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An update from Stop the Traffik

Three extraordinary men battled snow and blizzards to get from the Red Light District in Amsterdam to the Red Light District in London. They covered 5½ marathons in 6 days.

This was an incredible feat to inspire others to run and raise money for STT's campaign called FREEDOM TICKET FOR LIFE. Their message to people was the fact that girls who do not have the chance of an education are highly vulnerable to be trafficked.

The Mayor of London has launched STT's newest campaign FINANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING. This is a United Nations initiative to fight trafficking. One lady at the event uttered these profound words: "Trafficking is all about one thing – money!"

STT are working all the time to equip others to fight trafficking. They have also had requests from South Africa, India, Switzerland and Egypt to begin strategic work to build up awareness.

In April, STT is hosting a Global Freedom Summit where they will call on the youth of the world to hold their own Freedom Summits in their local communities to take preventative action. Schools are already signing up. STT will be 5 years old in 2011. They have done so much. Especially the pressure put onto chocolate companies like Cadbury's, Mars and Nestle to make traffic-free chocolate.

There is still so much to be done. Prevention is better than cure.

Please pray for:

- those who have no voice, who cannot speak out, who think they have no rights;
- those who traffic - that their hearts will be changed and to see the wicked that they do;
- all those involved in any aspect of STT- those out in the field working with those who have been trafficked, for those who are behind the scenes, for the UN;
- for all those who support STT financially;
- for all those who have set up groups in their local areas;
- for all those who are aware of human trafficking, that they may spread the news of this wicked crime so that one day everyone will be free!

For more information please speak to Sarah or Nicky at Immanuel Church or visit www.stophetraffick.org



Sarah Crooks

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**Items for inclusion in the March 2011 issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 11th February 2011**

Welcome.....

We said farewell to Rebecca Pullin on 16th January and Rob reflects on her final service in his column. There are some super photographs of the occasion on the parish website www.kingsnorton.org.uk including one of Rebecca with her fiancé Brian. What a lovely surprise to leave us with and I would like to congratulate them on their engagement.

This year we will be celebrating 400 years of the King James Version of the Bible. Each month we will be publishing a favourite verse or passage. Rev Jayne starts us off by remembering a story she enjoyed in her childhood. She has also reviewed a book about the 400 year anniversary.

Rev John has written an interesting article about the social networking site Facebook. If you are on Facebook, did you know you can be a friend with the parish? Just search for Kings Norton. You can read John's article on page 40.

We have published two sessions from Grippled by Worship which the clergy team and others have worked through during January. They can be found from page 8 onwards.

Alan Haynes, Editor.

We are shaped more than we often realise by our stories. People, places, love, hurt, convictions, wonder, despair - and much that is very ordinary - all affect who we are and what we do. God's promise is always to take what we have been and what we are and grow new depths and strengths of character in us and all creation.

At Rebecca's leaving service on 16th January, we saw what this means. We gathered to give thanks for God's faithful promise to Rebecca in her life among us and to pray for her new ministry in Highsters Heath. We came as individuals, shaped by our own stories of her ministry. We all, including Rebecca, left renewed as God's people, trusting in his promise for us and for her in all that is to come.

It was a wonderful evening. We all offered the best we could in prayer, song, communion - and food - but let God do the rest. We let Rebecca's deep trust that in Christ, there is a time and a season for everything (including moving!) flow through everything. And as she proclaimed, we found again that God's promise to be among us is true.

We gathered from every congregation in the parish with many others befriended by Rebecca in her time here. But where we came from (for once) did not matter at all. We were all caught up by God in something both simpler and bigger than all our differences.

I found it all deeply moving - and profoundly encouraging. All who were able to be present will know what I mean - as will those who would have been but for other responsibilities. For all who prayed and worked to make it happen, please accept my thanks.

As you pray for Rebecca in her new ministry, beginning on February 8th, please give thanks for all that God promises in our own continuing journey in Kings Norton and pray that God's character continues to be formed among us. It will be.

Rob Morris

with a fair bit of trepidation, back in May I clicked the button on my computer that said 'Log in to Facebook'.

And what have I discovered in the months since then? Quite a few lessons, some quite simple and others more profound. A simple, but vital, lesson is "Think before you type." Imagine having a conversation in a pub, but where everything you say may not only be overheard by anyone but also recorded for posterity. It is all too easy to fire off a comment, light-heartedly or in the heat of the moment, that can unwittingly cause offence.

Once something is "out there" it can never truly be retracted. As Jesus once said, "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves". The wisest advice for me came in the words of a friend: "Be kind". That's not always easy to square with indulging in the kind of football-related banter and teasing that I love, and that Facebook is so well geared up for, but I try! (Perhaps this article might be a good place to apologise to my many Villa supporting friends, for comments about their imminent relegation...)

