

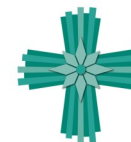
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Kings Norton Parish Magazine | March 2010 | 70p



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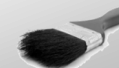
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The Women's World Day of Prayer is an international and interdenominational movement. Starting from seeds of local prayer initiatives in early 19th Century USA, it first became a specific event in 1922 when two separate united days of prayer, in USA and Canada respectively, came together – on the first Friday of Lent. Very soon it spread beyond the Northern American continent, and the **First Friday of March** became the day when women all over the world are called to join each other in prayer and support. The service each year is prepared by women of a specific country or island range – this year we are led by the ladies of Cameroon and all of our songs reflect the lively worship of that country. There is one hymn that is always a part of each service though, as it SO points to prayer and praise being a perpetual and continuous thread around the world: I quote two verses from “The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended”

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
our sisters 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

The other central part of the printed service is, of course, the Lord's Prayer – said in thousands of languages and linking us with Christians all around the globe. This year we have been given a meditation on the Lord's Prayer by Margie Savage.

I cannot pray *OUR*, if my faith has no room for others and their need.
I cannot pray *FATHER*, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.
I cannot pray *WHO ART IN HEAVEN*, if all my interests and pursuits are on earthly things.
I cannot pray *HALLOWED BE THY NAME*, if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy.
I cannot pray *THY KINGDOM COME*, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.
I cannot pray *ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN*, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.
I cannot pray *GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD*, without expending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive.
I cannot pray *LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION*, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.
I cannot pray *DELIVER US FROM EVIL*, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.
I cannot pray *THINE IS THE KINGDOM*, if I am unwilling to obey the King.
I cannot pray, *THINE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY*, if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.
I cannot pray *FOR EVER AND EVER*, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.
I cannot pray *AMEN*, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

Please join us on Friday March 5th at 2.00 pm – this year hosted by the ladies at St Joseph and St Helen's RC church, Cotteridge. If you need a lift home at the end of the service, please ask Sylvia.



Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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

Welcome.....

Lent is upon us and this month we have a number of articles looking at how we can respond to this time of waiting and looking forward to Easter. There are a number of opportunities around the parish to join in with groups studying 'Lentwise' by local theologian Paula Gooder.

There is a touching story on page 18 of a local couple who are setting up a charity in memory of their son Michael. There is also information on the parish's involvement with The Children's Society and Christian Aid.

On pages 8 and 9 we hear from John White following his welcome and licensing service last month; and about a 'goodbye' to Jess and Graham Boulton who are moving out of the parish.

Rev Donald Sampson volunteered to be our 'Parish Person' this month. You can read all about him on page 38.

Alan Haynes, Editor



CONTACT US AT:-

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

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

Editorial Team

- Alan Haynes—Editor
- Alison Blumer - Treasurer
- Evelyn Finn - Advertising
- Revd. Jayne Crooks - Chair
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Thank you.

Items for inclusion in the April 2010 issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 12th March 2010

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

LENT – and then?

Lent is about getting ready for Easter. It's what the church has done for hundreds of years. In 2010 we'll do it again. But, if it is to mean anything more than six weeks of weight-watching and extra church, we need to ask "And then?"

Every story about Jesus seems to come to us first as a story with a lesson, complete in itself. But life isn't like that – and neither are the stories of Jesus. They lead on and grow from one to the next. They are full of "And then?" In Lent, Holy Week and Easter we need to give real attention to their special stories, traditions and services. But they lead on, like every life-changing story, to something more.

And when we tell and live the story of Jesus now, we can't escape the "And then?" of every moment.

What might this be?

Nothing less than lives renewed by God's grace in confident faith, hope and love, for this life – and the next. This isn't something woolly and escapist. It is what in God's love will make real

touchable difference to all who share in it – and to the communities of Kings Norton in which we live, work, pray, suffer and rejoice.

My hope for Lent, Holy Week and Easter in 2010 is that many more will be able to enter as fully as you can into this astounding story, in services, gatherings and our own times of quiet each day (however short!) As we do, we shall become more and more confident in our answers to God's question, "And then?"

So I ask that many more see our worship together on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day as a first call on our time, rather than something to be fitted in as best we can. I would also urge you to think about being in St Nicolas at 8pm on 3rd April as the light of the Risen Christ is brought into our midst. You will be glad to have made the journey – and so be ready for all that is to come as life unfolds after Easter. God's "And then?" for all of us is not to be feared. It is to be embraced in love.

