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St Nicolas



Angel Choir



Virgin & Child



Nativity Window



Five Angels

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Photography & design by David Ash



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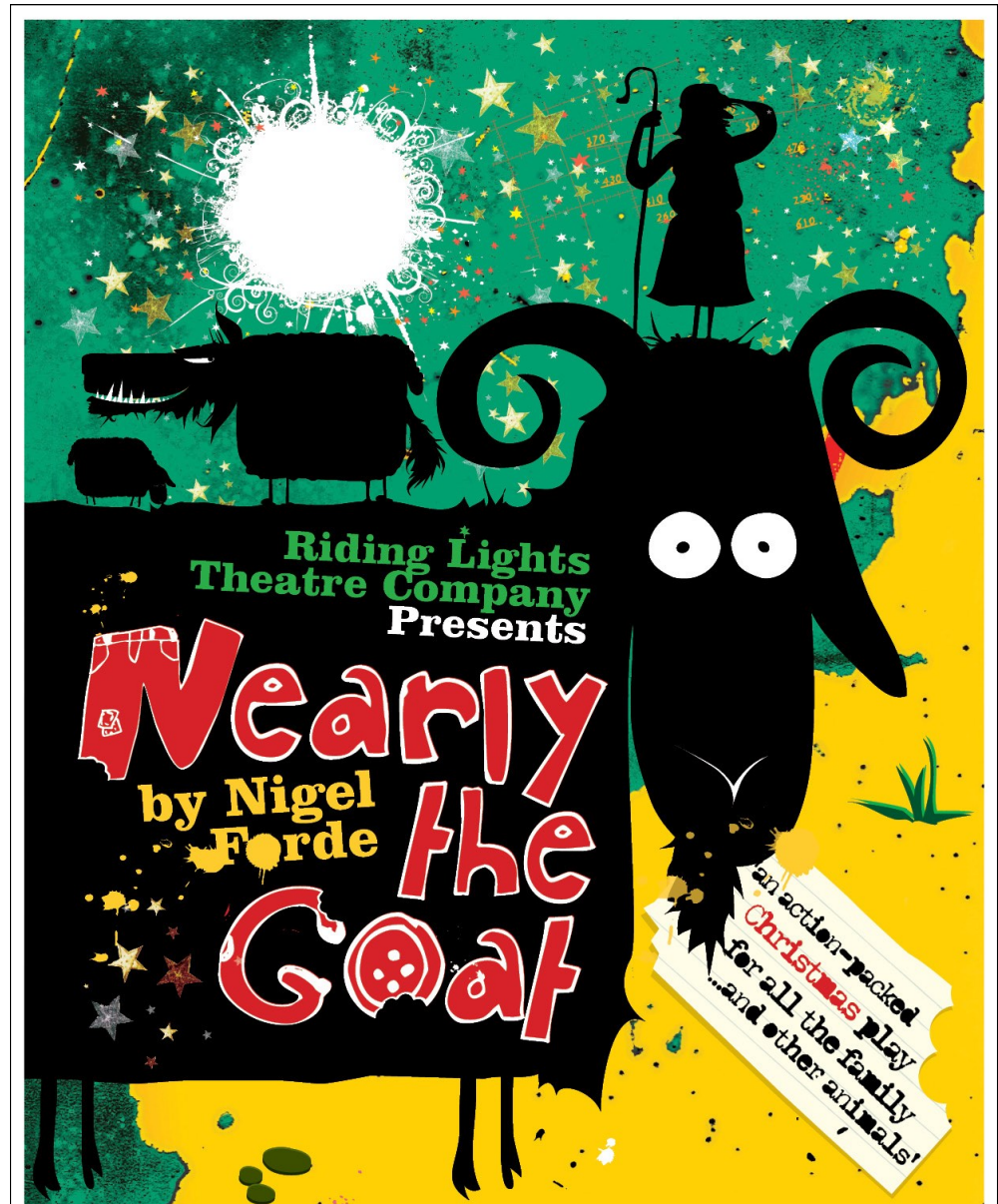
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**Items for inclusion in the
January 2012 issue are to
be submitted by:-
Friday 9th December
2011**

Welcome.....

The Parish begins December with the St Nicolas Festival. Much has been planned (details on pages 9 and 34). I hope you will be able to come along and find out more about St Nicolas Place on Saturday and the celebration in Church on Sunday. Thoughts will, of course, then turn to Christmas (if they haven't already). There are details of all the Christmas Services on page 7.



During the year we have been celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the King James version of the Bible by hearing about people's favourite passages. Fay Fearon finishes off the series this month. Apparently I used one of her favourites last month so it's a good job she has more than one! Thank you to all who have contributed.

If you are a regular subscriber to the magazine, your subscription will be due again next month. If you would like to take out a subscription for 2012, there are details on page 13 of the special offer to get 12 editions for the price of 10.