But I have also discovered that, for all the evident dangers, social networking sites can just as easily be a real force for good. On-line friendships do not have to be a substitute for true friendships, as some have feared, but can enrich relationships in the real world and help them to grow. For my youngsters, our move from Devon to Birmingham five years ago was made far less traumatic by the ease with which, on the internet, they could keep in touch with friends from their previous schools. And whilst Facebook no doubt can be a vehicle for cruelty or bullying, my own experience has been far more of it as a forum for the expression of a great deal of kindness, love and mutual concern.

And so, my adventures in cyber space continue, and no doubt over the coming year I will continue to make mistakes and, hopefully, learn from them. I will have exchanges and encounters that will leave me amused, infuriated, delighted, and intrigued. There will be things to be wary of, but also much to treasure and enjoy. But isn't all that true of life in the real world too?

Rev John's Adventures in Cyber-Space



A year ago, I never expected to find myself using Facebook, let alone enjoying it. I have always regarded computers, like cars, as useful tools for getting certain jobs done, but hardly things to spend more time with than strictly necessary. Like most parents, I tutted in exasperation when my teenage children dashed off after meals to get back to their laptops, ostensibly to do homework, but in reality (so it seemed) to log on to this mysterious thing called 'Facebook' that seemed to devour hours of their time. And now, I seem to have become hooked. What went wrong?

For those for whom the internet is an alien world, or who have been living on another planet for the last few years, a word of explanation may be in order. Facebook is probably the most successful and widely used example of what have become known as "social networking sites". They are websites through which users can share with their friends a whole range of stuff, from comments, news and opinions, through to photos, video clips and links to other pages on the internet. As someone who instinctively values my own privacy, I was wary of the dangers that this sharing of personal information could bring. Like many people, I was deeply concerned by some of the well-publicised examples of social networking sites being used as instruments for bullying, for grooming, for fraud, and (let's face it) for the self-incrimination that can result from a hasty or ill-considered post that unexpectedly gains a wider and unwelcome hearing.

So with all my reservations, why did I sign up? Partly, to be honest, from a fear of missing out, of being excluded from a world of conversations in which others, including the rest of my family, had become thoroughly immersed. Partly, and more positively, it was from a recognition that I am a bit rubbish at writing letters and making phone-calls, and Facebook seemed to offer a way to keep in touch with friends who live in other parts of the country. And so,

Word and Worship

In Lent (begins 9th March!) we shall be thinking about the vivid stories from John's Gospel of Jesus's actions, words and life-changing love. We shall also be reflecting on our own stories. What has shaped us and the story of God's church in Kings Norton? How might God's new character of love, truth, endurance and faithful generosity be shaped anew in us, our church – and in all creation?

Marty Haugen tells a story of the Hmong people of Laos. They have rich stories of who they are, where they came from, what they believe and how they should live together as one people. They know the stories by heart. They tell them often. They live them day by day – but they have no writing and no books.

A missionary asked, "Why are these stories not written down so that you can get them right?" They replied, "We used to have books, but one day they fell into the soup in our big cooking pot, so we ate them - and ever since we haven't needed books to remember the stories."

Many will know the Prayer Book Collect for Advent 2 which thanks God for the gift of his holy word and asks for grace that we may "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" it. We don't actually "eat" God's word like the Hmong people and their stories, but God's Word is still to be as inwardly digested in all creation - and us - as if we did.

In January, a number of us have been reflecting on what it means to be Grippled by Worship. (*Some of the material is in the following pages – more will follow*). We kept finding that God's faithful life-giving speaking and story is at the heart of all our public worship and, when "inwardly digested", will shape our own lives and stories for good in every sense.

Do reflect on all this - and look out for details of the ways in which all can join this Lent in seeking to discover anew how God's word, story and promise really is for all.

Rob Morris

Gripped by Worship - session one:

Gathering and Sending Out

Public worship raises feelings. It can bring renewed confidence, new strength and deep peace - or upset, rejection or boredom.

Why do God's people do it? Is it just "going to church" or is there more?

The four things which happen in worship, ancient or new
Gathering Listening to God Responding Going out

We shall be thinking later about Listening to God and Responding.

This session is about Gathering and Going out - changed!

For centuries in Kings Norton, public worship was simply the local community gathered in celebration, grief or hope. It was woven into the common round of days, seasons and years by people who knew each other, for good or ill.

But life has changed so rapidly in the last fifty years. The church's calendar of seasons and festivals competes with all sorts of school, work, media and family diaries. Sunrise and sunset no longer define the pattern of each day. Our food no longer depends on working with the changing seasons through the year. We eat what we want when we want.

