



Men's Curry Nights 2011

10th January *
14th February
14th March
11th April
9th May
13th June
11th July
8th August
12th September
10th October
14th November
12th December

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The Bells

The sound of bells has been a familiar and much-loved ingredient of Sunday worship at St. Nicolas' for generations. In addition, many couples who marry here feel that their wedding would not be complete without it.

A Little History

The Kings Norton Guild of Change Ringers was founded in 1892 with the main objective of ensuring that St. Nicolas' bells were rung regularly for Sunday worship. Apart from brief interruptions in time of war, it has maintained this tradition right up to the present day.

Bell ringing at St. Nicolas', however, goes back much further than this. There have been bells in the tower ever since it was built in the mid 15th Century. The art of ringing bells to changes began in England in the 17th Century and developed in the 18th Century.

St. Nicolas' acquired a new peal of eight bells in 1783 to replace an earlier peal of six. One of these bells, dated 1689, can be seen at the back of the church.

We are one of only 39 churches in the Diocese of Birmingham which possess bells hung for change ringing. We now have ten, the extra two having been added in 1926 following a major restoration. In 2004, our wrought iron clappers had an 80th birthday treat - a trip to the bell foundry for a face lift, rebushing, reshaping and annealing.

The Bells Today

On Sundays, the bells call parishioners to worship and accompany their arrival at church. They also send out a reminder to those who do not come that the church is alive and active and they are a comfort to those who are unable to attend through illness or infirmity.

You'd Love It

In order to maintain our tradition, we need a team of ringers of any age and either gender who are keen to learn the enjoyable art of change ringing and to offer their skills to enhance Sunday worship. We practise on **Tuesday evenings from 7.45 pm.** and ring **from 9.50 until 10.30 a.m. on a Sunday.**

There are many benefits to be gained. Among them, healthy exercise (both physical and mental), friendship and the satisfaction of being an important part of a team effort. Bell ringing, a unique hobby which any member of the family can enjoy. It helps if you have a sense of rhythm and reasonable coordination, but you don't have to be a musician. Why not find out more? You can come and see us any Tuesday or contact one of the ringers:

Ringling Master **Jim Dunn** 0121 744 6334
Secretary **Angie Dunsmith** 07710 958 535

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**Items for inclusion in the February 2011 issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 14th January 2011**

Welcome.....

Happy New Year!

This is a time traditionally associated with new beginnings and resolutions. For our Curate, Rebecca, it really is a new beginning as she leaves us this month to take on her new role as Vicar of Immanuel, Highters Heath. She is featured on the front cover this month and she has written the final instalment of her diary for us. You can read it on page 38. There are details of her final service in the parish on page 7.

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the King James version of the Bible. We will have a regular feature this year in the magazine to help us grasp better what the Bible is all about.

We also have details of some short courses that will be run from this month looking at worship and growing in faith. You can read all about these on page 11.

Don't forget to take advantage of our subscription offer this month. See page 41 for details.

Alan Haynes, Editor.

From The Rector

Christ faced and overcame all things. In him, so shall we.

Every New Year brings its good intentions. For most of us, they are probably familiar – from last year and maybe many years before. “More this; less that; try harder” and, behold, twelve months on, they are wearily the same.

I want to suggest something simpler. We know that 2011 brings a royal wedding. We know it will also bring further hard change as spending, public, private and church, is re-shaped by cuts. But we do not know what effect these will have. We know that with Rebecca leaving and fresh focus on our church life, our work together as God’s parish church in Kings Norton will change. But what that change will be we have yet to discover. We know that our church school at Hawkesley faces a decisive year as local plans for education are developed. But we do not yet know what these will be. We know that our own lives will change. We hope the change will be for good, but cannot tell how much things hoped for or things feared will happen for us and for those we love.

Christians have been here before – constantly. Life changes. Sadly, so much response seems to treat life as an obstacle race or a series of tests. Get over one hurdle or survive elimination and we can go back to “normal” until the next round of testing comes along. And all the time we can so quickly be troubled by fears of getting it wrong.

But God did not give us life for it to become a treadmill. As one of the wonderful new marriage prayers of blessing says “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.” These are not vain hopes, to be sought vainly only by surviving life’s challenges. They are life in Christ, to be found and, crucially, shared in the here and now, even within the hard times and questions. That is what we are made for.



SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

Don't miss out on your copy of the Kings Norton Parish Magazine! Take out an annual subscription from January 2011 and your copy will be waiting for you in church or posted through your door (where available) each month.