Our Parish Person this month is Tracey Adams, the new Parish Treasurer. Find out which famous people she has worked with in the past on page 38.

Thank you for reading this edition of the magazine and may I wish you a very happy Christmas and blessed 2012.

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector Christ is here



“**R**ejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.” So St Paul instructs his friends in the church (Romans 12.15). It sounds just right for us as we move from the solemnities of Remembrance through St Nicolastide and Advent to Christmas. A time for weeping; a time for rejoicing.

What else is a parish church for but to be a safe place for the sharing of joy and the bearing of sorrow – and to live and proclaim that Christ Crucified and Risen is present in both to bring God’s life and hope, whether we are in darkness or light? Here in Kings Norton and in every place, God in Christ is present. And it happens today in Bethlehem and two miles away in the little town of Beit Jala, where St Nicolas lived and worked for four years.

A friend of mine has just returned from three months as an Ecumenical Accompanier on that battered front line between Israel and Palestine, where Bethlehem and Beit Jala now sit. They go as committed observers (see www.eappi.org) on the basis of ‘principled impartiality’. They say,

‘We do not take sides in this conflict and we do not discriminate against anyone, but we are not neutral in terms of principles of human rights and international humanitarian law. We stand faithfully with the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. We want to serve all parties in this conflict in a fair and unbiased manner in word and action. Our approach is based on our belief that the occupation is harmful not only to Palestinians but also to Israelis and from our concern about the suffering experienced by both peoples, Palestinians and Israelis. We acknowledge the humanity of everyone involved in this conflict, be they victims or perpetrators of violence and human rights abuses, but the programme demonstrates our solidarity with people on both sides of this conflict who strive non-violently to end the occupation and achieve a just peace.’

But amidst all the hardships, violence, bitterness and injustice, my friend found, as our Jayne did on her recent pilgrimage there, a generous hospitality and rich welcome among those most oppressed. And on St Nicolas Day, the people of Beit Jala will celebrate

and being offensive. Some will find the language and content of **Rev.** at times rather unappealing and I should make it clear that I am not recommending it as “family viewing”.

But I stuck with that first series of **Rev.** and I am very glad that I did. To begin with, the character of Rev. Adam Smallbone came over as rather feeble and ineffectual. “Not another Derek Nimmo type”, I thought. However, as the series continued, a greater depth and strength emerged. The turning point for me came in a wonderful episode in the first series, in which Adam finally stands up to an outwardly much more “successful” minister, by refusing to turn his back on the weakest and most vulnerable members of his community. For all his flaws and frailties, Rev. Adam Smallbone is shown as carrying forward true Gospel values: in the Church, as in

the Kingdom of God, all are of value, including (and especially) those who are regarded by society as being of little worth.

I think it is no accident that of all TV portrayals of vicars, it is **Rev.** that has been received most enthusiastically by the clergy themselves. There is an honesty and sympathy in its depiction of life in a vicarage that rings considerably more true than earlier clergy sitcoms - and I say that having once lived in a village that was the spitting image of Dibley! Most of all, **Rev.** embodies one of the most profound truths of Christian faith and ministry. What counts most is not success, power, wealth or growth; but the faithfulness and grace that works in and through our human weakness. Sometimes we are called just to hang on in there, for God and with God – and never mind the targets!



Rev John Ranting and Raving



This month, the target for my rant is...targets. And that may be a fairly hard target to miss. In recent years, the language and culture of targets has crept in pretty much everywhere in our society, including the worlds of education, healthcare and even the Church. But at what cost?

I suppose imposing ever higher targets upon a workforce has seemed an easy and attractive way of increasing productivity, ever since the Pharaoh in Egypt demanded that his Hebrew slaves make more bricks each day – only now without straw (*Exodus 1:8-15 and 5:1-19*). Perhaps in the world of business and industry, targets have their place. But it shows a sad lack of trust in the competence and commitment of teachers and medical professionals when they are constantly urged to meet particular ‘targets’ in the outcomes achieved by and for their pupils and patients.

There is something very unfair in the way that targets operate. If a school class reaches the chosen percentage of students attaining certain grades, then next year’s

group will be expected to out-do that performance. If the target is not reached, they are made to feel that they have failed. The effect has been predictable – to demoralise those in the toughest situations and to discourage time and effort being put into any work that does not lead to obviously measurable results. Targets belong on archery fields. I am far from convinced of their usefulness elsewhere.

Now from Rant I move to Rave – or should I say **Rev.** The second series of this sitcom, about Rev. Adam Smallbone and his ministry in a struggling and deprived inner-city parish, has just started on Thursday evenings on BBC 2. There has been a long history of Church of England clergy being depicted in television comedy, from *All Gas and Gaiters* to *The Vicar of Dibley*. But **Rev.** is a long way from the quaint and cosy world of those earlier programmes.