Rob Morris

mowing and tidying up around the cremation plots and children's graves to the north side of the Rectory (and at the far end of the lane through the Churchyard).

The dates for 2010 are:

April 7th & 21st

May 5th & 19th

June 2nd, 16th & 30th

July 14th & 28th

August 11th & 25th

Sept 8th (commencing at 6pm)

Thursday Mornings

The Thursday morning group meets from 9.30 to 11.30am/12 noon (except for a period of 4 to 6 weeks around Christmas). The work carried out is medium to heavy and includes trimming bushes and trees, tidying neglected graves, removal of self set trees, brambles, ivy, etc, filling and seeding sunken graves and other minor tasks that arise during the season.



If you are interested (or know someone who may be keen) in joining either group, even on an occasional basis, please contact Richard Harper (458 1549), John Jelfs (458 2414), the Parish Office (458 3289, open 10-1 on weekdays) or make enquiries in St Nicolas Church. Volunteers who are not regular worshippers will be made most welcome. Come and get some fresh air and exercise with good company. (It's completely free – no joining fee or monthly direct debit gym charges!!)

Richard Harper and John Jelfs

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Altogether we have some seven acres of Churchyard to maintain at St Nicolas. Although we have paid a team who cut the grass on a regular basis during the spring and summer, it is the other work outside their remit around the Churchyard which is carried out by volunteers. Very many thanks to all the various volunteers for their help in 2009.



We urgently need some new volunteers for 2010 to keep our numbers up so that we can keep up a high standard of maintenance in the Churchyard. The condition of the Churchyard is an advertisement for and an invitation to St Nicolas Church and also has a considerable effect on the choice of venue for couples wishing to get married. Furthermore, we have many visitors to the Old Grammar School and St Nicolas Place and we need to ensure that the Churchyard is in tiptop condition throughout the year.

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

Wednesday Evenings

There is a Wednesday evening mixed group (Churchyard Caring Team) which meets on alternate Wednesday evenings between April and September from 7pm to about 8/8.30pm with refreshments at half time. If the weather is wet, we will normally meet on the next evening (Thursday). This group carries out light work including grass

The Lent Sunday readings in church make us ask “And then?”

Every Sunday in Lent, the main reading from the Gospel stories of Jesus is lovely in itself. But it is only when we ask “And then?” that they can grow into the heart of our lives.

On the First Sunday of Lent, we meet Jesus as he is tested in the wilderness (Luke 4.1-13). He has just been baptised in the River Jordan at the very start of his public ministry. He is tested, as we are, but not to give a master class in resisting temptation. It is to prepare for all that is to come. And then? He announces all that he is going to do in the synagogue at Nazareth. (Luke 4.16-21). Some like it. Some hate it.

By the Fifth Sunday of Lent on March 21st, the decisive conflict is at hand. We hear in John 12.1-8 of Mary anointing Jesus for this work of death and life. And then? Nothing less than Jesus’s suffering, Cross and Resurrection, the outpouring of God’s love for all, for ever.

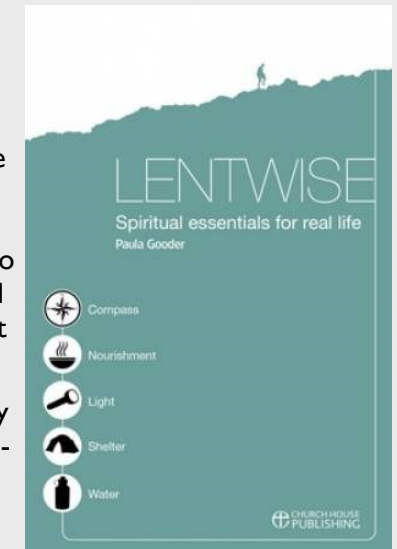
On the Sundays in between (Lent 2, 3 and 4), the stories tell some of the variety of Jesus’s teaching and works and the variety of human response, expected and unexpected, self-satisfied and faithful. As in each one, we ask “And then?” we find that we are there too, in all that is loving and faithful in us – and all that is very far from that.

And that is not all

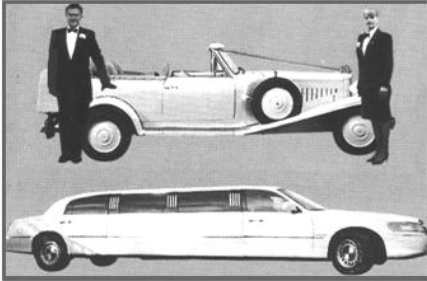
In groups we shall be following *Lentwise*, a journey developed by Paula Gooder, to help us grow in our faith and feeling as we move on in Christ. Cafe T, Candlelit Church and other groups will be using *Lentwise* – and each will be open to all who do not normally share their life but would like to do so just for Lent. Please look out for details.

