



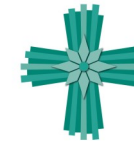
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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

| June 2010

| 70p



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Answer the call

Church Urban Fund is calling on individuals and churches to join together on June 13th – Church Urban Fund Poverty Sunday – in praying for the people and communities most affected by poverty in this country.

In an interview with Church Urban Fund in July 2009, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, explained his belief that individuals are empowered to change their lives when they feel valued as individuals and that the Church has an important role to play: “When people suffer from material poverty and deprivation, they don’t just suffer the lack of a few things, they suffer a lack of confidence, a lack of a sense of having a stake in the society around them. They feel that they’ve fallen off the edge and that they are dispensable ... The Church is most effective, of course, when the story that it tells is also the action that it shows.”

All over the country, CUF-supported projects are helping to plant seeds of hope in the lives of people living in England’s most deprived areas, building the capacity of these communities to bring about lasting change.

“Almost invariably, where the Church Urban Fund has got it spectacularly right is in this business of giving capacity to local communities, which does not mean throwing money at people,” Dr. Rowan Williams said recently. “It [means] sensibly using resources to build up the capacity to increase your resource, and

increase people’s confidence in what they can do and the changes they can make.”

The call:

Christian writer David Rhodes sums up the essence of CUF’s call to tackle poverty: “Jesus commands us to do something definite. Something demanding. Something dynamic. He commands us to love our neighbour ... This means to value and respect them and to actively oppose any injustice which condemns marginalised and vulnerable individuals to suffering and humiliation; to tackle the cause as well as the symptom.”

The response:

Their response at CUF is to restore relationships between individuals and within communities and society at large; it is when people become disconnected from one another that poverty and inequality are allowed to spread unchecked. CUF support the work of truly remarkable churches that are putting the heart back into this country’s poorest communities; churches who put their faith into action to improve the lives of the people around them.

Your response is to pray, act and give. CUF has produced a number of resources for churches and individuals to assist them in their focus on poverty, including reflections, readings, prayers and worship materials. All of the resources are available as downloads from: www.cuf.org.uk/poverty-sunday.aspx

Source: www.birmingham.anglican.org

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**Items for inclusion in the July 2010 issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 11th June 2010**

Welcome.....

The cover picture of this edition is of Deb and Sian who have been part of the life of the Parish for around eleven years. Deb is to be ordained on 4th July and is to be the Curate at St Mary’s & St Ambrose, Edgbaston and St Paul’s Balsall Heath. You can read their goodbyes on page 10, but they leave behind a legacy including their trailblazing of Fair Trade and we will miss them.

On 12th June we will be visited by Kalantha Brewis who will arrive barefoot as she nears the end of her walk to raise awareness of the plight of the fistula patients in Ethiopia. There is an article on page 30 which gives details of her walk and the cause she is promoting.

The new-look Parish Website kingsnorton.org.uk went live last month and already over 600 people have visited the new site! It really is worth a visit. Webmaster David Ash tells us more about his motivation behind the site on page 34.

Finally, we seem to have upset Rev. Rebecca’s dog Zooka who has contributed to her diary page - our very first non-human correspondent!

Alan Haynes, Editor

From The Rector

Do Politics and Religion mix?

“Politics and religion shouldn’t mix” can be often heard today. Our forebears would have found it as strange a saying as millions still do throughout the world. But we can understand why it is said. We see political and national conflicts too often clothed in religion. We see the hurt that religious intolerance and narrow judgement do to human hope and dignity. It is no wonder that we prefer religion to be private. The Gospels won’t let us keep it to ourselves however. Throughout the ages, men and women have been inspired by God’s grace and generosity to stand up for justice, freedom and acceptance of all – and it hasn’t stopped. In the Holy Land, in South Africa, in places of despair and hardship throughout the world, political change for good is led by people of faith. Jesus’ ministry embraced the stranger, the outsider and the downtrodden. The embrace of the Cross is for all, as is the promise of the Holy Spirit. So must ours be.

As we grasp what has happened in the general election, we must ensure that faith and politics do mix. We must pray for our new leaders - however surprised we might be.

We must go on insisting that integrity, fairness, justice and inclusion are at the heart of politics – and that both hardship and new growth are shared. We must, as Christians, defend others as vigorously as some urge that we should defend ourselves.

“Throughout the ages, men and women have been inspired by God’s grace and generosity to stand up for justice, freedom and acceptance of all”

Involvement in party politics is a matter of honest personal decision. Involvement in the world in all its political complexity and challenge is not. God’s grace leaves us no choice.

Do pray for our newly elected MP, Richard Burden and our local councillors, Barbara Wood, Geoff Sutton and Steve Bedser. Do seek fresh involvement in local decisions, for the sake of all. And do trust that God’s embrace is of all that is – including all that touches us.

Rob Morris

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KINGS NORTON FESTIVAL

July 10th
10am – 2pm
at



Saint Nicolas Place

Ingrid’s Accordions, Second City Ukulele Players Association, Maypole Dancing, Black Adder Clog Dancers, Penny Arcade, Cakes, Photographic Exhibition, Many Craft Stalls, Community Groups, Refreshments and much more.

Come and join in the fun and support the buildings.

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The Hugely Popular Farmers’ Market
9am – 2pm

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Just a reminder ... There is always something going on at Saint Nicolas Place!

Events 2010  SAINT NICOLAS PLACE
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Saturday 12th June
11am – 3pm
FREE

**Medicine Through the Ages
Community Day**

Find out about the gory and grisly past of medicine with face painting, activities, re-enactors and much more!

6th & 7th July
7pm
Tickets £12.00

**“Summer Shakespeare”
“The Merry Wives of Windsor”**
Come along for a taste of the classics with Shakespeare’s comedy. Chairs are provided but bring your own cushion. Saracen’s Head Café open for refreshments.

Saturday 10th July
10.00 am – 2.00pm

Kings Norton Festival
Dozens of local craft providers will be selling their goods, from jewellery to paintings; also old favourites such as tombola and book stalls.

If you have any donations for Tombola prizes please hand them in to the Reception or the Parish Office at Saint Nicolas Place. Thank you.

Sunday 18th July
FREE

“The Big Lunch”
Following last year’s successful event, join us for a day of fun and picnicking on The Green.

KINGS NORTON FESTIVAL WEEKEND
Saturday 10th July and Sunday 11th July

“Open Day” began in 1977 as a community celebration of the Queen’s Silver Jubilee to raise funds for the Saracen’s Head Restoration Fund. It continued in support of the great work of the 1970s and 1980s which brought life, hope and use to our vulnerable buildings. In 2005, as we worked together on complete Restoration after winning the BBC2 series, “Open Day” became “Kings Norton Festival” and it continues to grow – just as our buildings have done.

Please make sure that the Saturday is in your diary, not forgetting that when all the stalls, entertainment and food have gone, we have a wonderful concert in the evening. But this year, we hope to do more.

The 10.30am Sunday service at St Nicolas has long been a United Service for the parish’s congregations. This year we want it to be a Kings Norton Festival Service - to give thanks for all who make up and work for our community life in all its rich variety. Please come and celebrate all that we are together – and shall be!

A NEW FACE IN SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

Ed Hart has been appointed Interim Manager as we work with our staff, volunteers and funders to replace Graeme Clarke as Centre Manager and Emma Banks as Heritage & Learning Manager. Do welcome him and support him and all that we are doing.

BEREAVEMENT MEETING IN JUNE

Please note that this will be on the 4th Tuesday (22nd June) at 2pm. All who would like to remember and find peace are very welcome.

ORDINATION

Deb Buckley is to be Ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Birmingham on Sunday 4th July 2010. The Parish has bought her white Priest Stole as a present. If you would like to make a donation towards this, please give it in at the Parish Office. Thank you.

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appointment, not part-time in a reference library as planned, but full-time in Frankland, a new high security prison in Durham, where I was first the Deputy, then the Education Officer for 10 years. On moving to Birmingham, I continued to serve my sentence (still as the Education Officer, I hasten to add!) in Stafford Prison for a further 2 years; then I transferred into the Community Division of Dudley College following its successful bid to provide prison education in the area. This was a welcome break and I enjoyed visiting schools and negotiating new courses, mainly for classroom assistants, but I took advantage of early retirement. I have since been a frequent patient at the Orthopaedic Hospital; regular swimming is now a priority to maintain mobility, a very time consuming and tiring activity! I have taken several courses and follow varied interests, which include singing, reading, current affairs, handicrafts, entertaining, supporting the Birmingham Royal Ballet and CBSO concerts as well as being a Trustee of Bryony House and a house owner myself. Visiting and being visited by family and friends has become increasingly important to me.

FAMILY & CHURCH LIFE

Soon after coming to Birmingham, my eldest daughter was married and has lived abroad for several years. She has four children; my eldest granddaughter and grandson are now boarders at a school in Oxford, but I am looking forward to the summer, when all the family are returning to the U.K. after two years in Canada. Five years ago, my youngest daughter was

married and her two small girls are now a source of great delight!

I was a Methodist for ten years and learned a great deal from being a member of a small congregation, but I was glad to transfer to St Nicolas and return to my Anglican roots eight years ago when I was divorced. I became a volunteer for the Bible Society for four years when I visited numerous churches in the West Midlands, but belonging to the St Nicolas and wider church family continues to deepen and widen my beliefs and is a constant source of challenge and spiritual growth as a Christian, in both faith and practice. Being in the choir, baptism, bereavement teams and the liaison person for our CMS Mission Partners, the varied services, especially Candlelit Church, present many opportunities to meet and know new and existing people and to listen, exchange experiences and encourage each other on our life and faith journeys. The daily Bible Reading Fellowship Notes, always surprisingly relevant, help me to meditate, pray and keep me 'earthly as well as heavenly minded'; this, with the companionship and support of my closest Christian friends, has been the mainstay of my journey of faith, especially in the challenges of recent years.