Public worship is now often in the company of strangers or those we only know through church. We have fewer and fewer common stories.

We expect consumer choice and so "church" is so often tested by what we get out of it. "Did it help me?" "Was it my kind of music/sermon?"

But when we meet in public worship, we are still only and always doing in our own time and place what Christians have done for 2000 years. It's not just a personal thing. It's what marks church - right from the beginning.

And it's like every good gathering of people. There is a host. A lot of people are involved in inviting, preparing and running it. We build old and new relationships - and it makes a difference to how we face life together.

We recognise these if it's a family meal, a concert or a sports event.

Can we think for a few minutes about what they are in public worship?

find a satisfying consistency and blend which we felt would "tickle our customers' taste buds" and which proved to be the highlight of our preserve making.

Again, I stress that the all-important element of our recipes was the fineness and consistency of the preserve. As a result, the importance of following the correct process (and praying too!) did produce a satisfying result. As the top covers were secured by elastic bands and jars were labelled, we were able to breathe sighs of relief, content in the knowledge that the preserves were finished. We started to wash the pots and pans.

The big day dawned. Our preserves had been boxed for transporting and, like other stall holders, we set up our stall. The fair supported several other preserve stalls, along with other produce, so we were not alone. We offered our potential customers a taste of a preserve on a biscuit before committing to buy, which brought about several positive comments. This idea worked extremely well and we sold all our preserves on the day.

Once again, thanks to all those who donated fruit and jars. But a special thank you to my dear departed mother, bless her!

I hope you have enjoyed this article. I have enjoyed re-telling what happened.

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.



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

A different kind of Parish People this month.



Hello everyone! Jenny McLaren is my name, but abbreviated it forms the initials J.A.M. I worship with other members at Hawkesley Ecumenical Church in Kings Norton.

I had not made preserves for a couple of years, but in the second week of last October, Allan and I decided to make some jam for the Hawkesley Christmas Fair in November.

In previous years at the Christmas Fair, we had supported the event but had not actually "run a stall". However, this time we decided to run our own stall. The date was set, the banner was being written, time to set about making preserves. Both berries and apples were plentiful and ready for picking - our thanks go to those who donated some of the fruit. My sister in law, Janet, had given the jam pan, so we were all set to go!

Our first choice was Damson Jam and recalling my dear mother's recipe made us determined to go ahead with a confidence that was not to be shaken. For all interested preserve makers, we believe the sieving and straining of the fruit brought out its full flavour and texture. We then turned our attention to Apple & Blackberry Jam.

This having been achieved, and with jars donated from friends and acquaintances, Allan and I, by using the apples that were left, decided to make some Chutney which contained onion, sultanas, butter beans, sugar, curry powder, chilli and mustard which formed the basis of the chutney. Both of us like a spicy taste to our food and the recipe we found fitted the bill.

There was then a marvellous period of Tasting and Sampling to

Have a look at these passages . What stands out?

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2.42

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread from house to house and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people." Acts 2.46

These passages tell of the very earliest days of the church.

What do they tell us about Christian public worship?

What does it need in order to happen?

We discovered that all we need practically is people to meet together, a space for them to gather in, a Bible, humble leaders wise in the ways of God - and a table, some bread, wine and water. That's all.

We also need to bring generous hearts, desire to discover and trust more of God, desire to grow in love - and voices to praise, pray and sing.

And then have a look at this passage. Is this us?

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were no people, now you are God's people; once you had not received God's mercy, but now you have." 1 Peter 2.9,10

We were troubled that this seemed to exclude others who are different - or didn't seem to be chosen. We found answer in accepting that God really does choose and call us to proclaim in worship that he has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light - but because God is God, he does the same with others in the ways he chooses. This is our calling - but that doesn't mean that we are better than those who hear God's call differently. It just means that this is our calling in public worship whoever we are.

What difference does worship make? Who to?

Gripped by Worship – session two Listening to God

The Bible is more than teaching. Meals are more than food.

Two things get in the way of Listening to God:

The idea that God only speaks through a special word out of heaven directed to a single heart. It happens – but rarely. Frustrating!

The idea that the Bible is only a teaching manual and that “listening to God” only happens if a preacher explains to us what its words mean.

Listening to God in public worship is much more than either for the Word spoken in Genesis 1.3 has become flesh and dwells among us. (*John 1.14*). God speaks to us of who we are and what we are together in so many different ways in every word and action when we worship.

And it makes a difference to the whole world!

In Session One, we remembered that in every time of public worship (including weddings and funerals!), four things happen. We gather, we listen, we respond, we go out changed - for better or worse. In Session Three we think about Responding – but first we must Listen.