There will also be a simple service of Holy Communion at 12.15pm in St Nicolas every Wednesday in Lent.

Do join us.



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enjoyed nine years as Chaplain at St. Mary's Hospice and a year at Frankley prior to joining the Kings Norton Parish Team .

What of working at Kings Norton?

My contribution is modest. I cherish being a member of a closely bonded team with a strong commitment to mutual support, encouragement and enrichment. I enjoy the pastoral role and try to model my style on that which Jesus used as recorded in St. Luke, ch.19. He knew the name of the despised Zacchaeus, called him, entered his home and changed his whole perspective of worth and priorities.

I also cherish the way in which our three congregations seek to be mutually supportive. Clearly our ancient church is a great treasure as are the wonderful amenities at St. Nicolas Place-but don't bump your head! Using a cricketing metaphor: I do not see myself as one to do the fast bowling - I can leave others to do that efficiently, with Rebecca bowling googlies!

This being said, I can attempt to take catches that come my way. In ministry terms, that means being within our Lay and Ordained Team in affirming the worth of all people around us and endearing them to the Gospel of Jesus.



What of Hobbies and Relaxation?

Annette and I cherish seeing our seven grandchildren, tending our garden, walking, watching cricket at Edgbaston and attending the Theatre and Symphony Hall.



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the Reverend Donald J. Sampson!



Where were you born?

I was born at Yanston Farm near Kingsbridge, South Devon. My parents were both from farming families of many generations. Thus, although I attended the local grammar school and battled away at learning Latin and Algebra, my mind and heart were set on getting home each day in order to drive our Fordson Tractor. We had purchased it in 1942 for £187! At that stage, I would not have believed anyone who said that I would leave farming at the age of twenty-five to become ordained.

What influenced you to make the change?

My parents had brought up their three sons and a daughter to attend the local Parish Church. Eventually, however, I joined the Young Farmers who attended the Methodist Church where the minister encouraged me to become a Local Preacher. This led to me being accepted to train for ordination at the Methodist Theological College in Bristol. My four years there were most rewarding and I owe a great debt to my tutors and fellow students.

Where have you served as a Minister?

My first five years were spent in Enfield, North London. My last service there was my wedding to Annette, a Primary/ Middle School Teacher. (Since then she has gained a Degree at Birmingham University as Teacher of the Deaf and now does specialist support and teaching at Bournville College. She is part of the Leadership Team at Northfield Methodist Church.)

Our move to Liverpool for seven years proved most enjoyable. Lara and Stephen were both born there. The vigour, friendliness and ecumenical warmth of the people inspired us. Five years in Bristol followed, then eight years in Pinner near Harrow, Middlesex; thereby giving us another taste of London suburban life.

With some experience behind me, I then served as Superintendent of Methodist Circuits in Peterborough for 5 years and Sutton Coldfield for seven years prior to slackening my workload in 'retirement'. I have

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2010

28th March – 4th April

PALM SUNDAY

8am: Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am: **Parish Communion**, Palm Procession and Parade
6pm: Evening Worship with Prayer for Healing.

Mon: HC 6.30pm Compline at 8pm *Church open in between*
Tues: HC 6.30pm Compline at 8pm *Church open in between*
Wed: HC 12.15pm Candlelit Church 6.30pm Compline 8.45pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

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

GOOD FRIDAY

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

EASTER EVE

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

EASTER DAY

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

A Note from John White

I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to everybody for giving me such a warm welcome to Kings Norton parish. Special thanks go to the many, many people who put a lot of work into making the Licensing Service on 31st January such a wonderful and enjoyable occasion. I won't name names; that's not just because I'm still working at learning everyone's names, but more because I don't want to leave anyone out. So whether you helped with the catering, the music, preparing the church, printing service leaflets, or simply being there with a smile, thank you. I've had lots of people who came to the service from other churches commenting on how much they enjoyed the evening and on how warm and welcoming the people of this parish are. Two weeks in to my ministry here and that's still my impression!

I hope you'll bear with me as I work to get to know as many people as possible, as soon as possible. I have really enjoyed chatting with people as our paths have crossed at some of the many different things going on around the place. I would also really like, over the coming weeks, to drop round to people's homes for a fuller chance to hear your stories and to get to know each other a bit better. I'd rather not do that unannounced and uninvited, so if you'd like me to come round, do either grab me when you see me holding my diary, or give me a ring or an email so we can fix a time. A cup of tea would be nice, but it's not essential!