As I contemplate and prepare to move in the foreseeable future, my hope is that we all, as St Nicolas and its community church members, will continue to mature in our faith and be given the confidence to share it with others as we learn to love and serve.



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

'Parish Person' this month is our CMS Mission Link, **Ann Morrell.**



EARLY YEARS

An only child, I was born near Evesham and spent my early years attending various schools in Cheltenham and Worcester where my father was a Civil Servant who worked for the National Assistance Board and my mother was a book-keeper. Both my parents were Anglicans and my earliest memories are of Easter services in my father's country church. In the early 50s, my parents bought a general shop in Tewkesbury opposite the High School, to which I transferred, and from thereon, my social life was centred on the Abbey, where I was in the Guides, a member of the Youth Club, sang in the choir (albeit 'invisibly' behind the choir stalls as it was an all male set-up in those days!) and was a bell ringer. I never did get the hang of the bells-in fact it was frequently the other way round and I could only manage to ring the tenor bell after all the rest! I was 14 when I was confirmed in the Abbey and attended the Communion services regularly-in fact, I was a practising member of the C of E in every possible way, but without the personal faith which was about to develop soon after I left home.

Although I would have liked to have been a radiographer, the school curriculum and choice of careers were very limited then, so I went to Manchester University (and subsequently

to Birmingham for teacher training), where I shared digs with two other girls. I was very impressed by the way in which one of them lived out her Christian faith and who spoke to God in a personal way - a revelation to me. Through her encouragement, and attendance at relays of Billy Graham

"I was very impressed by the way in which one of them lived out her Christian faith and who spoke to God in a personal way - a revelation to me."

rallies, eventually I too, with some hesitation, began to experience the realities of being a believer and the challenges which it involves, which thankfully have continued after many varied life experiences.

CAREER PATH

I started teaching Geography in secondary schools, first in Shropshire and subsequently in Nottingham, where I met my husband. After taking time out to have my two daughters, returning to part-time then full-time teaching and moving several times, we moved to Newcastle on Tyne where I took a course in Librarianship which led to my

Following On From Confirmation

Last month's magazine contained some lovely photos and reports from the hugely uplifting Confirmation Service, held on 18th April. Diane Hutton, who was confirmed on that occasion, has been kind enough to write a few words about the 'Exploring Confirmation' preparation course, which we are hoping to run again before too long:

'I recently attended a 6-week Confirmation Course, arranged by Rev John and Rev Jayne, at St Nicolas Church. I found this course invaluable in preparing for Confirmation. It provided strong foundation which built up, week by week, culminating in the Service on Sunday 18th April 2010, which was a wonderful experience. I would recommend anyone to attend one of these courses, which I feel provides thought-provoking material, an opportunity to strengthen one's faith in God and to share experiences and knowledge with other candidates.'

As Diane has indicated, the course is not just for those who are wanting to be confirmed, but hopefully has something to offer as well to people who may have been confirmed some years ago and indeed to those who may not feel that confirmation is the right step for them, but who would like to know more about the Christian faith and life. If you are interested, watch out for more details, or have a word with me. I am expecting that the course will run in October during the daytime and again in the spring in the evening.

In the meantime, a number of those who came to 'Exploring Confirmation' were keen on following on from that course by exploring some of the topics in a bit more depth. As a result, a short course on "**Getting to Grips with the Bible**" will be starting in St Nicolas Church on Monday evenings, beginning on **June 21st**, running from **7.30pm to 9pm**. It will run for just four weeks and is open to anybody who would like to come along. If you would like to discover more about what the Bible is and why and how we might want to read it, this may well be for you. Come along!

21st June
28th June
5th July
12th July

"Getting to Grips with the Bible"

What shall we do with this Book?
The Big Picture
One Bible, Many Voices
Making Sense of Scripture

You don't have to come to every session, but I hope that many will want to. If you would like to know more, have a word with me or just turn up in Church on 21st June.

Rev John

jwhite.harborne@btinternet.com 07854 412949

Cafe T

Many thanks to Esme Kirk who recently came to Cafe T to speak to us about the founder of the hospice movement – Dame Cicely Saunders and read an extract from the latest book about her life and work ('The Founder of Modern Hospice Movement' by Shirley du Boulay and Marianne Rankin). Esme shared some memories of her times at St Mary's and gave us some insight into the work which goes on there. St Mary's in Selly Park was opened in 1979 and offers 24 hours care. A trained nurse herself, Esme has been a voluntary helper at the hospice for nearly twenty years and spoke with great passion about the sensitive and palliative care that the hospice offers to patients whether in the hospice, in their own homes or as weekly day-care patients. It costs a staggering £5000 for a ten day stay for each patient's care at the hospice.