Enjoy our regular articles, news, reviews and events including 'From the Rector', 'Parish People' and 'Gail's Children's Page'.

From January, the Parish Magazine will cost £1, but you can have all 12 editions for just £10 - that's two months **free!**

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Nepal 2010

In 2010, I returned to Nepal, spending my time with Min Raj, the pastor that I met through Soapbox, and his family.

The latest project he is undertaking is in Lalitpur. There are about 4,000 people that live there. Min Raj has a small church and wants to serve the village people. They bought the land to build a church and community centre at a cost of around £3,500.

At the time I was in Nepal (the last couple of weeks in September), progress had been halted as funds for the project had run out. Since then, work is back underway and they hope to be finished by Christmas.

Please pray for the village ministry there.

The next project - Home for Widows

They are going to build a home for widows and a 24/7 prayer tower.

For this project, they have land near to their church building. This home will be two storeys. The aim is to construct the ground floor this year and the 1st floor in 2012.

Urgent Need and Prayer Request:

Min Raj has a younger brother called Dipak who looks after an orphanage.

The land owner of the orphanage has decided he would like to sell the land for business purposes and so the children need to move out soon.

They have planned to build two more floors to Dipak's home (across the road from the existing orphanage) for the children. Looking to the future, this house will be the girls' home. They plan to buy land and build a house for the orphanage in 2011.

An estimated cost to build two storages, water sources, toilets, furnishing is £28,000. They already have £2,000 for this project. Please pray for this project that God may open the door for £26,000 very soon.

If any would like to give a small contribution towards raising the funds for this project, you can contact me on (0121) 608 0658, or send an email to stuart.whitby@zen.co.uk.

I found it a bit sad to learn that there isn't a Soapbox Team going to Nepal later in the year due to a lack of numbers signing up. Whether this is to do with the political situation there and concerns over safety, or the emphasis that Soapbox put on the different projects, I really don't know. There is still a definite need in the country of Nepal.

Stuart Whitby

This is where the simple things come in.

What God wants is not a people haunted by fear of failure but a people of resilient trust, of growing generous love and of deepening faith who meet challenges not with fear but with resolute hope. These come not from anxious keeping of rules but from trusting in what we are promised in baptism; that the character of Christ will be formed in us. He faced and overcame all things. In him, so shall we.

So my hope for all who share in the life of God's church in Kings Norton in 2011 is this: that we are renewed in the simple things which build us up as God's people here.

We can get so caught up in the details of church life that we lose sight of the whole. So from January we shall, led by John White, be offering short courses on the basics of worship, prayer, Bible and welcome. These will be part of the preparation for all who would like to be confirmed on 15th May (Is this you? Please ask.) **but they are intended for everyone**, including those whose life in Christ and church is long established.

We shall be starting in January with **Worship**. What is it? Why do God's people do it? Is it just "going to church" or is there more? Details of three sessions for all are in this magazine. Please trust that these are for you, to help us all grow together in worship – and faith. In February, John will be leading three more sessions on "**Way of Life**" – to refresh and renew us all in the basics of Christian faith. In Lent and during the year we shall then be offering more on getting to grips with **Bible, Prayer and Welcome**. We will see afresh how faithful attention to the simple things at the heart of faith grows confident life in Christ among us – in our own lives and in our life together as part of God's church, made alive through the Holy Spirit.

Then we shall no longer be fearful of change – but will meet it with resilient trust, growing generous love and deepening faith in Christ.

Rob Morris

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A bit of background information

SoapBox is a charitable trust providing opportunities for people to go on short-term mission projects in some of the poorest communities throughout the world.

They are a Christian organisation. SoapBox currently operates 1, 2 and 3-week projects in Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Brazil, Bolivia, Romania, Kenya, Kenya Maasailand, Zambia, Kosova, Philippines and Nepal. They have projects running from May to November. The money the participants raise for the trip goes towards not just flights and accommodation but also helps to buy materials for the work they will be doing.

You can find more information about Soapbox and its projects by going to their website www.soapboxtrust.com

Stuart has provided some more information from his latest trip on page 40.

What's your favourite holiday place?

Taizé Community in France.

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

I assume the Bible is there, so I would like the set of the Harry Potter books. My luxury would probably be a never-ending supply of marzipan.

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

I would like to think that in the future, the parish would attract more families with children as I find it sad sometimes the lack of children that attend Oasis during the morning service.



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

This month's Parish Person is Stuart Whitby



Where were you born?

Birmingham.

What is your occupation?

An Administrator for National Debtline.

Why Kings Norton?

It is one of the more local parishes to me. I enjoy the services and the Taizé worship that now runs about once a month.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

Being a Christian gives my life purpose. I hope to live my life to serve God and, with his guidance, other people. It is a source of comfort to know that when I face the challenges that every day life throws at me, I do not face them alone, but have God providing strength and guidance through those times if I ask for it.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy playing badminton, sailing, and rambling.

What are your best memories?

The send off my small group at Immanuel gave me when I went to Nepal with Soapbox in 2004.



Some Special January Dates

Sunday 9th January

St Nicolas Christingle at 10.30am – and a new ministry:

We celebrate the baptism of Jesus as Light of the World for all – and we will surround Stephen Plant, our warden, with our special prayers for his new ministry as Chaplain to the new Longbridge development, which he is taking up alongside his day job and work as warden.

(Have you seen the stunning picture of Stephen dressed for work in the latest Diocesan Prayer diary? Is it a model for all of us in ministry?)

Parish Communion with Prayer for Healing at 6pm in St Nicolas

Every month on the 2nd Sunday, we offer anointing and prayer within Holy Communion. We also offer the prayer requests made in the intercessions book and on the prayer tree in St Nicolas during the month. This gentle service is slowly growing as a place of God's peace and healing for all.

Please support it in prayer and in person.

Sunday 16th January

6pm in St Nicolas: Rebecca's leaving service

After three and a half years of such faithful friendship and ministry, it is time to let Rebecca go to her new calling as Vicar of Immanuel, Highters Heath. She begins there on 9th February. On 16th January at 6pm, we shall join together in thanksgiving, prayer and blessing for her. So many people have their own very special memories and stories of her ministry here – but, as God enables through every faithful priest, we have also been enriched in what we are together. So, together, we shall gather to give thanks and to prepare Rebecca - and us - for new life and work. Contributions to Rebecca's leaving gift can be given to the Parish Office or to wardens/stewards in each congregation.

Iona in winter

In November, I was given the joy of a week on Iona. So much there in the rocks, the sea, the sand, the wind and the life of the Abbey seems timeless – but no matter how many times we've been, each visit is never the same. Different people, different themes - and different weather! Iona always brings new challenge – and new strengthening.

But nothing, after more than thirty years of spring and summer visits, quite like the change that winter brings. In place of the hundreds of guests, volunteers and visitors, just 30 or so at worship, prayer, work and meals. Instead of being spread around the wide echoing spaces of the Abbey, we crammed for warmth into the Michael Chapel – most with our hats and gloves on. No long light evenings – but a hurrying back from long walks before early sunset made familiar places treacherous. No drawn-out bus trip across Mull, pulling in to let every tourist car and coach pass by, but a white-knuckle ride on empty roads, through forests bare of leaves with mountains clear, bright and snow-capped in the frosty air. And no rain - but low bright sunlight and a biting constant north wind.

The deep chill turned safe rock paths into ice-slides – but the suckingly mucky peat bogs strangely became trusty even carpets of solid ground.

It was all wonderfully eye-opening and different – if you had enough layers on. And in the middle, throughout the gales, the short days and long dark nights of winter, the hundred or so for whom Iona really is home – and the 15 members of the abbey's resident community, gathered each year from across the world.

I saw what held them together. It was simple. Whatever the weather, whatever the different work each day brought, whatever their different personal needs and stories, they still gathered faithfully to worship together twice each day (nothing fussy!), to eat together (even less fussy!) and to share basic common tasks together. Then, with these in place as foundation for each day, they went freely about their own thing. Worship together, eating together, working together. Nothing grand – but all utterly grounded in God's rhythms of grace. It has left me with much to ponder – and change.

Rob

has been quite wonderful and it has been a very great privilege indeed to have been taken into your lives and your homes, to have shared the sadness of life as well as the joys. Thank you for entrusting me with so much.

The love which we have shared between us will, I know, keep us in good stead. The God who called me to serve Him here in Kings Norton will, I know, continue to walk with each one of us on our pilgrimage of life. Christ is our bond and nothing can ever change that. Being your curate has been a great honour.

May God bless you and keep you. Please continue to pray for me and for the folk of Highters Heath. I, of course, will continue to pray for you. Happy New Year everyone!

With love and prayer

Rebecca x

Rebecca's Diary...

And finally...

Dear Friends,

As I sit here surrounded by various boxes and things waiting to go into boxes, it is

hard to think I am coming to the end of my curacy and, when you get this edition of the magazine, I will soon be on my way to Immanuel Church, Highters Heath. The dog, of course, is oblivious that we are moving on, she just sees the boxes and thinks it's a good idea to sit right in front of them so as to get my full attention, which of course makes packing even more difficult! That's dogs for you!

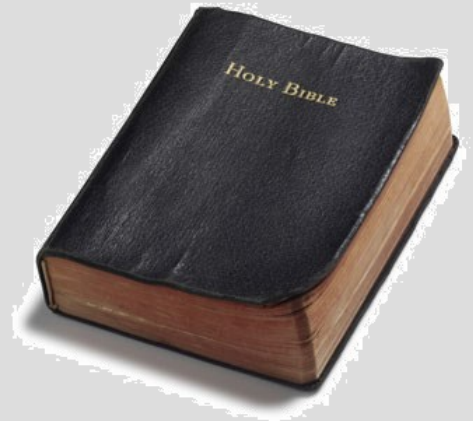
I want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to each one of you for all your encouragement and love, which has surrounded me every step of the way in my curacy, and for all the lovely comments about my monthly diary. My curacy



2011: Year of the Bible

In 1611, four hundred years ago, the company of 73 scholars and wise men (!) brought King James I the fresh translation of the Bible he had commanded from them seven years earlier. We know their work as the AV (Authorised Version) or the King James. It is probably still the world's best-seller ever.

Many still feel - or even believe - it to be the "proper Bible", even though, inspiringly beautiful as it often is, it is still a translation – and one which depended on the work of so many earlier translators, saints and scholars, Catholic and Protestant alike. And even though they worked from the best manuscripts then known, the 400 years since the 73 finished their great labours have brought new research, uncovered better versions of old texts and given us much firmer understanding of the Hebrew and Greek Bible's language and context.



But the AV or "King James" was the version of the Bible which spoke for centuries into the hearts and minds of countless men and women and shaped the language and culture of many more peoples than we can ever know. It fed their faith – and its fruit is still deeply with us.

So we must celebrate! And we will.

In our Parish Magazine each month during 2011, there will also be a feature on the Bible to help us all grasp better what it is and how we can grow in using it with confidence – and above all, to hear God speaking through its treasured words, stories and inspiration in our own time and place.

Unlike Muslim or Sikh people, we do not claim our holy book to be the last word of God in itself, but that it reveals God's Word, spoken utterly in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus and opened to us by the Holy Spirit. It is, like the church, a gateway and guide into God's life in Christ for the redemption of God's whole creation. What a lot we have to discover! Do join in!

Rob Morris

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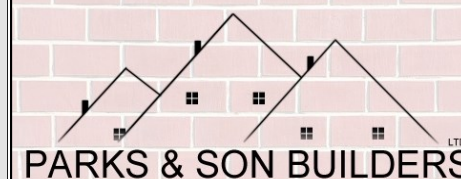
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We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church. We will not be meeting in January so the next one will be on Saturday 12th February. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!



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Growing in Faith

A couple of very short courses will be taking place in the parish early in the New Year. Each course will be for just three sessions and will be open to everybody who is interested to come along and join us. We will also be putting on each course twice, in the evening and also on a Wednesday morning, in the hope that as many people as possible will be able to take part. All of these courses will be held in St Nicolas' Church.

So, first up will be...

Gripped by Worship

This will be held on three Tuesday evenings, 11th, 18th and 25th January from 7.30 to 9pm, and again on Wednesday mornings (12th, 19th, 26th January) from 9.30 to 11am. Canon Rob, accompanied by Rev John, will lead our thoughts on various aspects of what it means to worship God. What are we doing when we gather to worship? What do we have to offer, and what do we receive? How can we hear God's word in worship? And how shall we respond?

Whether we have been lifelong worshippers in the church, or are new to the whole idea, this course will have something to offer everybody, in enriching our understanding and experience of worship. Do come along!

And, after that...

Way of Life

'Way of Life' is a short introduction to the Christian faith. It will give a chance, especially for those fairly new to the life of the church, to begin to explore what Christian faith is all about. It will be particularly suitable for any adults who are thinking about being baptised, or who are simply interested in finding out a little more as to what it is that Christians believe, and what it may mean to be a follower of Jesus. So come and see...

It will be held on Monday evenings, from 7.30 to 9pm, on 31st January and on 7th and 14th February, and also on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 to 11am. The Wednesday morning sessions will include creche facilities for any under 5s whose parents or carers would like to attend.

If you would like to know more about either of these courses, or any other opportunities in the parish to grow in faith, have a word with Rev John.

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end of year examination which enabled them to join the State Primary
School earlier this year.

You are very much a part of the group of people to whom he sends
his heartfelt appreciation.

On one side we receive such positive reports about what the daily
bread together with sweet tea does for these lovely children – and on
the other side we have the privilege of knowing you who are
supporting us in such a meaningful way. This means that we want to
continue doing our best so we can fund the 70,000 loaves of bread
which we shall provide this year at a cost of around £18,000. We are
continuing with our fundamental policy that all donations received
from our many talks and ardent supporters are going 100% for the
purchase of bread as we pay for all the expenses that we incur.

With renewed thanks to you all for your generous support, we send
our good wishes.

Margaret and 'Gene Schellenburg.

Mission Focus - The Ifakara Bakery

2000 Loaves of Bread

We are very grateful for your most generous gift of £500 which will be used for the purchase of 2,000 loaves of bread. These will go to those in the Ifakara area who have so little but much appreciate receiving their daily bread.

It is very touching to read some of the mail we receive from Ifakara when they tell us of the impact this daily bread has for them and they are so grateful. Last year we added the Kindergarten of the Mahutanga Primary School to 'The Free Bread Funds' and the chairman of school governors, Mr Chrisostome Crispin, wrote as follows:

"On 6th July 2009, we officially started providing the Kindergarten with tea and bread. It was a memorable day for the people of Mahutanga village where the children's parents also attended the ceremony, together with village leaders. Indeed, they expressed their gratitude to what you have done to their children. You may think that what you have done is just a very little thing, but I would like to assure you that you have done a very great thing for our children and save their lives. Since the day we started supplying bread, none of the children who have been enrolled are missing the school; in addition, the number of children has increased from 52 to 67 just one month after the start of the bread distribution. There are no other words of thankfulness to tell and nothing to give you back, yet we promise our prayers."

In the meantime, the Kindergarten has grown to 88 children who attend every day and Chrisotome told us that their attention span for learning has increased considerably and they are much calmer. They also have noticed a marked drop in children's illnesses and show a greater resistance against Malaria. He also told us that for the first time in the history of that Kindergarten, all the children passed their

Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 6th January 2011 (weather permitting) at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St. Nicolas Place.

The programme is to be a talk with photos of 'Children of Mongolia' to be given by Wendy Evans. Visitors Welcome.

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

Scouts

The 198th Birmingham, 1st St Nicolas Scout Group, is celebrating its 60th year and are marking this with an afternoon tea in February next year. If you were involved in the Scouts as a former leader or committee member, please can you get in touch with Karen Urwin (430-6005, kurwin@blueyonder.co.uk) or Penny Hattersley (628 5694, phbg00827@blueyonder.co.uk) to receive an invitation. In keeping with tradition, the event will be at St Nicolas Place. We look forward to seeing you.

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The first meeting in 2011 will be on Monday 31st January when we will once again welcome Steve Beauchampé, who will tell us about 'Swimming Pools in the Birmingham Area'. Doors open at 7.00 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings.

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

Albert J. Whitte

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“We Will Remember Them”: Kings Norton Boys Clean War Graves

On Thursday 11th November 2010, the Year 11 boys from Kings Norton Boys' School came to St. Nicolas Church to clean the many war graves located in the churchyard in commemoration for Remembrance Sunday. It is now becoming an annual event and we are told that they really look forward to their duty of tidying up the war graves. We would like to say a very big “thank you” to the Year 11 boys for all their hard work on the day; it is much appreciated! We look forward to their help again next year!

The following are quotes taken from the Year 11 boys on the day.....
'We hope it means a lot to their families to know that their graves are being cared for. It's giving something back to people who gave their lives for us. I am disgusted by the vandalism that has taken place. (One of the graves has been desecrated by having paint poured on it). We can give a few hours because they gave their lives. It's about showing respect. It's good to know we're helping. It's about giving back to the community. They have done a lot for us. It's a good thing to keep them clean and tidy.' This was combination of quotes from: Alex Deeley, aged 15, Jack Pratt, aged 15, Ross Fellows, aged 16, Paul Baller, aged 15, Sam Whitehouse, aged 15, Patrick Williams, aged 15, Bradley Cooper, aged 15.

