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## A Hymn for Advent

One of the hymns that I have got to look forward to in Advent is a German hymn brought back to us by John Bell.

“Comfort, comfort now my people” is a paraphrase of words found in Isaiah (40: 1-5). It was originally created as a hymn by Johannes Olearius (1611 – 1684) and was then translated into English by Catherine Winksworth (1829-1878). She was a campaigner for Higher Education for women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as an expert linguist. One way she combined her skills with her faith was by translating nearly 400 German hymns into English. One familiar one is “Now thank we all our God”. John Bell has further adapted it for 21<sup>st</sup> Century usage.

Combining the work of these three inspirational writers (not to mention the original writer of that part of Isaiah) with a rousing old Genevan psalm tune (attributed to Louis Bourgeois), we gain a gem of a hymn. It manages to capture the excitement of advent – preparing for something of immense importance; as well as the need to obey warning cries of repentance. You can almost hear John the Baptist speaking; and the people realising that it is the long awaited Messiah he is telling of. Read the words and catch the excitement.

Sylvia Fox

*Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Speak of peace – so says your God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
burdened by a heavy load.  
To Jerusalem proclaim;  
God shall take away your shame.  
Now get ready to recover;  
guilt and suffering are over.*

*Hear the herald proclamation  
in the desert far and near,  
calling all to true repentance,  
telling that the Lord is near.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
For your God prepare a way.  
Let the valleys rise to greet him  
and the hills bow down to meet him.*

*Straighten out what has been crooked;  
make the roughest places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
live as fits God’s holy reign.  
Soon the glory of the Lord  
shall on earth be shed abroad.  
Human flesh shall surely see it;  
God is ready to decree it.*

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- Revd. Jayne Crooks - Chair
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**Items for inclusion in the  
December 2010 issue are  
to be submitted by:-  
Friday 12th November  
2010**

### Welcome.....

At this time of Remembrance, our cover photo shows candles shining in darkness as a sign of Christian hope.

As well as remembering, we are also looking forward in this edition to Advent and Christmas. You can read about one of Sylvia’s favourite Advent hymns on page 42. Sylvia also explains about the Jesse Tree that will be in St Nicolas Church during Advent.

It’s a while since we had any mention of bats in the magazine, but we have a touching story on page 14 about a bat that was found in church at Harvest time.

The biggest news in this edition is the announcement in the Rector’s article. It is with a mixture of sadness, but also thanksgiving, that we are to say farewell to Rebecca early next year. She is to become the new Vicar at Immanuel, Highters Heath. She will be missed in many ways, not least for her Diary that she writes for the magazine. I am very grateful to her for sending me this each month. I know it has brought enjoyment to a great many people.

Alan Haynes, Editor

## *From The Rector*

### **‘One sows, another reaps.’**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October, as many already know, we announced the following: “The Revd Rebecca Pullin has been appointed as Vicar of Immanuel, Highters Heath. Rebecca has been with us as curate in training for over three years of faithful ministry and deep friendship, which have touched and changed us all. Rebecca’s induction at Highters Heath will be in late January or early February. Our celebration of her ministry here, with loving prayers for this next step in her journey, will be in early January.”

Highters Heath isn’t far - and Rebecca is not the first to move there from here. As in all ministry moves, we must let her go with love to new work in a new parish, trusting in God’s providing for her and us. We will miss her very much – but we all move on! It is God’s grace, promise and presence in each place, not ours, which is unchanging.

Rebecca’s ministry here has given so much to give thanks for, but by God’s grace there is so much to look forward to. With our new clergy neighbour at Highters Heath – as also now at Kings Heath - we can look forward to strong renewed partnership, especially around Druids Heath. At the same time, Birmingham Methodist District is planning to form one new whole-city circuit. Within this, Cotteridge and Maypole Methodists will be able to work more closely together and with us and other local partners in the Gospel. It is good.

St Paul said of church ministry, ‘One sows, another reaps.’ He knew what we know - when we stop to think about it. Rebecca’s ministry here has sown seeds, as we are all able to do, ordained or not. Many will bear fruit in later days, in different hands and different places, thanks be to God. As in every friendship, all will change us and how we trust in God for good as we journey on. We each (I hope) bear the fruit of those who have sown God’s seeds and befriended us in Christ in the past. Our thanks to Rebecca will come in what is said, done and prayed for as she moves on – but even more in letting the fruit of God’s seeds sown through her ministry here continue to grow in us and in God’s church in Kings Norton.

Rob Morris

a biscuit from one of the pupils, accepted it graciously. So, congratulations again to all at Wychall Primary School! Well done to all the staff for continuing to work together to make the school’s motto “Safe, Secure and Successful” a reality for all its pupils. God Bless you all!