The hospice helps over a thousand local families in Birmingham each year, relying on donations and fund raising events, together with approximately 48% of its running costs from the Primary Care Trust, so that it can continue to offer the well needed and excellent care to the community. Having spent a day at the hospice myself not so long ago, it was a huge privilege to be able to get a flavour of the marvellous work that goes on at St Mary's by its much dedicated staff and a host of voluntary workers like Esme. I think a huge debt of thanks is fitting to all who work at St Mary's and to those who support the work of the hospice whether by funds, voluntary work or prayer.

Fay Fearon (Reader)

Moundsley Hall Care Village

Congratulations to the owners, board of directors and staff at Moundsley Hall Care Village on the Walkers Heath Road, Kings Norton, for the opening of a new 30 bedroom unit recently built. The new 'Kensington House' is spacious, bright and homely with each room having an en-suite shower room. Offering 24 hours care, respite and convalescent care, Kensington House will also offer care for clients with mild to moderate dementia. Our prayers and best wishes go to all concerned.

Fay Fearon (Reader)



May 5th

Went out on various visits and popped into Candlelit Church in the evening. It was good to see lots of folk enjoying the quiet, having a cuppa and singing together. The church always looks fantastic in candle light. If you haven't ever come along before, do pop in anytime between 6.30 and 8.00 any Wednesday evening. You will receive a warm welcome.

May 7th

Spent a lot of time in the morning in St. Nicolas Church putting up a display of some of the children's work from Hawkesley Church Primary School. I was quite pleased with the result. It's always encouraging to see just how creative our youngsters are.

May 8th

As usual on a Saturday morning, I went down to St. Nicolas Church. It was so busy with youngsters taking part in 'Messy Church', a cake stall to raise money for Christian Aid, folk gathered to Knit and Natter and others just coming in for a cuppa. There was such a lovely atmosphere and plenty of people to talk to. I then went over to St. Mary's Hospice Charity Shop and had a chat with the staff. I bought two pairs of trousers and a rather unusual elephant ornament!



Rebecca's Diary...



You may recall in the May edition of this magazine, a photograph of a small dog in a harness with my diary extract. My dog Zooka saw it and this is what she writes:

“Dear All,
The dog in last month's magazine had stolen my identity. I wish it to be known that I am not that dog. I am a black Lurcher and I look like and behave like a greyhound. I was also a previous Chatsworth Show Champion. If any readers of this magazine see that dog masquerading as me in any other publications, will they please contact the parish office? Thank you in anticipation of your vigilance!
Zooka.”

Now my dog has had her say (!) I'll continue with my diary extract

May 2nd
My dog saw the photo in the magazine of another dog pretending to be her and she was not amused. However, a long walk and a new ball helped to calm her down!!!! I also had a busy day taking services at both Hawkesley and St. Nicolas. In the afternoon, John (our Team Vicar) and I baptised some really gorgeous babies. We had a great afternoon.

May 3rd
Had a lazy Bank Holiday just doing things around the house and popping out to visit friends in the afternoon. I'm quite a 'home bird' really and like the opportunity to have a day in the house. Sometimes I'm in and out so much it feels like I live in a Bed and Breakfast!



We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church. The next one will be on Saturday 12th June. These will be craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 June, this will take place on the 22nd which is actually the 4th Tuesday.

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

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society is participating in the 4th Birmingham Lives History Fair on Sunday 13th June. The Fair, which highlights many aspects of Birmingham's rich history and is organised by Keith Clenton, takes place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Holloway Circus Queensway from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Entrance is free and all are very welcome to come to this event.

The History Society's 2010/2011 programme commences on Monday 27th September. We are delighted that the 2010/2011 Lecture Programme has been included on the Parish website and we will also continue to keep you up to date in the Parish Magazine.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

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updated site has become an essential tool. **And what message is more important for any community than the one which its local church is trying to get across: God's unconditional welcome for all?**

People who would never walk through the door of the church will, in the comfort of their own homes, visit Kings Norton Team Parish online. About 600 people have done so in the month since we re-launched kingsnorton.org.uk on May 1st 2010. That's a lot of people, it's a number that will grow, and it's a phenomenon worth pondering as we consider how we at St Nicolas', Immanuel and Hawkesley communicate the Gospel, build the church and try to be salt and light in this part of Birmingham.

So, whether you are reading this in the traditional paper format or on one of our parish magazine web pages, I'd like to invite you to join me in thinking creatively about the future. I see the parish website not just as a shop window for what we are doing locally but as a powerful tool for building bridges into the local community. We can connect with people online who will not come and talk to us in person. We can stimulate curiosity about faith in Christ amongst people who would never attend a church service. We can also improve communication within the church. If this article has got you thinking about the potential of your parish website, please get in touch and share your ideas. Who knows where they might lead?

David Ash


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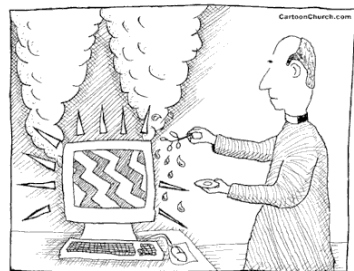
Isn't it amazing how quickly we take new things for granted? I teach teenage boys for a living and it's not difficult to get a reaction if you tell them you can remember what the world was like before the Internet. "You can't be that old, Sir!" (I'm 50) And yet, as recently as 20 years ago, I had only just mothballed my trusty portable typewriter and invested in a shiny, new Amstrad PCW. Remember those? They had sickly green screens and predated the invention of the mouse.

The first website didn't come into existence until 1991, in the laboratory of the British scientist Sir Tim Berners-Lee. It has taken a mere 20 years for the internet as we know it to explode into existence and for broadband, web browsers, MP3s, wi-fi, downloads and dongles to become part of everyday life and conversation. A new vocabulary for a new world, where not just the young take Facebook (born 2004) and YouTube (2005) for granted. The speed at

which the digital revolution has overtaken us is nothing short of breathtaking. Even now, we don't really understand the implications of what we are living through. And it isn't over yet.

I've never been able to see why computers and their associated technologies should be the preserve of the young or the geekily inclined. I have been fascinated by the potential of computers as communication tools since I bought my first Apple Mac in the mid-1990s. I suppose it's because I'm a linguist and communication is what I do. Since the first time I managed to get that 10-inch high box with a black-and-white screen to connect to something called a modem and made contact with someone in Moscow, I have been intrigued by the possibilities of worldwide webbery. Websites have started to become the place that most of us go for information. We're only at the beginning of their development, and yet we are already aware of their power to enhance the way we create community, make friends, share memories, rally support, influence others or even fall in love. Yes, I met my wife on a website.

The quality of an organisation's web presence, as it is now called, can now affect, for good or ill, how it is perceived. If you've got a message and you want to be listened to, an attractive, easily-navigable, regularly-



PERHAPS SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER WAS NOT THE BEST WAY TO LAUNCH THE CHURCH WEBSITE

A fond farewell.....

Deb Buckley and Sian Smith are leaving Kings Norton on Sunday 20th June as Deb takes up her curacy in July at St Mary's & St Ambrose, Edgbaston and St Paul's Balsall Heath.

This is what they have to say.

Sian - It is with sadness that I leave Kings Norton Parish. I can't quite believe that 11 years ago, Deb and I began attending St Nicolas. So much seems to have happened. Having the opportunity to be actively involved in the Parish and taking up the role of churchwarden for a while has been an amazing journey for me. It does now feel like leaving home as I have developed a great sense of being part of a family here and I have no doubt I will be popping back from time to time. I don't know what the next part of the journey will bring, but my experience at Kings Norton has helped me to be open to all sorts of possibilities.

Deb - Training for ordination at Queen's Foundation has been a real adventure. Studying theology, undertaking placements and belonging to an ecumenical and international community has shaped my understanding of ministry and mission and equipped me for the next step of my journey. As I prepare to leave college and move one step closer to the ordination service on July 4th, I feel a degree of anxiety, but this sits alongside a deep sense that I am held in the love of God. I'm not sure I would have had the courage to embark on any of this, or indeed to respond to my sense of calling to ordained ministry, if I had not found, and experienced, what Kings Norton Parish offers to so many. I will be ever thankful for the hospitality, richness, diversity and inclusivity I have experienced across the churches.

Thank you from both of us!

Those of us who have been privileged to work and worship alongside Sian and Deb will know just how much they have given to the Parish and the life of the Church here. They were instrumental in the Fair Trade 'revolution' and enabling us to become a Fair Trade Parish. They were also founder members of the Prayer and World Needs Group which inspired many to consider the needs of others. They will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers are with them as they start this new chapter.

Editor

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placed around Ethiopia at Bahir Dar, Harar, Mekele, Metu and Yirga Alem and are shown on the map. They cover very different parts of Ethiopia – with problems of isolation due to very difficult terrain, minimal communications, large distances and multiple languages and cultures. The fifth, Metu, is only just completed. Ethiopia is a very large country of 1¼ million square kilometres, about the size of France and Spain combined. Its road system is not yet developed and that makes it difficult for many patients to get to the main centre in Addis Ababa. The dramatic terrain means that 75% of the population lives, on average, two and a half days' walk from an all-weather road. Many patients might find the journey too much of a challenge and too expensive, hence the growth of the outreach centres.

The hospital and the five centres have a success/cure rate of over 90%. The hospital provides free fistula repair surgery to approximately 2,500 women every year and cares for 50 long-term patients.

Universally, 5% of all pregnant women have complications in labour. In Europe and the USA, where proper medical facilities are available, these women are usually adequately treated. In Ethiopia and large parts of Africa and other parts of the world, where there are inadequate medical facilities, these women have a difficult, or perhaps an obstructed labour, maybe for days, leading to a stillborn child and causing a vaginal fistula (a hole) in the bladder, rectum or, in the worst cases, in both, leaving them incontinent in one or two respects. It is lifelong and untreated, the woman becomes an outcast in her society because of her offensive smell. The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and the outreach centres can repair these fistulae through surgery and transform the ladies back into being healthy and beautiful young women again. The midwifery school is the first stage of changing the care that will ultimately see fewer and fewer of the injuries in the first place.

