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June 2011 |

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**Items for inclusion in
the July 2011 issue are
to be submitted by:-
Friday 10th June 2011**

Welcome.....



to another packed edition of the Parish Mag. Last month saw the visit of Bishop Andrew for the annual Confirmation

Service. David Ash has once again captured the event beautifully with his camera (as well as playing the keyboard and organ during the service). More pictures are available on the parish website but you can see a montage on page 11 as well as the cover photograph.

We even have a contribution from the Archbishop of Canterbury this month, but actually more impressively, we have items from Sylvia Fox who typed them on her BlackBerry en-route to Europe with the CBSO. Her poor thumbs must be worn out!

The Parish Person this month is Abigail Roberts, the Director of Saint Nicolas Place. You can read her interview on page 38.

Rev John is back ranting and raving again! His first column seems to have been well received and this month he has the royal family in his sights.

Thank you for reading.

Alan Haynes, Editor.



400 years ago, the Authorised “King James” version of the Bible was made. Churches across the world are marking this by making 2011 the Year of the Bible. That’s good – but it is no celebration to place this or any other version on a pedestal, out of reach of our everyday lives. We have the Bible only because, inspired by the Holy Spirit, people have found its words come alive when heard, trusted – and used in the whole of our living. I wonder if, from Sunday School or sermons or somewhere, we get in our heads the idea that “The Bible” is only a big book of rules and teaching that we find difficult, full of strange people and cultures who are just not like us. So, my prayer for the Year of the Bible is simple – that all will find in it not difficulty, burden or strangeness but a light to our pathway as we discover God’s love and truth in Jesus for ourselves and the world we live in now.

In our feature, “My Favourite Bible passage” several have already shared thought and prayer on the parts of the Bible that inspire and encourage them. Here is another

one – as true and inspiring to me now as when first made.

It is Ephesians 4.1-6. It covers much the same ground as Romans 12.1-12 which we all heard at the Royal Wedding. Both come in the middle of letters. Before them in both letters, we hear of God’s love and mercy in coming among us in Jesus to bear all our suffering and failures on the Cross - and to overcome them forever. After them, we hear how this inspires great differences in how we each live this out as the very different people we are.

And in each letter, these two passages are the bridge joining the Cross to our lives. They matter so much. “I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. For there is one Body and Spirit, just as you were called to one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all who is over all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of

that there’s some great stuff coming out now. It’s just harder to find amongst the swamps of dross being foisted upon the world by the likes of Simon Cowell. (*The ‘Swamps of Dross’: now that would make a great band name...*)

So, in my case for the defence of contemporary music, may I introduce **‘Helplessness Blues’**, the second album from Seattle band **Fleet Foxes**. Rather conveniently, this record was released the day before my birthday this year. Their debut album, which came out in 2008, had soared almost immediately into my list of all-time favourites and so their follow-up was a must-have birthday present. With their achingly beautiful melodies and vocal harmonies, the band fully deserves to stand alongside the great folk-rock artists of a previous generation. It’s hard to imagine anyone who loves the likes of Simon and Garfunkel, or Crosby, Stills and Nash, not also finding much to enjoy and admire in Fleet Foxes.

The new album is perhaps rather more personal and reflective than the first. The band’s hugely talented young songwriter, Robin Pecknold, wrestles with themes of personal

discovery and of making sense of one’s place in the world. The opening lines of the title track of Helplessness Blues give a flavour of that, but also, for me, plenty of food for thought:

*“I was raised up believing I was somehow unique,
Like a snowflake, distinct among snowflakes,
Unique in each way you’d conceive.
And now after some thinking, I’d say I’d rather be
A functioning cog in some great machinery,
Serving something beyond me...”*

Yeah, I think I can go along with that. I’ve only been listening to this record for the last week. But I’m pretty sure I’ll still be listening to it, with great pleasure, for many years to come.



There’s plenty more I could rant and rave about. But that’s enough for now. I hope my thoughts may spark off some interesting conversations. Many thanks to those who commented on last month’s article. Also, if there are things that you

feel passionately about, I’d love to hear – why not email me, or drop me a line? It would be great to include other people’s rantings and ravings alongside my own.

Rev John Ranting and Raving



Welcome to another bout of 'Ranting and Raving' where I will be sharing again some of the things that have fired me up, for good or ill, over the last month. First up, something which I thought might be a **rant**, but which to my great pleasure became a **rave**. Let me explain.



A confession: I was not really looking forward to the Royal Wedding.

That was nothing against William and Kate in particular, or royalty in general. It's just that I tend to get a bit allergic to all the souvenir biscuit tins and tea towels and the feeling of being cajoled into a compulsory time of patriotic celebration. So, feeling a bit like the Grinch, I thought I would try and steer clear of the whole thing. But as the TV was on anyway, I decided to see just the first few minutes of the service in Westminster Abbey... And as I watched, I was totally won over. My unfounded gripes and grumbles melted away as the truth became abundantly clear. For all the trappings and the hype, this

wedding was really not so very different from all the lovely weddings that take place week by week here at St Nicolas and in so many churches around the country. At the heart of it all stood two young people, committing themselves to one another in love and receiving the blessing of God. As the Bishop of London put it in his excellent address, there is a way in which every wedding is a royal wedding, with husband and wife being king and queen of creation. Even the sight of Prince William making a total hash of putting a ring on his bride's finger only added to the sense of this being a normal, natural and very happy occasion. I was almost doing cartwheels myself.

If my would-be rant has become a rave, then I'll make up for it by starting this month's rave with a bit of mild ranting. I often hear those of a similar age to myself complaining that "modern music is rubbish – not a patch on what we had when we young." There is some truth in this. The 60s and 70s were undoubtedly a golden age for rock and pop, producing many classic records. But I firmly believe

Christ's gift." (Ephesians 3.1-7 *New Revised Standard Version*.)

These words are not far off. They are for us now in Kings Norton. Here are four ways to start with. There are many others.

1. Holy Week and Easter

For those able to make this journey together here, we found a new simplicity and wonder and a new depth of love in Christ with friends, new and old. We travelled together in the unity of the Spirit and the bonds of peace – and your clergy were deeply moved at the gifts of faith, humility, patience and of bearing one another in love shown by so many. Next year, Holy Week and Easter are April 1st-8th. Will you be able to make this your journey also?

2. Confirmation

Bishop Andrew came to Confirm eleven new members of God's church on 15th May in our one Lord, one faith, one baptism – and they each received grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Our Confirmation matters to all of us who have received this gift, but it is not a personal achievement. Each Confirmation renews us all in the hope of our calling as God's church and its many members. Bishop Andrew spoke to us all. The prayers and music embraced all the traditions and styles of our different congregations – and the singing was

wonderful. We were all renewed together. I hope that next year all in our congregations will make this service a priority – for those being Confirmed, for what we are together – and for each of us in Christ.

3. Civic Day - 25th June

We celebrate 100 years of Kings Norton joining Birmingham. The people of Kings Norton voted overwhelmingly to join their bigger neighbour, rightly confident that the character of our part of it would grow and change more richly as part of a greater whole. We celebrate our unity and our difference.

4. Kings Norton Festival 9th/10th July

Another celebration of the rich and varied gifts of our one community, in fun, food and stalls on Saturday and in worship together on Sunday morning. This year, the Revd Josephine Houghton will preach, accompanied by Hugh and their new daughter Polly. How can you resist?

Beneath all these are the continuing richly varied love, prayer, faith, service and financial giving of so many of God's people here who live and trust in one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Ephesians 4.1-7 is not far off at all!

Rob Morris

Bishop's Comment

Kindness shouts from the rooftop that all people are made in the image of God



When a body is healthy, all its parts work together and the organs function as one, connected by numerous nerves and cells whose job it is to circulate messages. These communication channels are barely noticeable, but if they become blocked or damaged, we immediately feel the effects as disease sets in and we become unable to function fully.

In the same way, our city is a complex organism with a healthy heartbeat of innovation and change. It needs numerous channels of communication to flourish and grow, functioning as a healthy community that many can call home. For this city to remain a haven of refuge and safety, a centre of creativity and commerce and a meeting place for faiths and cultures, it needs people who are committed to being good news, people who gossip hope and live friendship and hospitality.