Other Year 11 quotes also taken on the day...Jamahl Lynch, aged 15, said...‘I owe these men everything. If it wasn't for the efforts of these people, I wouldn't be here as I am of dual heritage and if the Nazis had invaded, Hitler would have arranged for my Dad to be killed as he is black, so I would not have been here. I don't think we could have been as brave as they were.’
Mohammed Wati, aged 15, also said, ‘I hope this work we are doing shows the high level of respect that we have for the people who lost their lives.’

The photos below are of Year 11 boys from Kings Norton Boys' School working hard to tidy the war graves in the St. Nicolas Churchyard.



The fact that Fairtrade has allowed producers to transform their lives also shows that the current system of trade is not working.

- The price of coffee didn't plummet in recent years simply due to oversupply: oversupply was created when dozens of countries were forced to move into cash crops as a condition for loans from the World Bank.
- The price of sugar hasn't hit rock bottom simply because of an oversupply: oversupply was created by trade rules allowing huge subsidies to be provided to American sugar producers.

Windward Island bananas haven't struggled to compete with dollar bananas from Latin America because their production is too expensive but because production costs in Latin America have been pushed down through aggressive use of pesticides and exploitation of labour.

What you can do

While we support fair trade through buying products with the FAIRTRADE Mark, we want to see our government supporting fairer trade rules. Send a message to ask for renegotiation on EPAs - (http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved/news_events_and_urgent_actions/action.aspx)



The Fairtrade Foundation is a member of the **Trade Justice Movement** – a coalition of over 80 organisations campaigning for trade justice - not free trade - with the rules weighted to benefit poor people and the environment.

Sourced by Judy Ash

farmers have achieved through the Fairtrade premium.”

A stable, minimum Fairtrade price

The Fairtrade minimum price is more critical than ever as a safety net in a situation of highly volatile, unpredictable prices. Without this, growers might be forced out of business altogether and lose their main source of cash income. “The coffee price is high at the moment, yes, but very volatile. It can easily fall and usually does... Fairtrade gives us a guaranteed price whatever happens. This means more consistent income. Farmers can conduct their business better by planning ahead.” - John Nuwagaba, Ankole Coffee Producers Co-operative Union, Uganda.

We’ve seen some incredible shifts over the last few years as more and more people choose Fairtrade and companies - big and small - respond to demand. Recognising the integral role campaigners have played in building support for Fairtrade to date, a new Campaigner Advisory Group has now been formed. The Group is one important step towards ensuring that campaigners can better inform the work of the Fairtrade Foundation and hold it to account. The Group will work closely with the Campaigns Team to develop and improve activities involving grassroots campaigning on Fairtrade and trade justice to help take the Fairtrade movement to the next level. To contact the group, please email campaigneradvisorygroup@fairtrade.org.uk The huge growth of the Fairtrade movement is sending a clear message. Consumers want to see producers in developing countries receive a fair deal. But international trade rules are weighted against poor countries, keeping billions of people trapped in poverty.

Fairtrade and trade justice

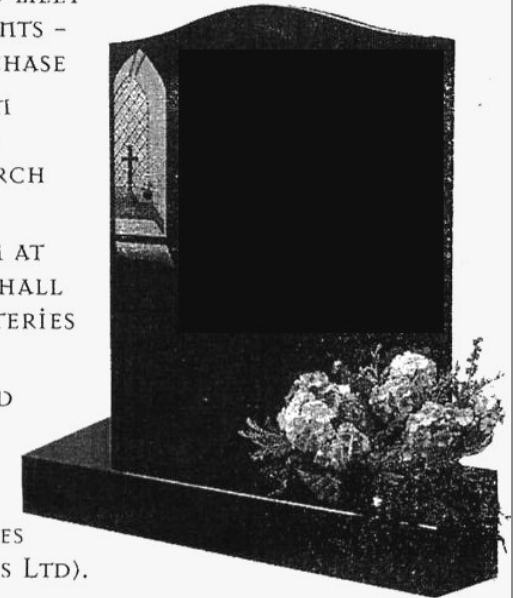
Fairtrade shows that trade can be a means out of poverty if the conditions are right. Seven million disadvantaged producers, workers and their families are benefitting from Fairtrade, but they and millions more still remain at the mercy of unfair international trade rules. That’s why we need to do more than buy Fairtrade products – we also need to campaign for trade justice.



