Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group context. Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm.

For Young People

Oasis/Sunday School at each Church (see above)

Uniformed Organisations and Choir—see the 'Who's who' pages or contact the Parish Office.

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B38 8RU 0121 458 3289

parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk www.kingsnorton.org.uk

The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.

SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

Tiny Tots

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

Open Church

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

Candlelit Church

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

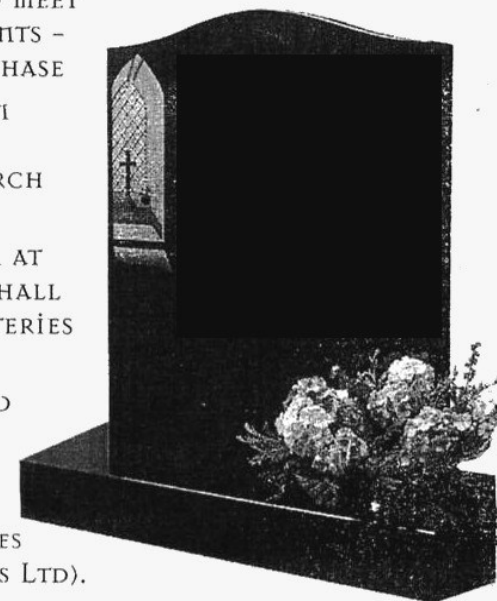
Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

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THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

A Church of England Team Parish serving all in Kings Norton and Druids Heath through the Parish Church of St Nicolas and the District Churches of Hawkesley and Immanuel

Clergy:		
Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX		458 3289/459 0560
The Rev'd JOHN WHITE (Team Vicar)		
The Rev'd JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP		459 3733
The Rev'd REBECCA PULLIN (Curate)		458 2950
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):		
The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON		476 7223
Lay Staff:		
JESS BOULTON (Hon. Lay Pastor) c/o Parish Office		
FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or.....		451 1914
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader), c/o Parish Office		
Church Wardens		
St. Nicolas	STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)	JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or	550 3455
	RAY DAVIS	458 5774
	PETER SMITH	453 9931
Immanuel (Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	243 0573
(Deputy Warden)	DEBBIE MALONE	
Candlelit Church Co-ordinator	JESS BOULTON	458 6925
P.C.C. Secretary	SYLVIA FOX c/o Parish Office	458 3289
P.C.C. Treasurer	JONATHAN CROOKS, c/o Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Office:	81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU	458 3289
	(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 459 2529
Parish Administrator	CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289
Finance Administrator	CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289
Organist and Music Director	SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA	07778 449170
Choir & Orchestra Practices	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.	
	Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.	
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SARAH CROOKS	
Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:		
Oasis (St. Nicolas)	contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Hawkesley		
Oasis (Immanuel)	NICKY MOORCROFT	
Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church		
Primary School	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR	
Headteacher		459 6467 Fax: 459 6468
Bell Ringers	Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower	
Ringling Master	JIM DUNN	744 6334
Secretary	CLAIRE CALVER	458 2342
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers	Practice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.	
Secretary	JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or	208 4013
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS.	458 3328

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

Women's Fellowship	1st Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: CAROL DEVIC	458 3289
Seniors' Club (Over 65's)	Every Wednesday afternoon CHRISTINE BOWEN & Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN	458 3289
Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)	Beavers (aged 6-8): Wednesdays 5.00-6.00 p.m. Ahmeek: PENNY HATTERSLEY Cubs (aged 8-10½): Wednesdays 6.15 p.m.-7.45 p.m. Leader: KAREN URWIN Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 430 6005 244 0789
Guides and Brownies	Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 p.m. -6.30 p.m. Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 p.m. -8.00 p.m. Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 p.m. -9.00 p.m. Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.	
Guides and Brownies	At Hawkesley Church Centre:- Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 p.m. Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 p.m.	
Kings Norton Society	Fourth Friday at 8.00 p.m. Contact: RICK AND CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
Kings Norton History Society	Meetings held on the last Monday of the month from September to May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Chairman CLAIRE SIMPSON	459 5750
St. Nicolas Pre-school Playgroup	Monday to Friday 9.30-11.45 a.m.	
Parish Magazine Editor	ALAN HAYNES email editor@kingsnorton.org.uk	459 4711
Parish Magazine Treasurer	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA	486 2837
Advertising Manager	EVELYN FINN, contact via Parish Office	458 3289
Parish Website	GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	
St Nicolas Place Staff:-		www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk
Centre Manager	GRAEME CLARKE	
Financial/Administrator Asst	KERRY HORSFIELD	458 1223
Heritage/Learning Manager	EMMA BANKS	458 1223
Duty Supervisor	ALAN KAVANAGH	458 1223
Duty Supervisor	BEN WADDINGTON	458 1223

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

N.B. If you or your group/organisation are featured in this 'Who's Who?' section of our magazine, please ensure that we have been supplied with correct information and inform Parish Office if and when contact details change. Thank you.

Kings Norton Parish Office, St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU.
0121 458 3289

e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk