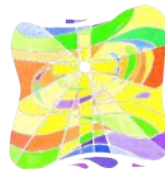


The Parish of Kings Norton February 2009

50p

Kings Norton Parish Magazine



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This issue includes...

From the Rector	Page 4
Parish Learning 2009	Page 7
Fair Trade Fortnight	Page 8
Malawi Youth Encounter	Page 10
History of Hymns	Page 11
Women's Fellowship	Page 13
Hawkesley Church	Page 13
Gold Awards	Page 14
Rebecca's Diary	Page 16
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	Page 18
Journey To Jerusalem	Page 21
Who's who?	Page 22
Services	Page 24
Mystery Worshipper	Page 25
Candlemas	Page 27
Parish People	Page 29
Immanuel Church	Page 33
Karen's Children's page	Page 34
Parish Website	Page 36
History Society	Page 37
150 not out	Page 38
PRODH	Page 40
Letters Page	Page 42

Who's Who? - On Centre Pages



Fairtrade Fortnight
23rd February to
7th March 2009

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Thank you.

**Items for inclusion in the March
issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 13th February 2009**

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.

From The Rector

“God’s genius is that we share his gift of life together as part of the church ...”

Barack Obama is now President of the United States – a remarkable event, whatever one thinks about him. Although no one person, however special, can bear the weight of hope or question placed on his shoulders, his election is still a sign of fresh possibility and new beginning. He is a richly complex and gifted man – and able to write his own speeches, which is refreshing in itself. His own personal story gathers and carries so many of the contradictions and challenges which all must face. He is a Christian – but one who prefers hard questions to easy answers.

We live, struggle and grow in uncertain times. I, for one, am so grateful that the United States now has a President who knows this and who has a record of living with struggle and bringing to it all the gifts of faith, wisdom, generosity and hard work which life has taught him.

He describes the struggle in his deeply thoughtful and moving book “Dreams from my Father”. It is “between worlds of plenty and worlds of want; between those who embrace our teeming, colliding, irksome diversity, while still insisting on values that bind us together; and those would seek under whatever flag or slogan or sacred text, a certainty and simplification that justifies cruelty toward those not like us.”

We see this struggle in the Holy Land and in every troubled place. We see it alas in the church; the refusal to embrace diversity and seek what binds us together in our difference; the preference for wrapping ourselves in whatever slogan or text seems to justify cruelty of deed and word to those not like us. And the struggle is in every local community, ours included.

My dream for our whole life as a church here is that we live out God’s love in that struggle as a lively sign of God’s hope and welcome in the diversity of Kings Norton. That is why we have put so much prayer, time and labour into the renewal and growth of our buildings – that they may be places of gathering and honouring the stories of all, not tightly held possessions of one group or another – and so be God’s common ground in all our life-giving differences.

In “Around the World in 80 Faiths” on BBC TWO (have you seen it?), Peter Owen-Jones, an Anglican vicar from Sussex, visits 80 ways of living in faith. He’s a resilient yet sensitive man, but was reduced to tears by the generosity he received from famine-devastated Christians in Ethiopia. He could just get out the simple words “We keep banging on about ‘Love your neighbour’ but when you have experienced it like this, you know it really does matter.” How often have we been reduced to thankful tears by generosity from those least expected to give it, rather than be made tearful and bitter by what we fear is being taken from us?

Last week, a group of young Muslim mums from Druids Heath visited their parish church. They loved it and deeply valued the welcome and the prayers they received and gave. In Christ we gave – but equally in Christ we received. That, I believe, is our calling from God; to receive in deep thanksgiving from unexpected people with special gifts – as well as to give of our own.

We are each unique and precious. But we do not grow in faith in isolation, as individuals or as groups, churches and



congregations; although that is what it may often feel like. God's genius is that we share his gift of life together as part of the church – which is the Body of Christ here on earth today. And that is God's gift through us to his world – a sign of the wonderful diversity which God has made, loves and yearns to fulfil in peace. Yes, we are very different – and sometimes that is "colliding and irksome" – but, when embraced in Christ, diversity is strength not weakness.

In Kings Norton, we really need to re-discover what we have in common – so that we can grow as that loving, faithful diverse Body for the sake of others, giving and receiving in love. The alternative is being a random collection of individuals

and groups who may or may not get on. Is that life-giving for the world, for Kings Norton or ourselves?

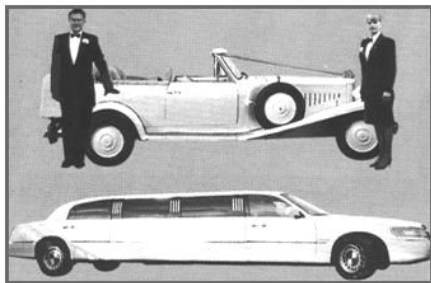
Each year, the readings at Sunday services in most mainstream churches throughout the world focus chiefly on just one of the four Gospels – the foundation stories of Jesus in the Bible. This year, it's Mark Gospel.