Fay Fearon (Reader/Governor)



### **Congratulations!**

Having not long done a meditation on Jesus’ parable of The Prodigal Son who returned safely to his home, I feel it’s fitting to give God thanks for the safe return of the 33 Chilean miners (also sons) who were trapped in an underground mine for over two months and were rescued – a first in the history of mining. A huge debt of thanks, and congratulations, is owed to all those who were involved in their rescue and to all who held them in their prayers.

Fay Fearon

## WYCHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Celebrating 10 years as a Primary School

Congratulations to Mrs Therese Allen (Head Teacher of Wychall Primary School), Mr James Allan (Deputy Head) and all the staff, children, governors and parents of the school who celebrated 10yrs as a primary school on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September with a big party.



Joining in the celebrations were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, staff, governors, parents and Alfie, one of the school's special friends. Alfie is a huge beautiful two-year old 'labradoodle' (a cross between a labrador and a poodle) who is brought into school each week-day. A huge asset to the school, Alfie is often found in the Acorn Room where teachers patiently work to bring calm and comfort to those children who need just that little bit of extra special teaching and 'cushioning'. Needless to say, the children and staff love Alfie. (Actually, I think he's one the sweetest dogs I've known.)



For the day's celebrations, the children were all dressed up in the party hats that they'd made. The afternoon was blessed with good weather, lots of goodies to eat and drink, including jelly of course, and a huge birthday cake. And it was a good opportunity for the children to meet some of the governors, including Mr Bridges, David Kidner, Geoff Berry and Dr Chris Leigh. The celebration went extremely well and was very much enjoyed, especially by the children.

Needless to say that one of my memorable moments of the day was seeing the Lady Mayoress who, when she was kindly offered

## Confirmation

Bishop Andrew will be here on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May next year at 10.30am to lead our annual Confirmation service. Do ask any of the clergy about Confirmation and what it means. We prepare very carefully, but not with a set course for all. It is a journey we make together. As with every shared journey, we keep the special needs of every one of our travelling companions in mind – and move at their pace.

Many of us grew up with Confirmation seeming almost like the end of the journey which began in baptism. (For some it was actually a passing-out parade.) It's not like that any more. People now seek baptism and confirmation in very different ways and at very different times in their lives, not as an end – but as a new beginning.

And it is not firstly about us confirming anything. It is about letting God confirm his promise in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may, in his strength, grow confidently in Christ as loving faithful friends and servants of others.

Preparation will begin in January, with a team led by John White – and all are very welcome, including those confirmed long ago as well as those still unsure if this really is meant for them. (It is!) Do ask.

## Commissioning a new chaplain

On Sunday 21st November at 3pm in New Life Baptist Church, Kings Heath, Churches Industrial Group Birmingham will be holding their annual Commissioning service for industrial chaplains. Among them, probably wearing hard hat, steel toe caps and Hi-Vis jacket, will be the new chaplain for the Longbridge site development. As it is our very Stephen Plant, churchwarden and friend, please be there if you can – and if not, surround him with your prayers.

## Craft Fair – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 2pm

Join us in Saint Nicolas Place and Church. Dozens of local craftspeople will be selling their seasonal wares – with entertainment and refreshments for all.

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me by my Christian upbringing. It was only when I moved to Kings Norton and was persuaded to do an Alpha Course by friends who attended a very charismatic church that I really understood what being a Christian was all about. I experienced the great love and joy of the Holy Spirit and have never looked back. I know that God loves me for who I am, despite my many failings. I never cease to be amazed at the prayers that get answered. I know that he has always been there for me, even at the lowest and most faithless points in my life. I believe every human being has great potential and that motivates me to do the professional work I do. This feels very interwoven with my faith too. It also provides me with the motivation to act as a workplace mediator, although this can be rather scary!

### What are your hobbies and interests?

A husband, two children and a cat, but certainly not the ironing! I also enjoy reading, cooking, eating out, listening to music, swimming, country walks, historic houses and opera and ballet when I get the chance.

### What are your best memories?

I'm sure I have many - getting married, my newborn children with loads of hair and amazingly perfect fingers!

### What's your favourite holiday place?

We go to France a lot and I must admit I feel a kind of connectedness with it. Mike and I had a fantastic holiday in Corsica in the Spring some years ago. It was a fabulous mixture of dramatic mountains, lush scented woodlands and golden beaches. In this country, I love going to Dorset.

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

It is very difficult to choose one book as there are so many good ones. I suppose once I worked my way through the Bible and the Complete Works of Shakespeare, I might as well go for "War and Peace" as I've only managed Anna Karenina so far!

### What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

When I first moved to Kings Norton, I remember being impressed by the lively and energetic clergy team and how much there was going on in the Parish, so I think we need to be thankful for what we have. I hope we can build on this and still manage to reach out and communicate the Christian message in an increasingly secular society. I suppose we might have to develop a "Facebook" page and broadcast services on "You Tube". The challenge is managing to connect with both the younger and older generations.



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

Regular worshipper at Immanuel, Clare Dean...