Acts of kindness are the nerve cells of this city. Kindness creates connections in a way that nothing else can. Kindness builds community and ends loneliness and isolation.

Reflecting on the self-giving of Christ, who laid down his life for us, we are reminded that 'perfect love casts out fear' 1 John 4:18. Kindness opposes fear and speaks of the love God has for every one of the 1 million people who share the city of Birmingham and call it home.

In fact it does more than speak – kindness shouts from the rooftop that all people are made in the image of God, they are made to love one another and love their creator. Deep down, most humans want nothing more than a world where they can live with others and feel connected – kindness can make that simple but profound longing a reality.

A new website www.1makbirmingham.co.uk encourages us all to engage in acts of kindness. This helps us to think about our behaviour towards others and may even allow the Holy Spirit to better 'rule and direct our lives'! Start with something simple. Start today.

+David

Bishop of Birmingham

Source birmingham.anglican.org

beach. My dad then walked us off into the sunset! So I ended up having a lovely old retired Donkey call Jackanory!

In my previous job, I was able to meet and work alongside some of the most marvellous people and I had the pleasure of supporting the development and growth of the individuals and the organisation. It has to be said, they were true inspirations and work in some of the most amazing surroundings and support the regeneration programme. But now I have the opportunity to meet some lovely new people and work in these amazing and impressive surroundings.

My Godmother, Renee, was a leading woman of the French resistance and spending my summers in Paris with her has to be one of my favourite and heart warming memories.

What's your favourite holiday place?

I love going to Greece and my favourite Greek Island is Kefallinia. But I still have many to explore.

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

My luxury would be hand and foot cream. I have a few favourite books: a Classic would be Jayne Eyre. James Frey – 'A Tiny Million Little Pieces' and 'The Assassination of Marilyn Monroe' – Donald Wolfe.

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

I have found that St Nicolas Church is an absolutely lovely church. It's the only church I have actually felt at home in. It even beats my many visits and experiences to the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur, which is my favourite view of Paris. I wouldn't want that homely feeling to change. I really think that more people should know and visit Saint Nicolas Place as a whole and that the church should truly be a part of that experience.

Do you know anyone who would make an interesting 'Parish Person'? Are you willing to be interviewed? If so, please contact Alan, the Editor, on 07801 551274 or by email - editor@kingsnorton.org.uk Thank you.



Director of Saint Nicolas Place, Abigail Roberts



Where were you born?

Crewe - Cheshire.

What is your occupation?

Director of Kings Norton Restoration Trust.

Why Kings Norton?

Why not?! It's a lovely village and so close to Cadbury World.

Why is your Christian faith important to you?

Difficult question this one. My family has had a wide range of religious and spiritual influences and I spent my high school experience at a catholic school, which wasn't the greatest approach or introduction to faith. Now older, and hopeful wiser, I look at things in a different light. Although I would say I'm not that religious, I'm more about nature in my approach to faith and thinking about favourite Bible verses and saints. I always seem to remember with some fondness Saint Francis of Assisi and his love of nature and Luke 8:15 was a verse I seem to remember.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Luckily, I have an allotment at the back of my house and four lovely chickens, Ginger & Mac – Ginger Rangers ex battery and a Blue Belle – named Belle and a White Sussex who answers to Lady. I'm hoping to have two fancies later this year.

What are your best memories?

I have a few, but this one is while on holiday in Blackpool as a child and waiting to go on a Donkey Ride. The owner hit and kicked a donkey. My dad asked the owner if he could walk me on the donkey down the

Archbishop of Canterbury's letter to a six year old girl answering her question on God .

A lovely news item hit the news in the build up to Easter. Apparently the story goes that a six year old girl called Lulu, who attends a Church school, wrote a letter to God as part of a class exercise asking how God was 'invented'.

Her father was impressed with the letter, and wanted to encourage her, so sent the letter on to the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Scottish Catholic Church, the Presbetyrians and the Church of England at Lambeth Palace. The Catholics replied with a theologically complex letter, whilst the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Presbyterians didn't answer. As for the Church of England, the letter somehow made its way to Rowan Williams's inbox and here's how he responded:

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

'Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the

world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very, very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected.

Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – especially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I'm really like.