In Mark's Gospel, we find a strong emphasis on the authority of Jesus over all things, seen and unseen. But there is something else as well which I keep finding. Mark doesn't just tell us how wonderful Jesus is through a collection of miracle stories and wonder-working. He also tells us something wonderful about how Jesus works through the church and ourselves.

If you read through Mark's Gospel, you will find that Jesus didn't just take outcasts and make them feel better, as though they were a case-load of individuals. He did something even more brilliant. Yes, he brought healing and salvation to those who were lost, rejected and despised by others and themselves – but then he brought them into his new community of all sorts and all ages, each given fresh dignity and honour through Christ's grace alive in them and others. They were no longer alone. Each was brought into their right mind and place within God's people. That relationship, in Christ with one another, is what the church is for – and nothing less. If it is not Good News, I don't know what is. May it be so for us, for our parish community – and for Barack Obama.

Rob Morris

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Parish Learning 2009: A Journey For All

The core of what we seek to do grows out of three main concerns:

- That church people, in all our variety, should be more confident in our common identity as children of God, members of Christ and inheritors of the Kingdom;
- That more people have an engaging, accessible way into God's grace through the Church;
- That we have a framework for the Confirmation process in which all can be renewed, both those seeking Confirmation and those of us Confirmed already.

Work and other pressures before and after Christmas mean that we are not as far on with our planning as we wanted to be. We don't have final details ready for this edition of the Parish Magazine – but they will be in all churches very soon.

January/February – leading on to Lent:

Beginning with Baptism - What begins at Baptism? Is it entry to a club or the start of a journey? Is it about relationship with God, with others – and with our true selves? What about Psalm 139? Does it ever end?

Belonging through Baptism - What do we belong to? How wide is the circle? Who belongs? What differences should it make? What does the Bible say about belonging?

Believing in life - What can we believe? What does the Bible say about belief? How do we live with differences? Is there a core belief? How important are Jesus' birth, death and resurrection to our belief?

March/April – during Lent:

God's gift of Holy Communion — the Eucharist

Take - Word, Bread, Wine and ourselves - How and why do we gather?

Bless - What/who is blessed? Who does the blessing – and how?

Break - What/who is broken? What is our response?

Give - What is given? What is shared? Who receives? What then?

For each theme, there will be material for groups, for larger gatherings in church and for use in worship. Growth in prayer and use of the Bible will run through it all.

We hope that existing groups will approach the themes in their own way – and that many more will join this journey.

Rob Morris



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

23rd February- 7th March

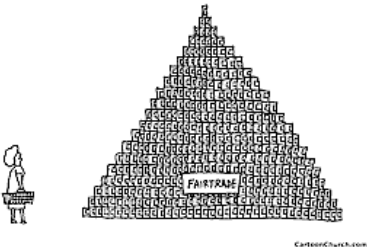
Two million people - a third of humanity - still survive on less than \$2 a day. Unfair trade rules keep them in poverty, but they face the global challenges of food shortages and climate changes too. Fairtrade is a people's movement for change that aims to tip the balance of trade in favour of poor producers. It is a strategy for sustainable development. Its purpose is to create opportunities for producers and workers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by conventional trading systems. If fair access to markets under better trade

conditions would help them to overcome barriers to development, they can join fairtrade. We all need fair trade more than ever and we all have the power to create positive change for people and the planet.

In Kings Norton, many people already buy fairtrade goods and some of them will be featured on the back of the magazine over the next few months. If **you** haven't already taken the opportunity to buy fairtrade products, make Fairtrade Fortnight your starting place and play your part in joining the powerful global movement for change. You can make a difference!

There is a fairtrade stall permanently situated in St Nicolas Church and available when the Church is open on Wednesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, Thursday evenings, Saturday mornings and Sundays at the church services. Why not come and browse?

Sian Smith and Deb Buckley



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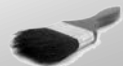


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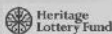
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Malawi Youth Encounter

2009 sees the launch of Malawi Youth Encounter, a new initiative from the Birmingham Diocesan Youth Adviser and the Mission Department.

This trip has been envisaged, not only to continue to deepen our relationship with Malawi, but also to mark "International Year of the Child". Young people from each Deanery of Birmingham Diocese will gain an understanding of culture and life for children and young people in Malawi through a hands-on dynamic programme.

The Young people from Birmingham will work alongside local workers at Zoa Tea Estate in southern Malawi and meet local children and young people in Mwaya, a village on the Estate and Blantyre, Malawi's second city to compare their involvement in church life and future leadership with that of their peers in Malawi. This unique and life-changing experience will finish with a visit to Lake Malawi and Liwonde National Park. Contact Helen Tomblin, Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry for more details or to sponsor a young person.

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HISTORY OF HYMNS

February sees the memory of George Herbert's death in 1633. This Elizabethan priest and poet wrote a huge collection of religious poems, several of which have become familiar hymns.

One such is "Come my Way", set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1911, along with four other poems by Herbert.