I found it took me a while to warm to the first series and I nearly gave up on it after the opening episode. There is a thin line between reflecting the down-to-earth realities of run-down urban areas

God’s gift of Nicolas as we do, with joy perhaps even greater than we shall manage here on December 3rd and 4th. Amidst the weeping, they will rejoice.

It may feel a little like overstatement of our calling as the parish church here in Kings Norton to say that we are to be the same in this place, as part of the Church of England alongside our Methodist colleagues. But in the place where we live, pray, work and hope, I do not believe it is.

The levels of suffering here may be far less. Times of weeping as well as those of rejoicing do not have such a harsh and threatening background. But they are no less real. They are still there amidst social stresses, disappointments, loss and personal struggles. We know this in ourselves and through all who visit and all who share here in seeking Christ’s hope and sure promise. And so often the weeping and rejoicing are intertwined.

As we journey on, celebrations have reminders of those who are not with us - and often a wondering of how long this joy will last. Times of weeping can bring their own, often unexpected, smiles of gratitude, even laughter, as we recall the shared stories which have shaped us and brought us here.

It is, however, the secret sorrows and joys which are hardest to bear; the good things which no one else seems

to feel as strongly about; the burdens which we barely understand ourselves, never mind share with others.

And into all this comes God not as mighty warrior or superhero, but as a helpless child who grows into sharing his own sorrows and joys with the most unlikely of low and high, rich and poor, rejected and respectable, including us. How else could we know and trust in the promise he brings?

The hope we celebrate through St Nicolastide, Advent and Christmas is for all that we are - the public joys and sorrows and the private ones too. God’s hope is for all that we can put into words and share confidently with others - and for all that we can’t. God in Christ knows and loves us in them all.

In our weeping and in our rejoicing - and in the times when they are all mixed up, Christ is here. A Franciscan prayer alongside Psalm 137 offers this:

God of our pilgrimage, you sent your Son to our strange land to bring us home to you; give us your songs to sing that even in our exile we may be filled with the breath of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May this be our prayer also in sorrows, in joys, in their interweaving - and in all in between.

Rob Morris

Hawkesley Church Primary School – Good news!

In February 2010, an OFSTED inspection placed our Church School in Special Measures. Since then, everyone who is part of the school has worked so hard for change - and this is it! Thank you to all. This is part of a letter provided for the school, parents and carers to share with their children. It describes Ofsted's main findings from their inspection.

Dear Pupils,

Inspection of Hawkesley C of E/Methodist Primary School, Birmingham, B38 9TR

Thank you for being so friendly when we visited your school recently. Some of you will know that your school was placed in 'special measures' when it was last inspected, and I have been visiting each term to check that it has been improving enough. I am pleased to tell you that your school no longer needs 'special measures' because many important things have improved and your school is now satisfactory.

- Teaching is now good, your work has improved and you are making the progress expected of you.
- Your behaviour has improved and is now good. Well done, and please keep it up, because this is one of the reasons why your work has improved.
- Your attendance is now similar to that found in most schools. Again, please keep this up.
- The school takes good care of you and helps you to feel safe.
- Your school is well led by the leaders and members of the governing body.

Now that your school is satisfactory, your head teacher, staff and the other adults want it to get even better. . . We know you will want to help. Please keep trying your best in everything you do. Try to read as much as you can at home and please tell your teacher if you find the work too easy.

Yours sincerely

Keith Williams, Lead Inspector.

4 November 2011

The full report is on the school website www.hawkesley.bham.sch.uk

turn out the way we planned it and that situations arise to challenge us and make us all better people.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Where shall I start?! During the summer, I love walking along coastal paths and anywhere else during the rest of the year. The UK is an amazing place – even in the rain, wind and snow! Another thing I should mention is my love of steam trains. This only materialised since meeting my husband! I also like knitting and sewing, but not when the sun is out!

What are your best memories?

There are so many, but the main ones are seeing my children growing up and meeting, marrying and spending time with Steve, my husband and soul mate.

What's your favourite holiday place?

Sorry, but I have a few: Jersey in the Channel Islands – it's where Steve proposed. Venice – it's so romantic and chaotic at the same time. Definitely a wonder of the world in my book. Closer to home – the Cotswolds. It reminds me of when I was young. We used to go there for days out.



If you went on Desert Island Disks, what would be your luxury and book? Any good Biography or Autobiography. If animals were allowed, my luxury would be Coco (our pet cat), although Steve might have something to say about that!

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton? To grow in the community and continue to be as welcoming as it was when we first visited this amazing place. To encourage young people by engaging with them, giving them time to explore their needs and giving them a say in how the church is used and grows in the future.



Parish Treasurer, Tracey Adams



What is your name? Tracey Adams. Although, I am still know as Tracey Lynn in some circles!

Where were you born? I was born and spent my formative years in Castle Bromwich with my two brothers, parents and grandparents.