But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off.

I know he doesn't usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.

+Archbishop Rowan

Source churchmousepublishing.blogspot.com

Have you tried **3D** yet? By which, I don't mean the latest gimmick to give an excuse for higher cinema prices. I'm talking about the *Diocesan Course for Developing Disciples*, usually shortened to **3D**. It is a course in Christian faith and discipleship that the Birmingham Diocese puts on in a number of venues each year, from September to July. Groups of about a dozen people get together each week, under the guidance of one or more tutors, to learn more about the Bible and other aspects of Christian life and belief.

The reasons why people choose to do **3D** vary quite a bit. For some, it is a vital first stage in their training and preparation for particular ministries in the Church, such as Reader. For others, it is more to do with personal interest and a way of growing in their faith and understanding. Some of those who take part have been active Christians for many, many years; others are relatively new to the whole thing, but are eager to build on the foundations of their faith. It is guaranteed to get you thinking, but it is not an 'academic' course. There are no exams or pieces of written homework to be done; all who attend for at least 20 of the 30 sessions will receive a certificate from the Bishop to say they have completed the course.

But don't take my word for it! This is what Diane Hutton, a worshipper at St Nicolas who is currently doing **3D**, has to say about the experience:

"Yes! It's official! Studying the Bible, its history and Christian Faith is fun! I am now about two-thirds through a 30 week 3D course and loving every minute. Thirty weeks sounds like a big commitment, but it is just flying by. Yes – it can be challenging at times, but it is always a rewarding, worthwhile and totally absorbing experience. I couldn't recommend it highly enough.

I am very pleased indeed that this coming year I shall have the privilege of sharing in the leadership of a **3D** course here in Kings Norton with two wonderful colleagues: Canon John Oakes, who is leading the group Diane was writing about, and also Revd Susannah Rudge, who is serving her curacy at St Francis, Bournville. This group will meet on **Tuesday mornings** in **St Nicolas Place**, from **10am to 11.30am**, beginning on 13 September. Booking is essential, and places are limited, so do get in quick! Further information and application forms for **3D** courses for 2011-2012 will be available soon. Do have a word with me if you would like to know more.

Revd John White

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Women's Fellowship

There is no meeting in June. Instead, we are having a trip to the Well Dressings at Tissington (Derbyshire) and are visiting Carsington Water on the way back.

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society's next meeting will be in September. Meanwhile, Friends of Kings Norton Park will be joining us at the 5th BIRMINGHAM LIVES HISTORY FAIR which this year will take place at the Girl Guide Headquarters, Ellis Street off Holloway Head on SUNDAY 12TH JUNE from 11.00am - 4.00pm. There will be over 20 stalls depicting Birmingham's rich and varied history. Hope to see you there!

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

SCRIPTURE CAKE

- 1½ cups Judges 5:25
 - 3 cups Jeremiah 6:20
 - 6 Jeremiah 17:11
 - 3½ cups Exodus 29:2
 - 2 teaspoons Amos 4:5
 - 2 Chronicles 9:9 to taste
 - A pinch of Mark 9:50
 - 1 cup Genesis 24:17
 - 1 tablespoon 1 Samuel 14:25
 - 2 cups 1 Samuel 30:12
 - 2 cups chopped dried Song of Solomon 2:13
 - 2 cups slivered or chopped Numbers 17:8
- Follow Solomon's advice for making good boys, Proverbs 23:14
(answers on page 31)



Thoughts from the allotment:

April and early May have been conspicuous by their lack of rain and, although I've enjoyed the sun like everyone else, it has made for some serious work, some worry and some thoughts.

During the last month, I have had to spend some serious time most days doing watering. I have only done the recently sown seeds and transplants, leaving the more established plants to search for the lower moisture still held in the soil from the heavy rains earlier in the year: and I got thinking a selection of things.

My sisters in much of the rest of the world have to do this every day and they can't top up their water storage systems from the tap that is just a few yards away. The rains I was quietly praying for would, in all probability, come fairly soon: not be absent for a whole year or more.