Come my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way that gives us breath;
such as truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my joy, my Love, my heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

The text extols the joy of having Christ as the only way, truth or light we might ever need. The feast to which we are all invited is whatever sort of feast would make us the most happy and comfortable – a huge family gathering, a tiny but happy meal with one friend, a great feast with hundreds.....and any other sort of feast you could wish for. We basically want for nothing if we have Christ – not some glib crutch to support us, but something of great depth – “love as none can part” us from.

My factual information comes from Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians and the Oxford Companion to English Literature.

Sylvia Fox

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Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm at St Nicolas Place. Come and join us - start your New Year right - put aside an hour or so of your time for yourself and enjoy the company of our fellowship. You will be made very welcome. Our evening this month will be spent with the Brownies, who are a real treat to be with.

Marlene Collyer (Chairman).

HAWKESLEY CHURCH

"Coffee and Chat" resumed on Tuesday 13th January after the Christmas break and our first meeting was very well attended. On Tuesday 10th February the subject will be "readings". Future dates are Tuesdays 24th February, 10th March and 24th March (subjects to be confirmed). Meetings are held at 10am in the Pastoral Centre on alternate Tuesdays. You are most welcome to join us.

Jim Clarke



GOLD AWARDS

A few weeks ago, some of you in St Nicolas watched as I was presented with my RSCM Gold Award. The wording of the certificate makes it sound as if I had been given something of maximum prestige and a one-off award. Let me explain a bit more!

The RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) has a whole training scheme for singers, which is a revamp of various other schemes they have run in the past. This one seems to have got the balance of theory/written work and practical singing/playing/serving right and, whilst it is not TOO prescriptive in nature, it does tighten up the standards so that things are fairly equivalent across the country.

The different levels are marked out by coloured workbooks and badges/ribbons for each level or grade. Starting with Light Blue and Dark Blue, the next two levels (Red and Yellow) are interleaved with externally examined awards. These latter are Bronze, Silver and Gold. Several dioceses, including Birmingham, still call their Bronze and Silver Awards by the older titles, Dean's (Green Ribbon) and Bishop's (Purple Ribbon) Awards, respectively - although the syllabuses are almost identical. They are examined by accredited examiners within the Diocese.

So, we have got Light Blue, Dark Blue, Dean's, Red, Bishop's and Yellow so far in plan. No-one at St Nicolas had completed their Yellow yet, although two or three of the girls are working towards it. We have girls and young men who have achieved all the other levels.

It was felt that the previous awards for the most advanced choristers needed revamping as well, so the St Cecilia (girls) and St Nicolas (boys) Awards were redesigned and opened to both sexes and all ages.....and became the Gold Award. Some Dioceses had an interim award of a very similar standard, called the Bishop's Senior Award. We have achieved four of those over the years (including Roger and Sylvia) and they included singing, theory, service planning and more performing (singing or playing) to something about like Assoc Board Grade 5 or 6 standard and are a yellow-gold medal worn on gold ribbon.

The new Gold Award is much the same: singing 8 prepared items, sight singing, discussing the historical and liturgical context of the prepared music, service planning and commitment of own service. It is musically equivalent to somewhere like Grade 6-7 Assoc Board standard and is a gold coloured medal worn on cranberry coloured ribbon. (Confusing!)

I had promised our girls I would do it myself before any of them tried it as it was new territory for us all, so I found myself heading for Northampton (the nearest test centre on a day I was available) in November, having found an accompanist and 2 referees - as the RSCM couldn't quite take on board that my Director of Music couldn't give that - as that was Me!

All was successful and I found it a very useful experience, as I have more idea how to prepare others for it now.

Sylvia Fox

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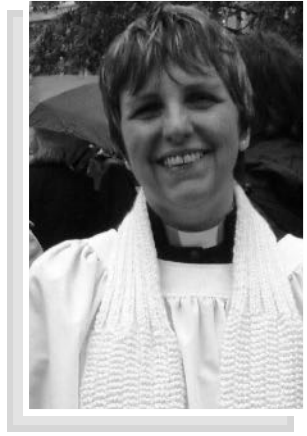
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Rebecca's Diary...



Hello everyone, here are a few extracts from my January Diary:

1st

Like the majority of the population, I went down with the cough/cold bug so had to cancel all my New Year's Eve and New Year's Day plans. Just stayed at home coughing and drinking water, feeling like nothing on earth.

4th

Felt much better. It's amazing what a difference a few days can make. Just as well because I was leading the worship at Hawkesley church centre. It was lovely seeing everyone after the Christmas holidays.

5th

One of our ladies who regularly attends the 11 o'clock service on Thursdays was recovering from a hip operation in a local hospital so I popped along to see her. There was a good atmosphere on the ward and she was doing very well indeed. I hope to visit her at home in a couple of weeks' time.

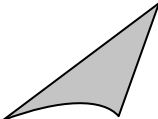
6th

I went to visit a rather lovely lady in her home. She had recently lost her husband and we had a long chat about things. Losing a loved one is very hard. We ended up, after shedding a few tears, eating chocolates from Harrods and they were rather scrummy!