What is your occupation? At present I am a Finance Officer, at George Dixon International School & Sixth Form College in Edgbaston. I have always loved maths and figures, in one form or another, and really enjoy my job. I have been very lucky during my working life. On leaving School, I started a Commercial Apprenticeship with an American Company based in Birmingham. I then moved onto Central TV, where I worked for 21 years, the latter as Production Manager for Children's ITV (CITV), working with 'stars' like Roland Rat, Sooty & Sweep, Rosie & Jim, Ant & Dec, Fearnie Cotton and Stephen Mulhern to mention a few. I also worked as a freelance Production Manager before deciding to do something completely different – hence my

current job! Originally, the main appeal was the holidays, especially the summer! Unfortunately, I no longer work term time only, but realise you can't have everything!

Why Kings Norton? Simple answer really, fate! We sold our previous home in Redditch and the house we wanted had been sold, the day before, to someone else! We visited our present home, for something to do on a day when there was 3 inches of snow – it was cold and damp and hadn't been lived in for sometime – but we bought it and have never looked back. 'Someone' must have been looking out for us?

Why is your Christian faith important to you? I have always felt there was 'something/someone' looking after me from a far, but only recently have I realised that that something/someone was my faith. My faith has made me aware of how fortunate I am compared with others. It has also taught me to treat others as I would wish to be treated. Above all, it has made me realise that life does not always

2011 Christmas Services

St Nicolas

Sunday 11th December 10.30am Parade and Toy Service
 Sunday 18th December 4pm Carol Service *(No 6pm service)*

Christmas Eve 5pm Crib Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion
 10.30am Christmas Communion

New Year's Day 10.30am Holy Communion
*No 8am service at St Nicolas or 10.30am at Immanuel
 6pm Simple Evening Worship at St Nicolas
 St Nicolas will be open at various times on New Year's Eve.*
 Sunday 15th January 10.30am Christingle Service

Hawkesley *at Hawkesley School*

Sunday 11th December 10.30am Christingle Service
 Sunday 18th December 10.30am Carol Service
Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion
New Years' Day 10.30am Holy Communion

Immanuel *at Fairway Centre*

Sunday 27th November 10.30am Christingle Service
 Sunday 18th December 6pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day 10.30 am Christmas Family Communion

Have you planned your Christmas Card list yet?

Please give a thought about whom at St Nicolas you might be sending Christmas cards to. Instead of covering the large table in St Nicolas in cards, often for folks you'll be seeing over Christmas anyway, please give a thought to sending your greeting this way instead.

Very soon, a large card will appear in St Nicolas – but with a design linked to bread!!! Inside will be plenty of space for you to write your greeting to all your friends at church. Outside will be a bowl to collect donations (the money that you would have spent on the individual cards) and the donations will go to the Ifakara Bakery.

Details of their work can be found at www.ibpfreebread.com or through the wonderful talks that Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg give about the work of the Ifakara Bakery and the Free Bread Funds. Maybe imagine you are buying a loaf with each card you would have bought.....at 25p each.

Sylvia Fox

Stuck for ideas for Christmas Gifts? Want to choose an alternative or ethical gift for someone but are overwhelmed with which charity to choose? We may have the answer for you!

There are gift cards for sale (each with an envelope) available in the parish office (or with Sylvia in St Nicolas Church) which will support the work of Ifakara Bakery and the Free Bread Fund. Cards can be bought for any amount above £5 and every penny will go to the charity as the cards were provided free by our printers. There is information about the charity



inside the card and space for your own greeting - and also space to tell the recipient how many loaves their gift has bought - 1 loaf costs 25p so, for example, a gift of £10 will have provided 40 loaves - enough for many many people to get a nutritious meal.

Sylvia Fox

Mission Focus - St Basils

If someone asked me how I've spent the first Friday in December for the last few years, the answer would probably be slightly surprising, and possibly worrying. I've slept out in a cardboard box in weather ranging from torrential rain to a snowstorm! Strange though it may sound, this was actually by choice. Every year, St Basil's, a Birmingham based charity which works to prevent youth homelessness in our city, holds a sleepout.

Sleepouts are fairly self explanatory; everyone taking part sleeps in a Digbeth car park for a night to raise money and awareness for homelessness. For the last four years, I've done it as part of the Bishop's Youth Council. The group has got bigger every year as word spreads that it's not quite as cold and horrible as it sounds, and as our plans for how to build our cardboard shelter became more and more intricate. Last December, we attempted to pool our resources (everyone is given a cardboard box and plastic sheet upon arriving at the sleepout) and tried to replicate Birmingham Cathedral.



The work St Basil's do is incredibly important, ranging from providing accommodation to young people who find themselves homeless to offering counselling to those who may be at risk of homelessness. This year, the sleepout will be happening on 2nd December and I would urge anyone who would like to get involved to take part, or to sponsor somebody who is. And if you're reading this after 2nd December, it's not too late to give, or to take part next year! It really is an excellent way of raising funds for this incredible charity and I promise that it's not as bad as sleeping in the snow makes it sound!