The flooding of winter and the mulching I had done had worked to keep moisture in the lower levels in the soil: techniques I had learned from readily available books as well as passed on by something farmers in the third world frequently don't have. (And why Christian Aid, Send a Cow, CMS and many other agencies are doing such wonderful work

teaching sustainable agricultural techniques to farmers and developing better seed/plant stock for harsh weather conditions.)

If all my crops failed (unlikely and I'd be pretty frustrated/disappointed if they did), I could go to a whole selection of farm shops or town shops to buy replacements.

.....
How many times have you wondered why God made wasps?! I've got to discover the world of insects far more at the allotment than ever before. Spiders and beetles whizz about the soil very fast, seeking out other pests to eat. Wasps and bees buzz about and pollinate everything in sight: without them, there's be no plants, no food, no animals and no us. Butterflies and moths are beautiful, but they also pollinate many plants, and their caterpillars make food for birds. So when I find caterpillar damage on my cabbages, I need to remember their good points. And the same with wasps, when they are buzzing round my head at fruit picking time. I'm slowly learning to share my plot with wild life and balance who gets what of the crops.

Sylvia Fox



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

Sunday 5th June, 12 noon - 3pm "The Big Lunch".

Fancy a picnic?! Come along with a packed lunch and join us for a day of fun picnicking on The Green.

Saturday 25th June 11am - 3pm "Take a Bite into History!" Civic Day

Experience food through the ages with our event, sample culinary treats from different eras of time. We promise you won't go away hungry!

Tue 5th & Wed 6th July - 7pm "An Ideal Husband".

Let our courtyard offer the perfect setting for Oscar Wilde's comedic play. Production from the Crescent Theatre. Chairs will be provided but bring your own cushion.

Kings Norton Farmers Market

The Green Kings Norton Birmingham
2nd Saturday each Month

Get FRESH

**Next Market is 11th
June 2011
9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**



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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 11th June. 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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Don't forget! Theatre in the Courtyard in July
The Crescent Theatre present "An Ideal Husband"
by Oscar Wilde. Book early for our third successful year!

Just a reminder: The Saracen's Head Café is open for great coffee, snacks and light lunches. Mon - Sat, 10am - 4pm.



Parish Confirmation Service at St Nicolas' Church
Sunday 15th May 2011



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Meeting from 11:30am for lunch and a
BBQ tea from 5:30pm.

chatting

Cost: Family ticket £25
(max 2 adults and min 2 children)

All adults £10 (16 years +)

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Children under school age Free

faces

Price includes all your drinks, use of the venue and a BBQ tea.

Please bring:

Food for lunch – (Sunlounger!)

football

If you are interested in joining us please
contact Rev. Jayne via the Parish Office.

plus a range of indoor and outdoor games!



Let's cross it out

Defend The Big Move

Barren battery cages (caged hens) - the ban starts January 2012.

The Big Move aims to ensure a proposed ban on the use of barren battery cages goes ahead across the EU on 1st January 2012 as planned, without any delays or exceptions. Despite having had up to 12 years to prepare for the ban, some countries, such as Poland are calling for a delay because they feel they have not had enough time to prepare! It is unacceptable for countries to try to attempt to weaken the resolve of the EU Commission. Compassion believes that member states need to focus on getting ready, not on trying to delay the ban.

If you would like to know more and also urge the President of the EU Agriculture Council to carry on with the ban, then please visit the Compassion in World Farming website www.ciwf.org.uk

Compassion in World Farming needs your help to cross out factory farming. There are many more issues including 'mega-dairies', live exports and sow stalls that require urgent action.

Fish fight

Already over 670,000 people have signed up to show their support to put an end to discard in our seas, but more are needed. Your support will help fight to get the common fisheries policy changed in 2012 to stop half of all fish caught getting thrown back DEAD.

Please visit www.fishfight.net to register your support. Please spread the word.



David Moorcroft.

The end of an association with St Nicolas that has lasted over 110 years.....

On Sunday 23rd January this year, my mother Doris Tucker died at the age of 86, years after a short period of declining health; her funeral was held at St Nicolas on 1st February and with this ends an association with St Nicolas that has lasted since the end of the 19th Century, and one that holds a special place in the hearts of both my sister and I.

