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

Welcome.....

especially this time to Rev John White who is joining the clergy team. He has written introducing himself on page 7.

Briefly, the future of the Farmer's Market on Kings Norton Green seemed in doubt. The story ended happily and you can read more on page 21.

Rebecca's Diary is back, reflecting on the snowy start to the year. It sounds like Zooka, her dog, enjoyed the snow—even if the rest of us got fed up with it! Page 36.

Friend of Tiny Tots and Chair of Women's Fellowship, Marlene Collyer is this month's 'Parish Person'. You can read her interview on page 38.

Lent begins in February this year and Rob has written challenging us to join in God's climate change in the lead up to Easter. Read more on page 4.

Alan Haynes, Editor



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Thank you.

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

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CLIMATE OR WEATHER?

A different Christmas. Snow really had fallen, snow on snow. The earth was hard as iron. Bits of the canal did have water like a stone. And bugs were rife.

We managed, thanks to grace and to determined acts of clearing and caring – and had the delight in mid-January of a sunny Sunday when, ice and bug free at last, most of us could gather in church.

Many were isolated, hurt and at risk, but good neighbours, extra layers, careful shopping and shovels got most of us through.

We could deal with the weather - but climate is different. Weather comes and goes. Climate changes much more slowly. Weather, like life, can change day by day. It can cause emergencies and sudden change – but how we get through depends on how we have prepared for changing climate.

Genesis 41 tells the story of Joseph making sure that in seven years of plenty the people of Egypt gathered enough to ensure that they had bread for all in seven years of famine. The Gospels keep bringing us back to God's gift of inner change so that we and the church can grow in love and life for every climate, not just endure changes in weather.

The horrors of the Haiti earthquake were made far worse by centuries of exploitation, violence, deforestation and debt repayment. Unlike most other sudden disaster areas, there is no underlying structure of public order, medical care, transport, education and good government. Without these, tragedy turns to a nightmare, in which only selfless action, including ours, can bring relief.

Much nearer home, the sale of Cadbury's - and the risk to local jobs and life - is caused by a climate in which those who treat God's creation only as a place to make a fast buck can walk all over those who earn their living by honest work and real enterprise.

In church life too, we have grown used to managing changes in the weather as day to day events unfold. But it is the underlying climate we must now address in Lent and beyond. It is God's climate of prayer, commitment and growth in faith and love together in Christ which will make the real lasting difference, in Kings Norton and much more widely. This must be our concern this Lent. Please join us.

Rob Morris

Abide with me

Abide with me; fast falls the
eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with
me abide.
When other helpers fail and
comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with
me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's
little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories
pass away;
Change and decay in all around I
see;
O Thou who changest not, abide
with me.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing
word,
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy
disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient,
free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide
with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King
of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in
Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for every
plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus
abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth
didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse
meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
Thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with
me.

I need Thy presence every passing
hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the
tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay
can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord,
abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where,
grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my
closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point
me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's
vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with
me.

HISTORY OF HYMNS

Abide with me

**Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1847/Music:
William H. Monk, 1861**

My first meeting of “Abide with me” was at an evensong as a young chorister of about 13. I’d not met it at school as it was deemed “too adult”. A choir mate and I commented that we liked it after we’d finished the service, though we couldn’t really put into words why. We realised it wasn’t really about the natural evening, but more about the end of life, although we were singing it as an evening hymn.

I was reminded of this first meeting a few weeks ago, when I met verses 3-5 for the first time at a funeral I was playing for. Yes, the verses are all very much “of their period” in phraseology, but that “I will always abide with you” certainty is still so clear. It doesn’t tell of a faith and a God that are great when everything is going well and to plan; but it talks instead of a God who is there through both “cloud and sunshine” and doesn’t melt away when it all goes pear-shaped.

Henry Lyte wrote it when he was dying of TB, still only in his mid 50’s. He based it on the story in Luke 24 (vv 13 -35) where the traveller is asked to “abide with us” for the night and he made it his own prayer.

I have found that it grows, rather than diminishes, in meaning as time goes on and as life gathers more dents and bruises. Re-read the hymn and the Luke passage now – with fresh eyes.

Sylvia Fox



NEWS!

A new priest for Kings Norton

From 31st January, we have at last a new Team Vicar. The Revd John White will be joining us. Please pray for him and his family – and for us all. John’s arrival will enable us to re-shape the way that clergy, readers and lay gifts and ministries are best used in the growth of God’s church in Kings Norton. Climate change here too!