I'm known as Clare Dean in the Parish but many people know me by my maiden name of Clare Manson. I didn't really want to change my name when I got married but it all got a bit confusing! To top it all, my first name is actually Catherine and my second name Clare!



### **Where were you born?**

I was born at home in a place called Tutshill in Gloucestershire on the edge of the Wye Valley. Very near Wales, but definitely in England!

### **What is your occupation?**

My current job title is Leadership Development Manager which means I work in Learning and Development. I currently work in the local NHS and have responsibility for leading on management development and leadership.

### **Why Kings Norton?**

I moved to Kings Norton from London when I married Mike who had a house here, but I'm sure it was God who planned it.

### **Why is your Christian faith important to you?**

I went to church from a young age as my parents, particularly my mother, was very active in the parish. I believe I may have been the youngest member of the Mothers' Union as I attended in a pushchair! I attended Sunday School, then sang in two church choirs (there were four churches in the Parish) from about the age of 10. I have memories of wearing a damp choir gown, an incredibly uncomfortable mortar board and singing what I thought were interminable and really dreary chants! Singing in the choir stall opposite was Joanne Rowling (aka JK Rowling) and her little sister Diane. Weddings were one of the highlights of singing in the choir as a young teenager as you "roped" the guests. This meant blocking the lane leading down from the church by putting a rope across held at each end by members of the choir. The cars were only let through when the choir members were given some money. I'm sure this would count as criminal activity these days!

I now realize my early involvement in the church set the foundation for the development of my faith later as an adult. I was very lukewarm about faith in my twenties and quite angry about the restrictions I felt had been placed upon

## **St Nicolas Festival Weekend: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December** sees us in St Nicolas packing grab-bags for Troop Aid. They will go to those servicemen and women who come, often at very short notice with profound serious injury, to Selly Oak. Details of what to bring and what to do are in weekly newsletter.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December** is also special. We gather at 10.30am in St Nicolas for a special Parish Communion in which, with friends from the wider community, we seek to be renewed in our outward-looking service and concern for others - a first calling of Christ's disciples.

We then move into the churchyard. During the construction of Saint Nicolas Place, archaeologists uncovered the remains of a probably still-born infant, placed in the foundations of an earlier building sometime around AD1300. It is highly likely that they were placed there, outside the consecrated ground of the churchyard – but as near to it as an anxious mother could find - by a woman who had to keep the birth secret (as in Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles). We shall at last lay the infant's remains to rest and commend the baby and its mother to God, trusting, as we do now, in the promise of God in all lives cut short or rejected by men.

And then it's time for Sunday dinner! I hope that as many as possible will be able to join us for a Saint Nicolas Place special at £5 per head, so that we can celebrate our patron saint's day together. Please see the newsletter, website and parish Monthly Diary for details – and ring the Parish Office to book.

Do book the morning in now. It matters that, if only once a year, we all gather to share worship, remembering and a meal. Please join in!

### **Saint Nicolas Place**

Welcome to Abigail Roberts, our new Director! Abi will be building on all that Graeme Clarke did as Centre Manager and will work to make these amazing buildings open and "owned" by many more, especially in Kings Norton. Look out for Abi and for new developments when you next call in.

## Enriching Worship, Presence and Partnerships

Our parish Mission Statement says that we believe the church in Kings Norton is called to be a worshipping, transforming partnership in Christ. Jesus still says to his disciples “You are the light of the world, the salt of the earth.” He also taught that we are the leaven in the lump of the world’s dough. Faith and Christian life are not fulfilled only in what we each do by ourselves. God has a better way and a much deeper calling; that together, in all our variety, we should be Christ’s Body, servants together of his Kingdom of life, love, peace and justice in this world and the next.

So, within the Team, I am committed to:

- ◇ helping every congregation to reflect on the worship they currently offer and see how it may grow;
- ◇ leading our planning together for repair and re-ordering of St Nicolas;
- ◇ ensuring that we have strong partnership with our church school, Saint Nicolas Place and every venture for good change in the parish;
- ◇ developing the list of contacts, causes and needs we gathered on St Nicolas Day last year and acting and praying on gaps and opportunities;
- ◇ ensuring that we are present and active in the community life of the parish and wider church – and understand why and how we do this.

Worship and partnership may seem to be at opposite ends of church life. Worship is what we do in church. Partnership is what we seek outside church. One is what many feel the church is really for – to provide religious services. The other forms the good works which Christians ought to do.

