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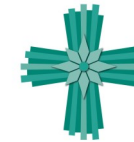
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TEAM PARISH

Kings Norton Parish Magazine

July 2011

£1



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**Items for inclusion in
the August 2011 issue
are to be submitted by:-
Friday 15th July 2011**

Welcome.....



I'm sure that the deadline day comes round more quickly each month! The new edition of the Parish Magazine is barely out before I'm asking the contributors for copy for the next one!

I hope, like me, you have been enjoying the new column from Rev John. This month he has been to see a new film and shares his thoughts on the Archbishop of Canterbury's comments in the New Statesman. You'll have to read for yourself to find out which one is the rant and which the rave.

There is another 'favourite bible passage' article on page 14. If you have a favourite passage why not share it with us? Our contact details are on this page. Another celebration for the 400th anniversary of the KJV is happening at Birmingham Cathedral. An orchestral setting of John 1:1-14 has been commissioned and will be performed towards the end of the year. See page 10 for more details.

This month is the Kings Norton Festival. Please come and join us on 9th July. There is a lot going on in and around Saint Nicolas Place and St Nicolas Church. We'd love to see you there.

Thank you for reading.

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector Over to us!



The Church's year is wisely divided in two. It begins with Advent. We look forward to Christmas. Through winter and spring, we tell the story of the One born so humbly. We follow Jesus's journey with all its challenging richness of teaching, healing, action, prayer and love. Lent, Holy Week and Easter brings it all to shuddering conclusion on a shameful Cross and a sudden rebirth in the joys of Easter. Then we wait until the promised gift of the Holy Spirit flows into the life of Jesus's friends and followers at Pentecost.

Until that point, the story is about waiting for what God in Jesus will do next. It is God's story. We follow, often with as little idea of what is going on as Jesus's first followers did.

And then, without a break, comes part two. No longer are we waiting for God's next move. God is waiting for ours.

And this, each year, is where we are now, beginning a summer and autumn of trusting. God promises that, through the Holy Spirit, all we have seen and heard in the story of Jesus can be lived out today in the life of the church that

the world may be transformed in his love. All God seeks is our trusting response.

Within this yearly pattern, there is huge wisdom and love. We all need times to be fed, healed and renewed in the story of Jesus. We all need times for trustfully making that same story of feeding, healing and renewal come alive through us for the sake of all. And it does, as we offer our prayer, work and welcome as God's people in this place. That's what we're for.

It is so easy to fall into sheer survival mode, trying (often failing) to keep heads above water as one thing hits us after another. Sometimes it is all we can do. But beneath our living is a rich pattern and purpose of times and seasons, in church, out of church, each year, each day. It is God's gift through the church's year – and there for us every day. Over to us indeed!

That's why the Kings Norton Festival and our United Service and lunch matter so much, with all the other things we do together through the year. Please be part. It is for you – and for all.

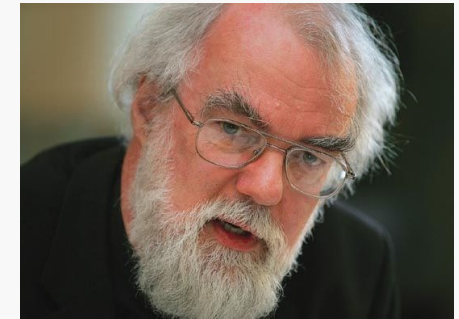
Rob Morris

'Way') to Santiago on his son's behalf. On his way, he finds himself joined by a number of companions, all with different motives for undertaking the pilgrimage; some religious, some not. It is not a perfect film by any means - some of the characters and dialogue came over as a bit clichéd and contrived – but I found it well worth seeing. It engages with some vital questions, about what are the truly important things in life and where we might find them. And it certainly strengthened my desire to do a walking pilgrimage before too long; but perhaps somewhere a little closer to home.

And so now for the rant... In many ways, I would be very happy here simply to echo the words written by Archbishop Rowan Williams, published in the *New Statesman*, that have received a lot of attention recently. The criticisms and questions that he has raised about the impact of the Coalition Government's policies upon vulnerable members of society seem, to me, to be characteristically thoughtful and perceptive. So much so, that it would be unfair to depict the Archbishop's words as a rant; his editorial was certainly not a one-sided attack upon any particular party. So instead, my rant is about the reception that his words received.

Many voices, in both the government and the press, simply tried to shout the Archbishop down

or ridicule him, without listening to the substance of what he was saying.



It may be that Church leaders simply cannot win. If they speak about overtly religious issues, such as whether or not women should be bishops, they are accused of being irrelevant or out of touch. If they address matters of wider concern, and especially issues touching on social justice, then they get described as "meddling in politics". But that very distinction does not really stand up. What Archbishop Rowan recognises (even if his critics do not) is that God is concerned with the whole of life. Any attempt to divide the world into the separate spheres of 'religion' and 'politics' is dangerous and deluded. I for one am very, very glad that the Church of England has a leader who is prepared to speak out with such wisdom and such courage on matters of public importance. Thanks be to God!

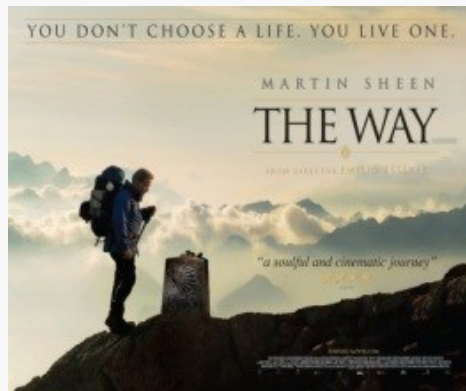
Rev John

Rev John Ranting and Raving



Once again, I'll be sharing some of the things that have caused me recently either to **rant** in annoyance or to **rave** in enthusiasm. I'm pleased to say that this month there have been rather more of the latter. So let me start with some of the stuff that has gone on my "to rave about" pile. I've been much enjoying Julia Bradbury's series of programmes of **Canal Walks**, shown first on BBC4 and now being repeated on BBC2. This series may not have had as many of the spectacular views as the earlier walking programmes made by the same team, such as the Coast to Coast Walk or those based in the Lake District. However, it has had compensating pleasures, not least the feeling that these are walks I could realistically manage on a day off. Best of all was the programme focusing on the Birmingham and Worcester Canal. Instead of watching the screen thinking, "Ooh, I'd love to go there one day", I was forever going "Been there! Done that!" As Julia made her way along the towpath from Gas Street Basin out through Bournville and then into our own parish of Kings Norton, I was

constantly being reminded of the beauty and interest that can be found on our doorsteps. And it was great to watch a programme on national TV that gave a positive mention to Hawkesley! Also on a walking theme, I was pleased to get to the cinema last month to see a film called **The Way**. This film is a drama set on the ancient pilgrimage route through the Pyrenees, the 'Camino de Santiago'. The film starts with a tragedy, the accidental death on the Camino of a young American man, who had abandoned his doctoral studies in order to embark on the pilgrimage. The story then centres upon the man's father, a successful ophthalmologist, who travels to France to collect his son's ashes and decides to walk the Camino (or



Giving Renewal

This is undoubtedly the wrong time to be doing this! The thoughts of most are on the end of term, of being away, of taking life a little easier for the summer if we can. And with cuts all round and so many of us finding that our incomes are smaller and our costs are higher, this is even more the wrong time to talk about the financial needs of the church. But they do not go away.

Over the next few weeks, we shall be asking all who are part of the life of the church here – as regular attenders or as friends and supporters – to consider their financial contribution to the life and mission of the church.

We really have cut costs as much as we can. We are spending less than we have done and worked to make the most efficient use of resources. But this year, as you can see from the charts in the following pages, we will need to spend £210,500 and expect income of £198,500 - a deficit of around £12,000. For a year or two we can cover this from reserves. That simply passes our responsibility to others and stops us doing new things – or even keeping up with repair and replacement of basics like heating, lighting and resourcing growth. Without them, the church will slowly fade, just as it will fade without the faithful talents and time offered by so many in its work of love.

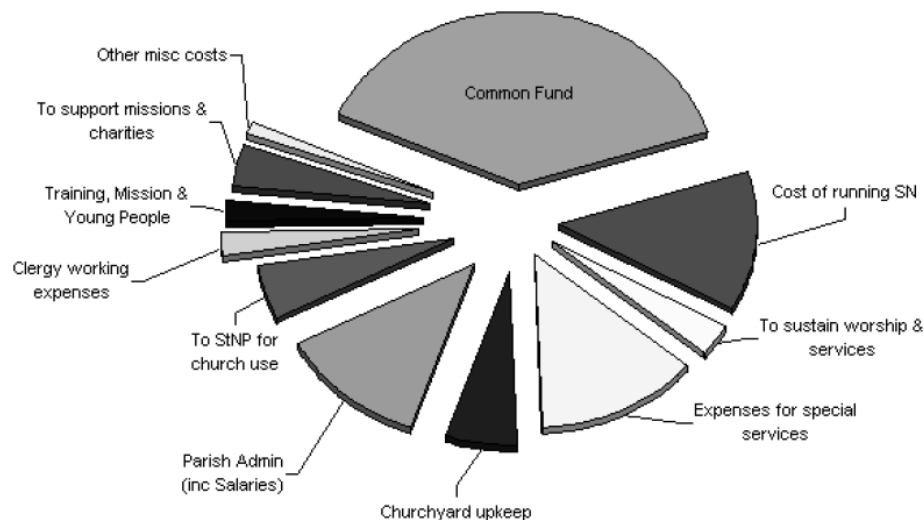
So we will invite everyone to consider their giving. A key point which I hope all will grasp and trust is that all are called to respond – but only you know how much you can honestly give. We ask that your response is prayerful, faithful and regular – but it is wholly your decision. So we ask you to consider the church's needs and your own resources very carefully. I promise that your answer will be utterly respected – and confidential, whatever it may be.

All should receive an invitation and response form by July 3rd, asking for response by the beginning of August. Please pray about your own response and for faithful response by all. And do ask any questions which come up.

With thanks and hope.

Rob Morris

Budgeted Parish Expenditure 2011



What do we need?

Diocesan Common Fund for clergy pay and central costs	£81K
Church insurance, heat, light, cleaning, routine maintenance	£27K
Church supplies, music, choir, licences, books, printing	£7K
Verger, music, bells, gravedigging for weddings and funerals	£28K
Grass-cutting, tree & general churchyard maintenance	£12K
Office salaries, phones, postage, stationery, equipment	£25K
Premises costs of parish use of Saint Nicolas Place	£10K
Travel, phone, admin costs for Team clergy, Readers & visitors	£5K
Lay training, Tiny Tots, Oasis, schools work & new outreach	£3.5K
Our duty as part of the world-wide church	£9K
Bank charges, audit fees, other professional fees	£3K
Total	£210.5K

We have already reduced costs—but these are the basics we still need to be Kings Norton's parish church. They do not include any major repairs or new costs.

This is the whole-parish budget. On top of this, Hawkesley and Immanuel also raise some £30,000 to cover many of their own annual running costs

What are your best memories?

The years when our four girls were small. One wet day, attempting to board a bus in the centre of Newcastle with the girls aged 7, 4, 2 and tiny, and the days when you had to fold a buggy to get on, an old lady told me that these were the best years of my life...had I had the luxury of a spare hand, I'd probably have hit her...but I have to admit they were wonderful times!



What's your favourite holiday place?

Having spent 15 years in the North East, the Northumberland coastline has to be top of the list. Anywhere from Tynemouth to Holy Island is where I go to feel that real connectedness and relaxation. A close second is a remote Franciscan retreat house, 'Haus der Stille' (House of Silence) outside Graz in Austria. Fantastic!

If you went on Desert Island Disks, what would be your luxury and book?

I would have to cheat! I would need my daily Guardian, Radio 4 (I'm an addict!), my i pod (containing everything from Bach to Bruce Springsteen, Mozart to Mumford and many others along the way) and everything that Fergal Keane has ever written (preferably in audio book as I just love his accent!).

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

That it may continue to grow as a place where people can discover their uniqueness and understanding of themselves, as named and loved children of God.

Do you know anyone who would make an interesting 'Parish Person'? Are you willing to be interviewed? If so, please contact Alan, the Editor, on 07801 551274 or by email - editor@kingsnorton.org.uk Thank you.



Crew Member at St Nicolas Place, Emma Templeton



Where were you born?

High Wycombe, but lived in London and Newcastle upon Tyne before arriving in Birmingham.

What is your occupation?

I have recently become the newest Crew Member at St Nicolas Place, but have been a nurse, a full time Mum, a cleaner, Teaching Assistant, have made sandwiches, taught Ethics and been a School Chaplain along the way!

Why Kings Norton?

Alastair and I discovered the parish when Elizabeth started Brownies here 7 years ago. We have grown in our commitment to the parish in various ways, but have found in St Nicolas' a sacred space; a place of welcome, belonging, of deep prayer and holiness – a spiritual home.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

For as long as I can remember I have had a very deep and real sense of the presence of God in my life and of God's grace working through its many happy times and its challenges.

One Bible verse which is particularly important to me is John 8:32 'You will come to know the truth, and the truth will set you free'.

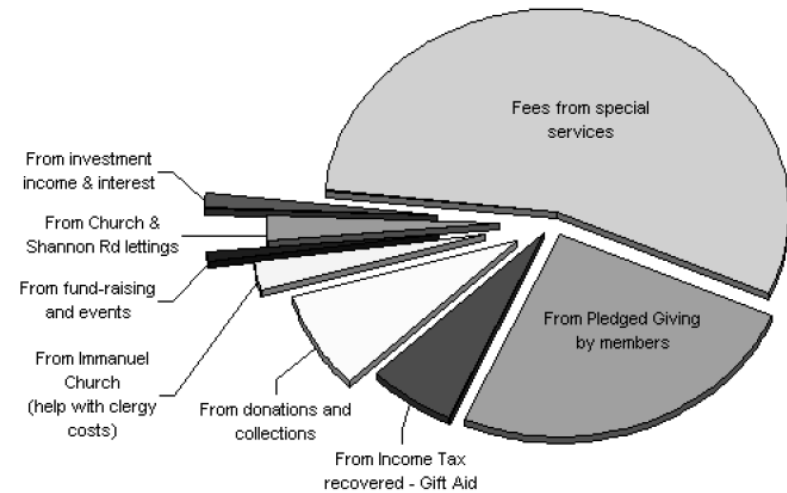
Having sung in choirs and led the music in my previous parishes, many hymns are deeply implanted in my heart but, if I had to choose one, it would be 'Will you come and follow me'. In particular, verse 4: 'Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name...' Go and look it up!

What are your hobbies and interests?

I aim to swim a mile of Northfield Pool every morning – on days when time is short I go metric and the mile becomes a kilometre! I love gardening and, having been forbidden to grow any more vegetables in the back garden, we have recently become allotment tenants on the plot next to Sylvia. It has not been dug for 2 years, so I feel an allotment party coming on...

I have a rapidly rusting flute which seldom gets played now, and 2 guitars which I am determined one day to learn to play - but not both at once!

Expected Parish Income 2011



How will we raise this?

From special services (weddings/funerals)	£108K
From Pledged Giving by members	£50K (Can we increase to £60K?)
From Income tax recovered—Gift Aid	£12K
From donations & collections	£16K (2010 total was £14,798)
From Immanuel Church	£5K
From fund raising & events	£1K (room for growth!)
From church & Shannon Rd lettings	£4K
From investment income & interest	£2.5K
Total	£198.5K

Expected 2011 income is £12000 below necessary expenditure.

We therefore have a gap to fill. We shall do this through:

Increased faithful Pledged Giving by more people

Work to Increase donations and fundraising from friends and visitors

Please review your own giving, see over the page for ways in which you can grow it —and pray for our parish's life in Christ.

Simple Ways to Give to Kings Norton Parish Church

Faithful Regular Giving

We need all who are part of God's church to consider making their giving in this way. It allows us to set realistic budgets and enable wise decisions as we maintain and grow God's ministry, mission and work. We are grateful to all who gave nearly £50,000 through Pledged Giving in 2010. We need to grow this more.

You can give regularly:

- by direct debit/standing order through your bank account
- or by weekly envelope for cash or cheques (*payable to KNPCC*)

Gift Aid

If you pay income tax, you will be able to use the Gift Aid scheme.

Through this, the parish can reclaim the tax you will have already paid on this money. Last year we received an additional £12000 through the Gift Aid scheme— at no extra cost to donors. Please complete and return a Gift Aid declaration.

By a One off Donation

Cheques (*payable to KNPCC*) or cash can be given in at the Parish Office in St Nicolas Place or placed in the wall box, marked Donations, beside the south door of St Nicolas Church. If you pay income tax, please make your gift by Gift Aid, using one of the small grey envelopes, marked 'Gift Aid Donations'. They are in a basket on the table near the church's South Door. Please place your completed envelope in the Donations wall-box or give it to clergy, wardens or at Parish Office.

What do we ask you to do?

Prayerfully consider the church's needs and decide how much you will give each week/month as your part in meeting the cost of our life together. Then please complete a Stewardship Pledge form and return in confidence in the envelope provided. If you wish, please speak to one of the clergy or our Stewardship Officer, Mrs Jean Brownsword, in confidence. They will help you get started.

Wondering how much to give?

The Church of England challenges church members to give 5% (or £1 in £20) of their after-tax income to and through the Church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom. But only you will know if this possible for you.



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Women's Fellowship

Our meeting will be in the North Hall at St. Nicolas Place on Thursday 7th July at 7.30pm. It is to be our Annual General Meeting, with Reports from Officers followed by a Buffet Supper

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

Churches and Industry Group Birmingham

The chaplaincy to the construction sites in Longbridge has been going well and we have had two excellent meetings of local Christians to begin to think about how the surrounding churches can respond together to the development.

So far we have relied on a steering group, but to grow the work and to be really rooted in the local church we need a structure that supports the work, enables churches to influence development and which is accountable to the ecumenical community.

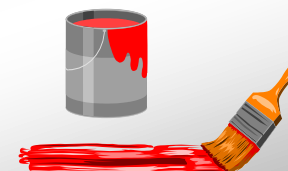
To help think through what that structure might best be, we are inviting church leaders to a meeting on **July 19th 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. at the Baptist Church, Turves Green, B31 4BW.**

Barbara Hayes, Team Leader.

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The 'Great Reading' to be set to music for the first time

Birmingham Cathedral has announced that it is supporting the commissioning of the first ever complete orchestral setting to music of John 1, verses 1 to 14 from the King James Authorised Version of the Bible (KJV), sometimes known as 'The Great Reading'. Key elements of the composition will be incorporated into the Cathedral's services celebrating Advent and Christmas 2011 in the 400th anniversary year of the KJV.

Said the Rt. Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham: "Throughout its history, the Church has been one of the great sponsors of art in its many forms and I'm delighted that Birmingham Cathedral will be adding to this glorious legacy through a major piece of choral music. The fact that the commission is the first orchestral setting of "The Word" presents a huge challenge and a wonderful creative opportunity."

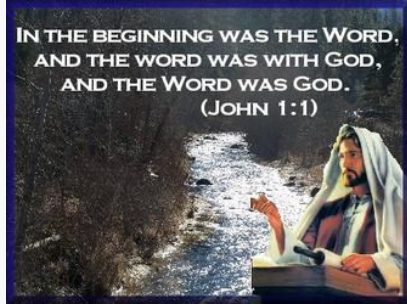
The composer commissioned to create this ambitious new work is Alexander Campkin, a rising star in the world of choral music. Alexander was recently appointed Composer-in-Residence in Neresheim Abbey in Germany and of the Fulham Camerata Choir and Orchestra; other

commissions have been from the BBC Performing Arts Fund, the Southbank Centre, the Royal School of Church Music, the Manson Ensemble, the Royal Academy String Orchestra, the Kaxan String Quartet and Pusey House and

Merton College, Oxford. Recently he has been commissioned to compose a new work for the Galan Ensemble - three sopranos, harpsichord and the orbo, which will premiere at the

Winchester Music festival in July 2011, and the Esterhazy Singers conducted by Esther Jones have commissioned a work for their 40th Anniversary Gala Concert also in July. Subject to funding from the Swedish Arts Council, Campkin has been commissioned to compose a new work for Serikon, an instrumental and choral ensemble based in Sweden directed by Daniel Stighall.