Debbie White

(Debbie is Rev John's daughter. She is now a student at Glasgow University but was previously a member of the Bishop's Youth Council).

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Saint Nicolas Festival **December 3rd and 4th 2011**

This year we are going to celebrate our generous Patron Saint (who else is the patron saint of prisoner and bankers?!) by re-launching our Saint Nicolas Place ... to draw in those from the community with whom we would like to share our wonderful buildings.

The new Interpretation fixtures will have arrived by then and various voices will tell parts of the story of each of the rooms. (See if you can guess which present day friends the voices belong to!)

On the Saturday, there will be presentations explaining how and where all the prize and grant money has been spent and what our future financial needs may look like; showcasing each of the different ways in which our buildings are and maybe put to use (community, corporate, wedding, artistic, heritage, educational to name but some); chance to savour seasonal food from our own Saracen's Head Cafe; time to meet Santa and discover about the traditions of St Nicolas the Saint; see a Bible Exhibition; relive the restoration project through photographs; buy gifts and cards from the Conservatory Shop.

The day will begin at 10.00 am in festive spirit and will have a famous Kings Norton friend to open the Interpretation.

The Sunday will begin with a Celebration Service, followed by a parish meal in the Ashford Hall – with members of the Awdry family as our guests. Guided Tours can be booked for the afternoon and then there will be Taizé Evening Worship at 6.00 pm to reflect on the whole weekend.

Please come to as much as you can manage – and bring friends and family. Tickets for the parish meal will be on sale in November.



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE
KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

Memory Tree: Would you like to remember a loved one AND support our amazing Tudor buildings? For £2 you can buy a beautifully hand-crafted tag from the shop in Saint Nicolas Place (open Tues - Saturday 10-4 pm and late night Monday Dec 5th), and add it to the Memory tree which is in pride of place in the Saracen's Head Cafe window.

Sleep Tight Grave Tending Services and Restoration

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas together, we have reached out to the Immanuel neighbourhood with Christmas cards through 1300 doors and posters in schools and community places, specifically inviting people to our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 18th December at 6pm. We find that the community responds to this service and we usually welcome around 60 people that evening. This year we are looking forward to our Oasis children presenting a nativity tableau during the carols and readings.

We are also looking forward to singing Christmas carols with the staff and clients of The Fairway Centre during December; and we are inviting families from Fairway School and Wychall School to the Riding Lights Theatre Company performance of "Nearly the Goat" at St Nicolas Church (see page 43 for details!).

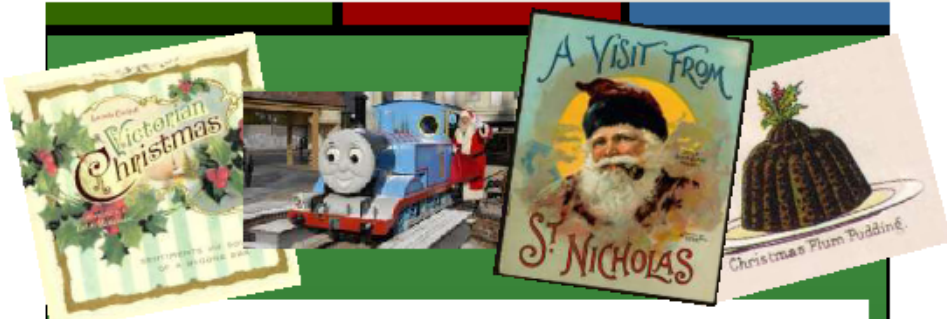
In the new year, we are considering how to reach out using the Olympics as a theme. There are all sorts of possibilities through an initiative called "More than Gold". This is a Christian response to the Olympics, sponsored by many Christian organisations. They have provided a pack which contains lots of information about how churches can impact their communities. Some of the suggestions include a quiz night (sports themed), schools lessons/assemblies, Messy Church sessions, holiday clubs for children, festivals, screening the opening event and providing refreshments, sports coaching for children, etc. There are also ways of getting involved in the Olympics itself, eg. hospitality for athletes' families (Birmingham is hosting China and USA who are training here in the run up to the events), providing drinks stations for the torch relay, joining the prayer team, etc. Funding is available in some instances.

On Sunday 22nd January, during our morning service, Immanuel is welcoming a speaker from Birmingham City Mission, one of the recipients of our Outward Giving programme. We look forward to having an update on their work and would be pleased to see you if you would like to come along.

Susan Haynes



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE
KINGS NORTON, BIRMINGHAM



Saint Nicolas Festival

Come and join us in celebrating St Nicolas,
Kings Norton's patron saint and the original Santa Claus

Saturday 3rd December 10am – 3pm

A day full of family fantastic discovery.