9th

This was my day off and so I met up with one of my friends and we went out to lunch. We had a great time and decided we really needed to do this kind of thing more often. Sometimes we get so involved in the day to day stuff of life, we can all too easily neglect commitment to family and friends. We assume they will always be there for us. But we have to realise that our relationships need nurturing too.

10th



For several days I had been having a craving for Fray Bentos Steak and Kidney Pie. Needless to say, I succumbed. When I was preparing my meal, an incident from my childhood came to mind. I had come home from school and when I saw my mum, her eyebrows and hair were scorched. 'What have you done mum? Your eyebrows and hair are all scorched,' I asked. She replied, 'I forgot to take the lid off the Fray Bentos Steak and Kidney Pie and it exploded when I opened the oven.....' That was my mum all over. She didn't go to hospital, but just carried on as if nothing had happened. My brother, sister, my Dad and I couldn't stop laughing every time we looked at her. Just to reassure everyone, I did take the lid off, so no exploding pies in my home. My mum would have been proud!

Revd Rebecca Pullin

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December 2008 Baptisms

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

7th December 2008.

Grace Emily Rose Pearsall

Charlie Philip Seal

Thomas Owen Davey

Flynn Charlie McLoughlin

December 2008 Weddings

“Those whom God hath joined together”

13th December 2008, Malcolm Mortimer and Jayne Durbridge

December 2008 Funerals

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

- 1st, James Ramsey Fairlie, aged 85. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in Churchyard
- 3rd, Eileen Rainsford, aged 85. Cremation at Robin Hood
- 4th, Baby Tia May Ryan. Graveside Service at Witton Cemetery
- 5th, Vera May Kempson, aged 91. Scattering of Ashes at Lodge Hill
- 8th, Ronald Stanley Foster aged 81. Cremation at Redditch
- 8th, Amy Lydia Sanders aged 92. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in Churchyard
- 12th, Dorothy (Dot) Palmer aged 92. Cremation at Lodge Hill
- 15th, Bernard O'Donnell aged 89. Service at St John Fisher; Burial in St Nicolas Churchyard
- 15th, Frank Trevor Woolmer aged 77. Cremation at Lodge Hill; Ashes Interred in Churchyard
- 17th, Christopher Kenneth Holmes aged 64. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in Churchyard
- 18th, Eric John Howley aged 93. Service in St Nicolas; Cremation at Lodge Hill
- 19th, Patricia Beatrice Warner aged 79. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in Churchyard
- 19th, Albert Edward Hems aged 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill
- 22nd, Michael Allan Voar aged 64. Service in St Nicolas; Cremation at Robin Hood
- 23rd, Hilda Shepherd aged 85. Service in St Nicolas; Burial in Churchyard
- 24th, Elizabeth Willetts aged 86. Cremation at Robin Hood

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Sat 28 March 2-4pm St Nicolas Place
Prayerful Listening Workshop (details
TBC)

Anagrams Books of the Bible

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(answers on page 42)

Created by BibleQuizzes.org.uk

Journey to Jerusalem

Have you ever wished that you could visit the places where Jesus walked, but found that the pressures and demands of everyday life get in the way? Have you ever wondered what those places are like today, or what sort of conversation you might have with a Christian from modern-day Bethlehem?

If so, join Christian Aid and thousands of pilgrims in an online pilgrimage in Lent 2009.

Bethlehem...Nazareth...Jerusalem - the names are familiar not only from the Bible, but from the conflict we hear about on the news. Throughout Lent, a time when Christians take time out for spiritual reflection, our exciting daily short videos, podcasts, photo galleries, prayers and stories will bring the Holy Land alive.

We will visit and pray together in the places where Jesus preached. But equally importantly, we will meet local

Christians, Jews and Muslims and hear their personal stories, to understand how the conflict touches the lives of both Israelis and Palestinians, and how hard many people are working for peace.

This Lent we challenge you to go beyond hearing about the people in the Holy Land; hear from them instead. Don't just pray for them, pray with them. If you can't go to Israel and the Occupied Palestine Territories yourself, go with Christian Aid on a virtual pilgrimage instead. We want you to reflect, to learn, to listen and to allow your faith to grow through this very special experience, says Christian Aid director Daleep Mukarji.

