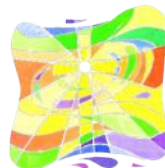


The Parish of Kings Norton

May 2009

50p

Kings Norton Parish Magazine



Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May



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Kings Norton Parish Magazine

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The Parish Church of St. Nicolas

Welcome.....

I hope you had a good Easter. I have heard many people comment on how much they have benefitted from being at the Holy Week and Easter services this year. The front cover of this edition shows the empty tomb that has been created in the North Aisle at St Nicolas' Church and also, in the background, Mike Westley's Crucifixion Drawing, both of which have helped to enhance worship and our Easter experience.

This month we feature Christian Aid Week and look forward to Ascension Day through the words of a Hymn and the children's page. There is also an interesting article from the Diocesan website about the talk given at the launch of the God at Work course "Responding to the Vision in the Global Credit Crisis".

Alan Haynes, Editor



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Thank you.

**Items for inclusion in the June issue are to be submitted by:-
Friday 15th May 2009**

The views, opinions and comments expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the *Kings Norton Parish Magazine*, the *Kings Norton Parish Team*, or its *Staff*. Material must contain the Name and Contact Details of the 'sender'. Wherever possible material submitted for inclusion will be produced in full, but the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit such items, whilst retaining the correct context. We entrust the 'submitter' to ensure that, where necessary, copyright permission has been received to use the material.

From The Rector

Holy Week and Easter

“It has been a real journey together in Christ.”

I am grateful beyond words for the offerings and prayers of all who have made the journey here during this precious week – and shared their gifts so generously.

It has been a real journey together in Christ. So many have prayed, planned and prepared so carefully. We saw and heard the fruits of their love and labour in words, music, flowers and much else.

We also received the new and unexpected as we journeyed – especially in opening the generous ancient spaces of St Nicolas for new insight, faith and relationship with God and each other. Mission!

For all sorts of reasons, not all could make it physically in church – though they were with us in spirit. They may like some assuring explanation.

The larger space around the nave platform in St Nicolas opened all our worship to new dignity and depth in which old and new, friends and strangers felt at home.

We shall continue to grow in this, with the space arranged for each service and use as serves best.

The Church Council agreed that the front nave pews will be moved back on 4th May. This will happen but the Cross, Pathway, Garden and the Tomb will stay until the great feast of Pentecost on 31st May.

Do look round, use and pray – and do look forward to all that you find before it all goes back! We will then reflect on “What next?” Comments, ideas welcome!

With my thanks and prayers for all for a richly renewing Easter

Rob

The Crucifixion Drawing

Mike Westley, the artist, has offered his work to St Nicolas as a home for now. It will stay in the North Aisle. Many have already found it a deep source for prayer, reflection and faith. Please use it – and do ask if you would like to explore its meaning further.

The Tomb in the North Aisle

Christ did not own his tomb; it was given – by Joseph of Arimathea (John 19 vv 38-42). Made of rock – hewn by human hands – it gave safe and dignified burial according to Jewish custom.

Our tomb takes an extra view. It represents Golgotha – “The Place of the Skull” – the place of killing – outside of the safety of the City Walls – no man’s land – the place where criminals were crucified, left to die and their bodies left without care or sanctified burial.

It would have been a place where the homeless may have gathered – sifting through the rubbish and waste to create shelters – as millions do in shanty towns today.

Our tomb is a representation of a shanty dwelling, as well as a tomb. The ledges for the bodies could represent seats; but they can also end up as tombs for those who:

- have no food or clean water;
- suffer the diseases of poverty and malnutrition without care;
- are trafficked for others’ greed;
- are made refugee or homeless through war or in natural or economic disaster.



The space inside is nearly large enough to stand up in; it is nearly a house, but not really. It is a ragged attempt of a dwelling, built out of other people’s cast-offs

but it is someone’s home.

It is *their* space – a few square feet that is their own, a shelter.

A domestic space.

A meeting place. A place of life.

Christ is here in this desolation, inviting our trust and commitment to his Easter promise that, in him, his Kingdom of peace and justice will come here and in all creation. For Christ’s borrowed tomb is a meeting place too – of earth’s raw truth and

heaven’s hope.

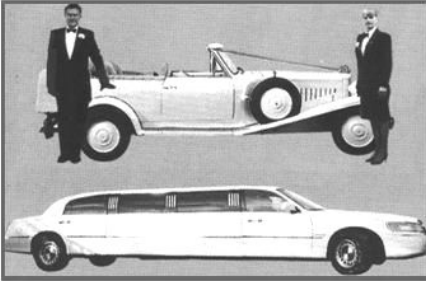
A prayer

Meet us, Lord, as we meet together at the doorway of your tomb. Our comfort is disturbed by your promise to be here - and with all for whom this is “home”.