A new Head for Hawkesley

Mrs Gill James, supported by Mrs Julie Berrow, is now Head at our school, Hawkesley Church Primary. We can now look forward to (yet more) climate change as they work together with Governors, staff, parents and, above all, the children. It has been a hard year or so – and I am very grateful for God’s grace in the faithful prayer and commitment of so many to bring us through. Don’t stop praying now, for Hawkesley and for all local schools. They are all under huge pressure from inspection regimes, changing policies and ever increasing bureaucracy. But the children and their growth are our first and last concern. They always must be.

Sale at last!

We have talked for years about sale of Team Vicarages to the diocese. It is the diocese’s responsibility to house Team Vicars – and they do it well. The proceeds allow us to put back in various church funds all that was “borrowed” to complete Restoration. The Church Council will consider all this very carefully and report to church members. Another climate change!

LENT 2010

Growth – inward and outward

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 17th February. We shall be asking all connected with the church in Kings Norton to take Lent very seriously this year, with weekday activities and groups – and on Sundays too!

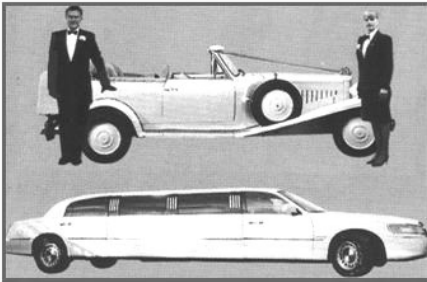
Saturday 6th February, 10am – 12 noon in St Nicolas

We shall launch our Lent programme, explore questions and arrange groups. Please join us for the morning – and look to receive all details in the following week.

Please join God’s climate change!

Rob Morris

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Why is your faith important to you?

My faith has always been very important to me. My mother made sure it was always a part of our family life. I strongly believe I have been taken care of and I say thank you for each day I am given and for God's many blessings throughout my life.

What are your hobbies and interests?

My hobbies are baking, gardening, making cards, sewing when I get time, walking my little dog Sparky and my computer. I enjoy contacting and talking to my son and grandchildren in New Zealand and keeping in touch with friends and family around the world. I get a great deal of pleasure from helping with the Seniors' Club and with Tiny Tots. These mean a great deal to me, as does being a member of the Women's Fellowship, along with a great group of members who have become very good friends.

What are your best memories?

My best memories are of the happy times we had when the children were growing up and the years we spent in Malaysia. Also the many happy years we spent at St Francis Church, Nottingham and being involved in all the church activities as a family. I was Confirmed with my children in Nottingham. I have enjoyed seeing all my children being happily married and having three beautiful grandchildren.

What's your favourite holiday place?

My favourite holiday places are Yorkshire, Scotland, and Norway, where I spent many happy times with all the family, but my love of Malaysia will always stay with me.

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

I would want to take my mum's box of treasures which I keep adding to as it's full of lovely memories. My book would have to be my Bible so I could read in peace.

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

My hopes for the church would be for it to keep on growing and be a place of hope for our young and future generations. To be treated with respect and always a place of welcome for everyone.



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

This month we meet the Chair of Women's Fellowship,
Marlene Collyer



Where were you born?

I was born in Redcar, Cleveland, being one of eighteen: fourteen girls and four boys. I am six from the youngest and when I was only a few weeks' old, the whole family was evacuated to Wensleydale, Yorkshire, where we were made tenants on Lord Bolton's and given a farm to work. Here I spent the first ten years of my childhood before moving to Lincolnshire. Then, when I left school at fifteen, I went to work in service in Long Eaton in Nottingham. I met my late husband when I was twenty one who was in the Royal Navy. We lived in Plymouth for a few months before travelling to South Africa on board a ship which took us six weeks. From there we travelled to quite a few countries.

What was your occupation?

My first occupation was in service in a large restaurant where I was given the chance to go and take a course in Hotel and Catering. Then I met Bob, who became my husband. We had our first son in Singapore where we spent over three happy years and also in Johore Bahru, Malaysia. We had our daughter back in the UK in Nottingham, followed by our second son.

Why Kings Norton?

We came to Kings Norton just over twenty five years ago with my husband's work at National Grid. St Nicolas became our church. It is where our daughter was married twenty years ago and it is where my late husband's memorial service was held after his burial at sea. My daughter-in-law was also Confirmed at St Nicolas.



WELCOME JOHN!