- The story of Thomas the Tank Engine and his birth in Kings Norton with members of W.V. Awdry's own family, who knew Thomas first of all
- Our new displays and activities inviting you into the story of Saint Nicolas Place
 - How you can help continue the story for the future.
 - The story of the real St Nicolas as we know him in church
- Our sensational seasonal food in our new-look Saracen's Head Tea Room.
- Displays, model railways, Christmas gifts, a visit from Santa Claus in his grotto and much, much more.
- Find out about our full programme of Christmas Activities – and how you can



Saint Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU

For enquires call 0121 458 1223

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship does not have a meeting in December, but many of the members will be having a Christmas meal together. The next meeting will be in January 2012.

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

Kings Norton History Society

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY ends the year of the 100th anniversary of Kings Norton's Unification with Birmingham on Monday 12th December when Richard Albutt will give us "A Review of the Year 1911".

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

Claire Simpson, Chairman"

Barnabas in Schools

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) publish a number of resources to help and encourage people to read the Bible and to reflect on their faith. There are a number of people in the parish who use their Bible study notes. But BRF are also involved in supporting primary school teachers through their Barnabas tradename. Under the Barnabas name, BRF publishes resources for primary teachers who are concerned for the spiritual welfare of the child, with an emphasis on RE, PSHE, citizenship, life issues and seasonal material. Alongside this range of books, there is an experienced and professional *Barnabas* team who can work alongside teachers and offer a range of activities - including creative arts days and INSET training sessions.

Remembrance Sunday 2011



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Photos by David Ash

the other possessions, and tried to get into rented accommodation (all the wise things we might say “she should have done ...”). Friends helped for a while, and it seemed as if there was no family near by or perhaps at all. Homelessness ended up with her living in a stranger’s loaned garage for a month on a mattress until benefits kicked in and agencies began to work together to help her get into supported housing and to begin to climb back up the ladder she’d been so near to the top of for over 30 years.

It was a harsh call to reality that it could just as easily have been me. I know there have been some instances within our church family where only through deep practical support of church members has it meant that it didn’t come to the mattress in a garage for another person or family. When someone asks you to support the homeless this winter, as they undoubtedly will, please remember these stories as well as the stereotypes the government would like us to believe.

Sylvia Fox

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The Green Kings Norton Birmingham
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Get FRESH

**Next Market is 10th
December 2011
9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**



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

The next one will be on Saturday 10th December. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!

Homeless at Christmas.....

Well, there is a good precedence for it, but this isn't an "alternative nativity" story.

I was looking through a couple of copies of The Big Issue recently and read articles about homelessness for groups of people who are not usually associated with "the homeless". Our personal stereotype of homeless people may vary, but I know the regular one in much of the media is "useless, drunk, drugs, no-hope, not trying..." These stories proved these labels to be very far from the full story.

Some are **families**: the fully functional family from the West Country who suddenly had their privately rented house taken away, because the owner wanted it back, and could find no other rented accommodation that they could afford near enough to work (for the husband and father) and schools for the children. They spent a month in B&B before they found somewhere. The family did not run a car: he walked to/from work or used public transport. The same was true for the children and school. Mum was a full

time mother and housewife: a "normal" conventional family who normally budgeted successfully on one catering industry wage.

Some are **ex-servicemen**. The very regulated service life has finished, the comradeship is no longer there, civvy street doesn't treat you as a person to be respected for what you've done on their behalf and few people can comprehend the ghastly things you've lived through. It is very easy for previous relationships to break down, for there to be no job to return to (many recruits sign up to get out of areas of high unemployment), families cannot afford to support another person, benefits are slow in coming... and the spiral into homelessness is very rapid.

Business men and women. The story that caught my attention the most was a woman of my own age. She had owned a successful business and a home and car and everything else that society suggests a successful business person must have. Our banks have encouraged large borrowing for mortgages and when the business folded (through bad debts), she suddenly couldn't repay her mortgage costs. She sold off all

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- I would like my copy left in St Nicolas/Hawkesley/Immanuel (delete as appropriate) Church for me to pick up.
- I would like my copy delivered to my home (if possible).
- I would like my copy posted to me (at additional cost).

Mission Focus: Bible Society

On Sunday 23rd October, Immanuel celebrated Bible Sunday using the materials from the Bible Society.

Sarah led the service and we watched the T-Mobile advert where lots of people in the train station start dancing. This is deemed a FLASH MOB. A flash mob is where a group of people get together suddenly in a public place to perform unusual acts, sometimes pointless, for a brief time then disperses. In the reading, we heard from Nehemiah (chapter 8:1-12) where he gathered people together to hear the words from the Bible... this was not a pointless act!! Nehemiah reminds us to celebrate the Bible and each other...so we did. Immanuel had a party!

We sang songs, played pass the parcel, draw funny pictures of ourselves, won prizes and made lots of noise!