Said Alexander Campkin: "I'm honoured, excited, and a bit daunted by the challenge that this commission represents, but I'm delighted to have been chosen. I very much look forward to composing a work for Birmingham Cathedral Choir which will be featured both in concert with orchestra and as part of the liturgy over the Christmas period and other important times of the year. I'm constantly on the look out for texts and poems which can inspire music and I



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

Tue 5th & Wed 6th July - 7pm "An Ideal Husband".

Let our courtyard offer the perfect setting for Oscar Wilde's comedic play. Production from the Crescent Theatre. Chairs will be provided but please bring your own cushion.

Heritage Open Days—"Gotta go back to School!"

Saturday 10th September, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Get to grips with quill and ink in an old fashioned school room and fear the wrath of the headmaster!

Kings Norton Farmers Market

The Green Kings Norton Birmingham
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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 9th July. 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!

The 3D Course 2011-12 Time to Apply!

I wrote a piece last month about **3D** – the **Birmingham Diocesan Course for Developing Disciples**. This is just a quick note to give a little more information and to encourage you to apply for a place as soon as possible, if you think you would like to take part.

The 3D course will take place in a total of 20 different venues across the Diocese, at a range of different times. The full list of available courses is listed in the application pack, but the ones which are likely to be of most interest to people in this part of Birmingham are:

Tuesday mornings, here at St Nicolas Place, starting at 10am.

Tuesday evenings at St Catherine, The Wheel, Blackwell (Lickey), at 7.30pm

Wednesday mornings at St Philip's Cathedral, starting at 10.30am

Wednesday evenings at Birmingham University, starting at 7.15pm

There will also be, for the first time this year, a special **Youth Stream 3D** course aimed at those 16+. This will meet on Thursday evenings at 7pm at Church House, Harborne. Young people are, of course, warmly welcome at any of the other sessions if they prefer.

Application forms are now available from the clergy. The closing date for applications is **August 5th**, but the sooner you apply the better!

Rev John White

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2011

Thank you to everyone who took part in Christian Aid Week 2011, either by organising an event, supporting an event, giving a donation, collecting house to house, praying or sending an action card. Your support is much appreciated. I am delighted to announce that this year's Parish total was **£4,190.96** (including Gift Aid), which is a fantastic amount!

For more information about the work of Christian Aid, please visit their website at www.christianaid.org.uk

Susan Haynes

was very grateful to be introduced to John I. This text contains everything I'm looking for, such as colourful words and phrases, a good structure and a powerful meaning. I couldn't believe that there had not previously been an orchestral setting – what an honour to be the first!"

As well as the individual elements for incorporation into the Cathedral services, Campkin has been commissioned to produce a setting for full orchestra and choir of all 14 verses of "The Word" – this will be the first time this has been done. He will also be arranging the complete work for choir and organ and for flexible instrumentation in order to increase the number of performance opportunities.

In addition, there will be settings of key verses from "The Word" which can be used at other times of the year, making the music as accessible as possible for churches and choirs of all sizes and capabilities.

Said Marcus Huxley, Director of Music at Birmingham Cathedral:
"Our City has a notable history in choral music. For example, Mendelssohn came to Birmingham to conduct the first performance of his oratorio Elijah, and Elgar's Dream of Gerontius was a Birmingham Triennial festival commission. And the Cathedral has been the home of some

great music-making over the years. So we greatly look forward to the opportunity to perform these new settings of "The Word" as part of our Christmas services and we very much hope to do them justice."

Engaging young people is an important element of the project and Campkin will be conducting a workshop for local church and school choirs in Birmingham Cathedral on Saturday 19th November. The objective is to engage the participants in this new choral work and to open their ears to the beauty of such great words and

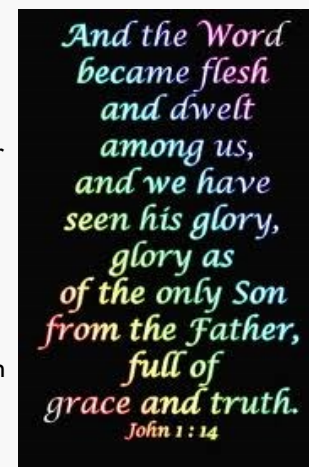
music in harmony. The workshop will culminate in a performance of part of the work in front of an audience of parents and friends in the Cathedral.