I am thrilled to be joining the Kings Norton team, to serve as Team Vicar here. I hope that before long I will have had the chance to meet as many as possible of you face to face, but until then, it seemed a good idea to write a few words to give you a bit of an idea of who I am. My name is John. I am married to Priscilla, who is also ordained, and we have three children, Debbie (18), David (16) and Nathan (11). For the last few years, I have been serving as a non-stipendiary minister, whilst looking after the family and working towards a doctorate (completed at last!) in biblical studies. I also enjoy spending time cooking, walking on the Clent Hills, listening to music, and following the fortunes, and frequent misfortunes, of Newcastle United.

We have been living in Birmingham for about four and a half years now, since Priscilla's appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St Faith and St Laurence, Harborne. As she will be continuing in that post, I will be commuting into Kings Norton from Harborne each day – a way of working that's still quite unusual amongst the clergy, even if completely normal for everybody else! I can assure you that I aim to be just as involved and available here as I would be if living in the parish.

Before coming to Birmingham, Priscilla and I ministered for about fifteen years in Devon. After being curates for a while on an estate on the northern edge of Plymouth (wonderfully located for hikes on Dartmoor), I joined the North Sutton Team Ministry, also in Plymouth, as Team Vicar. One of the many things I learned from my time there was how much I enjoyed working alongside other clergy and lay people, rather than in the traditional pattern of "one Vicar for one church". That's one of the reasons I'm so pleased to be joining Rob, Jayne, Rebecca, Donald, Fay, Ruth and Jess in the ministry team here in Kings Norton and Druids Heath, and especially at what looks set to be a very exciting time in our journey together as a parish.

A major part of my role as Team Vicar will be to help all of us, young and not-so-young, to take opportunities to grow in our faith, in our understanding and in our service of God. I am convinced that all God's people are called to serve God's kingdom in many different ways and with many different gifts. I look forward to playing a part in building upon the good things that are already happening here so that, more and more, we may all be equipped and encouraged to share in God's work in God's world. It's an exciting challenge!

John White, Team Vicar of Kings Norton – from 31st January

Say One for Me

Isaiah 12. 2-5

“Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say
on that day:
Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.”
(NRSV Version)

At the turn of the year, I have been thinking about some verses at the beginning of Isaiah Chapter 12 that talk about the promise of salvation. After the excitement of Christmas, we may feel tired and run down. Our mood can also be affected by the dark winter months. The prophet's faith affirms that fear, weakness and sadness, that can so easily dominate, are overcome by the greater reality of God's gift of salvation experienced in trust, strength and joy.

When I first came to Birmingham, I smashed a clay jar in the Cathedral to remind us that God uses the fragility of our humanity to reveal his glory. At the heart of our salvation is a crucified Lord Jesus, raised from the dead. Our vulnerability is to live in the faith that 'there is salvation in no one else' (Acts 4:12).

This is particularly true when we are talking about the power of prayer. Last year, my colleague, the Bishop of Worcester, began an initiative called 'Say One For Me.' On Ash Wednesday he visited a job centre in Redditch and asked the people there if he could pray for them. The vast majority agreed and filled in a prayer card – and that night in the cathedral he prayed for the people he had met.

the waiting room when she had her injection, this time she was as quiet as a mouse when she had her booster jab. After taking her home, I went back to the Parish Office to get on with some work and it snowed so I ended up being stuck there for longer than expected. When I eventually got home, I had lots to catch up on including some very long and difficult phone calls.

Thursday 7th

I managed to get into Hawkesley Church Primary School despite the snow. It was good to see parents and children again after the Christmas break and to see the staff back in action. All felt very positive and in good heart. Unfortunately through the day the weather got worse and so some of the things taking place at church were cancelled. I was due to give a talk to the 'Women's Fellowship' in the evening but that got cancelled too. I used the time to do some work on the computer.

Wednesday 13th

Woke up to another heavy fall of snow. I took Zooka out for her early morning walk. She loves the snow and becomes like a mini snow plough as she sticks her head into it. When she comes up for air she has usually has a blob of snow on the end of her nose which stays there until it melts and then she puts her nose back into the snow again. It all makes for a fun walk and some strange looks from those who pass us by!

I spent a lot of time on the phone talking to people and checking folk were ok, especially those stuck at home and unable to get out because of the snow. I rang the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to see how one of our church members was doing. She is very ill indeed and before she went into hospital I used to visit her at home. At the moment she is on an isolation ward and not allowed any visitors. I'll be glad when I can go and see her again.

Rebecca's Diary...



January, of course, was the month when we seemed to have endless snow, which we all thought would never end. Here are a few extracts from that snow-bound January 2010.

Fri January 1st

Having spent New Year's Eve with friends and watched the fireworks display over Birmingham, I spent New Year's Day at home doing very mundane jobs like cleaning. I also managed to iron all my clergy shirts and, of course, catch up on emails.