Lent begins on February 25th 2009. To sign up to a free online journey to Jerusalem with us, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/pilgrimage



THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:

Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX 458 3289/459 0560
The Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN (Curate) 458 2950
The Rev'd. JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP 459 3733

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. NicolasSIAM SMITH c/o Parish Office 458 3289
.....STEPHEN PLANT 458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455
RAY DAVIS 458 5774
PETER SMITH 453 9931
Immanuel (Warden) ALAN HAYNES 459 4711
(Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE
(Deputy Warden) GERRY MOORCROFT

Candlelit Church Co-ordinator.....JESS BOULTON 458 6925

P.C.C. SecretaryDr. CATHERINE BENNETT
P.C.C. TreasurerRevd JAYNE 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 AdministratorCHRISTINE BOWEN 458 3289
Finance Administrator.....CHRISTINE GADD 458 3289

Organist and Music DirectorSYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA 07778 449170

Choir & Orchestra PracticesTuesday: 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 LeaderSARAH CROOKS

Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) contact via Parish Office 458 3289
Hawkesley
Oasis (Immanuel)NICKY MOORCROFT
Impact!GARETH JONES mobile 07929 154003

Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church

Primary SchoolShannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR
HeadteacherGRAEME DOBSON 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

Bell RingersPractice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower
Ringing MasterGEORGE HARRISON, c/o Parish Office
SecretaryCLAIRE CALVER 458 2342

Kings Norton Handbell RingersPractice, 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
PRODH	KAREN URWIN (Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath)	430 6005
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: JOHN HATTERSLEY Scouts (aged 10½-15½): Wednesdays 8.00 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Leader: ROB KEENAHAN	628 5694 628 5694 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 Advertising Manager	ALISON BLUMER, 60 Masshouse Lane. B38 9AA Evelyn Finn, contact via Parish Office	486 2837 458 3289
Parish Website	GRAHAM BOULTON contact via website or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	www.kingsnorton.org.uk
Historic Kings Norton Staff:-		
Centre Manager	GRAEME CLARKE	458 1223
Programme Dev & Marketing	CLIFF COTTERILL	458 1223
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.**

tel:- 0121 458 3289 fax:- 0121 459 2529

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



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 – 8.00 pm

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) 8.00 – 9.00 pm. *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, Shannon Road/Old Portway.

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

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

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

Alternate Tuesdays – Coffee and Chat: 2nd & 4th 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.

All enquiries to:

The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, King's Norton,

Birmingham, B38 8RU Tel 0121 458 3289 Fax 0121 459 2529

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

The office is open 10.00 am – 1.00 pm every weekday for enquiries about services, baptisms, marriages, funerals or anything else where we may be able to help.

The logo for 'ship of fools.com' is displayed in a dark grey rounded rectangle. The text 'ship' is in a large, white, lowercase serif font. 'of' is in a smaller, white, lowercase serif font. 'fools.com' is in a large, white, lowercase serif font. The background of the rectangle is dark grey with a slight gradient and a drop shadow effect.

Ship of fools is a website that takes a sideways look at the Christian faith.

Amongst its features, they welcome reports from Mystery Worshippers who visit churches and review their experiences. St Nicolas has had one such visit and you can view the results by clicking on <http://www.ship-of-fools.com/mystery/2008/1651.html>

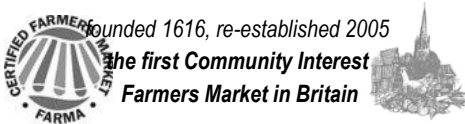
If you want to you can also click on a link on the same page to become a mystery worshiper yourself.

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Candlemas—2nd February

Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem.

The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple or Synagogue to be purified. After the ceremony, women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed.

On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism.

In pre-Christian times, it was the



festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox.

Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights.

People believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter.

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.*

Traditional

Source: www.bbc.co.uk

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'Parish People'

People from all walks of Parish Life.

This month Sarah Crooks gives us an insight into her world.

Interviewer Alan Haynes

Sarah Crooks



Where were you born?

Birmingham Maternity Hospital.

What is your occupation?

I am Head of Music at St. John Wall Catholic School in Handsworth and, since September 2008, Assistant Head of Year 7 too.

Why Kings Norton?

My family used to live in Northfield on the Bristol Road and attended St. Laurence Church for a while and then

the Church of the Ascension in Stirchley. We moved house to Kings

Norton because the Northfield relief road was going to be right outside our front door!

We tried some new churches but settled eventually with St. Nicolas, where I joined the choir. My family then moved to Immanuel and that's where we are now.

Continued on page 31.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

It is important to me because it is a whole way of life — how you make decisions, treat others and expect to be treated. I know that the children I



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teach and come into contact with realise that I am different because of the faith and belief I have in Jesus. I know that nothing is impossible with Jesus by your side.

What are your hobbies and interests?

As a music teacher, it's always good to keep up the musical interest at home – I play the piano and sing; as well as leading Immanuel's music group on a Sunday morning. I also enjoy going to the cinema, cooking, organising and am just getting into some gardening (after being encouraged by my brother), ooh and not forgetting my little poppet Sidney (my dwarf lop eared rabbit!).

What is your favourite film?

Well, that's a tricky question. I don't think I have a favourite, but I really enjoy 50 first dates, Pirates of the Caribbean, Music and Lyrics etc...

What is your best memory?

I have two. (1) Growing up in a loving family home and (2) When Jon asked me to marry him. All I could do was laugh! It was a great day!



What is your favourite holiday place?

Putsborough Sands, Devon. The beach is fabulous, with all the rock pools and goby's! I'm really looking forward to going there this summer with my new husband, my brother and sister-in-law!