Help us to meet you through them and through each other – and so find your deep grace and energy to be renewed in love, prayer, hope and work for your Kingdom’s coming in all the earth.

Amen.

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TRIBUTE TO CHRIS HOLMES



Kate Smith, Chris's niece, has organised a disco in memory of Chris on Friday 22nd May, which would have been the day before his birthday.

It is being held at the Bull's Head on Kings Norton Green, starting at 7.30pm. A £3 entry fee on the door will help to raise money for a headstone. There will also be a raffle.

Please support this event if you can. Chris touched the lives of so many and is sorely missed.

Editor



Christian Aid Week, 10th to 16th May

It's the passion and dedication of hundreds of thousands of you who give, act and pray every year that makes it such an extraordinary stand against world poverty. This is your chance to change the world.

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Keeping hope alive: 'education for life'



Nadia Kabula (left) has completed a tailoring course with Christian Aid

Eighteen year old Nadia Kabula's story is not an extraordinary one. For many people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), life is a struggle. Following ten years of conflict, malnourishment and preventable diseases still claim thousands of lives each week. Christian Aid partner organisations are helping to rebuild lives and livelihoods in some of the DRC's most vulnerable communities.

After the greatest challenge of Nadia's life, Christian Aid partner Humanité Nouvelle was there to help her focus on the future and the hope of a better life.

Nadia's father died suddenly two and a half years ago. Her grieving mother, Brigitte, struggled to provide for her six children. Even though Brigitte works gruelling 48-hour shifts, some weeks her transport costs total almost as much as her weekly salary.

Nadia was profoundly affected by the death of her father, whom she adored. And his death had immediate practical implications. There was no money to pay for her schooling, so she had to drop out and care for her younger siblings while their mother worked.

Families like Nadia's often hear about Humanité Nouvelle's tailoring course through their local church. The course helps poor girls to develop skills to support themselves and their families. Nadia explains why girls in similar situations turn to sex work: 'They need to pursue their education and, with a lack of means, get desperate.'

It would have been easy for Nadia to despair. But instead, Humanité Nouvelle 'have given me education for life', she says. She completed the course and now helps to teach the new intake of girls.

Nadia still takes care of her siblings, as well as being a mentor at Humanité Nouvelle. Her mother describes her as 'a blessing... [without her] things would be very hard'. And it's not just her family who speak so positively of her – her pastor also talks about the inspiring influence of her gospel singing.

Nadia is confident that she can earn a good living from sewing and she is clear about her priorities: 'If God helps me... I will do all I can to take care of my siblings and my mother.'

As collectors, we can be inspired by Nadia. Even in difficult circumstances, she is planting seeds of hope around her.

And Nadia's mother has a message for us: 'You volunteers should not be discouraged when you're turned away from houses. You should carry on because without that money it would be very difficult for... children from destitute backgrounds to get training, get a job and secure their future.'

Your time and money are more valuable than you know. You could give a chance of a brighter future to another young person like Nadia and support them to bring hope to the people around them.

The ripple effect of collecting at Christian Aid Week is immense. By taking part, you are working alongside people like Nadia to help change the world. In the DRC:

- £5 could buy six yards of material, from which a three-piece woman's outfit can be made;
- £10 could provide a girl with enough material to complete a 12 month tailoring course;
- £40 could pay the monthly salary of a tailoring instructor.

**Find out more about
Christian Aid Week by
visiting www.caweek.org**

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A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Loving God,
You have commanded us to love the poor as you do;
To consider those that have least and to help those who suffer most.
Reveal to us the ways that you want us to act
To bring a glimpse of your kingdom to earth.

We pray for Nadia, and people like her,
Who praise your name in the midst of trouble;
Give them strength to persevere against the odds.
Bless their selfless acts of love to bring change in their circle of influence
And help them to build the hopeful future you have planned for them.

We pray for Christian Aid's partner Humanité Nouvelle.
Help it to continue to offer hope to its community.
Guide the staff as they work to overcome the ways poverty devastates lives.
We ask for them to build strong relationships of trust and hope with the street boys
And to successfully train all the girls who come to them.
May both these areas of work flourish and provide hope and life to many.

We pray for the wider work of Christian Aid and its partners in the DRC.
Bless their work to support democracy and educate people in their rights
And guide staff in the best actions to take to effect positive change.