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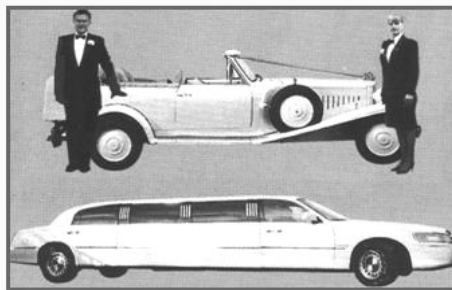
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How Fairtrade addresses poverty

Food security

In recent years, tens of millions of people have suffered from increased and volatile food and fuel prices. These can cause poverty and hunger amongst smallholder farming households as spending on food begins to take up a higher proportion of their income.

"The food situation is really bad. Apart from times of calamities such as drought, this is the most difficult time we've known with these high food prices. I don't see them reducing soon. It will last another 10 years." - Joseph Mbusa, Mubuku Moringa Vanilla Farmers Association, Uganda.

Fairtrade can help balance these effects and supports the long term sustainability of small scale agriculture. Its advantages include:

Extra Income

The extra income provided by Fairtrade is more vital now for Fairtrade farmers' livelihoods since most are net buyers of food and therefore suffering from increased food prices. This extra income can provide the difference between survival or destitution.

The Small Organic Farmers' Association (SOFA) in Sri Lanka, whose 2,000 organic-certified farmers produce Fairtrade tea and spices, reports that food prices have risen. But SOFA's farmers receive a Fairtrade organic tea price that is 20%-30% above their cost of production, meaning increased income for families and improved investment in their farming plots.

The Fairtrade premium

With volatile food and commodity prices, the Fairtrade premium for investment in business or community improvements takes on even greater importance: farmers' groups are able to use the premium to mitigate the effects of higher prices or diversify into other income-generating activities when the economic environment is harsh.

SOFA's President, Bernard Ranaweera, states that "The Fairtrade concept is the only existing way to develop the small farmer producer. Using the Fairtrade premium effectively and efficiently is the key to sustainability of the small farmer producers. For example, by using this to support organic farming methods. Since we have been able to utilise the Fairtrade premium, we have increased the productivity of the land and uplifted peoples' livelihoods. We are now very happy because of the development that our

Continued on p30



**St Nicolas Day
- in pictures**



November 2010 Baptisms

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

- 7th November Devon Ray Brady
- 7th November Jake Sean Mckenzie Tidmarsh
- 7th November Danny Eric Adam Tidmarsh
- 7th November Blake Kevin John Weedon
- 7th November Alfie Paul Steven Whittle
- 7th November Darren George Neil Doucette
- 21st November Alisia-Mae Ellis
- 21st November Jaiyden Andrew Jennings
- 21st November Alfie James Peter Whelan

November 2010 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

- 13th November Luke Timothy Chaplin and Amy Catherine Rees
- 27th November Justin Robin Burgess and Kayleigh Louise Jones
- 28th November Daniel James Barber and Karen Margaret Field

Harry L Marks

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Gold is an expensive gift, a gift fit for a KING. Jesus the king! What a lovely present to give to Jesus.

Frankincense is used to worship God. It is a sweet smelling perfume that, when burnt, creates lots of smoke. This is used in worship to show the presence of God. Jesus was God's Son! Weren't the wise men very clever and wise to recognise this in the baby Jesus?

Myrrh is a spice used to get people ready for burial. It could seem that this isn't a very good present to give a new baby, especially a special baby like Jesus. Giving the baby Jesus Myrrh was a sign that Jesus, although a king, and the Son of God, was also human and he would give up his life for us.

The wise men went to so much trouble to visit the baby Jesus; they recognised just how special and important he was and wanted to share that with him.



**This Epiphany, just as the wise men did,
show Jesus how special he is to you.
Give him Praise for his Kingship.
Worship him in Glory as the Son of God.
Give him Thanks for the life he gave up for us.**



Dear God,
Thank you for the example of the Wise Men.
May we too recognise just how special Jesus is to us,
always giving him our Thanks, Praise and Glory.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone! Happy New Year!
If you are like me, then you will be thinking that the Christmas story is over. But how wrong we are. In fact, there is still one last part of the nativity story to celebrate. On January 6th the church celebrates the time of Epiphany. This is when the magi or three kings visited the baby Jesus.

The three kings lived far away and travelled to the baby Jesus by following a bright star. The star is an important symbol during the Epiphany because it became the guiding light for the magi on their journey.