But as Jayne says, “Relationship is at the heart of our Christian faith: Relationship with God, with each other and with the world in which we live.” And John shows how we can grow in making Kings Norton Team Parish “the richest possible environment in which those of all ages and all backgrounds, and at every stage of their own faith journey, may be enabled to flourish as disciples of Jesus, for the sake of the Kingdom of God.” Partnership, relationship and discipleship are lived out in all we do – and we learn them and grow in them most fully in our worship together, in which together we pray:

God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives that we may see your goodness in the land of the living and, looking on your beauty, may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rob Morris

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

The weather had been awful over the last few days so it was rather nice to take Zooka (my dog) out for an early morning walk on a dry day. She has become very famous of late. My lovely neighbour, Arthur, had celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and because he met his wife Jean at the dog track, where they both worked, they wanted a photo of Zooka to go on the cake because she looks like a greyhound. The picture was taken and it looked wonderful on the cake. The only trouble was, no one felt they could eat the part of the cake with her picture on! The result of all this has been people coming up to her when we are out walking and giving her a good fuss, saying, ‘Oh aren’t you the dog that was on Arthur’s birthday cake?’ What it is to be the owner of a celebrity dog!

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Having taken a funeral at Lodge Hill Crematorium, I spent the rest of the day working from home catching up on emails, phone calls and other administration; it does tend to pile up. In the evening, the Police were around the back of my house. Apparently, there had been a burglary and one of my neighbours had seen the people running away. The burglars had thrown the stuff they didn’t want into people’s gardens, so we were asked to check our gardens for any items. It reminded me of the time I was burgled when I lived in Norwich. It leaves a very bad feeling indeed.



# Rebecca's Diary...

My holiday in late August/September seems a very long time ago now as I am well and truly back into ministry in the parish. Here are the extracts from my October diary.



Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

I went over to Leicester to attend the very last service of my dear friend, David, who was retiring from full time ministry as a parish priest. David and Mair (his wife) have been amazing people, working very much as a team in the parish, both here in Birmingham Diocese and then in Leicestershire. At the service there wasn't a dry eye in the place, but there was also much laughter as happy memories were shared. I feel very fortunate indeed to have such friends and, if it wasn't for David seeing something in me about being a priest, I probably wouldn't be here today!

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

Once a term, I go along to Hawkesley Church School Nursery and have some time with the children and teachers. There is something rather lovely about sitting amongst a lively group of small children. It was my first visit this term and so all the children were new and finding their way into how nursery works. At one point I explained to the children that the white band around my neck was called a dog collar. One little girl called out, 'I've got a dog and he's got a collar!!' There wasn't much I could say after that!

## "Christmas gets earlier every year...."

So why is there a Christmas Tree in St Nicolas on Advent Sunday? It's not a Christmas Tree, it's a Jesse Tree.

Each day in Advent, another decoration will be added: something that symbolises an ancestor of Jesus or a Prophecy about him.

Jesse is an ancestor of Jesus (see Matthew 1 or Luke 3) and the tradition of Jesse Trees goes back a very long way: there are famous examples in the windows at York Minster and Chartres Cathedral and many others to be found in illustrated manuscripts, embroideries, mosaics, carvings and wall paintings.

Various groups meeting in St Nicolas will place the daily symbol on the tree and there will be an explanation near the tree to help everyone to understand why Christmas seems to have come early at St Nicolas.

Sylvia Fox

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE

For anyone who would like to do their own Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child boxes this year, here are the details.

(We are supporting other charities instead this year, including Troop Aid.)  
All the information is on their website [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk)

There are four local drop-off points which are receiving parcels between Monday 1st November and Thursday 18th November. If you miss the collection date, don't despair, we can always make sure it goes to a local child in need via the Toy Service at St Nicolas (Dec 12th) or our links with local family and child support charities.

Drop-off points:

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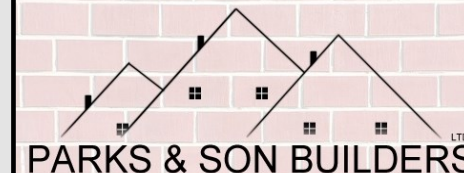
PHONE FALLON'S FIRST

**CALOR**

**CALOR**



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 13th November. 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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## KINGS NORTON FARMERS' MARKET

Kings Norton Farmers' Market was re-established in 2005 and we meet on The Green, Kings Norton on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9am to 2pm.

The Market has proved to be a popular venue with shoppers and has won the FARMA (National Farmers' Market Association) Midlands Farmers' Market of the Year Award in 2007 and 2008 and was Regional Finalist for 2010.

There is an average of 30 stalls selling a wide range of produce varying from fresh vegetables, green grocery, bread, fresh and cooked meats, pastries, cakes, pies and eggs – all locally produced. Other vendors sell fish, home made soup, honey, plants, flowers and many other products



combining to make a visit to the Market a unique shopping experience.

Our motto is "GET FRESH" because we believe in local fresh produce being made available to the general public directly from the producers.

We are a Community Interest Company and all profits generated by the Market are used to support local community projects.

Please note that whilst parking is at a premium on The Green, there is free parking available in the car park of the Navigation Inn, in Wharf Road, a short walk from The Green.

For more information, please go to our website: [www.kingsnortonfarmersmarket.org.uk](http://www.kingsnortonfarmersmarket.org.uk) or telephone Terry Bowen (0121 459 9383) or Alan Johnson (0121 689 6560). Thank you.