We have thought about the ways in which public worship is like every good gathering of people. Everyone is involved in inviting, preparing and running it. We build old and new relationships - and they make such a difference to how we face life together. And there is a host - God, Holy Trinity.

The words of a good host matter. We remember them. But a good host's words are much more than words. Hosts speak to arrange the space and menu. They welcome every guest and ensure all have a place. They know and speak to the gifts and needs of each one. They care for the anxious in ways that help them. They let things unfold between guests – but speak to ensure order, time and pace. They may speak to intervene if some are putting themselves before others.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 15-21 MAY 2011

We are all invited to attend "Better Together" - an event for Christian Aid. On Saturday 19th February, the event comes to St Luke's Church Centre, Great Colmore Street, Birmingham, B15 2AT. From 12-2pm we are invited to drop-in for chat, cake and Nicaraguan coffee. From 2-4pm, there is afternoon tea and the Christian Aid Week 2011 material will be introduced, inspiring us with stories from work in Nicaragua. The events are free to attend, but it would be helpful to know numbers, so if you plan to attend, please call Christian Aid on 0121 200 2283. Thank you.

This month, I will be contacting Christian Aid collectors in our Parish to start arranging house-to-house collections for May. If you have not done this before but are interested in finding out more, please contact me on 0121 459 4711. I will be pleased to hear from you! Thanks a lot.

Susan Haynes

Cows belong in fields

Nocton Dairies Ltd. proposes to build a US-style 'mega-dairy' in Nocton, Lincolnshire. If these plans go ahead, up to 8,000 cows will be kept in giant sheds, pushed to produce milk yields far beyond natural limits of 10,000 litres of milk per year (43% higher than the current national average) and will have little or no chance to graze on pasture.

The amount of energy these animals need to expend in order to produce 10,000 or more litres of milk each per year is equivalent to a human being running a half marathon every day for ten months of the year.

Research shows that this type of 'zero-grazing' system is associated with increased risk of many health problems including lameness, mastitis, reproductive problems and a number of bacterial infections.

Around 65,000 people have objected to the planning application but it will be about 6 weeks before we know the outcome.

If you would like to know more then please visit the Compassion in World Farming website www.ciwf.org.uk

Fish fight

Half of all the fish caught in the North Sea are thrown back overboard DEAD.

If you find this shocking then please register your support and to also find out more at www.fishfight.net. Your support will help to fight to get the common fisheries' policy changed in 2012 to stop all of these fish going to waste.

Please spread the word.

David Moorcroft

They speak to put everyone at ease with themselves and others - and be refreshed together. A good host's words enable us to come as individuals - but leave as companions.

And if a good earthly host can manage all these, how much more can the Creator of the Universe, who promises himself in Jesus to all who gather and who promises always to offer the words that matter, the words which make things happen? We must listen.

Look at the service sheet for Rebecca's leaving on Sunday

Pick out some of the words in the service which seem to you to speak to all of us together? Which of the words are directly from the Bible? (They are much more than the readings or sermon!)

What do we hear God saying through them? And did God speak to us - or to you - in ways other than words? What were they?

Turn to Mark's Gospel, Chapters 1-3.6.

Jesus speaks in these chapters in so many different ways to so many people. We're given some of them and told of many others. When Jesus speaks, things happen - and people are drawn into new life.

How many kinds of Word do you find Jesus speaking?

(e.g. authority, teaching, healing, invitation, encouragement, rebuke)

Can you divide them into:

Words he speaks to individuals

Words he speaks to groups or crowds.

Choose one of each - and reflect on

Where and when they are spoken

Who is listening

How his eyes, hands and feelings add to his words

What effect do Jesus's words have

We gather our thoughts on these - and then reflect on

How does God speak to us in public worship?

What helps us listen? What gets in the way?

What difference does it make?

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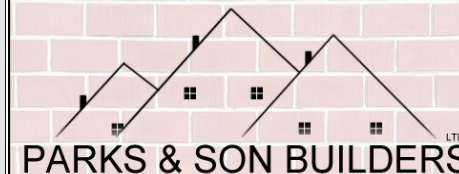
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We are all invited to Messy Church on Farmers' Market Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in St Nicolas Church.

The next one will be on Saturday 12th February. These are craft sessions on a Biblical theme for all ages - a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. We look forward to seeing you there!



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KINGS NORTON FARMERS' MARKET

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Terry Bowen



This is the logo of the **Women's World Day of Prayer**.

It was designed by an Irish man for the 1981 service which was crafted by Irish women from both north and south of the border. In 1982, it was adopted as the international logo.