Saturday 2nd

As I usually do on a Saturday morning, I went down to 'Knit, Natter and Coffee,' held at St. Nicolas Church. Unfortunately when I got there, it had been cancelled, but then I bumped into a rather lovely man who attends St. Nicolas Church and he took me under his wing and walked me back to his house for a coffee and bun. We were joined by his daughter and so I ended up having a good catch up on all their news and a good cup of coffee into the bargain! I spent the afternoon pondering and writing up my sermon for Sunday morning.

Monday 4th

Today was the day when Zooka (as in the dog!) had her vaccination booster, so off we went early in the morning to the vet. She is very good at the vet's, but tends to get nervous and so shakes from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail. Unlike last year when she screamed the place down and upset all the other dogs and cats in

I hope to develop this movement of prayer in Birmingham this year and make myself available to gather prayers from people who are feeling weak and in need. Prayer is something all Christians can offer which is widely welcomed. Recent statistics showed around 65% of people in England pray.

I hope you will join me this winter and when you hear that someone is fed up or you hear about a local need, you'll be ready to say "I'll pray for you." And while you're on your knees, do say one for me.

+David, Bishop of Birmingham

Prayer for Haiti

O God, our refuge and strength,
we hold before you the nation and
people of Haiti
and pray for healing in the midst of
tragedy and devastation.



Give comfort to the homeless,
the bereaved and the suffering,
courage to survivors,
wisdom to those who seek to help
and light to all who live in the shadow
of death.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,
our rock and our salvation. **Amen.**



COFFEE MORNING

Fit 4 Life are holding a Coffee Morning in aid of the British Heart Foundation on 25th February at Hawkesley Community Centre from 10am to 12.30pm. Please support this worthy cause if you are able to. Thank you.

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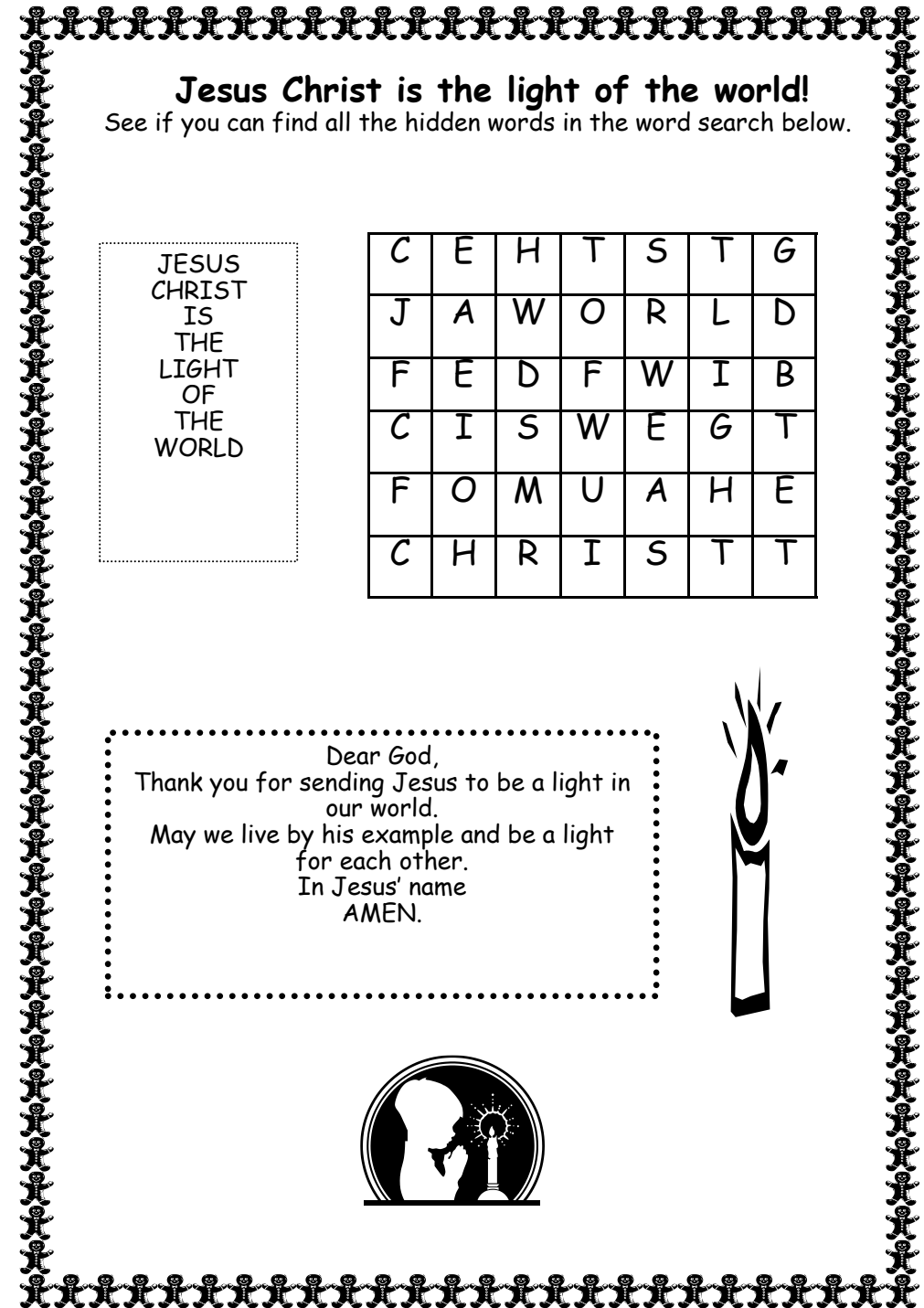
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See if you can find all the hidden words in the word search below.