Terry Bowen

## Bishop's Comment

### Public Faith

The sun shone through the rain as the Pope arrived in Birmingham on Sunday 19th September. Standing to greet him with the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Paul Sabapathy, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, Councillor Len and Mrs Gill Gregory, the Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, and the Cabinet member for Cohesion, Councillor Alan Rudge, I reflected that the home team were all practising Christians.

Earlier in the morning, I had read out some thoughts of Blessed John Henry Newman in the live Radio 4 service broadcast from Cofton Park. He valued conscience and practical compassion very highly and was known for his care for the poor and vulnerable in the city.

Now we have to build on all the fine words and aspirations from not only Newman and Benedict XVI, but also from Archbishop Rowan and Prime Minister, David Cameron. The themes are emerging: faith is a valued, essential part of a plural British society; Christian conviction leads to a sharing in promoting the common good; a new appreciation of our hard-won polity (rule of law; parliamentary democracy; the dignity of human beings; freedom of speech) and a healthy common sense about being generous neighbours.

How will these inherited benefits continue to bear fruit in the months and years to come when people are worried about the economy and severe cut backs in government spending, anxious about the destabilising of international relations both by terrorism and by shifts in global super-power and uncertain about sustaining a viable planet for an increasing population?

Most of us work out our lives locally and personally. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour, with his perfect relationship with God the Father, taught and served with compassion and sacrifice, in the power of the Holy Spirit so that ordinary people might know love and purpose, challenge and direction. Christians today are called to participate with the risen Christ in building this Kingdom of God.

We need to be more appreciative of our British society and its remarkable constitution and to articulate in word and deed, prophetically, the changes and initiatives that are necessary for human flourishing.

One way I hope you might act prophetically is to join me at the Birmingham launch of Redeeming Our Communities that is being held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham City Centre on November 16th. You may recall that I highlighted this initiative at the Transforming Disciples Conference last autumn.

The launch will give us all a chance to hear how Christians are getting involved in the work of God across the city in a way that is already transforming lives and localities. Redeeming Our Communities is a way in which we can make new connections that transcend denominational and other boundaries. It will help us all ignite a renewed vision for the city and region.

+David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

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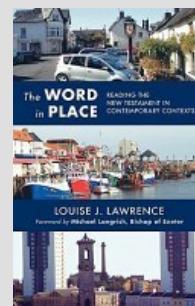
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## Book Review

### "The Word in Place: Reading the New Testament in Contemporary Contexts"

by Louise J. Lawrence (SPCK 2009).



I think the illustration on the cover of this book might have sold it to me, even without its excellent content. The picture is made up of three photos of three very different places in the South West, where my family and I lived for about fifteen years before coming to Birmingham. The first is of Devonport dockyard in Plymouth. The second is of the village church and pub in Drewsteignton, on the edge of Dartmoor. The third is of fishing boats in the harbour of the Cornish village of Newlyn. I ought to admit at the beginning of this review that the author is a friend of mine, who I got to know whilst doing studies at Exeter University; Louise had herself done a PhD at Exeter and then returned, after some time lecturing in Scotland, to head up the research project which resulted in this fascinating book.

Louise brought together small groups of people in each of those local communities in Devon and Cornwall and helped them to reflect on some passages from St Luke's Gospel that had something to do with the theme of "place". Similarly, she gathered a group of people from the deaf community in the South West, as well as a group of clergy. The discussions were examples of what has been called "Contextual Bible Study" – perhaps a rather off-putting phrase that simply means allowing our reading of the Bible to be shaped by, and to shape, the places to which we belong. As someone who enjoys listening to folk music, I prefer Louise's description of the groups as offering "folk readings" of the Bible: this is about ordinary people, not necessarily all church-goers by any means, reflecting on the echoes between the Gospel stories and the down to earth situations in their own lives and localities. For example, those in the Cornish fishing village of Newlyn, who still had very vivid and traumatic memories of the Penlee lifeboat disaster, brought insights and perspectives to the story of Jesus stilling the storm on Lake Galilee that a landlubber like me would never have thought of.

However, it is not only the insights into the Bible that people from these different communities have generated that excites me about "The Word in Place". Even more exciting is the thought that the same kind of groups that met in those places in Devon and Cornwall could also very fruitfully meet in different places here in our own parish. I wrote a little bit in last month's magazine about the hope that we could see a number of "Roots" groups being set up across the parish over the next year or so. These would be groups in which space were given for us to make connections between the words of the Bible and the everyday realities of our lives and local communities. Do have a chat with me if this sounds something you might be interested in. I am convinced that it is when the Word is read "in place" that it can really come alive for us and make a difference, to ourselves and to our communities.

John White

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## *Women's Fellowship*

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at our usual time of 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St. Nicolas Place.