We heard a true story of Hanna Teshone and Fregenet Mengesha who came from different backgrounds but equally needed the love of Jesus. Fregenet hears about Jesus through a Proclaimer. It is a machine and looks like a radio, but really it's a kind of MP3 player with a big speaker. The chip inside it has the whole New Testament recorded on it. We watched a short animation produced by the Bible Society which told us about the work they are doing in translating the Bible into the languages of the world and how our money can help with this.

Sarah showed us the familiar and less familiar passages of the Bible (see above) and challenged us to be excited about this marvellous book we have, to delve into the pages and uncover the excitement, stories and teachings it has to offer.

God sent his only Son to this earth to die for us. The least we can do is read some more of the greatest book ever written!

For more information about the Bible Society please visit: <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

Sarah Crooks



us, and he has shown the perfect example of how we should treat children - with patience, respect and love.

Jesus is never too busy for us and he hears our prayers. Christ is the perfect shepherd, friend, lover, father and peace-giver. He will never turn us away because we are his beloved children. I John 3: 1 tells us. "See how much the Father has



loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children." Wow! How wonderful is that? Like the little children in Mark's passage, God wants to bless us, and he really does! As his children, we are to serve him with sincere and humble hearts.

Our Lord Jesus came to us as a little child, beloved of The Father. As we look to the coming of the Advent season, may we take time out from the distractions of our busy world and focus our thoughts and prayers on the tremendous love and grace of God who came to us in the person of The Christ Child. May this coming season be a joyful blessing to us.

God bless!

Fay Fearon (Reader)

Bournville Young Singers' Christmas Concert



Sunday December 11th at 3.00pm in
St Nicolas Church.



My Favourite Bible passage: Mark 10:13-16

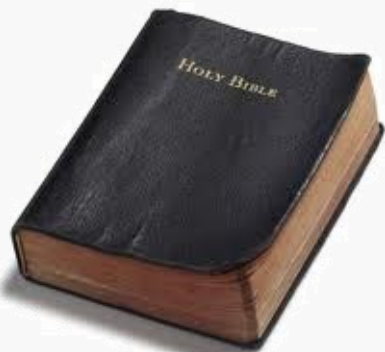
‘Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them’.

This passage is one of my favourite Bible passages because it is one of the very first Bible stories about Jesus that I’d heard in Sunday School as a small child. Looking back, I also

recall hearing about the birth of the baby Jesus and Jesus as the Good Shepherd. And there were pictures about these stories to colour in, which somehow made it all so wonderful and real to me even then! Listening to those stories, even as a seven year old, I remember feeling very excited and ‘warm inside’ when the story of Jesus and the little children was read to us. Excited because it was new, it was different, and perhaps having not long lost my father, I felt that if no one else in the world loved me, Jesus did. I felt ‘warm inside’ because somehow, I truly believed that Jesus loved me. Sometimes we would sing a song about how Jesus loved to hear little children sing while we joyfully clapped to the tune.

To think that our Lord Jesus loves us, his beloved children, unconditionally is simply mind-blowing as far as I’m concerned. My faith and absolute hope and trust in him seem pretty tiny in comparison to his love for me, for us.

The disciples thought that Jesus would be too put-out to give his time to the little children, or that he might be too important to bother with them. Absolutely not! Jesus had time for them, like he has time for





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October 2011 Baptisms

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

2 nd October	Clare Kimberley Harbun
2 nd October	Hayley-Grace Scandrett
2 nd October	Daniel Charles Gary Winson
2 nd October	Luke James Winson
2 nd October	Faith Louise Atcherley
16 th October	Mia Anne Atcherley
16 th October	Isabella Anne Gibbins
16 th October	Emmy Jessica Kirby
16 th October	Lana Grace Minshull
16 th October	Benjamin Stewart William Smith

October 2011 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

1st October	David Richard Cuttler and Carrie-Ann Airey
14th October	Christopher Roy Overton and Rebecca Mary deMornay Whiteman
22 nd October	James Liam Edward McDonald and Amy Maria Power

Harry L Marks

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The part of the shepherds in this story is a very important one because if they hadn't told people this story, we may never have heard it and maybe never would have known Jesus. Just as the shepherds responded to hearing the story, we too are called to respond. Just as the shepherds acted in hearing the Christmas story, we too are called to act.

This Christmas when you are hear the Christmas story, whether for the first time or the thousandth time, remember the part of the shepherds and their call to action.

That's how important this story is. It makes Jesus known in our world today.

This Christmas, who are you going to tell the story of Christmas to?!



Nativity Wordsearch



k	s	b	c	a	n	g	e	l	u
i	m	a	n	g	e	r	j	k	t
n	y	d	r	e	h	p	e	h	s
g	r	e	p	s	v	m	j	u	u
s	v	r	k	g	u	o	d	i	x
r	c	a	g	n	s	s	b	f	u
b	t	t	i	e	o	x	e	k	v
a	z	s	p	h	j	d	u	j	x
d	v	h	l	m	a	r	y	o	p
s	r	s	t	a	b	l	e	n	l

angel donkey Jesus Joseph
kings manger Mary
shepherd stable star



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Gail.