Our Great Grandfather came to St Nicolas as a coachman to Canon Charles Barnard who was vicar of the church from 1893 – 1909. Our Grandmother lived in one of the cottages on the Green that is now in the row of shops opposite the Bull and attended school in the Old Grammar School during the short time it operated as a primary school. Names and dates elude me, but I know that in the many papers left by my mother lies an interesting history that I hope one day to piece together.

Our parents returned to live in Kings Norton in 1960; my sister Christine was christened at St Nicolas in 1963; Mum was confirmed at St Nicolas in 1964; She was a member of the PCC and Secretary to the Deanery Synod for a number of years. We were both Confirmed there; I started reading from the pulpit at services as a child and was a server at 8.00 communion, standing beyond the altar rail and helping as the bread and wine were prepared for the congregation. We attended Sunday School in the Saracen's Head earning our prize books each year; what disappointment when 'little Miss Davis' wouldn't accept that I had been to church on holiday and I received only third prize that year! There was the toy service when I staggered down

the aisle donating my Hornby railway set and the garden parties with the zip wire in the grounds of the old vicarage, not to mention the maypole. And of course, the Harvest Suppers with their barn dances which took place around the time of my birthday in September. St Nicolas Hall seemed so grand then and was the place where Junior Church took place and the youth club on a Sunday evening, all led by Mr and Mrs Banbury. Christine started bell ringing in 1974 at the age of 11 with Molly Baron and Ray Aldington, something she



Helen and Christine at the St Nicolas Garden Party in 1966

still does today at the Cathedral in Leicester. I left for university in 1976 but vividly remember returning the following year for the silver jubilee celebrations. Mum continued her association via the Evening Fellowship,

but when they

moved to Premier Court in 1990 their attendance at Sunday services declined, although they continued to give faithfully to the church until Mum's death. St Nicolas played a huge part in our formative years and we look back fondly on those times. Our direct links with Birmingham and in particular with Kings Norton have now gone, but I can't help but feel that this is not the end.

Helen Weir (nee Tucker)

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



Local campaigners and hospitality industry agree there is 'no room for trafficking'.

As part of STOP THE TRAFFIK's latest campaign, local residents and the hospitality industry are raising awareness of trafficking to let the world know we will not tolerate human trafficking and contacting travel companies to make them aware of the signs to look out for.

Human trafficking is when men, women and children are recruited by force, coercion or deception for the purpose of exploitation. It is a huge global issue. On average, a child is trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labour every 30 seconds.

In the last few years, police investigations and charities have highlighted the role that Hotels and Bed and Breakfasts can unwittingly play in the cycle of abuse and exploitation. For example, a recent case in America found three women, including a 12 year old girl, locked in hotel rooms. In 2010, a group of men told girls as young as 13 they could earn money dancing in London and then tried to sell their virginity through a hotel.

As a way of highlighting the issue, which is especially pertinent ahead of the Olympics, we are in the process of writing to hotels etc... that are offering rooms over the Olympic period.

If you would like to write to hotels or travel companies etc. then please look on the Stop The Traffik website for details, or alternatively log on to the Parish Website for copies.

Sarah Crooks

Dear Rev John,

I was actually very pleased to see a column called 'Ranting and Raving' in last month's magazine as it is something I do myself quite often - just ask my wife, Nicky!

I also have an inner "grumpy old man". I agree with you that the government provided us with a rubbish choice, which we had little to get excited about.

I don't understand why they can't do something about things we do actually care about and we want changing. I wish the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government would stop saying what a mess Labour left this country in. Move on - I don't need it every time I watch an interview I do hope the editor lets you back next month...

David Moorcroft.

SCRIPTURE CAKE

1 ½ cups butter
3 cups sugar
6 eggs
3 ½ cups flour
2 teaspoons baking power
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground cloves
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon allspice
A pinch of salt
1 cup water
1 tablespoon honey
2 cups raisins
2 cups chopped dried figs
2 cups slivered or chopped almonds
Preheat oven to 325 degrees F / 160 degrees C / Gas Mark 3.



Cream together butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time, beating well after each one. Sift together flour, baking power, salt and spices. Add alternately with water to creamed mixture.

Stir in honey, fold in raisins, figs and almonds. Mix well. Turn into two well greased 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pans. Bake about 60 minutes, making sure not to over bake, until loaves test done by the toothpick test. Let cool for 30 minutes in pans before turning out onto rack.