Said Hamish Pringle, commissioner of the work:

"Each time I hear the reading of John 1: 1-14, I get that tingling feeling on the back of my neck – it is such a mysterious

and magnificent set of words. So when I discovered that they had never been set with an orchestra, I was amazed, then gripped by the possibility that it could be done. It's taken seven years to achieve the dream of commissioning this work and I'm thrilled that Alexander Campkin has taken it on and so grateful to Bishop David and his team at Birmingham Cathedral for their support."

Source: birmingham.anglican.uk



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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

By the time you read this, we will have had our Day Out together at Earlswood, hopefully enjoying sunshine and ice creams...as well as fun and fellowship!

On Sunday 3rd July we are planning a Prayer Picnic at West Heath Park. This will involve a short prayer walk around the park, particularly praying for the people and activities on Fairway Estate and Wychall Estate, followed by a picnic and games together.

This half term, we will be giving out "It's Your Move" booklets to Year 6 children within our congregation and at Fairway and Wychall primary schools. This is a publication from Scripture Union which helps them to prepare for secondary school and includes some Biblical references.

Our Outward Giving recipient last month was Hope For Justice. The congregation was each given some information about this charity to enable us to understand more of what they do and how we can pray for them. We are looking to provide similar information for each of the recipients of our outward giving this year.

We continue to meet each Sunday, enjoying our worship and fellowship together. We have been delighted to welcome new faces to the congregation and to welcome back some returning ones! Oasis has been busy, learning and growing together; and last month saw the first session of our "older Oasis" group – a discipleship group for teenagers meeting monthly during the services. We celebrated Pentecost together, including a shared lunch.

The DCC are going to be reflecting together in the coming months on the Parish mission statement (as seen at the top of page 22 of this magazine) - thinking about how we express this statement specifically at Immanuel and looking at developmental areas for us within it. We'll keep you posted!

Susan Haynes.

Volunteers Required...

- ▶ We are currently looking to recruit new volunteers to join us here at Saint Nicolas Place, where you will have the opportunity to work in the 15th Century building in the shop at reception. The atmosphere is friendly and perfect for students looking for work, it will do wonders to your CV!



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SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

Mabs Vincent

Having recently read your website, I understand that you are celebrating the Centenary of St Nicolas Church annexation by the Birmingham Diocese.

Mrs Mabel (Mabs) Vincent, formerly of 122 Old Oak Road, Kings Norton, where she lived for over 60 years, is celebrating her centenary on the 5th July 2011! Some of your parishioners will remember Mabs as being quite a character in the nicest possible sense. She was an active member of St Nicolas Church and sang in both Church and Police Choirs for some years. She was a keen subscriber of the Church Magazine.

At the age of 86, widowed Mabs went to live in picturesque Carbarlah, Queensland with her daughter, Anjie, and her husband where she has her own flat in their home. Obviously Australia is good for her as at 96 years 'young' she rode around for nearly an hour on the back of a neighbour's Harley Davidson motorbike! This had been one of her ambitions and their photograph is hanging for all to see in the local Medical Centre.

Whilst at almost 100 she has slowed down a bit, she has never lost her sense of humour and can be very witty despite having had more than her share of tragedy. She does miss Kings Norton where she spent much of her life and always asks for news and updates.



Thank you.

Marian Wilford (nee Harper),
North Lincolnshire.

Mv favourite Bible passage

1 KINGS 12:1-20

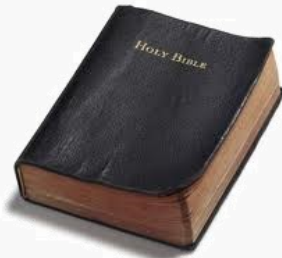
A cautionary tale for those with authority and, at this time especially, for some persons in the Middle East. Following the death of King Solomon, his son Rehoboam succeeded to the throne in the Southern part of the kingdom without any problem. But when he went to Shechem to claim the throne in the Northern part, the people said that they would be happy to accept him on condition that he would ease the burden placed on them by his father. This was a requirement for each tribe to provide slave labour for one month in each year, a system called corvee. This was much resented especially by the more agricultural North as it was both harsh and disruptive for their crop growing. Rehoboam replied that he needed three days to think about that and firstly he consulted the elders of Israel. They said "Yes, your father was much too harsh, and you should ease up." It would seem that this wasn't what he wanted to hear and so he then consulted his young contemporaries who said, "You are the king. Don't let the people push you about like that. Get tough."

So Rehoboam called the people together and made a very hard line speech, saying that he would work

them harder still. The response of the people was to effectively tell the king what he could do with himself: "We will appoint our own king and build our own places of worship and good-bye." This was significant in that Solomon had centralised all sacrifice on his temple in Jerusalem and had the legitimacy of being the son of David, who had been anointed king by Samuel on orders from the Lord. (See 1 Samuel 16, another favourite Bible story worth reading.) When the king then sent Adoram, his chief corvee officer, to raise a work party the Israelites stoned him and Rehoboam fled South to Judah. The long term consequence of this was that the Kingdoms formally split and continued in a state of mutual hostility for the next 300 years.

For further reading see 1 Kings 9-11 and S.H.Horn in Ch5 of Ancient Israel Ed.H.Shanks pub. Biblical Archaeology Society Washington.

Richard Carter.