Its design is made up of four people kneeling in prayer. Where the angle is formed by their knees, it can be viewed as four arrow head converging from the four points of the compass. The circle represents the world and our Christian unity through all our diversity. The whole shape is that of a celtic cross – from the land of the inception of the symbol.

This year, on **March 4th** (first Friday of Lent), women all around the globe will, once again, meet together in prayer and fellowship. Here in King's Norton, the afternoon service is at **St Nicolas at 2pm** and will follow the form of service being used throughout the English speaking churches of the UK. Bible Readings, prayers, stories from the ladies of Chile who have prepared this year's service, a talk about Chilean life and songs/hymns make for a lovely time of worship together, with ladies from churches in Kings Norton, Cotteridge, Stirchley and sometimes beyond.

There will also an **Evening service at 7.00 pm at St Nicolas**. This will have a meal as a central part – with the prayer, Bible readings and worship taken from the resource of the afternoon service. There are likely to be several teenagers at this service, so if you are a school/college-aged young lady and aren't sure if it is for you...you will have some ready-made friends.

There is something rather amazing about knowing you are in the company of millions of women praying the world over – please join us at 2.00 pm or 7.00 pm if you are able.

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that could possibly disgrace a human being at that time.

And then we are introduced to another character in the story - a little girl. You couldn't get a character more opposite in circumstances to Naaman. She had been captured by an opportune raiding party, a little local skirmish, similar to those which still happen all over the world today. We aren't told her name, but she has so much to teach us about faith in God.

It must have been really frightening for her to be captured and separated from her parents with no prospect of ever seeing them again. She had been taken to a foreign land amongst strangers, with no idea what would happen to her and whether or not she would be treated kindly or even if she would live. And yet, what I admire about her is her apparent lack of a desire for revenge. There is no impression of hatred for these people who keep her away from her parents. We know she believed in God and trusted in his prophets. And perhaps this is where her secret lay. Perhaps it was her faith that had enabled her to be content in her situation, had enabled her to bear no malice towards her new master and mistress and, far from thinking that Naaman had got his just rewards, she wanted to help him recover.

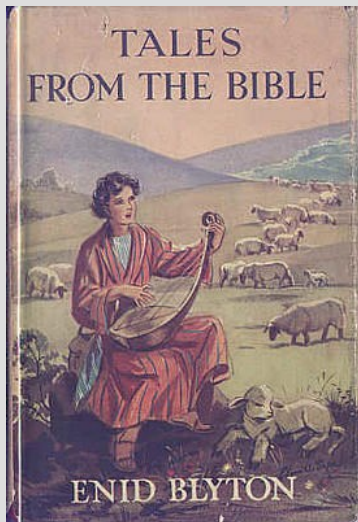
So, here we have a young slave girl, who doesn't even get a name mention, who has no prospect of a glittering career, has nothing that she can call her own, and yet she holds the key to Naaman's recovery. And she shows real courage. She doesn't keep her faith to herself. She doesn't just think to herself, "If only Naaman could meet the prophet." Nor does she think, "Who am I to offer advice to this great man?" She actually speaks to her mistress about it. And Naaman listens. He recognises his need and sets off to find this help. And you can read what happens next by looking up the story in 2 Kings 5. Happy reading!

Revd Jayne

My Favourite Bible Story

Over this coming year, we are hoping to feature an article each month entitled **My Favourite Bible Passage/Verse/Story/Psalm**. This is part of our commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the publishing of the Kings James Bible. Ideally, we would like you, the readers of this magazine, to write in with a contribution to this monthly slot so that we can give others a real taste of what this wonderful book has to offer. The article does not have to be a long one, but needs to include the Bible reference and a couple of short paragraphs to say why you like this passage. It may be that it has brought you comfort at a particularly difficult time in your life, or maybe it has changed the way you think or act or maybe you just enjoy the story. If you would like to write a short piece then please do so – don't wait to be asked – and give it to either myself or the Parish Office (marked F.A.O. The Editor) or email it to editor@kingsnorton.org.uk.

And here is my favourite story to get you started!
2 Kings 5:1-14 - The story of Naaman, Commander of the army of King Aram.



When I was a small child, I was given a book called "Tales from the Bible" by Enid Blyton. One of the stories in it is called 'Naaman and the Little Slave Girl' and I used to love reading this story. It tells the story of a great man, Naaman, who very probably had everything - lovely house, wife, fantastic job, great personality, loved by everyone, respected and trusted. In fact, he sounds like a thoroughly nice guy. But, "he had leprosy". Poor Naaman. Great though he was, he was afflicted with an illness. And not just any old illness, but the most loathsome and the most humiliating illness

Women's Fellowship

Our meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd February at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. We will be joining the Brownies for an Activity Evening. Visitors are always welcome.