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Every couple of months, we receive an excellent publication in the Parish Office called "The Pavement". It is a resource booklet for those who are homeless, or threatened with being so. We keep it to help us provide accurate and supportive information to anyone requesting it.

This month's edition shook me. We constantly hear moans that the country is getting increasingly secular and/or losing its Christian roots. The Easter edition has a very sensible and practical article on foot care for those who may be rough-sleeping or living in temporary/hostel accommodation.....which is prefaced by paragraphs about Maundy Thursday of the Gospels and the tradition of Maundy money distribution: foot washing and all that that signifies in humility and care. So much for non-faith: I felt quietly uplifted by it.

Sylvia Fox

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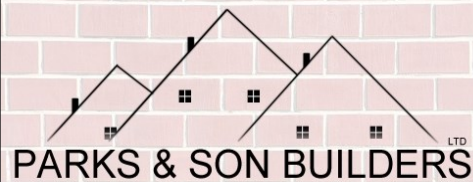
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revolutionary new treatment. Jamie was put into a special incubator to cool his body temperature down to 33.5 - they were inducing hypothermia!

On Sunday 2nd January special prayers were said for Jamie. Throughout the next few days, many scans and tests were carried out and Jamie's temperature was very slowly brought back to normal. On Friday 7th January, Jamie was well enough to go home.

As a family it was a great comfort to have such a lot of thoughts and prayers surrounding us, but I truly believe that God was with me every step of the way.

God is my rock.; the rock I build my faith upon and I love Him.

Sue Merricks

Why was Sylvia away for Confirmation?

Because I had had to make a decision about a CBSO Tour well before the date for Confirmation was known and, although it was likely that one of the two Sundays involved WOULD be Confirmation, Rob kindly said, "Take the opportunity, it won't come again".

So what was the opportunity?

To sing War Requiem by Benjamin Britten in Dortmund, Rotterdam and Eindhoven: all three place of huge strategic importance in WW2 and severely battered by the Germans. Interleaving the text of the conventional requiem mass, the story of Abraham and Isaac, and war poems by Wilfred Owen, it commentates on the futility of war and the search for peace. While we were rehearsing it in March and April, we were acutely aware of new conflicts arising and others continuing; and the continued need for former enemies to advocate peace through joint projects of art, drama and sport.

It has been a very special opportunity, and I am deeply grateful to all the other musicians of the parish for making it possible.

Sylvia Fox

My favourite Bible passage

When Jayne asked me what my favourite Bible passage was, I thought of the Gospel of St. Matthew and the many parables, but chapter 7 holds special memories for me. I remember happy Sunday afternoons in the old scout hut in West Heath, singing about the wise man who built his house upon the rock - but as an adult I thought more deeply about the words "the rain came down and the floods came up" when my faith was tested.

".. . So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed and wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!" Matthew 7.24-27

On New Year's Eve, we were looking forward to very exciting news - our 4th grandchild was about to come into the world and a few minutes into 2011, Jamie David Merricks was born, 101b 6 1/2oz. But our joy turned to anguish as we learned of the complications of his birth. His brain had been starved of oxygen and there was talk of brain damage. He was rushed to the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch and then transferred to the Heartlands Hospital for



March and April 2011 Baptisms

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

20 th March	Amie Kathleen Suzuki
20 th March	Chloe Anna Suzuki
3 rd April	Evie Grace Treadwell
17 th April	Harrison Steven Darnley
23 rd April	Myra Elizabeth Clifford
23 rd April	Michelle Elizabeth Ann Suzuki
24 th April	Oliver Nash

April 2011 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

16th April Daniel Joseph Bowker and Lisa Ann Hector

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Every day, Jesus reaches out to touch us; he wants to show us how much he loves us. By letting Jesus reach out and touch our lives, just like that of the leper, our lives will be changed too.