We pray for the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Guide those in power towards a future of hope and life for their people
And move them to take compassionate action for the street children of Kinshasa.
In the words of a prayer song sung by Kindu Pentecostal Church in the DRC,
We ask you, Lord, to continue to heal this land:
'Let's love each other,
Let's build a united family, united nations.
Tribal divisions enter even into the churches;
But let's take that good example of Jesus; let's be united.
Let's pray for Africa and the country of Congo.
Let's surrender this country to God's hands in order to lead us.'

We pray for the work of Christian Aid around the world;
The hundreds of partner organisations it works through in poor communities
And the thousands of volunteers who give tirelessly to help others.
Sustain them with your love as they continue to act on behalf of poor and
marginalised people.
We pray for Christian Aid Week and all the activities happening across the UK and
Ireland.
We ask that this might be a week where the needs of the poor are recognised by our
society and that life-giving funds would be raised for those in need.
And as we learn again to live lives of love, help us to remember in prayer those
whose circumstances we have been previously indifferent to.
We pray that, as we learn to be more like you, your love will be manifest in the world
And we will see the change we long for. Amen.

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HISTORY OF HYMNS

Ascension Day falls on May 21st this year. It seems to get less attention than the other Feast which is part of Eastertide, Pentecost (Whitsun), mainly because it falls on a Thursday (40 days after Easter Day) and not on a Sunday. Some denominations have now transferred it to the following Sunday, because of this.

One of the most regularly sung, traditional hymns for Ascensiontide is "Hail the day that sees Him rise" by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Most hymn books now use the version adapted by Thomas Cotterill in 1820 rather than the original 10 verse Wesley one.

It is full of teaching of the significance of the Ascension: Christ's life and death on earth; his heavenly reign and his prayer life in both earth and heaven. He doesn't forget us, and our need of heaven at our own death, just because he is there as King. Re-read Luke 24 vv 36-53 again, to remind yourself of the story.

It is often sung to the Welsh melody "Llanfair", by Robert Williams (1781-1821), with the festive Alleluias after each line.

Hail the day that sees Him rise *Alleluia*
To his throne above the skies; *Alleluia*
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given *Alleluia*
Enters now in highest heaven! *Alleluia*

There for him high triumph waits; *Alleluia*
Lift your heads, eternal gates! *Alleluia*
He hath conquered death and sin; *Alleluia*
Take the King of Glory in! *Alleluia*

Lo, the heaven its Lord receives, *Alleluia*
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; *Alleluia*
Though returning to his throne, *Alleluia*
Calls the human race his own. *Alleluia*

See, he lifts his hands above; *Alleluia*
See, he shows the prints of love; *Alleluia*
Hark, his gracious lips bestow *Alleluia*
Blessings on his Church below. *Alleluia*

Still for us he intercedes, *Alleluia*
His prevailing death he pleads; *Alleluia*
Near himself prepares our place, *Alleluia*
He the first fruits of our race. *Alleluia*

Lord, though parted from our sight, *Alleluia*
Far above the starry height, *Alleluia*
Grant our hearts may thither fly, *Alleluia*
Seeking thee above the skies. *Alleluia*

Sylvia Fox



LATEST NEWS OF GRACE AND PETE HOW, OUR CMS MISSION PARTNERS

We look forward to meeting Grace and Pete again on Sunday 17th May when they will be taking part in the morning service at Immanuel and the evening service at St Nicolas. It will be an opportunity for us to be updated personally with all their plans to return to work with the country and people they love and serve in Central Asia.

Grace has recently returned for a second time to re-establish the links she made to head up several community projects. Pete, meanwhile, has been successful in completing his Masters Degree and in finding a sponsor for his agricultural project.

They thank us for our support and ask us to continue to remember them and their families as they prepare to leave again – this time for longer – as well as all their visits and the practicalities they need to attend to.

Look out for further details of their visit to Kings Norton in the Parish Newsletters next month.

Ann Morrell

KINGS NORTON HISTORY SOCIETY

A talk by Stephen Price and George Demidowicz on the 'Lost History of the Saracen's Head' will follow the Society's AGM on Monday 18th May.

Doors open at 7.00 pm and the AGM will start at 7.30.
Visitors are always welcome.

Claire Simpson, Chairman

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HENRY SANDON LUNCH REVIEW

On Sunday 8th March 2009, we were privileged to have Henry Sandon and his wife, Barbara, at our Fund Raising Lunch, which he had volunteered to do after visiting St Nicolas' Place and enjoying a snack lunch at The Saracen's Head. He remembered the wedding of his cousin, Anne Mellish to Phil Haycock in 1955 and that both of them had belonged to the King's Norton Youth Fellowship. (Sadly Anne died in 1996.)