The programme is to be 'A Night at the Musicals' – a singalong with Tony Breedon playing his keyboard.

New members are welcome – just come along.

Alison Blumer, Chairman

## **CAFÉ T**

Dates and topics for November and December:

2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Birmingham Diocese Mission in Malawi - Rev Rosemary Donovan
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Holistic approach to Learning - Mrs Therese Allen (Head Teacher of Wychall Primary School)
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Methodist -Anglican Conversation – Rev Donald Sampson or Cannon Rob Morris
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Experiencing 'The Holy Land' - Rev Jayne Crooks
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Vocation and Mission - Rev John White (Cafe T's last meeting)
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Social get-together.

## **KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Don Hazzard and Rick Simpson will tell us about "More Victoria Crosses awarded to men born in Birmingham". Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings. Doors open at 7.00 p.m. and the talk will start at 7.30 p.m.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

## Holy Rescue, Batman!

Sylvia Fox had contacted the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) for help after she nearly stepped on a grounded bat when she was preparing for the Harvest Service in the area near the Passion Week Cross. Sylvia had seen something flying in the church before the weekend but thought it was a bird. She realized today that the object she thought was a leaf on the floor was a bat! The BCT gave Sylvia my number and I called her back when I got home from work. After a chat, we agreed I would call Canon Morris and arrange a time for me to go and pick it up.

When we entered the church, we soon found the double box set up where Sylvia had left the bat. She had placed a cardboard box over it, put a small dish of water nearby and then put a green city council recycling crate over the lot, with a label on top. I carefully lifted off each layer and found no bat. I was not that surprised, tiny as they are, weighing about 4 grammes, they are very strong and persistent if trapped. Even if the bat was weakened from a few days inside the church, it had still squeezed out. Canon Morris and I searched around the area in likely places, such as on fabric and the standards. But the church is, of course, not a sensible place to start looking for such a tiny animal. As we gave up and turned away, I saw it on the tiled floor, right in the middle of the nave.



The bat looked dusty and rather thin, but it was an adult male Common Pipistrelle in good breeding condition, as he should be at this time of year. With relief, we left the church and I popped in to St. Nicolas Place to show the bat, now safely in a clear carrying cage, to the Brownies and the member of staff. I have fed and watered the bat and given him peace and quiet in a safe dark box. I will feed him up on mealworms over the next couple of days and then I will release him in the churchyard so he can get on with mating and preparing to hibernate.

We know that there are bats in and around the buildings on The Green and it was great to be able to help with one and share him. Thank you to Sylvia, Canon Morris and Brown Owl, her team and all the Brownies for help and a warm welcome.



If you find a bat please go to [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) for help or call the Bat Helpline 0845 1300 228 (local rate). The Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group site is [www.brumbats.org.uk](http://www.brumbats.org.uk)

Chris Sherlock, Training Officer,  
Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group.



# SKITTLES NIGHT!

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Tickets are now available from Susan Haynes and must be bought in advance.  
Ticket price does not include food. Feel free to eat before you come, bring your own food, order fish and chips when buying your ticket or order pizza during the evening!

For more information, please contact Susan ( 0121 459 4711 )

## GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



As mentioned in last month's edition of the parish magazine, Animal Welfare Sunday was on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010, which we celebrated at Immanuel Church. I led a service to celebrate this.

I feel really passionately about animal welfare in the farming industry and that is why I want to tell as many people as possible about some of the conditions the animals we eat every day are kept in.

In the service there was some congregation participation. I had Jon Crooks in a mock version of a sow stall showing how pigs in the EU are kept, I demonstrated how little space a chicken has to live in and I spoke of how I drive my wife, Nicky, round the bend going shopping as I read the label on everything.

Over 60 billion animals are farmed for food around the world each year with over 50 billion of them being chickens. The majority, almost 70% of these animals, are factory farmed. Factory farmed chickens are kept in big sheds known as broiler sheds which are similar in size to the hall that Immanuel Church meets in. If the hall were a broiler shed, there would be nearly 4000 chickens in there and each chicken would have less space than an A4 sheet of paper, which works out as 19 birds per square metre.

The life of a standard factory farmed chicken is just 39 days. Their weight increases so rapidly that they often go lame. The life of a free range chicken is around 56 days. This gives the bird more time to put on weight and they have more room with there being less than 12 birds per square metre.

The Bible teaches us in Genesis that God entrusted us with the responsibility of looking after his creations and we should not take advantage of that.

For more information, please go to [www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk) (Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals) or to [www.ciwf.org.uk](http://www.ciwf.org.uk) (Compassion in World Farming).