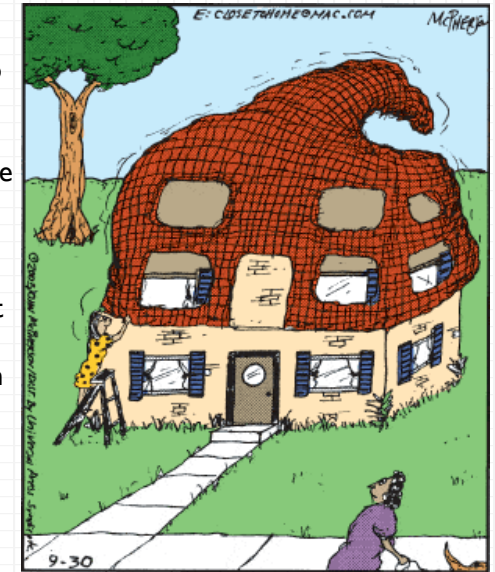


along to Candlelit Church. The church is open and lit by candlelight from 6.30 to 8.00pm when people can come in, have a cuppa, sit quietly, talk to folk.

Do come along if you haven't so far. Sometimes it can be an oasis in the week for many who live busy and demanding lives.

Saturday 6th

What a surprise was in store for me as I went into St. Nicolas Church in the morning! The 'Knit and Natter' group had made me a blanket for my bed. It is absolutely fantastic and I was quite overwhelmed by their skill and generosity. It is now keeping me lovely and warm and even though the dog keeps eyeing it up she will not be having it! In the afternoon I worked in my study dealing with emails and sorting out things for Sunday and putting together a couple of funeral services I had in my diary for the following week.



Concerned about soaring energy costs, Connie embarks on her biggest craft project ever and knits a wool sweater for their house.

Sunday 7th

A day of celebration from beginning to end. Firstly, a surprise birthday party for a dear and wonderful lady called Rene who was 90 years old. The look on her face when she came into the room and saw her family and many friends gathered was a sight to behold. Then in the evening during Evensong at St. Nicolas Church, Fay and Ruth renewed their license as Readers in the Parish - a quiet celebration of thanksgiving for all they give to us and to so many.

Rebecca's Diary...



Here are a few extracts from my diary for February, the month when Spring begins, heralded by glorious snowdrops and bird song.

Monday 1st

As usual on a Monday morning, we gathered for our weekly Team Meeting. This was the first meeting our new Team Vicar, John White, joined the rest of us. The night before, John had been welcomed and licensed by Bishop David at a rather lovely service in St. Nicolas Church. Lots of people came from across the parish as well as John's family and friends. Once our Monday morning meeting was over, I went out and about visiting. In the afternoon, I had the wonderful joy of visiting one of our folk who is not able to get out and about, a man of 92 years. We had a good chat and catch up. I hope to take one of his great grand-children's wedding next year.

Wednesday 3rd

In the late morning I attended a meeting at Hawkesley Church Primary School. It was a good meeting and I was able to get away in time to get to the Seniors' Group who meet every Wednesday afternoon at St. Nicolas Place. It was a very special afternoon as we gathered to share our memories of one of our members who had recently died, Elsie who had lived to 101 years of age. We shared stories, poems and music. We shed a few tears but also laughed a great deal as we remembered a much loved person, a dear friend indeed. In the evening I went

Moving On

After six years, Jess and Graham Boulton are moving on from Kings Norton. They need to move nearer the city centre – and rightly want to be part of the parish church where they will be living.

Graham has developed our web site, wardened often at St Nicolas, built up a remarkable collection of photographs of our life and done so much “behind the scenes” work, including tomb-building and pew-shifting.

Jess's gift for understanding, hospitality, imagination with words, pictures and spaces – and for making strangers be at home here have all deeply enriched our common life, worship and witness, especially as Lay Pastor for the last eighteen months.

We need to say ‘thank you’ – but the best testimony to their ministry here is, of course, that they have enabled so many others to discover and grow in all these gifts and more. Candlelit Church, Thursday bookings alongside the marriage clerks, special events and our common life of worship, welcome and work have all been so enriched – and will continue to be so.

In celebration of their friendship and work here, to mark Candlelit Church's 5th birthday and to send them on their way, we are having a party and a special service. Please put **Wednesday 14th April from 6.30pm until 9.00pm in your diaries.**

Arrive between 6.30 and 7.00pm to soak up the Candlelit Church atmosphere with a cup of tea and then join in with the service from 7.00pm if you feel comfortable. You are also welcome, in the spirit of Candlelit Church, to wander around or sit quietly in the candlelight at a distance from the service, or to watch and pray from the shadows. If you can't make this time, come in at any time during the evening.