CRYPTOGRAM

Here is a KEY which lists all the letters from A to Z. Each of the letters has a corresponding number. The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below to solve the phrase.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
22	10	16	17	7	26	19	8	21	14	6	9	15

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	3	25	24	20	2	18	11	12	5	13	4	23

10 4 9 7 18 18 21 1 19 14 7 2 11 2 20 7 22 16 8 3 11 18

22 1 17 18 3 11 16 8 3 11 20 9 21 12 7 2 5 7 18 3 3

5 21 9 9 10 7 16 8 22 1 19 7 17

CHILDREN'S PAGE... with Gail.

Hello everyone!

Together, let's take a look at Matthew 8:1-4. In this story, we hear about a man with leprosy who was healed by Jesus.



What is Leprosy?

Leprosy is a skin disease that is very uncomfortable and painful. People with leprosy were thought to be unclean and were treated like outcasts. They weren't allowed in public places which meant they weren't even allowed in church.

Lepers were unloved by everyone. Everyone but Jesus that is and this story shows us just how much Jesus loves everyone.

...there was a leper who came to Jesus and knelt before him saying, 'Lord if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'

Jesus reached out his hand, touched the man and healed him showing the *Love and Power of God.*

Let's think about this for moment... Jesus reaches out and touches.

By loving this man and reaching out and touching him, Jesus changed his whole life. This is more amazing than the healing of the leprosy. This man, who before was an outcast, was now loved, accepted and welcomed by his hometown, his family, his church and his community - all places where before he had been forbidden. Jesus had brought not just wholeness in body, but wholeness of life.

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April 2011 Funerals

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

- 1st April Arthur Henry Hall, 97. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Brandwood Cemetery.
- 8th April Vivienne Margaret Davenport, 69. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 8th April Sheila Joyce Ellard, 58. Interment of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 12th April Brian Thorpe, 81. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 12th April David John Parker, 75. Service in St Nicolas Church, cremation at Robin Hood.
- 18th April Elizabeth Marjorie Brooke, 96. Cremation at Woodlands.
- 19th April Brian Turner, 70. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 20th April Brenda Hazel McGowan, 75. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 20th April Michael Colin Broadbent, 65. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.
- 21st April John Charles Street, 76. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 26th April Gertrude Doris Burkhart, 84. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Wythall Cemetery.
- 28th April George Henry Wisdale, 83. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in Kings Norton Cemetery.

At Saint Nicolas Place

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

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

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

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

Scouts and Cubs (198th & 129th Birmingham)

Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall, Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm Penny Hattersley 628 5694
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS 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
School website: www.hawkesley.bham.sch.uk

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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 Open: 10 am - 1pm Monday to Friday.

Parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk

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

KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

People, Places and Contacts

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

MINISTRY TEAM:

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

WARDENS

St. Nicolas	Ann Hughes & Paul Shelton	458 3289
Hawkesley	Jim Clarke	550 3455 / 07939 838086

Immanuel	Alan Haynes	459 4711
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PCC (Church Council)

Parish Administrators:	Secretary: Sylvia Fox
Christian Giving Officer	Judy Ash, Christine Gadd, Sylvia Fox
Churchyard Care Team	Jean Brownsword 458 3289
Bible Reading Fellowship	Richard Harper 458 3289
Flower Co-ordinator	Julie Caley 458 3289
Organist and Music Director	Alison Blumer 486 2837
	Sylvia Fox 07778 449170
	<i>Tuesday: Training and groups 5.45-8.30pm;</i>
	<i>Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 pm, Seniors/Adults 8-9pm.</i>
	<i>Handbell Ringers, Mondays 3.00 – 4.30 pm; but ring to check we are meeting first.</i>

Immanuel Music Group	Susan Haynes	459 4711
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Oasis/ Sunday School

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

Parish Magazine: Editor

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

Bell Ringers Ringing Master

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The Church in the Parish

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

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

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

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

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

6 pm Evening Worship

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

1st Sunday Taizé Prayer

2nd Sunday Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

3rd Sunday Compline (Night Prayer) with a reflection

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

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 11 am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

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

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

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd & 4th Sundays – Morning Worship.

Tuesday 10am Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church *at The Fairway Centre*

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

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

1st & 3rd Sundays – Holy Communion;

2nd Sunday – Morning Worship;

4th Sunday – All Age Worship.

Open Church

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

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

Open Church times

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

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

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

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

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

Candlelit Church

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

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Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

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