For more information, visit www.hamlinfistulatuk.org Email:
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Sylvia Fox

What is the background?

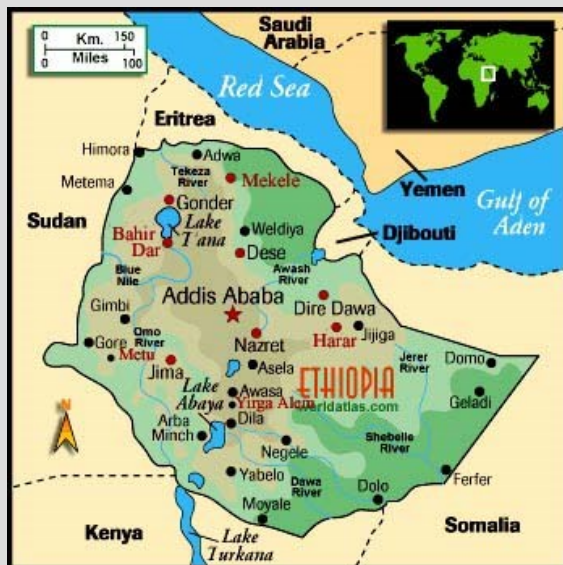
In 1959, Dr Reginald and Dr Catherine Hamlin, Gynaecologists and Obstetricians from New Zealand and Australia respectively, came to Ethiopia to work in the Princess Tsehai Hospital in Addis Ababa. They came with the intention of starting a Midwifery School. In the event, there were no funds available to enable them to turn this into reality and whilst working in the state

Maternity Hospital, they were overwhelmed by the plight of so many women with childbirth injuries, known as fistulas.

By 1975, the Hamlins had raised sufficient funds worldwide to build their own dedicated hospital for these patients. A new 50 bed hospital was opened then and approximately 25 women a week are treated for vaginal fistulas. Each woman is treated completely free of charge. Great distances are travelled by patients, even from Kenya, Sudan and

Somalia and often on foot. Some of the funds were raised by Hamlin Fistula UK, a charity formed in 1968, following a fund-raising tour by the Hamlins to the Birmingham Medical School with Professor Hugh McLaren who worked at the Birmingham Women's and Maternity Hospitals as well as the Medical School.

It was to be nearly 50 years before their original purpose of setting up a Midwifery School could be brought to fruition – and the first students will graduate this year, with a high level BSc qualification. Supported by much international help, one of the visiting staff (and a UK Trustee) is Beverley Stewart, a Supervisor of Midwives at Birmingham Women's Hospital. Dr Reginald Hamlin died in 1993, but Dr Catherine has continued to plough her energies into building up the hospital, the midwifery school and five “outreach centres” (mini-fistula hospitals) which help to provide cover for an even wider geographical area. The outreach centres are strategically



Bread – and more bread

Last month I wrote about bread and I am again this month – but about some rather amazing bread this time. As we chose from the many needy charities for our 2010 PCC outward giving, we all got to talking about the Bread Oven Project which local friends and parishioners, Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg, set up in Ifakara, Tanzania.

I went web-searching and spoke with Eugene about the most up-to-date parts of the project. Here is a small snap-shot of their work and I think you will agree we have chosen a really good project for the Parish to support. There is much more information to be found at www.ibpfreebread.com and I hope to arrange an event later in the year when we can all hear more about the work of the Ifakara Bakery.

“We have a son, David, who is a Doctor and researches tropical diseases, particularly Malaria. Together with his wife Joanna, an epidemiologist, and their children, they live in Tanzania and are concerned with the 'Roll-back Malaria' programme. We went on holiday to Ifakara in 1998 to see the family and visit the area. We met Sister Josephata, a young sister of the St. Francis Convent and got talking. She was the local electrician (!) and, over lunch, we were asked for help to bring their vision into reality. They wanted a bakery to ensure that they have food all the year round, even when they suffer a poor harvest. We soon discovered that they all like bread but the nearest bakery is in Morogoro (six hours away) or Dar es Salaam (10 hours away).