Please be there to bless Jess and Graham on the next stage of their journey and give thanks for Candlelit Church and their ministry here – and from 8.00pm we will be having a party! All, as ever, are welcome.

Rob Morris

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Jesus said ... 'I am the Good _ _ _ _ _ !

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. J E _ U S | 2. S _ E E P |
| 3. L O V _ | 4. _ R O T E C T |
| 5. G A T _ E R | 6. L I F _ |
| 7. C A _ E | 8. G O O _ |



Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus, our loving shepherd,
May we be good sheep and always follow you.

In Jesus' name,

AMEN.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello Everyone!

We are going to learn all about shepherds...

In the time of Jesus, a shepherd would tend to his flock day and night. He would gather his sheep all together and protect them. At night time, a good shepherd would sit or sleep at the sheepfold's opening ready to guard his sheep from any harm, staying with them all the time. If he had to, the shepherd would be prepared to risk his life to save his precious sheep.

Jesus said ...'I am the Good Shepherd.' John 10:14

Jesus said that he would take care of us,
just as a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Jesus is OUR loving shepherd.

He loves us and he cares for us.

We are precious in his sight.

He guides us, he protects us and he never leaves us.

Jesus gave his life for us.

Jesus IS the Good Shepherd!



Learning from the Life of Jesus

We are in that interesting time of year when, as Church, we live through the landmark moments of Jesus' earthly ministry. Moving rapidly from Christmas we get to the baptism of Christ and the revelation of his role as Messiah, Saviour and Lord which leads us into the story of the Passion, Easter Day and Pentecost.

While we have a Christian understanding of salvation based on Jesus' sacrifice - his death - and resurrection, it is his earthly ministry that instructs us how to live as a disciple.

During those three short years between baptism and crucifixion, Jesus shows us what it means to be someone who lives their life at one with God. Through His life we are shown what it means to be part of Church both individually and corporately and looking closely at his way of life we can find our own pattern of living.

We often think the Church was born on Easter Day or Pentecost - that may well be so - but we also recognise that the three years before were just as significant. From Jesus' ministry the church has learnt its concern for healing and for

reconciliation. From Jesus the disciples learnt how to teach, how to preach and how to resolve conflict. Jesus also gives us a pretty good idea how Christians are to help others live as disciples through teaching, apprenticeship, mentoring, forthright challenge, prayerfulness and love.

I believe that every Christian in this Diocese needs to continue to learn how to live as a disciple who is in touch with the God who creates and sustains all things. That is why I was so thrilled by the enthusiasm that was tangible at November's conference and emanated from the Feedback forms.

It is also the reason for assembling from across the breadth of the Christian movement in England a selection of inspiring speakers, who are themselves disciples, to address us in the Bishop's Lent Lectures which begin on February 24th.

I hope this is just a beginning of our journey together into deeper discipleship, articulate faithfulness and joyful service .

+ David, Bishop of Birmingham

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

We hope you had a peaceful Christmas! We had a successful Carol Singing session at The Fairway Centre. The clients really enjoyed singing with us and we were glad to be invited to stay for drinks and a chat afterwards. Two of the clients expressed a desire to attend a church and we were able to link them up with their local Parishes who were in contact with them over Christmas.

At our Christingle Service we gathered all our Children's Society collections and sent off £409.66 which will go towards all they do to help children who do not have a safe place to live.

Unfortunately, our Carols by Candlelight Service was not as well attended as previous years due to the snow, but those that gathered had a lovely time reflecting on the Christmas story and singing some carols together.

We gathered to sing carols around the Wychall Estate and enjoyed the fellowship spent together singing about the birth of Jesus.

Nicky Moorcroft has been hosting monthly prayer meetings for Immanuel at her home. These have been times where we can sit and listen to what God wants for us at Immanuel and our parish.

During Lent, some of us will be taking part in group discussions following the 'Lentwise' course.

As a congregation, we will also be considering how we can each gently reach out to the people around us in our daily lives with the good news of Jesus.

There will be a time in each service during Lent where we will be encouraged by others' stories of how this can be done.

We continue with PrayerWorks, being provided with prayer pointers for us to use in our own quiet times during each week, focussing on needs in the Immanuel neighbourhood. We also use these prayer pointers in our intercessions on Sundays.