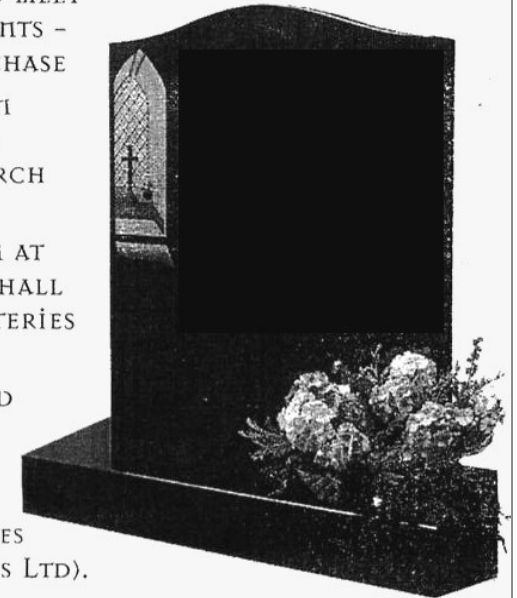
Thank you for taking the time to read this.

David Moorcroft  
on behalf of Immanuel Church.

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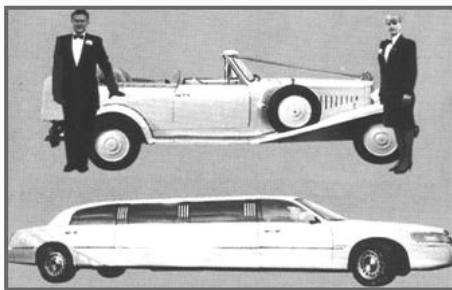
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## Harvest at Hawkesley

Our Harvest Celebrations were most inspiring because of the high quality of participation by many children and young people. The excellent effort made in the school celebration by the pupils and staff ensured that amid our wealth of gifts we did not forget those, in so many countries, who struggle to obtain food and basic needs.

Our service on the following Sunday was attended by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and instrumentalists from the school led by the Deputy Headteacher, Mr. Graham Gill. Each organisation made a presentation aimed to enrich our gratitude for the immense wealth of gifts we too easily take for granted. Our congregation, of nearly seventy people, was challenged to be truly grateful.

On both occasions, an attractive display of harvest produce enriched the event. A little of this was kept for local distribution but most was taken to 'The Sweet Project Centre' in Cotteridge where personnel are engaged in support work amongst needy families across the community - around a hundred at present!

Donald Sampson and Rebecca Pullin

*In response to the PCC's gift of £500 over the summer as part of the Outward Giving programme:*

### HAWKESLEY SCHOOL'S BREAKFAST CLUB

We are a small church school in a deprived area. The Breakfast Club gives the children a good start to the school mornings. We provide healthy food and lots of fun activities for every child.

Unfortunately, we can only cater for some of the children - 28 at present - due to overhead expenses. We already run on a deficit.

From the staff and the children who attend Breakfast Club, thank you for your donation. We really appreciate your help.

If anybody would like to donate any money to maintain our Breakfast Club for the future, please send your cheque to Hawkesley Church Primary School, 376 Shannon Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 9TR.

Thank you.

Mrs. D Johnson, Pastoral Manager.



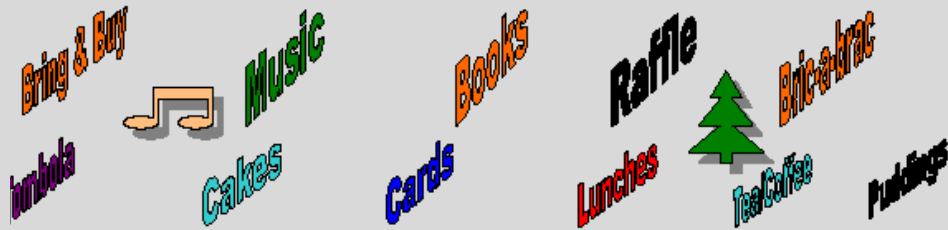
# EVENTS AT HAWKESLEY CHURCH



Please come and join us on Saturday  
**27<sup>th</sup> November** at  
 Hawkesley Church Centre,  
 Old Portway (off Shannon Road)  
 Hawkesley, Kings Norton. B38 9TR  
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## Hawkesley Christmas Fayre

From 11am to 2pm - Entrance only 20p



**Girl Guides running Children's activities**

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## September 2010 Baptisms

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

5 <sup>th</sup> September	Sarah-Jayne Hancox
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Tiffanie-Jayne Heard
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Ruby Isobella Jones
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Joshua Daniel Jones
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Kiall Charlie Buller
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Joshua Stephen Buller
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Lola-Rae Coat
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Bailey Hayden Davies
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Jaimi Ellouse Grace Henderson

Sep-

## tember 2010 Marriages

3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Simon Justin Firkins and Anna Elizabeth Ludford
4 <sup>th</sup> September	John Sydney Bennett and Lesley Jane Bishop
4 <sup>th</sup> September	David Jhon Martin and Sophie Katherine Hoey
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Richard James Wheeler and Lilu Odedra
18 <sup>th</sup> September	David John Halfpenny and Emma Patricia Orchard
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Thomas John Walsh and Rebecca Marie Partridge
18 <sup>th</sup> September	James Joseph Hasan and Alison Zoe Molloy
18 <sup>th</sup> September	David John O'Niell and Susan Elizabeth Quiney
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Robert Paul Maddocks and Lynn Marie Clark
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Kristopher Stirk and Bonnie B-J S B M T Pollard
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Alan Peter Smith and Emily Jayne Wevill
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Leighton Phillips and Hayley Vanessa Campbell

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He not only made you, but God made everything - the stars, planets, trees, flowers and the animals...**GOD MADE THE WHOLE LOT!**

You name it God made it!