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C	I	S	W	E	G	T
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C	H	R	I	S	T	T

Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus to be a light in
our world.
May we live by his example and be a light
for each other.
In Jesus' name
AMEN.



CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello Everyone!

Together let's continue to learn about who Jesus is.

Jesus said ...'I am the Light of the World.'

John 8:12

Take a moment to think about what you feel like when it's dark. We can't see very well, which makes moving around difficult. We don't really know where we are going or what we are doing. If you don't like the dark, then you may even feel a little afraid because the dark can make you feel cold and lonely.

When we have light, we can see what we are doing and where we are going. We can see things more clearly.

In the Gospels, we learn about lots of things that Jesus does and would like us to do too like, for example, he teaches us how to pray and tells us how we should love one another as he loves us.

Jesus is our light in the world today and the things that he said and did is the light that makes us see more clearly, that guides us and comforts us.

The Hungersite

"Feed the starving at no cost to you!" Submitted by Stephen Plant.

Go to www.thehungersite.com and, amid a pile of banners, you'll see an orange button in the middle of the site's front page. The emblazoned message is 'Click here to give - it's free!' Do so and a cup of a staple foodstuff is bought for someone somewhere who is hungry. The logic behind this site is brilliant. It's a win-win-win situation for the starving, the internet user and the sponsors: in practical terms they receive cost effective, feel good public relations, especially powerful in helping promote ethical brands.

The food is distributed by Mercy Corps, a large US charity which provides aid in 74 countries including Ethiopia, Guatemala, Somalia and Kosovo; and Feeding America (previously known as America's Second Harvest), which helps support the homeless, the elderly, disaster victims and many more groups in the US.

How much food is given?

In the year 2000 The Hunger Site paid for over 9,500 tons of food to be distributed, enough to feed nearly 400,000 people daily. Sadly, management issues and a drop in advertising rates meant the amount donated plummeted. However, the recovery has been ongoing and by the end of 2008, 3,800 tons of food were delivered; enough for over 160,000

people and over 10 million more cups than in 2007.

Taking time to click really helps, especially if you do it daily. The Hunger Site offers an e-mail daily prompt reminder service (signing up to it also gives an additional two cups of food). The site then places a cookie on your computer (this means it then knows who you are whenever you go to the site), so you can see how many times you've managed to click in the current year. Though if you don't want this, it can be disabled.

Instead of clicking, play a game

There's also a great website that raises funds for charity by getting its sponsors to make a rice donation for every user it gets; but you've got to play a game to earn it. Simply click on FreeRice.com and a word will be displayed with four possible definitions. All you need to do is guess the correct definition and for every word you get right, 10 grains of rice will be donated to the World Food Programme.

This site is really quite wonderful as you can easily clock up a few thousand grains of rice in 20 minutes - enough to feed a person for several days - depending on how good you are (and how addictive you find it) plus there's no limit to how much rice you can tot up per day.