We look forward to welcoming Deb Buckley to lead our Mothering Day service for us in March. We are having our AGM during a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 21st March. This is an opportunity for us to thank those who have been in particular roles over the past year and to welcome those who are standing for election for the coming year - DCC, Wardens etc.

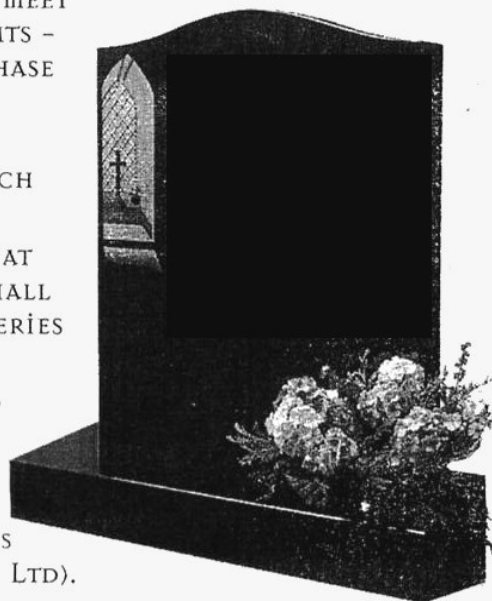
We are then looking forward to all joining together for Palm Sunday at St. Nicolas.

Sarah Crooks

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Women's Fellowship

Our March meeting will be on Thursday 4th March at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. This month will be 'The Story of Magic' by Mike Gancia and Elizabeth Warlock. Do come along and join us and enjoy a friendly evening. All will be made very welcome.

We would all like to say what a wonderful evening we spent with the Brownies. We would like to thank Pauline and her helpers and give a great big 'thank you' to the very helpful Brownies.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman.



City of Birmingham Choir concert 15th May 2010 Symphony Hall

FREE PROGRAMME VOUCHER – to be handed in at the concert in exchange for programme

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Church _____

Optional information (below):

We would like to keep you informed of future concerts. Please fill this section in if you would like this information from us. No details would be passed on to third parties.

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BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

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

In March, this will take place on Tuesday 16th.

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

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KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

On Monday 29th March, a talk entitled "Good Men of Birmingham" will be given by Don Hazzard and Rick Simpson. The good men selected are Thomas Attwood, Leo Amery and Ronald Cartland, three Birmingham citizens who changed the course of history.

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

Claire Simpson, Chairman

24 hour service



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXHOLDERS' AND SUPPORTERS' ANNUAL COLLECTION, 2009-2010

Many thanks to all those who support The Children's Society year on year. The collection from St Nicolas Church this year is £361. Your money is needed more than ever. Our running total (since 1985) is £15,773. Thank you.

Pat Dovey

Thank you to all at Immanuel who have collected for The Children's Society. The total for 2009 was £409.66.

Evelyn Finn

Gemma's story:

Gemma's stepdad hit her so she ran away. During the day, she hid. At night she slept on a park bench. She was 14 years old...

One morning she was woken by the park keeper. He rang the police. Gemma was afraid.

The police rang The Children's Society. We listened to her. We also talked to her mum. Mum was also being hit by her husband. We organised temporary housing for Gemma. We helped her mum find safe accommodation.

Gemma is not afraid anymore. She's living with her mum again and things are much better. She still visits The Children's Society project workers so that it doesn't get bad again.

The money you've donated means that Gemma is now enjoying the childhood she deserves, free from fear and harm. And with your continued support, we'll be able to reach many more children. Together, we're making childhood better.

Lord, your Son taught us that to welcome a child is to welcome Him.

Today we pray for children at risk on the streets.

Help us to see these lost, lonely children through your eyes.

To seek solutions for them.

To find ways for them to be heard.

To be safe.

And to be enveloped in love.



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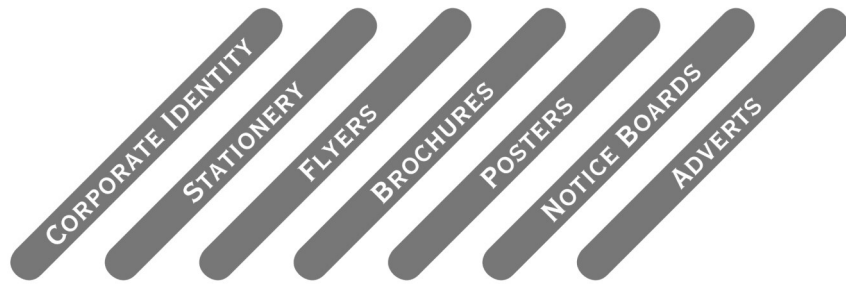
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Dates to Remember – as well as Holy Week and Easter!