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' Matthew 2:1-2

In Matthew's Gospel, he calls the visitors from afar 'wise men'.
Together, let's see why...



The wise men had already recognised the baby Jesus as being special and, upon entering the place where the baby Jesus lay, they knelt before him, offering him worship and gifts.

The three wise men gave the baby Jesus gifts of **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh**. Each was like a story as they each tell us something about who Jesus was and what he would do.

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November 2010 Funerals

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

1 st November	Drey Junior Simpson, Stillborn. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
8 th November	Robert Ramsey Beards, 75. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
11 th November	Barbara Ann Hewitt, 49. Cremation at Robin Hood.
12 th November	Dora May Studley, 75. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
12 th November	Maureen Dorothy High, 66. Cremation at Yardley.
16 th November	Leonard Anthony Kirby, 70. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Lodge Hill.
17 th November	Harold Goodby, 88. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
17 th November	Brian Edward Treadwell, 74. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
19 th November	Charles Lewis Richings, 87. Cremation at Robin Hood.
22 nd November	Edward Allen, 93. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
29 th November	Beryl May Logan, 79. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
29 th November	Alfred Cyril Harris, 94. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
29 th November	Esther Elizabeth Wood, 93. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
30 th November	Amy May Armstrong, 80. Cremation at Robin Hood.
30 th November	Frederick Leonard Bird, 73. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.

At Saint Nicolas Place

Women's Fellowship 7.30pm 1st Thursday; Secretary: Carol Devic

Seniors' Club (Over 65's) Every Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Christine Bowen & Revd Rebecca Pullin

Guides and Brownies
Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesday 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursday 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Monday 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies
at Hawkesley Church Centre
Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Monday 5.30 pm
Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesday 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursday 7.00 pm

Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)
Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall,
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS
Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm Penny Hattersley 628 5694
Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45 pm Karen Urwin 430 6005
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School

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Kings Norton Parish Office

St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU. 0121 458 3289
e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk Open: 10 am - 1pm Monday to Friday.

Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk

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

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

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

MINISTRY TEAM:

Canon Rob Morris (Team Rector)	458 3289 / 459 0560
The Revd Dr John White (Team Vicar)	458 3289 / 07854 412949
The Revd Jayne Crooks (Team Priest)	458 3289 / 459 3733
The Revd Rebecca Pullin (Curate)	458 3289 / 458 2950
The Revd Donald Sampson (Methodist Minister)	458 3289 / 476 7223
Mrs Fay Fearon (Reader)	458 3289 / 451 1914
Mrs Ruth Howman (Reader)	458 3289

WARDENS

St. Nicolas	Stephen Plant, Paul Shelton	458 3289
Hawkesley	Jim Clarke	550 3455 / 07939 838086
	Peter Smith	453 9931
Immanuel	Gerry Moorcroft	243 0573

PCC (Church Council)	Secretary: Sylvia Fox	Treasurer: Jonathan Crooks
Parish Administrators:	Christine Bowen, Christine Gadd, Sylvia Fox	
Christian Giving Officer	Jean Brownsword	458 3289
Churchyard Care Team	Richard Harper	458 3289
Bible Reading Fellowship	Julie Caley	458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Alison Blumer	486 2837
Organist and Music Director	Sylvia Fox	07778 449170
	<i>Tuesday: Training and groups 5.45-8.30pm;</i>	
	<i>Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 pm, Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.</i>	
	<i>Handbell Ringers, Mondays 7.30 pm</i>	
Immanuel Music Group	Susan Haynes	459 4711

Oasis/ Sunday School

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

Parish Magazine: Editor

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

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The Church in the Parish

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

We believe that the church in Kings Norton exists:
To be a worshipping transforming partnership in Christ
To live out God's radical hospitality for all
To be equipped for work in God's world

St Nicolas Parish Church *on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU*

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Holy Communion Our main service - Oasis for 5-11's

2nd Sunday: 10.30am Parade Service - All Age Worship 11.45am Matins (BCP)

6 pm Evening Worship

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

1st Sunday Taizé Prayer

2nd Sunday Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday Compline (Night Prayer) with a reflection

4th/5th Sundays: Special services or Evensong (BCP)

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Hawkesley Church (Anglican/Methodist) *at Hawkesley Church Primary School*

on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Portway Kings Norton, B38 9TR

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church *at The Fairway Centre*

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

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;

4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Open Church

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

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

Open Church times

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

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

Thursday 6.30 – 8pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries,

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

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

Candlelit Church

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

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Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

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