Hello everyone...
and Happy Christmas to you all!

How many times have you heard the Christmas story, the story of the birth of baby Jesus who was born in a stable and laid on a bed of straw?



The story of that first Christmas is a well-known story, but that doesn't mean that we should stop telling it. When something has an important message, it is always worth repeating it over and over again.

Together, let's take a look at how the story of Christmas speaks to us today and calls into action.



Do you remember that the baby Jesus was visited by shepherds...?

What was their part in the Christmas story and was it an important one?

The shepherds hear about the birth of Jesus from an angel.
The shepherds find Jesus for themselves.
The shepherds tell others the story of Jesus

What do you think would have happened if the shepherds had never heard the story from the angel?

What would have happened if the shepherds didn't know Jesus for themselves?

What would have happened if the shepherds didn't tell others the story?

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October 2011 Funerals

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

7 th October	Elizabeth Olive Gregory, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
13 th October	Beryl Mary Allcock, 85. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
13 th October	Raymond Brampton, 72. Service and burial at Lodge Hill.
17 th October	George Malcolm Horry, 79. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
17 th October	Thomas Wheeldon, 87. Cremation at Redditch.
20 th October	Pearl Parker, 92. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Robin Hood.
20 th October	Constance Singer, 92. Cremation at Robin Hood.
21 st October	Jasper Joseph Howell, 69. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
24 th October	William Jackson, 17 wks. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
25 th October	Phyllis Edna Billingham, 91. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
25 th October	Audrey O'Driscoll, 85. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Brandwood End.
26 th October	Doris May Shipley, 95. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Brandwood End.
26 th October	Dorothy Land, 95. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
27 th October	May Florence Elder, 91. Cremation at Redditch.
31 st October	Edna Kathleen Lawrence, 92. Cremation at Robin Hood.

At Saint Nicolas Place

Women's Fellowship Seniors' Club (Over 65's)

7.30pm 1st Thursday; Secretary: Carol Devic
Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Christine Bowen & Marlene Collyer

Guides and Brownies

Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm
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Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

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Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45 pm Gareth Jones 624 0226
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

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Staff Team Director: Abigail Roberts Bookings/Events: Andrew Driscoll
Heritage and Learning Officer: Matthew Knox

Kings Norton Parish Office

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

e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri

Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk

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

Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School

Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

School website: www.hawkesley.bham.sch.uk

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

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

MINISTRY TEAM:

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

WARDENS

St. Nicolas Hawkesley	Paul Shelton, Anne Hughes 458 3289 Jim Clarke 550 3455/07939 838086 Elaine Cooper
Immanuel	Alan Haynes 459 4711

PCC (Church Council)	Secretary: Judy Ash Treasurer: Tracey Adams
Parish Administrators:	Judy Ash, Sylvia Fox, Christine Gadd
Christian Giving Officer	Jean Brownsword 458 3289
Churchyard Care Team	Richard Harper 458 3289
Bible Reading Fellowship	Julie Caley 458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Alison Blumer 486 2837
Organist and Music Director	Sylvia Fox 07778 449170

*Tuesday: Training and groups 6-9pm; Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m.; Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.
Handbell Ringers Mondays 3-4.30 p.m - please phone first to check we are meeting if you are hoping to come along.*

Immanuel Music Group	Susan Haynes 459 4711
-----------------------------	-----------------------

Oasis/ Sunday School/

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

Parish Magazine: Editor	Alan Haynes 459 4711 editor@kingsnorton.org.uk
Treasurer (Subscriptions)	Alison Blumer 486 2837
Advertising Manager	Evelyn Finn via Parish Office 458 3289
Parish Website	David Ash e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk

Bell Ringers Ringing Master	Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower Jim Dunn 744 6334
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The Church in the Parish

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

We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists:

To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ

To live out God's radical hospitality for all

To be equipped for work in God's world

St Nicolas Parish Church *on The Green B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 am Holy Communion Oasis for 5-11's
2nd Sunday: 10.30am Parade Service - All Age Worship 11.45am Matins (BCP)
4pm Holy Baptism (*1st and 3rd Sundays*)
6 pm Evening Worship

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

1st Sunday : Taizé Prayer 2nd Sunday: Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday : Night Prayer and reflection 4th/5th Sundays: Special services/Evensong (BCP)

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist)

at Hawkesley School on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Partway ,Kings Norton, B38 9TR

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church

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

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd Sunday – Morning Worship

4th Sunday – All Age Worship

Open Church

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

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

Open Church times

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

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

Thursday 6.30 – 8pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries

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

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

Candlelit Church

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

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music.

Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time - as you wish.

Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

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