Confirmation: Sunday 18th April

at 10.30am in St Nicolas. It is, like Palm Sunday, a whole-Parish service – and needs to be filled with us, the candidates and the Holy Spirit.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Monday 19th April

– another whole-Parish event in St Nicolas at 7.30pm. The usual rich time of report, question, election and, we pray, vision for the next stage of our journey as God's people in Kings Norton.

The Church Council began preparing at our meeting on 25th January.

- We agreed the sale of 28 Westhill Road and 53 Wychall Park Grove and considered how we should best use the proceeds for the sure growth of church and parish life.
- We reviewed our Team structure and the individual responsibilities of the Team Clergy and Readers. On the way, inspired by our two wise elders, we changed *Transforming Church* to *Enriching Church*.
- We reviewed our finances and agreed our budget for 2010.
- We agreed that the very kind bequest of Mrs Olive Massey should go to clock repair so that we are chiming again.
- We reviewed a very special St Nicolas Day 2009, reflected on how we kept Christmas and reviewed Communications, PRODH, Saint Nicolas Place and Hawkesley Church School.
- Hawkesley and Immanuel Churches gave ever lively reports
- We prepared for Lent, Holy Week and Easter – and Giving Renewal.

We will complete many of these at our next meeting on 18th March.

Had you thought of joining the Church Council? Please ask – and do ask as well if you think that you are not on the Church Electoral Roll. It matters that you are!

Café T (see page 25 for details)

23 rd Feb	Lentwise 1	30 th March	Creating for Easter
2 nd March	Lentwise 2	6 th April	No Cafe T
9 th March	Lentwise 3	13 th April	No Cafe T
16 th March	Lentwise 4	20 th April	The Resurrection
23 rd March	Lentwise 5	27 th April	St Mary's Hospice with Esmie Kirk

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December 2009 Funerals

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

5th December Bill Hyett, 75. Burial of ashes in St. Nicolas Churchyard.

January 2010 Funerals

4th January John Edward Ebbs, 89. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

6th January Victor David Carr, 86. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

6th January Lilian Beatrice Barham, 90. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

11th January Elsie Lilian Sleigh, 101. Service in St Nicolas, burial in churchyard.

12th January Ellen Jane Trueman, 91. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

15th January David Michael Brown, 71. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

15th January Gillian Brenda Smith, 65. Service in St Nicolas, cremation at Lodge Hill.

18th January Grace Hunt Hewitson, 95. Service in St Nicolas, cremation at Redditch.

19th January Nicholas Timothy Nolan, 62. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

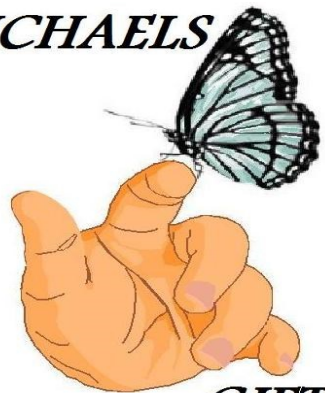
19th January Jim Doran, 84. Service in St Nicolas, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

19th January Ronald Edgar Curtis, 87. Service in St Nicolas, cremation at Redditch.

19th January Audrey Patricia Hudson, 79. Cremation at Lodge Hill.

22nd January Beatrice Mary Day, 94. Service in St Nicolas, burial in churchyard.

MICHAELS



GIFT

Miscarriage & Stillbirth - Support & Awareness

people from the UK, the United States and Canada.

In addition, we have created a small charity. Michael's Gift is a charity that has recently been set up to raise funds for a range of purposes providing the help, support and raising awareness of miscarriage and stillbirth.

Monies raised will help towards providing clothes for little angels, funding towards funeral costs, establishing or refurbishing specialist delivery suites and, as part of a wider network of charities, helping to support larger projects like the construction of new state of the art facilities for babies and their parents.

In addition to a wool appeal currently under way, we have organised our charity launch event which is being held on Friday 2nd April 2010 at the Rubery Social Club, New Road, Rubery, Birmingham. We have raffle prizes, food, fun and Live Music! Tickets are £5 each, children under 12 - £2.50.

We hope to have a fun evening, but even more, to raise funds to help future parents of precious angel babies.

Nick & Nicki

For further information, help or support, please feel free to contact michaelsgift@gmail.com

In July 2009, we received the unexpected news that Nicki was pregnant. The pregnancy went well until in early December 2009, when we received the devastating news that we had lost our baby. Our son, Michael, was born asleep on 10th December 2009. Like so many angel babies, Michael was both a miracle and a gift to us.