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Ethiopian Vegetable Alecha

(serves 8 people)



Ingredients

- 1 onion
- 4 carrots
- 4 medium sized potatoes
- 1 green cabbage
- 1 can of tinned tomatoes
- 2 fresh tomatoes
- 4 green peppers
- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 1 teaspoon of ground ginger
- 3 cups of water
- 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil



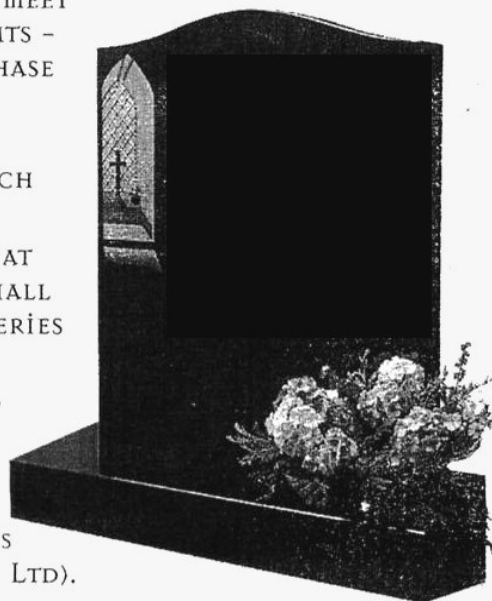
Method

1. In a four quart saucepan, sauté the chopped onion in the oil until soft but not brown.
2. Add the carrots, peeled and cut into one inch slices; the green peppers, cleaned and cut into quarters; three cups of water; the tinned tomatoes; two teaspoons of salt and half a teaspoon of ground ginger.
3. Cover with a lid and cook for 10 minutes.
4. Add the potatoes, cut into thick slices.
5. Plunge the fresh tomatoes in boiling water, remove skins and cut in eight wedges each. Add to the mixture.
6. Cover and cook for 10 minutes.
7. Cut the cabbage into one inch wide wedges and add to the mixture.
8. Cook until the vegetables are tender.
9. Season to taste and serve.

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Women's Fellowship

Our meeting will be on Thursday 4th February at our usual time of 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. We shall be spending our evening with the Brownies, which we always enjoy, as do our Brownies. Please come along and join us and have a great evening.

All new ladies who would like to join our Fellowship will be made very welcome or come and visit us for the evening and see what we are about. Let's hope the weather will be better this month!

Marlene Collyer, Chairman.

Volunteers wanted

Hospital Chaplain, Revd Sue Shewring, is looking out for Sunday morning 'pushers' - volunteers who are happy to come to Selly Oak Hospital on a Sunday morning to help with collecting and returning patients to the wards, before and after the service at the hospital. A team of 4 would be fantastic, but even the odd person able to help out occasionally would be great.

Sue says "When we move into the new hospital, we will need all the help we can get as some of the wards will be quite far away. There are teams of helpers at Selly Oak Hospital but we're not sure yet how many of them will come with us to the new hospital, so any extra people we can get on board and trained up would be a real help." Volunteers will have to complete a CRB check.



If anyone is interested in finding out more, please contact Sue on 0121 627 1627 x3437 or sue.shewring@uhb.nhs.uk and she'll arrange to meet for a chat.

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Phone Amanda Lipman on 0121 477 2183 or e-mail straussquartet@aol.com to find out more.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

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

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

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

Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch

On Friday 26th March, be part of the Super Soup lunch and help bowl over poverty.

Whatever you are having for lunch that day, make sure it's soup. Because if it is, you can help Christian Aid fight global poverty and injustice. That's right – you can help change the world, just by lighting a stove, pinging a microwave or even boiling a kettle!

It's a day when people all across Britain will be putting their sandwiches aside and getting together to cook a cock-a-leekie, sip Scotch broth, or guzzle gazpacho – in aid of Christian Aid's Super Soup Lunch.

Wherever you are - at home, work, school or in your local community – it's so easy. Invite your family, friends or colleagues to join you in a soup-themed lunch and collect a donation from each of them.

Why not take a lunch break and catch up with colleagues over a bowl of soup at work? Or invite friends over to share soup and gossip?

You could even organise an all-day soup lunch at your local community or church hall and invite everyone in your neighbourhood to come along. Teachers and pupils could sip soup over lunch in the staff room or canteen.

Holding a Super Soup Lunch may seem like a small action to take in the face of worldwide hunger, but it will make a real difference. (See page 33 for an Ethiopian soup recipe).

A little extra...

In addition, to encourage the success of your Super Soup Lunch, there will be awards for the following categories:

1. Best Bowl - the award for the most innovative soup recipe
2. Fullest Bowl - the award for the fundraiser who raises the most for this year's Super Soup Lunch
3. Biggest Bowl - the award for the Super Soup Lunch with the greatest number of people attending.



KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

On Monday 22nd February, Joe Holyoak, Vice Chairman of the Birmingham & Midland Branch of the Victorian Society, will give a talk to the Society on "MARTIN & CHAMBERLAIN, BIRMINGHAM ARCHITECTS", designers of many of Birmingham's fine buildings.