We made a business plan which showed that this could be a viable proposition, but there was absolutely no money at all and we had to raise £30,000 to cover the cost of all the machinery and equipment as well as transport, Customs clearing and installation. A small loaf of bread could be sold for TZShillings 200 (£0.17) and still leave a margin for the Convent. On our return home at the end of 1998, we prepared a budget for all the goods required for the bakery. Before we left Tanzania, we established that nothing that we required was available in the country. As the electricity supply was very unreliable, we also added a generator so that production could be guaranteed. To ensure that all the goods would stay together, particularly when they were to be cleared through Customs in the port of Dar es Salaam, we bought a 20ft container which would not have to be returned from Ifakara to Dar. The total costs, including the transport to Dar es Salaam, came to £26,275. Adaptations to the building which would house the bakery brought

the costs to nearly £30,000. The goods were shipped in 2001, after a long time of gathering funds from many generous individuals and trusts. Later that year we returned to Ifakara where, in the meantime, the premises were altered to our plans and we were able to install and commission all machines. We trained staff in the art of making bread and the first production consisted of 20 small and 10 large loaves. The news of fresh bread being available in Ifakara quickly spread and soon we needed to produce 100 loaves a day. The small loaf was sold at TZShillings 250 (£0.17). Bread was produced daily and the bakery was soon making a profit with which more seeds were bought and thus increased the food in that area. Today the bakery produces over 400 loaves of bread daily.

As the bakery was self-funding and profitable, we created the "Free Bread Funds" as there were many people who could not afford the 17 pence on a regular basis." (The monthly wage is only about £35.) Free Bread now reaches several wards at the St Francis District Hospital, as it is not their duty to feed their patients who rely entirely on the food brought by relatives, some of whom live far too far away to be able to travel in with food. Free Bread now also reaches the children of the Bethlehem Centre (the local orphanage), the Idete Kindergarten and the residents of the Narareti Leprosy Centre.

We need £15,000 each year to continue to provide the Free Bread Funds. For more information, donations or talks, please contact IPB c/o Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg, 18 Grange Hill Road, Kings Norton, B38 8RG. Tel: 0121 458 5488. Email: ibpfreebread@aol.com

Sylvia Fox

Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd June at our usual time of 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. Our talk this month will be "Watch Your Language " by Patricia Boyd who is one of our much loved speakers, so do come along and enjoy an evening with us.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman

Barefoot Walk for Charity June 2010

And it's coming right here to King's Norton on Saturday 12th June

After watching the documentary film "**A Walk to Beautiful**", Kalantha Brewis was so moved by the plight of the fistula patients in Ethiopia that she decided to walk **35 miles barefoot** to help raise awareness of these young women who have suffered horrendous childbirth injuries, mainly through the lack of midwives and antenatal care. If they want to access the specialist hospital in Addis Ababa that can treat and cure them, they have to travel for many days – often barefoot – over difficult terrain.

Kalantha said that to show how appreciative she is about the wonderful midwifery care our patients in the UK receive, thus preventing these terrible injuries, she is embarking on this **barefoot walk**, hoping to raise funds to enable more women in Ethiopia to be treated.

Kalantha is a Reader in the parishes of Eckington with Defford cum Besford (near Pershore) and is walking from Eckington to the Birmingham Women's Hospital, setting off on June 9th and arriving on June 12th.

Kalantha's last stop-off point will be **St Nicolas Church on June 12th**. She will be arriving at church at about 11.30 am, having set off from Alvechurch that morning, and anyone who wishes to meet Kalantha at the Parish Boundary (by the mouth of Green Lane/Branch Road, off the Redditch Road) to join her for the Kings Norton part of the walk is very welcome to do so. Please **DO NOT** attempt to do it barefoot as you need to have done extensive training to do this safely. Kalantha should reach this point in her walk at about 10.45-11.00 am. A simple lunch of soup and bread will be served at church at 12 noon to which everyone is invited and then there will be time to talk to Kalantha who will be staying at church until about 2.30pm to talk to us about the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital.

We are supporting the work of the hospital financially from our PCC outward giving funds, but anyone wishing to bring donations on the day, or who is inspired to give after meeting Kalantha, is very welcome to do so. Donations can be given to Sylvia on the day or afterwards and they will be sent on to Hamlin Fistula UK. This trust is the UK charity which supports the work of the hospital, the midwifery school, the outreach centres and all the other important work that is carried out in Ethiopia in the name of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital.

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

We have just had a Taize service led by David Ash at our 10:30 service and most of the congregation experienced this sort of service for the first time. I think the Sunday evening Taize services might have a few more participants in future!

By the time you read this, we will have had a service based on the Christian Aid theme for this year, had a family communion service for Pentecost (which is also our gift day, where we bring a monetary gift for our church) then enjoyed a shared lunch together and celebrated Trinity Sunday.

We look forward to our day trip in June to Earlswood, with a barbecue tea. There will be more information about joining us in the newsletter and on the website soon.

Immanuel Church is also looking forward to the baptism of Joseph Andrew Crooks on 13th June in St. Nicolas Church.

Sarah Crooks.