Michael James Nicholas Bradley-Baker was laid to rest at St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton on December 29th 2009. Although this devastating event spawned a sad time for us and our family, it also galvanised us into doing something positive to help ease the burden of others who could be unfortunate enough to be in our position.

A page has been set up via the internet site Facebook, and functions as a global support network for mothers and fathers who have suffered similar circumstances. Current membership stands at over 250

Music for the soul

Church congregations will be aware of the amount of the liturgy that can be sung through well-known settings of the mass and requiem words as well as psalms and other Biblical passages that have been set to music for use as anthems in Christian worship. One of the most poignant texts which has been set to music much less frequently is known as the "Seven last words from the Cross", a compilation from the four gospels of all Jesus' sayings at this most terrible time as He approached His death. Composers from the past who have set the words to music include Schütz and Haydn, but in our own day the acclaimed composer James MacMillan has produced a work of tremendous power, commissioned by the BBC in 1993 and first performed on television in Holy Week 1994. There will be a performance of this piece at 7.30pm on 15th May in Symphony Hall, Birmingham by the City of Birmingham Choir alongside the Orchestra of the Swan under the baton of the Choir's director Adrian Lucas. This is a wonderful opportunity for churchgoers to hear the unique thrill of a live performance with a top choir and orchestra bringing a piece of complexity, searing emotion and utmost beauty as it depicts these very telling and painful statements, among them "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?", "It is finished" and the instruction to Mary and the

beloved disciple to each care for the other: "Woman behold thy Son. Behold thy mother".

James MacMillan is a practising Roman Catholic, still leading and composing music for worship in his home church in Scotland. This highly charged piece will be performed with the well-known setting of the requiem by Gabriel Fauré, a rightly popular piece which, in a very different way, sets Christian faith in a musical context, enabling words such as those of the Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy is the Lord) and "In Paradisum" (May angels lead you into Paradise and may the saints receive you, leading you to the holy city, Jerusalem) to lift the listener through lyrical tunes as on angels' wings to the beauty of that hope of paradise.

If you would like a ticket for this concert, please book with the Symphony Hall Box Office on 0121 780 3333 or via the website at: www.thsh.co.uk [Please note that THSH charge a £2 transaction fee on all bookings, except purchases made in person at the box office]

The Choir would also like to offer readers a free programme at the concert. Please hand in the voucher on page 13 on the night to receive your programme.

Further information on all the above from the Choir's website at: www.citychoir.org.uk

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10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;
10.30 am, 2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.
Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Immanuel Church

Meeting at Fairway Centre, corner of The Fairway and Wychall Lane.
Every Sunday – Worship and Oasis for children of primary school age.
10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;
10.30 am, 2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;
10.30 am, 4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Druids Heath

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

Café T

Meets each week at St Nicolas Place and welcomes people from all congregations (or none) to explore faith issues in a small group context. Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.00pm.

For Young People

Oasis/Sunday School at each Church (see above)
Uniformed Organisations and Choir—see the 'Who's who' pages or contact the Parish Office.

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B38 8RU 0121 458 3289
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk www.kingsnorton.org.uk
The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries.

SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

Tiny Tots

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

Open Church

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

Candlelit Church

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,

Christian Aid Week

Last year's Christian Aid Week's house-to-house collections, church collections and fund-raising events resulted in our sending over £4,223 (including Gift Aid) to Christian Aid from Kings Norton Team Parish. Thank you to all who helped in this. It was a fantastic total!

Christian Aid Week will be upon us again soon – May 9th to 15th. I will be writing to all who have been involved in the house-to-house collections over the past two years to invite you to take part again this year. We hope that you will! We are also looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please do contact me on tel. 459 4711. The role involves delivering Christian Aid envelopes around the agreed road (s) and then calling back to collect donations later in that week. You don't even have to count the money, just pass the bags over to me!

This year, Christian Aid is also asking us to "Unleash Your Talent"! The challenge is to think of something we're good at and raise money using that talent. You can do something by yourself or as a group. We know that many at Hawkesley Church are great at baking (have you tried their scones...!?) and they organise a Christian Aid Coffee Morning to share their talent whilst raising much needed funds. We have had singing events in the past, a sponsored slim, children's activities, all sorts! Please do get in touch with me if you'd like to raise money in such a way.

No matter how big or small your activity, or how much you raise, your contribution will go towards helping poor communities around the world to create a brighter future.

For more information about Christian Aid, please visit www.christianaid.org.uk.

Thank you.

Susan Haynes.



THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

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

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

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

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

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

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

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