Alison Blumer, Chairman.

Our CMS partners, Grace and Pete How, along with their baby son Will, are working in Central and Eastern Asia in agricultural development, helping to develop seeds that will survive severe weather conditions better than current seed stocks do. They are also involved in supporting other development workers and in building up good trusting relationships with the local people. Please continue to pray for them in this work - sometimes in severe weather or difficult security conditions. For more information about CMS itself, have a look at www.cms-uk.org

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society's February meeting will be held on Monday 29th with a talk by Dick Empson on "Key Hill & Warstone Lane: Historic Cemeteries in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter". The cemeteries are described as 'two of Birmingham's hidden gems'. Doors will open for the meeting at 7p.m. and the talk will begin at 7.30p.m. Visitors are always welcome at the Society's meetings.

Claire Simpson, Chairman.

Albert J. Whurr

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Dr Mukti Barton: January 2011

As we drew close to the end of 2010, the Bishop's Advisor for Black and Asian Concerns, Dr Mukti Barton, stepped down from her post as the co-ordinator of the Black and Asian Network after ten years. Dr Barton has worked tirelessly with planning and implementing the network events and we are sad to see her stand down. We are very grateful to Mukti that, through her efforts and the network, Black and Asian people are able to meet and share their experiences, learn and encourage one another at various events. As a writer, Mukti's book, 'Rejection, Resistance and Resurrection' served as a voice for many Black and Asian individuals wherein they were able to share their experiences, their fears, their hopes and their aspirations within the life of the Anglican Church. Through the encouragement of the Network events and Mukti's dedication, individuals are encouraged to become effective Christians - to step forward and get involved in the life of The Church at all levels. Many are encouraged to discover their potential, strengths, gifts and skills, to be affirmed and to be used for the glory of God and for his people. I'm sure that many will agree with me in saying that Mukti has been a warm and gentle teacher, friend and encourager to many over the years - including myself. I'm certain that her humble yet affirming approach to her ministry as a tutor and a gifted woman of God will continue to be an encouragement to others. Many have been blessed and have benefited from her expertise as a tutor and from her passion for teaching Biblical truth, liberation and justice for all, irrespective of race or creed. Mukti will continue as a tutor at Queens Theological College at Birmingham University where she is a passionate lecturer in Liberation Theology. On 4th December 2010, The Black and Asian Network held a farewell event for Mukti at St Mary and St Ambrose Church, Edgbaston. It was a time of celebration and affirmation of her work. The main speaker was Dr Joe Aldred – Bishop (Churches Together in England & BBC), who had the pleasant task of launching Mukti's most recent book, 'Freedom is for Freeing' – which we were all given a copy of. Many thanks Mukti and we wish you God's richest blessings for the future. With love and thankfulness,



Fay Fearon (Reader)

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!

It seems a lot that was planned since the last magazine was called off by the snow! Fortunately, the Skittles Evening Susan arranged at Oddingley Hall still went ahead. Lots of people arrived with their bowling arms ready. It was a great night out!

On Sunday 12th December, some members of Immanuel gathered to sing Christmas carols around Vardon Way. The houses visited were pleased with their chocolate gift!

We purchased Christmas Cards to be delivered around our area which went well with lots of people offering their time to deliver a batch. Unfortunately, the cards also advertised our Carols by Candlelight service which had to be cancelled due to the snowy weather.

Jayne led our Christingle service. It was a small turn out, but we enjoyed singing together and making our own Christingles.

We had a lovely service with Rebecca (her last at Immanuel). She reminded us of our Baptism and our constant renewal in Christ.

Sarah Crooks



FROM HAWKESLEY CHURCH

The "other" Elaine

All of my previous acquaintances who were called Elaine have been warm, caring and genuinely nice people. I met the "other" Elaine when I was recently unfortunate enough to need NHS accommodation at the new QE Hospital; me with my gammy leg, she a failed suicide attempt from cut wrists and a drugs overdose. There were times during the four days that we were ward inmates together that I felt desperately sorry for her. In her more lucid moments, she could hold a reasonable conversation and seem fairly normal, but it was the other side of her that was a complete eye opener to me.

She was only 38 years old, had schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder and had been on prescription drugs for 20 years. Because of the nature of her admission, she was on "special watch" which meant she had a minder 24hrs a day. She demanded her prescription drugs when the effects of the previous ones had worn off (some of which even the nurses had never heard of) and if the next ones weren't due, she would rant and rave and literally pull her hair out. She had quite a few bald patches and I can assure you that it is not a very nice thing to watch. There was a variety of people on a rota to care for her. Some just either sat by her bed and followed her wherever she went and some were absolutely brilliant with her and tried to get her to understand the precariousness of her situation and how it could be helped. In all cases, this involved getting coats and boots on to go outside in the freezing cold, both day and night, for the obligatory cigarette. If you remember it was -10c in December.