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

Claire Simpson, Chairman

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December 2009 Baptisms

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

6th December Toby Domonic Beckett
 Ethan Jack Chinnock
 Katie Louise Pitcher
 Samuel Joseph Pitcher
 Millie Olivia Thomas
 Joseph Paul Walton
 James Robert Walton



Fit4Life!

Hello everyone and welcome to a new year of Fit4Life! Your New Year's Resolution may have been to lose a few pounds, start a regular exercise regime or give up smoking so, if you need some help with these, give us a call! We offer a free, confidential service which could help you reach your goals.



If it's exercise you fancy, we can get you involved with our Walk 2000 programmes which operate all over Birmingham, your nearest one being Kings Norton Park, Tuesdays at 10 am. We have a circuit class at Frankley Community Leisure Centre which was just devised for our clients, with a new one hoping to start soon at Hawkesley Community Centre. We are also part of the BE ACTIVE programme and we can introduce you to many classes and gyms throughout Birmingham, free of charge (terms and conditions do apply). If you like swimming, it's now free on the Be Active programme.

We can also help with your nutritional needs, running programmes called Sizedown at local leisure centres. These help you to understand portion sizes, identify ways of changing your current diet, reviewing food labels, planning ahead and so much more.

Quitting smoking is a very difficult thing to do and we appreciate that, but it's probably one of the best things you will ever do! So let us chat to you about your needs and put you in touch with the people who can give you the correct nicotine replacement therapy.

If we can help with any of the above, please give us a call on 0121 675 0060/61 for Gregg or Dean and 0121 459 8910 for Mel.

Happy and Healthy New Year from the Fit4Life team.

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December 2009 Funerals

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

- 1st December, Malcolm Derrick, 75. Service in St Nicolas,
burial at Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 1st December, Marjorie Joan Mann, 83. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas
churchyard.
- 2nd December, Ethel Marion Garwood, 92. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 3rd December, Linda Susan Mann, 55. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas
churchyard.
- 7th December, Irene Marjorie Pitt, 82. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 10th December, Maureen Sylvia Dutton, 62. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 11th December, Olive June Johnston, 76. Service in St Nicolas,
Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 18th December, Angela Margaret Farr, 44. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas
churchyard.
- 22nd December, Donna Maria Karin, 32. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 23rd December, Beryl Moxon, 73. Service in St Nicolas, burial at Brandwood.
- 29th December, Stephen John Holmes, 44. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 29th December, Michael James Bradley-Baker, 21 weeks gestation.
Service in St Nicolas, burial in St Nicolas churchyard.

In the Steps of St Nicolas... and his Lord

At the St Nicolas Day Parish Service, we gathered some of the people, places, activities and concerns which church members support by action and prayer.

Here are some for your prayer. More to follow next month.

Hawkesley Church Primary School
 Primrose Primary School
 Wychall Primary School
 Fairway Primary School
 Kings Norton Primary School
 Pool Farm Community Nursery
 St Thomas Aquinas School
 St Dunstan's Primary School
 Baverstock School
 Shenley Fields Children's Centre
 Oddingley Hall
 83rd Brownies
 Hawkesley Brownies
 KN District Guides and Brownies
 Guiding Support
 The Scouting Movement
 Oasis
 Tiny Tots

Friends of the Earth
 Woodland Trust
 RSPB
 WWF
 KN Nature Reserve

Homeless people
 Big Issue workers and sellers
 St Basils
 Anawim

Birmingham City Mission
 Cornerstone

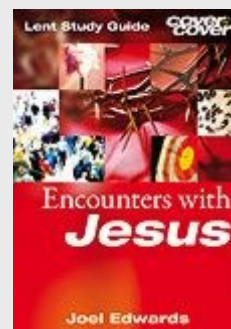
Help for Heros
 The United Nations

Flying Angel (Seafarers Mission)
 Cancer Research
 Marie Curie Cancer Care
 Admiral Nurses
 St Mary's Hospice
 Kidney Research UK
 British Heart Foundation

Acorns
 Birmingham Children's Hospital
 Children's Society
 UNICEF
 Child Aid
 Operation Mobilisation
 Dalit child support
 Toybox
 Samaritan's Purse
 NSPCC Breakaway
 Megan Baker House (charity for
 conductive education)
 Children of Africa and especially
 Zimbabwe

Fairtrade
 Tearfund
 Leprosy Mission
 DEC appeals
 Sightsavers
 Water Aid
 Oxfam
 Compassion in World Farming

LENT BOOK REVIEW



Encounters with Jesus by Joel Edwards

No one ever came to Jesus and left His presence unchanged. These six studies will enable you to encounter Him afresh in ways that will make a difference to your life.