Sarah and Jon invite their church family to celebrate with them in the baptism of

Joseph Andrew Crooks



Sunday 13th June 2010

3pm in St. Nicolas Church,
The Green, Kings Norton

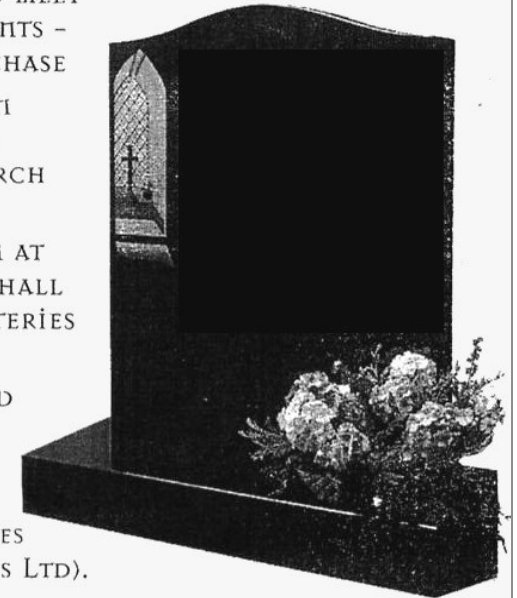


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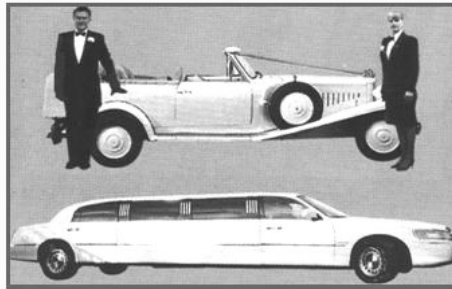
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GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS:

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST, FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

ST FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE:

'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD:

Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St Francis.

Cafe T Dates and Topics

1 st June	Half Term break
8 th June	In praise of the Messianic Secret - Rev John White
15 th June	Angels - David Chadderton
22 nd June	Godly Play - Rev Jayne Crooks
29 th June	Discipleship in the 21 st Century - Rev Donald Sampson
6 th July	Faith in Education - Beverley Maynard
13 th July	Social - and break for the Summer holidays

Just in case you were thinking of doing a spot of gardening

GOD:

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan.

Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS:

No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS:

Yes, Sir.

April 2010 Baptisms

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

18th April Kayden James Wilf Harvey

18th April Jayden Nathan Robert Williamson

April 2010 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

24th April Kevin Hume Roberts and Rebecca Claire Beardmore

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Jesus offers this to everyone - people just like you and me and the Samaritan woman at the well.

Dear God,
I long to know you and be your friend.
Thank you for sending us Jesus,
who will help us be closer to you.
Amen.

Colour in the picture knowing that because of Jesus, the 'living water', you are a friend of God and that he too calls you friend.



"Jesus tells the woman at the well, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.'" John 4:1-42

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello Everyone!

Try to imagine that it is a really hot day, you have been playing for hours and you are really thirsty. All you need is a cool, refreshing drink.

One day, Jesus too was thirsty. He stopped by a well and there was a woman there who was fetching water. Jesus asked her for some of her water. The woman was very surprised when Jesus spoke to her because she was a Samaritan and the Jews usually didn't speak to Samaritans.

Jesus said to the woman, 'If you knew who I am, you would be asking me for living water.' He then said to her that he could give her some special water to drink, water that meant she would never be thirsty again!

The woman didn't understand because Jesus didn't even have a bucket with him to draw water from the well.

Jesus said, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I give them will never be thirsty.' John 4:13-14

Together let's explore this further and see what it means for us. When we need God and want to be his friend, Jesus says that he will help us to do this; he will lead us to God.

Just like we need the refreshing water to quench our thirst, we need Jesus to help us to be friends with God.

Jesus is the living water. Through him we will never thirst for God.

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Month 2010 Funerals

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

- 1st April Doreen Violet Cash, 75. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 6th April David Thomas Simmonds, 69. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 7th April John Albert Rock, 88. Cremation at Redditch.
- 8th April Joan Murphy, 74. Service in St Nicolas Church, Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 9th April Gordon Richard Mewis, 70. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 12th April Kenneth Nash, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 16th April Doris Alcock, 99. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 16th April Susan Groves, 49. Service in St Nicolas Church, Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 19th April Constance Margaret Peacock, 84. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 20th April Dennis Norman Youlden, 70. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 21st April Hilda Maud Pritchard, 83. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 22nd April Mark Abraham Wellington, 48. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 22nd April Eric George Tracey, 85. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 27th April Sydney Essex, 88. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 27th April Kimberley Mason, 19. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.

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.
Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Immanuel Church

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

Druids Heath

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

Café T

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

For Young People

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

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

SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

Tiny Tots

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

Open Church

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

Candlelit Church

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,

*When you need us,
we'll be there*

Co-op Funeral Services

1290 Pershore Road

STIRCHLEY

0121 458 5151

828 Bristol Road

SELLY OAK

0121 472 2459

24 hour service



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:		
FAY FEARON (Reader) ,		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
Candlelit Church Co-ordinator		
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	
Ringing Master	JIM DUNN	744 6334
Secretary		
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	DAVID ASH, contact via website www.kingsnorton.org.uk or e-mail webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk	
St Nicolas Place Staff:-		www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk
Centre Manager		
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