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

I'd have to say that I'd take my Bible; it would definitely keep me occupied

during the long hot days. I'd always decided that if I was stuck on a desert island that I'd take my brother who does a great impression of Ray Mears. I'd definitely be able to survive anything if he and his utility belt were with me.

What would you like to do with the rest of your life?

I would like to continue to be a teacher, but move down the pastoral route. I would like to enjoy life with my husband and all that encompasses. I would like to continue to be an advocate for Stop the Traffik.

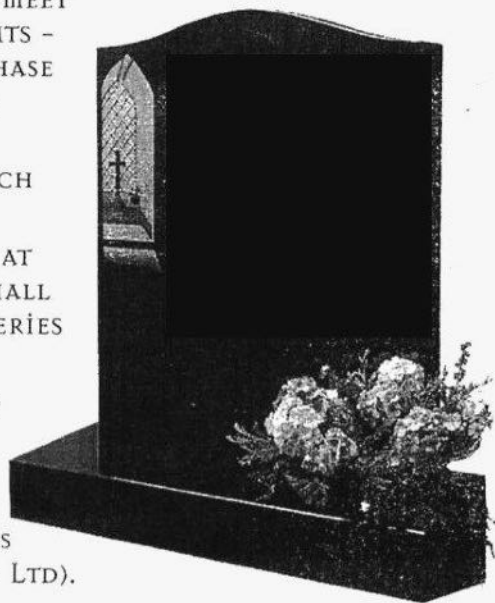
What are your hopes for the Church in Kings Norton?

I hope and pray that our parish will create provision for all aged 18 and under, both churched and un-churched children, so that the children in our parish can be told the Gospel.

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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH



As we read in last month's magazine, this is the Year of the Child and several Dioceses plan "to promote 2009 as an opportunity for local churches to review the work they do with and for children and young people, and to do more to recognise and

celebrate their contribution in the life of the church and society." In Immanuel's church audit this year (entitled "Towards 2010") we will evaluate our work with children and young people fully, as with every area of Immanuel's ministry and mission.

Children have always been well loved at Immanuel – and are not expected to sit still and quiet through services! We have recently made flags for them to wave during songs so that they can engage in the worship, especially if they can't yet read so struggle to join in. The children are invited, along with everyone else, to share their Thanksgivings in services and, when they are able, they are invited to lead prayers, give readings, perform sketches, teach new songs, etc as they wish. We really appreciate having children in our church and the enthusiasm they bring. We are also grateful for Oasis

leaders who look after and teach the children in their group most weeks. The children love to go out to Oasis – and the parents get to concentrate on what's going on in the service!

Immanuel continues to be involved in the two local primary schools, Fairway and Wychall. We have a Governor in each school, helping with the strategic oversight and then some volunteers that go into the school to help children with their reading or maths. Numbers of volunteers have reduced over the past couple of years. Is this something you might be able to help with? It takes about an hour a week. CRB checks have to be done, but these are completed through the schools. Please contact me on tel. 459 4711 if you are interested! Your help would be invaluable and it's a really rewarding role.

Susan Haynes



CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Karen

Here we are in February again. Near the end of this month is Shrove Tuesday and I thought you might like to know the history behind it and the story of how pancake races started. Maybe you could help your family make them this year.

All the best,
Karen

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from 'shriving' that Christians used to go through in the past. In shriving, a person tells a priest all the things they have done wrong, which is called confessing and the priest gives them forgiveness, known as absolution.

This tradition is very old. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes:

"In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him."

*Anglo-Saxon
Ecclesiastical Institutes*



Shrove Tuesday was a time of happiness as well as being sorry for things though. During Lent there are many foods that some Christians - historically and today - would not eat: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods.

So that no food was wasted, families would have a big meal or feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house just by adding flour.

A story tells of a day in 1445 when a lady was making her pancakes. Suddenly she heard the bells from the church telling people to come for confession.

"Oh no!" she cried "I can't miss confession, I must get to church now"

Without thinking about what she was doing, she ran out of the house and all the way to church. All the people who had already

said their confession were coming out of church as she got there and they smiled as she passed, but the lady was too excited to notice. She got into church and sat down in the little room where confession was held. It was only then when she realised that she had got there on time that she relaxed and looked down at herself.

“Well, would you believe it!” She said to herself, “Just look at me, I have run to church still wearing my cooking apron and with my frying pan and pancake still in my hand, what a funny woman I am!”

It is said that somebody who saw her thought that it was such a funny sight that it would be good to make it a sport and from there we have the beginning of the Pancake Races that are often held on Shrove Tuesday.

Instead of a puzzle this time, I thought you might like the recipe for pancakes. Enjoy them!!

Basic



Pancake Recipe

Makes approximately 10 pancakes

Ingredients:

115g (4oz) plain flour
Pinch of salt
1 egg
300ml (½ pint) milk
15g (½ oz) butter
butter for frying
caster sugar and 2 lemons for serving

Instructions:

Sieve flour and salt together into a mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre and break in the egg. Beat until everything is well mixed together, adding half the milk very slowly, until you have a smooth batter. Add the rest of the milk a little at a time and beat until well mixed. Leave it to rest for 30 minutes.