Throughout this Lenten season, explore contemporary issues with **Joel Edwards** and be encouraged to act on what you learn from six people's encounters with Christ in the New Testament.

Psalm 51 runs as a common thread through the sessions to help you see why the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus are so central to our faith. You will discover more of what we all need to know in order to live life freed for service.

Ideal for individual or group use, each session contains:

- Icebreakers
- A New Testament character's encounter with Jesus
- Meditation from Psalm 51
- Application session
- 'To-do' moment for reflection
- Discussion starters
- Closing prayer.

The Rev. Dr Joel Edwards is the International Director for Micah Challenge. He has served as a Commissioner on the Equality and Human Rights Commission for the UK and as an Advisory Member of Tony Blair's Faith Foundation. He is a regular broadcaster with the BBC and other media, bringing a Christian perspective to current issues. Prior to his role within Micah Challenge, Joel was General Director of the Evangelical Alliance UK, a post he held for over ten years.

Kings Norton Farmers Market

The Green Kings Norton Birmingham
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Every Sunday – Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's):
10.30 am, 1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;
10.30 am, 2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.
Tuesday Coffee Mornings - alternate Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Immanuel Church

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

Druids Heath

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

Café T

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

For Young People

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

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

SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

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

Open Church

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

Candlelit Church

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,

Road closures agreed... our market is safe!

In January, the organisers of the Kings Norton Farmers' Market were told by Birmingham City Council that they would no longer give a road closure licence for The Green. This news came out of the blue - they hadn't had any communication from the Council about this, but the instructions had come directly from the top of the Highways Department.

Without the road closure they would, at the very best, have to move the market, and at the worst would have to close.

They appealed for people to email their local Councillors and tell them that they support the Market and want to keep it open.

Within hours, Duncan Ross was able to send this email...

"We've just heard that our road closures have been approved and that our market is therefore safe! There has been a "communication problem" within the Highways Department - as a result we were told something that was, well, wrong. Unfortunately, we had to take action, as if it had been true we would have been forced to close. Many thanks to all of you who have written, emailed, blogged or even tweeted on this. It is very much appreciated. I hope we'll see you all at the market on Saturday. Come along and say hello.

Duncan."

The Market did go ahead, evidenced by the picture on the front cover of this edition of the magazine. Thank you to Claire Simpson for sending it in and thank you to all those who got involved in the campaign.

Editor

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be on March 5th. We will be joining others for a service at 2.00pm at St Joseph and St Helen's. More details will be in the Parish Newsletter nearer the time. We hope that you will put this in your diary and be able to join us.

Sylvia Fox

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

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

Clergy:			
Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX		458 3289/459 0560	
The Rev'd REBECCA PULLIN (Curate)		458 2950	
The Rev'd JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP		459 3733	
The Rev'd JOHN WHITE (Team Vicar)		07854 412949	
Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):			
The Rev'd DONALD SAMPSON		476 7223	
Lay Staff:			
JESS BOULTON (Hon. Lay Pastor) c/o Parish Office			
FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or.....		451 1914	
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader), c/o Parish Office			
Church Wardens			
St. Nicolas.....	STEPHEN PLANT c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards)	JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or	550 3455	
	RAY DAVIS	458 5774	
	PETER SMITH	453 9931	
Immanuel (Warden)	GERRY MOORCROFT	243 0573	
(Deputy Warden)	DEBBIE MALONE		
Candlelit Church Co-ordinator.....	JESS BOULTON	458 6925	
P.C.C. Secretary	ISOBEL LEWIS c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
P.C.C. Treasurer	JONATHAN CROOKS, c/o Parish Office	458 3289	
Parish Office:			
	81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU	458 3289	
	(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday)	Fax: 459 2529	
Parish Administrator.....	CHRISTINE BOWEN	458 3289	
Finance Administrator	CHRISTINE GADD	458 3289	
Organist and Music Director	SYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA	07778 449170	
Choir & Orchestra Practices	Tuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.		
	Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.		
Immanuel Music Group Leader	SARAH CROOKS		
Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:			
Oasis (St. Nicolas)	contact via Parish Office	458 3289	
Hawkesley			
Oasis (Immanuel).....	NICKY MOORCROFT		
Hawkesley Anglican Methodist Church Primary School			
Primary School	Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR		
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Ring Master	JIM DUNN	744 6334	
Secretary	CLAIRE CALVER	458 2342	
Kings Norton Handbell Ringers.....	Practice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.		
Secretary.....	JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or	208 4013	
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary	JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS.	458 3328	

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

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

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

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