Every Tuesday during term time we meet at Oddingley Hall between 5-6pm. A frenetic hour is had by all. We play games, do activities mainly towards gaining badges.

Our Beaver motto is fun and friends. We certainly have fun and hopefully over a period of time make lots of friends. Since Christmas, the children have achieved the global challenge and imagination badges.

They have made treasure maps, sung camp fire songs, cooked rock cakes, talked about the country code, discussed what fair trade is and litter picked around West Heath Park for the global badge.



For the imagination badge, the children wrote stories in their lodges, made huge junk models and painted extraordinary pictures. Our hour together certainly whizzes by, often over-running, much to the Cubs' consternation! As a treat for Easter, we went to Blackwell Court. Some of the children bravely climbed up a climbing wall while others did archery.

Penny Hattersley

Cows Belong in Fields



In February's magazine, I told you about Nocton Dairies Ltd. and their plans for a US-style 'mega-dairy' in Nocton, Lincolnshire. On 16th February, Nocton Dairies Ltd. withdrew their plans after over 16,000 objections were lodged.

Compassion in World Farming has won the Observer Campaigner of the Year award for their Cows Belong in Fields campaign. Thank you to all those who supported CiWF.

David Moorcroft.



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- Anne Hinks, St George Newtown
- Douglas Machiridza, St John Perry Barr & St Matthew Perry Beeches
- Margaret Robinson, Christ the King Erdington
- Susannah Rudge, St Francis Bournville
- Richard Sudworth, Christ Church Sparkbrook & St Edmund Tyseley
- Alison Taylor, St John Sparkhill

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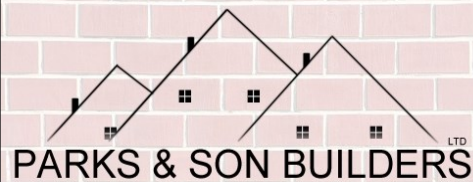
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old Colton revealed to his parents not only that he knew of the miscarriage which his mother had had before he was born, but that he had met his unborn sister. His parents had never spoken of this tragedy in front of him and he had no way of knowing about it beforehand.

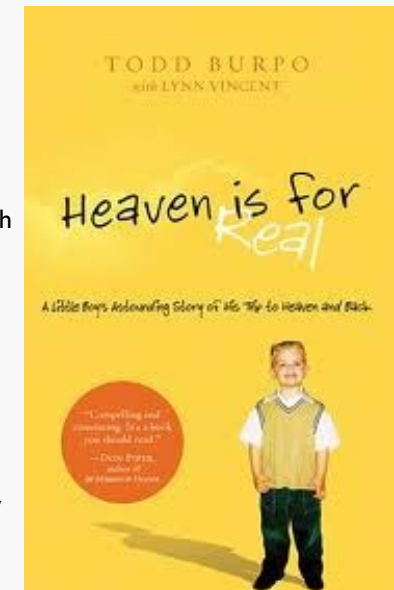
His father tells it this way, "One evening in October, I was sitting at the kitchen table, working on the sermon... I heard Colton's footsteps padding up the hallway and caught a glimpse of him circling the couch, where he then planted himself directly in front of Sonja. "Mommy, I have two sisters," Colton said. I put down my pen. Sonja didn't. She kept on working. Colton repeated himself, "Mommy, I have two sisters." Sonja looked up from her paperwork and shook her head slightly. "No, you have your sister, Cassie, and... Do you mean your *cousin*, Traci?" "No." Colton clipped off the word adamantly. "I have two sisters. You had a baby die in your tummy, didn't you?" At that moment, time stopped in the Burpo household, and Sonja's eyes grew wide. "Who told you I had a baby die in my tummy?" Sonja said, her tone serious. "She did, Mommy."

Like so many of the conversations reported in this book, the discussion that follows is fascinating and begs a host of questions which we do not have space to explore here. However, this is typical of the sort of bombshell that Colton drops at regular intervals in the months following his surgery, as he reveals his inexplicable knowledge of people and events drawn from real life and from the pages of the Bible.

If you are intrigued and want to know more you will, of course, have to buy the book; or, for a sneak preview, visit Colton's website at <http://heavenisforreal.net/>.

David Ash

Postscript: A few days after writing this, I received news that my trumpeter friend had suddenly turned a corner. He is now out of intensive care and on the road to recovery. In an e-mail addressed to the network of people who have been praying for his recovery, someone very close to him wrote, "With many thanks from us all, including A., for your prayers, which he says have saved his life."



Book Review

“Heaven Is for Real” by Todd Burpo

ISBN 978-0-8499-4615-8

I am writing this a few minutes after receiving the news that one of my friends, a young, talented, professional trumpeter with a real gift for using music to communicate the joy of God to others, is critically ill following a botched appendectomy. As the doctors fight to save his life and as hundreds of Christians pray for him and his family, I find my thoughts turning to a remarkable book I discovered earlier this year.

At the time, it brought into sharp focus a question which most of us spend much of our lives avoiding: what happens after we die? I had read accounts of near-death experiences before, but never those of a four-year-old boy who, by virtue of his innocence and inexperience, could never have made up the vivid description of heaven that he brought back from the operating theatre. This is one of those books that everyone should read. It is compelling and convincing.