Stir the melted butter into the mixture just before cooking. Heat a very little butter in a frying pan until hot. Spoon in a tablespoon of batter and tip the pan until it covers the bottom. Cook until it is golden brown underneath then turn and cook the other side until golden.

Turn out onto the plate, sprinkle with sugar and lemon juice, roll up and eat!

PARISH WEBSITE

2008 saw a total of 63,600 visits to the Parish Website, or 5,300 per month. (This excludes all the 'crawlers and robots' that help search engines.) Of these visits, around a quarter found the website from searches on Google or other web-search engines. These results are shown in the graph below.

It is interesting to note that throughout the year the number of visitors to the 'LiturgicalPage' (www.kingsnorton.org.uk/liturgical) has steadily increased, so that it now ranks as the second most visited page after the Home Page. Of the web-searches that bring people to the website, around 1 in 6 come to the 'Liturgical Page'. Some searches are quite basic, like "date of Ash Wednesday" whereas others wish to know the correct liturgical colour (for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, for example).

include 'weddings at Kings Norton Golf Club', 'Cotteridge Village Inn', 'local folklore in Kings Norton' and 'what to do in Kings Norton'. Whatever people searched for, it's nice to think that they chose to find out a bit more about the Parish of Kings Norton during their quest.

Some examples of information on the Parish website include:

The Parish's Child Protection Policy (www.kingsnorton.org.uk/cpp)

Dates of preparation sessions for Baptisms & Weddings (www.kingsnorton.org.uk/prep)

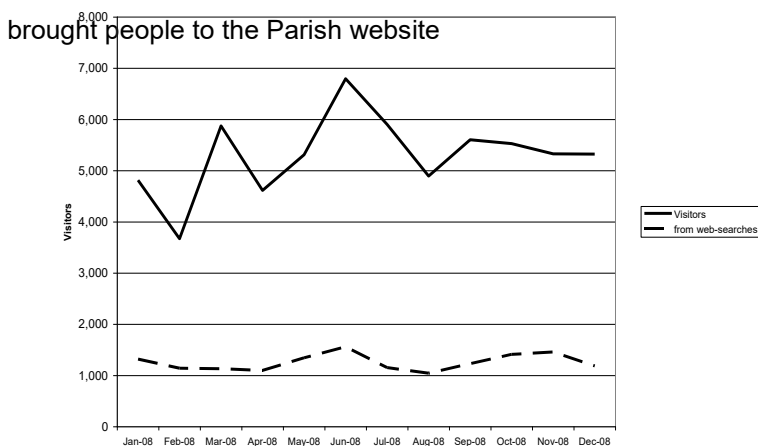
Details about Tiny Tots, Oasis, Impact! etc (www.kingsnorton.org.uk/under16s)

And if you want to subscribe to RSS feeds of updates to News & Events, then visit www.kingsnorton.org.uk/rss

So, why not pay a visit to www.kingsnorton.org.uk?

Graham Boulton

Some of the stranger searches that





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KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

There has been an alteration to the programme for the Society's meeting on Monday 23 February. This will now be a talk on "Victoria Crosses in the Midlands" to be given by Don Hazzard and Rick Simpson. As usual, the meeting will start at 7.00pm and the talk at 7.30. Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman



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150 not out!

This article is one of a number that has been published on the Church of England Website to celebrate 150 years of Parish Magazines.

Gordon Neal, a retired lecturer living in Worcester, has been interested for many years in the history of the church and parish magazine. He tells us that his investigations suggest that this January is its 150th anniversary. Mr Neal says: 'In spite of claims for Frome's *The Old Church Porch* (first published 1854), there seems to be general agreement that Erskine Clarke's *Parish Magazine* (1 Jan 1859) marks the real start of the genre.' This rival claimant to the title of

very first local parish magazine certainly appears to fit some of the criteria, but probably doesn't quite get there!

The Association for Church Editors (ACE) also reckons that the church magazine more or less as we know it today dates from around 1860. For example, Suffolk's official website gives the earliest date for such a magazine in that county as the 19th century. Another known early magazine - for Gillingham in Kent - is dated December 1866.

The Revd J Erskine Clarke was Vicar of St Michael's, Derby when he spotted the opportunity for a publication with a very clear objective: his magazine was 'aimed not at

Edward's Home Maintenance Barnt Green

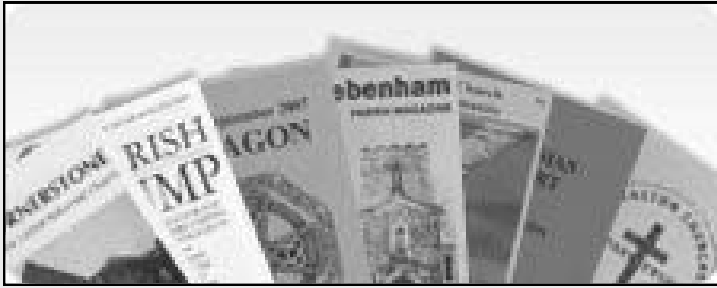
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the committed in the parish but at the other half'.