The ward that we were on was extremely busy, but her whole attitude was 'I want, I want' and nothing and nobody else mattered. She was rude, selfish and demanding and requests for her to be patient fell on deaf ears. The majority of the staff treated her as they did the rest of us, with patience and good humour. They're obviously used to difficult patients. Should she have been on an ordinary NHS ward, well, that may have been another question.

And so it was that there were many times I realised how very different her life was from anything that I had come across before. I had my home and family and friends who love and care for me; she was a victim of a failed "care in the community" order who had no one apart from psychiatrists and social workers. She had apparently been found in a one bedroom flat with a mattress on the floor and no heating.

My abiding thought is that God loves her just as much as he loves me, so what can we, who have so much, do for people like her? Physically, I can't do anything for her, but I can and do pray for her and for those who have the responsibility for the care of her and the other sick people in our society.

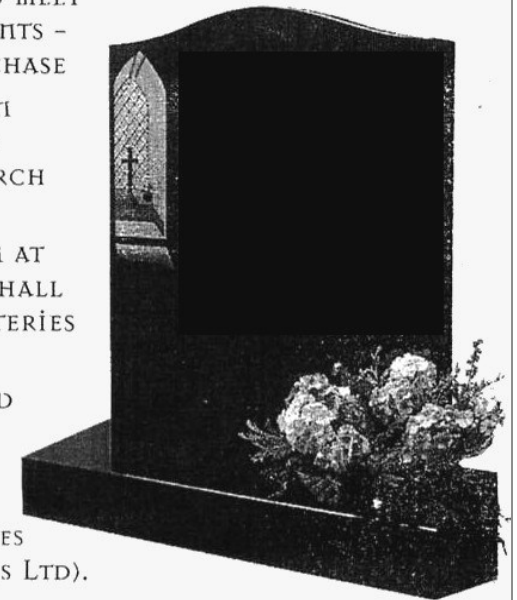
As for me, I am now well and normal service is resumed. But I will never forget my "other" Elaine.

Liz Power

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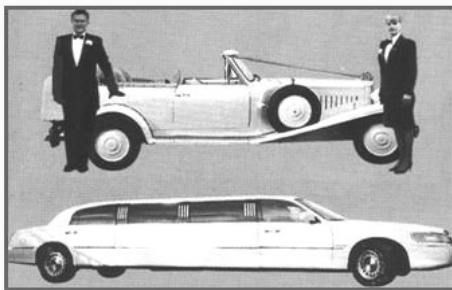
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Flowers in St. Nicolas Church

Thank you to everyone who has given donations towards the cost of the flowers during 2010. If you would like to pay for the flowers on a particular Sunday (to celebrate a Birthday, Wedding Anniversary etc.) during the coming year, please contact me as soon as possible so as not to be disappointed. Donations can also be given towards the cost of the Easter, Harvest and Christmas flowers.

Alison Blumer - Flower Co-ordinator - 486 2837

Mission focus - Ifakara Bakery

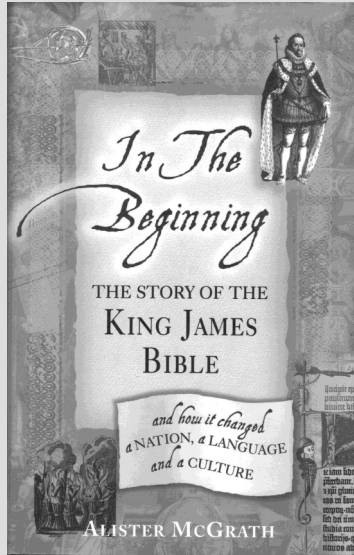
One of the charities we support as a Parish is the Ifakara Bakery in Tanzania. This wonderful bakery is now self supporting but continues to supply bread to the Free Bread Fund, which supplies vital bread to various community projects, like the Kindergarten, the Leprosy Centre, the Orphanage and the Hospital. We are going to have a special evening to find out more about the work of the Bakery - hearing from Gene and Margaret Schellenberg. This Free Bread Fund is completely funded by donations... including ours. At about 17p a loaf, our gift of £500 has bought over 2800 loaves. Come and find out why this bread is making such a difference to the folks who are eating it.

Date: Sunday 27th February. Time: 6pm. Place: St Nicolas Church. Plan of the evening: short service, meal beginning at approx 6.30pm (breads, cheeses, fruits, wines and juices from around the world) and an illustrated talk beginning at somewhere between 7.00pm and 7.15pm. Please join us if you are able.