When Colton Burpo made it through an emergency appendectomy, supported by the desperate prayers of the church of which his father was the pastor, his family was overjoyed at an apparently miraculous survival. What they weren't expecting, though, was the story that emerged in the months that followed, a story as beautiful as it was extraordinary. Colton, not yet four years old, told his parents that he had left his body during surgery and authenticated that claim by describing exactly what his parents were doing in another part of the hospital during the operation.

He talked of visiting heaven and relayed stories told to him by people he met there whom he had never met in life, sharing events that happened even before he was born. He also astonished his parents with descriptions and obscure details about heaven that matched the Bible exactly, though he had not yet learned to read.

With disarming innocence and the plainspoken boldness of a child, Colton tells of meeting long-departed family members. He describes Jesus, the angels, how "really, really big" God is, and how much God loves us. The story is told by his father, using Colton's uniquely simple words. In ways that, at times, made the hair stand up on the back of my neck, it offers a glimpse of the world that awaits us where, as Colton says, "nobody is old and nobody wears glasses."

For me, one of the most remarkable chapters tells of the day when four-year-

May 2011 Baptisms

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

1 st May	Tyler Lee Chinnock
1 st May	Brooke Marie Dunn
1 st May	Jack Ethan Jones
1 st May	Lucie Eloise Lloyd
1 st May	Harrison Michael Miles
1 st May	Ruby Susann Tranter
15 th May	Autumn Emily Louise Harris
15 th May	Courtney Leigh Hawkins
15 th May	Lynsey Paula Hockell
15 th May	Sarah-Jayne Hockell
15 th May	Jonah Michael Phillips

May 2011 Marriages

“Those whom God has joined together”

21 st May	Stephen Adams and Tracey Bridget Lynn
21 st May	Cullum George Kennedy and Lucy Ann Williams
27 th May	Jonathan Brian Cockerill and Jodie Louise Poole
28 th May	Steven Richard Pollin and Jodie Layla Louise Street

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Think back to the first question I asked...

What would you do now, after hearing this story?

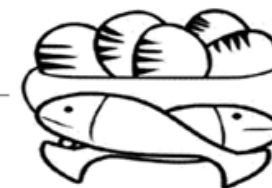
Is your answer different now from what it was then?

It doesn't matter how much you give. Just give what you can.

Here in this story it is the act of giving by sharing which is important.

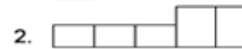
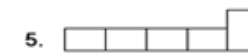
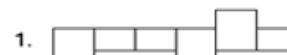
By sharing what we have, even if it is only a little, everyone can have enough.

Jesus Feeds the 5000



Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



crowd
people

loaves
small

boy
fish

basket
twelve

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand.
May we follow in the example of the boy in the story and always be prepared to share what we have.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Gail.

Hello everyone!

Together let's have a look at the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. This story is told in all four gospels.



Imagine that you are at school and it is lunch time. You are the only one with some lunch. Everybody else has nothing.

What would you do?

Do you keep your lunch for yourself?

Do you share it, but only with your friends?

OR

Do you share it with **EVERYONE?**

That's exactly what happened in the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand in John 6:1-13.

Crowds of people had gathered to listen to Jesus. It was now getting late and everyone was feeling hungry. There was a problem though.

There wasn't enough money to buy any food and the only person who had some food was a young boy who only had five barley loaves and two fish, which was nowhere near enough to feed the huge crowds of people. But still, the boy offered to share the little that he had. Jesus took the food and gave thanks to God. Everybody ate and everybody was full! There was more than enough food for everyone with baskets full of food left over!

Who do you think was the most important person in this story?

It was the boy who shared what he had!

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| 6 th May | Michael Dent, 75. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 6 th May | Bernard Michael Payne, 72. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 9 th May | Joyce Cheney. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard. |
| 11 th May | Hazel Locke, 76. Cremation at Robin Hood. |
| 12 th May | Leslie John Taylor, 82. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard. |
| 12 th May | Richard Robert Lochrie, 48. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 17 th May | Linda Fletcher, 63. Cremation at Yardley. |
| 17 th May | Nazzir Hussain Shah, 68. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard. |
| 20 th May | Neil Dougill, 57. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery. |
| 25 th May | James Holder, 78. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Robin Hood. |
| 26 th May | Brian James Smith, 73. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 26 th May | Beryl Mary Hanson, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill. |
| 31 st May | Ashley Stuart Hampshire, 27. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard. |

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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
Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

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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.

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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

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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

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Immanuel	Alan Haynes 459 4711

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Christian Giving Officer	Jean Brownsword 458 3289
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Bible Reading Fellowship	Julie Caley 458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Alison Blumer 486 2837
Organist and Music Director	Sylvia Fox 07778 449170

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Handbell Ringers Mondays 7.30 p.m

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

Treasurer (Subscriptions)	Alan Haynes 459 4711 editor@kingsnorton.org.uk
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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 Suns: 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.