All words in **bold** can be found in the Word Search below.

Can you find all 10 of them?

M	A	T	C	H	L	E	S	S	I
F	A	N	T	A	S	T	I	C	M
P	S	I	T	H	J	L	C	E	P
W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	R
Q	O	C	P	U	N	I	Q	U	E
G	F	R	H	O	E	U	Q	S	S
A	W	E	S	O	M	E	S	B	S
G	F	D	A	S	J	Y	S	K	I
B	R	I	L	L	I	A	N	T	V
U	Q	B	H	O	P	S	D	B	E
D	X	L	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G
O	N	E	O	F	A	K	I	N	D

Dear God,  
Thank you for our wonderful bodies.  
They are brilliant, just like you.  
Your creation is amazing.  
Everything is so wonderfully designed.  
My God, my Friend,  
You truly are One of a Kind.  
Amen.

## CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone!

What would you say if I told you that you were **AMAZING?!!** Take a look at yourself in the mirror; you are truly **FANTASTIC!!**

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Just look at your hands and your fingertips too. Did you know that they are totally **UNIQUE** to you? Not one other person in the whole world has the same finger print as you!



The same goes for your tongue too. Your tongue print is **MATCHLESS**. It also happens to be the strongest muscle in your body.



This leads us to the fact that you have more than 600 muscles in your body. **BRILLIANT** or what?!

I almost forgot to mention, you have a skeleton too. Your skeleton is made up of an **IMPRESSIVE** 206 bones, with more than half (106) of them being in your hands and feet. Your largest bone is your thigh bone and your smallest is your stirrup, which can be found in your ear. Did you know that your bones are stronger than



concrete? Without any bones or muscles inside you, you would be like a wobbly jelly, wobbling and flopping all over the place.



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## Septmeber 2010 Funerals

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Albert Smith, 82. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	George Halford, 87. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Mary Staite, 77. Service in St Nicolas, burial at Wythall Cemetery.
8 <sup>th</sup> September	John Bernard Insley, 81. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
9 <sup>th</sup> September	David John Brookes, 72. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Emily Carr, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Joan Gillespie, 87. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Brenda Christine Pinder, 71. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

### At Saint Nicolas Place

#### Women's Fellowship

7.30pm 1st Thursdays. 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): Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.30 pm  
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm  
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15 - 9.00 pm

#### Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm  
Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm  
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

#### Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)

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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

Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468  
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or just enjoy our Cafe and Shop (open 10am - 4pm Mon-Saturday).

All enquiries – and to plan and book your event - phone **0121 458 1223**

Email: [info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk](mailto:info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk) Website: [www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk](http://www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk)

**Staff Team** Director: Abigail Roberts. Commercial Manager: Kerry Horsfield.  
Heritage and Learning Manager: Megan Nass. Bookings & Enquiries: Andrew Driscoll.

### Kings Norton Parish Office

St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU. 0121 458 3289  
e-mail:- [parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk) Open: 10 am - 1pm Monday to Friday.  
Parish website [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://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](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk), ask at services or Open Church times or at Parish Office on 0121 458 3289 (Mon-Fri 10am – 1pm). The weekly newsletter and monthly events diary have the latest information. Churchyard enquiries to Parish Office.

#### 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

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

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

<b>Treasurer</b> (Subscriptions)	Alan Haynes 459 4711 <a href="mailto:editor@kingsnorton.org.uk">editor@kingsnorton.org.uk</a>
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Alison Blumer 486 2837
<b>Parish Website</b>	Evelyn Finn via Parish Office 458 3289 David Ash e-mail <a href="mailto:webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk">webmaster@kingsnorton.org.uk</a>

#### Bell Ringers Ringling Master

*Practice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower*  
Jim Dunn 744 6334



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[www.undertakers.uk.com](http://www.undertakers.uk.com)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE  
FUNERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

## 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

*2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Taizé Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Compline (Night Prayer) with a reflection

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

**Mon, Wed, Thu** 9am Morning Prayer

**Thursday** 11am 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 Partway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR.*

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

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion;

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Morning Worship;

4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (Market Day)

### Candlelit Church

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

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music.

*Arrive at any time; stay for any length of time - as you wish.*

### Tiny Tots

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

## Growing in Faith

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

## Baptisms and Marriages

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

## Helping to keep our parish church open for all

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