'Each month', writes Keith Wood, ACE Chairman, 'the magazine contained sixteen pages of general interest material, but with a strong "preachy" and moralising thrust, and was offered to parishes to include in their own cover and whatever else they chose. *Parish Magazine* was circulated initially to 54 parishes and eventually reached out to 200.'

There were obviously many local efforts at parish communication, but Erskine Clarke was probably the first to promote his own publication within locally-published church magazines. Peter Croft's *The Parish Magazine Inset* (Parish and People, 1993) gives a good introduction to the subject, listing all the insets which were to become popular in the wake of Erskine Clarke's success.

One was SPCK's *Dawn of Day*; others were *Home Words*, and Mowbrays' *The Sign*. These last two may still be found today, so there is an unbroken link via *Home Words* from the early 1870s to the present.

There are earlier newsletters written in the early 1600s but they are not church magazines as we understand them. They seem to have been documents

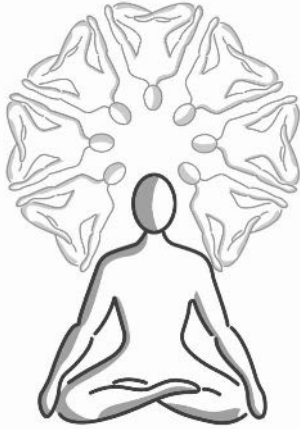
discussing relations with the Roman Catholic Church, its conflict with the state and how some form of toleration might be achieved.

So it looks as though the period around 1859/1860 may be about right, but can we say that definitely? We doubt it! And we doubt also whether we can track down an exact "first" - because who knows what has been produced and lost?

Can any visitor to this site shed further light on this, please? Any information is most welcome, so if any of you can come up with anything more definitive, please contact Webmaster.

Louis Henderson
Senior Media Officer
(and Editor, *Working for the Heart of Walthamstow*, the magazine of the Walthamstow Team Ministry: <http://parishofwalthamstow.wordpress.com/>)

With grateful thanks to Bob Little, Gordon Neal, Jane Platt, Vaughan Whibley and Keith Wood.



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PRODH

Project for the renewal of Druids Heath

Having had two weeks off over Christmas and a week's training in the beautiful surroundings of Derbyshire, I feel fully re-energised and ready for the work ahead!

The recycling project has been approved by all, so we can now seek funding to find ourselves a shed to take in the goods that nobody wants, but that will be a life-line to some of the families moved on to Druids Heath.

The prayer meetings that we have been holding every other Friday have had some amazing results with operations being exceedingly successful, family problems resolved and one gentleman actually coming out of a coma. Isn't the power of prayer incredible?!

Our next major task is to do a formal community consultation. It is nearly

two years ago now that we did our first questionnaire on the estate with over 100 people taking part, so it will be good to compare and contrast, even though this one will be on a much larger scale. I will be needing help...watch this space...!!

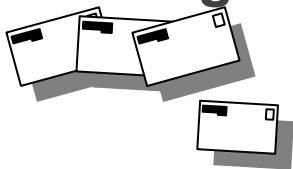
God has every name written in the palm of His hand. He sees value in every person on earth and yet so many people living on the estate feel that nobody in authority cares about them or gives any value to them, their families or their community. Please pray for us as we seek funding to ensure that the project can continue until we have provided this community with the love and support they need to move forward together.

God's Blessings
Karen Urwin

Cover Photograph

The picture on the front cover was taken by Tony Hill. It will be a familiar view to those leaving St Nicolas on a Sunday evening or Candlelit Church during the long winter nights.

Letters Page



Dear Sir,

I was fortunate enough to be given one of the pots of bulbs planted by the children for older members of St Nicolas congregation. I have had the pleasure of seeing three crocus shoots appear and now look forward to discovering their colour. It was a lovely idea. Thank you, children, very much.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Walker.

Write to:-

**Kings Norton Parish Office,
Saint Nicolas Place
81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38 8RU
or e-mail:-
editor@kingsnorton.org.uk**

The views, opinions and comments expressed in letters are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the *Kings Norton Parish Magazine*, the *Kings Norton Parish Team*, or its *Staff*. Letters must contain the Name and Address of the 'sender', which will not necessarily be printed.

Editorial Team reserve the right to edit letters whilst retaining the correct context.

Sudoku

		1						
		2		3				4
			5			6		7
5			1	4				
	7						2	
				7	8			9
8		7			9			
4				6		3		
						5		

Anagram Answers (from page 42)

Genesis	Deuteronomy
Matthew	Obadiah
Exodus	Jeremiah
Leviticus	Philemon
Daniel	Hosea
Lamentations	Ecclesiastes
Revelation	Hebrews
Galatians	Colossians
Zephaniah	Philippians
Ephesians	Nahum
Romans	Zechariah

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