Sylvia Fox



Book Review



“In The Beginning – The Story of the Kings James Bible and how it changed a Nation, a Language and a Culture”
by Alister McGrath,
Published by Hodder & Stoughton.
ISBN: 0340785608

The King James Bible was a landmark in the history of the English language and an inspiration to poets, dramatists, artists and politicians. Without the King James Bible, there would have been no *Paradise Lost*, no *Pilgrim's Progress*, no *Handel's Messiah*, no Negro

spirituals, no Gettysburg Address. The culture of the English-speaking world would have been immeasurably impoverished. Yet more than a literary - even more than a religious - influence, it was seen as a social, economic and political text. Those seeking to overthrow the English monarchy and those wanting to retain it both sought support from the same Bible. The Bible came to be seen as the foundation of every aspect of English culture, linking monarch and church, time and eternity.

So how did this remarkable translation come to be written? To answer this question is to throw open the doors of a lost world - a world which was being transformed by the new technology of printing. In reading about the greatest English text ever produced, we must close our eyes to our own world, in which books are plentiful and readily available, and enter another, very different universe...

Rev Jayne

December 2010 Marriages

“Those whom God has joined together”

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 4 th December | Anthony Christopher Byng and Cheryl Sonia Jones |
| 18 th December | Jan J C Hoppenbrouwers and Rachel Charlotte Napper |
| 18 th December | James Gareth Page and Helen Marie May |
| 29 th December | Andrew Paul Webb and Shena Barbara Spence |



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What did Jesus mean when he said, "I will make you fish for people."? Jesus needed help; he needed disciples to help him teach people about God's love for them. The thing is, Jesus **still** needs help today, only this time he is calling you and me to follow him and help him fish for people. We can do this by talking to people about God's love; we can tell them about how God is our friend and how he wants to be there friend too.

Jesus calls you to follow him, will you follow...?



Dear God,
Help us to hear you call us.
May we always follow you and fish for people,
just like Peter, Andrew, James and John.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Dot to Dot:

Join the dots to complete the picture.

Then colour it in.



CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Gail.



Hello everyone!

Using Matthew's gospel over the next few months, we will look at the teaching, preaching and healings of Jesus and what these tell us about being a friend of God.



One of the first things Jesus asks us to do in Matthew's gospel is –

“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people”

Matthew 4:19

Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee when he saw two fishermen called Peter and Andrew throwing their net into the water. Jesus called to them, “*Follow me and I will make you fish for people.*” Immediately, they left their nets and followed Jesus. Further on around the lake, Jesus saw James and John sitting in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus called to them, “*Follow me.*” Immediately, they followed Jesus, leaving their father and boats behind. Matthew 4:18-22

Do you find anything in this passage strange or unusual? Because I do!

I find the actions of the four fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John to be amazing. When Jesus called them to follow him, they didn't ask any questions, they just stopped what they were doing and followed him! They didn't say, ‘Sorry, can't right now, we are busy fishing! Come back tomorrow.’ Or, ‘We can't at the moment, we are mending our nets. Maybe later!’

Jesus called them to follow him and they followed.

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December 2010 Funerals

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

- 3rd December Androulla Clarke, 60. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 6th December Norman Joseph Kesterton, 87. Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 7th December John Frederick McCann, 66. Cremation at Yardley.
- 9th December Irene Louise Lucas, 80. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 10th December Kate Percival, 96. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Brandwood End.
- 13th December Frances Whittem, 95. Service in St Nicolas Church, burial at Brandwood End.
- 16th December Leslie Thomas Allcock, 81. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 21st December Norah Dudley. 39. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 21st December Alfred William Fenton, 84. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 22nd December Joan Margaret Donnelly, Interment of ashes in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 23rd December Doris Irene Diprose, 91. Service at St Nicolas Church, burial in St Nicolas Churchyard.
- 23rd December Ronald James Doughty, 70. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 29th December Deborah Dinah Egan, 44. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 30th December William Thomas Hawkins, 57. Cremation at Lodge Hill.
- 31st December Mabel Winifred Bullivant, 94. Cremation at Yardley.

At Saint Nicolas Place

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

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

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

Guides and Brownies
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Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm Rob Keenahan 244 0789

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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

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

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

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Christian Giving Officer	Christine Bowen, Christine Gadd, Sylvia Fox	
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Bible Reading Fellowship	Richard Harper	458 3289
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	Sylvia Fox	07778 449170

Tuesday: Training and groups 5.45-8.30pm;
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Susan Haynes 459 4711

Immanuel Music Group

Oasis/ Sunday School

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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

Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity and music

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

Tiny Tots

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

Growing in Faith

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

Helping to keep our parish church open for all

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