The Lunch had cost £25.00 per person and a Raffle was held to help raise more money for The Restoration Fund. Two good prizes were donated by Jane of HAIR on the Green and the majority of the prizes were donated by my partner, Phil Haycock, and my friends, Elizabeth Chattaway and Rosemary Foulkes, for which I am indebted.

Rosemary organised the sale of the Raffle tickets and she was ably assisted in this job by Margaret Hopley, Daphne Baker and Sabine Hofmann. The Raffle was run as a tombolacum-raffle, meaning you did not choose your prize, but picked the number of it from another bag.

Henry sat for nearly an hour before lunch, and again until almost 5pm after his talk, to value items brought in by a number of people. Some of them, including Sabine, were thrilled at their valuations, but my cousin John, was very disappointed to hear that the Worcester Ladies he bought for over £90.00 were now only valued at £40 -£45 in today's market. Sad news indeed.

The double act of Henry and Barbara had the audience in stitches and one or two said they had not laughed so much for years. Henry's memory is often faulty these days and Barbara chipped in to correct him frequently. "Ooh, I have trouble with her sometimes" he quipped, and yet often he would look at her and say

"Who was that?" and "What happened then?"

Their repartee was quick witted and friendly and the audience loved it.

Henry told us how the Queen had tears of emotion running down her cheeks when he had presented her, for her 80th birthday, a porcelain model of her favourite pony. It had taken 'Bronte Porcelain' two years to make to exact proportions and colouring and was encased in a mahogany box. When he went later on to collect his MBE, Queen Elizabeth whispered to Henry that she kept the pony in her private quarters.

After the MBE Ceremony, Henry found his old car had died on him in the car park at Buckingham Palace. When he rang the AA to come and assist him and was asked his position, they laughed and said "Pull the other leg. Where are you really?" "Buckingham Palace. I really am here!"

Henry had intended to bring us a Raffle Prize from Bronte, but the current recession has pushed Bronte into liquidation and he was not allowed to touch any of the stocks.

Once all the bills were paid for the meal, which was very good, and tips to staff at The Kings Norton Golf Club, we had made £1,110.40 profit for The Restoration Fund.

Ms Shirley A. Hamilton

This Event was organised by Shirley Hamilton (nee Kenyon) who was also a member of the King's Norton Youth Fellowship, which formed in 1949. Phil Haycock and Shirley are in the process of organising a 60th Reunion of KNYF on Sunday 10th May 2009, to be held in St Nicolas Place.

March 2009 Baptisms

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

- 1st George Ellis
Morgan Louise Janet Phelan
Tia Porche Jean Sherwood
Brandon Shane Joshua Sherwood
- 15th Oliver Leonard Luke Green
Megan Olive Green
Ethan Ashley Hampshire

March 2009 Marriages

"Those whom God has joined together"

- 7th Dyron Anthony Yard and Akeela Yemanja
22nd Christopher Silver and Christine Silver
28th Stephen and Julie Carn - 30th Anniversary Blessing
28th Jonathan Austin and Claire Faulkner

March 2009 Funerals

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

- 3rd Craig Samuel O'Sullivan, 24. Service in St Nicolas,
Cremation at Robin Hood.
- 4th Sidney Kilmister, 78. Service at Redditch Crematorium.
- 5th David Martin Currier, 35. Service in St Nicolas.
- 6th David Torrance, 74. Lodge Hill Crematorium.
- 9th Pauline Hilda Figures, 83. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation at Lodge
Hill.
- 16th Barbara Constance Coley, 88. Burial of ashes in St Nicolas
churchyard.
- 17th Margaret Greene, 84. Burial of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 17th Susan Ann Smith, 64. Lodge Hill Crematorium.
- 18th Dulcie Rosine Ottley, 89. Service at St Nicolas, Cremation Lodge Hill.
- 20th Rose May Craythorne, 87. Burial of ashes in St Nicolas churchyard.
- 20th Elizabeth Ada Coggins, 82. Service at St Nicolas,
Cremation at Lodge Hill
- 24th Pauline Wendy Thomas, 63. Lodge Hill Crematorium.




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Afternoon Bible Fun

St Nicolas Place
May 10th 2.30 – 3.30 pm



The month of May is a 'funny' month for St Nicolas Oasis – the group for primary aged children that usually meets on a Sunday morning.

Due to the Parade service being on May 3rd this month and the Confirmation service on May 10th, the leaders have decided to offer an Oasis session on the afternoon of Sunday May 10th.

We shall be looking at the story of the Good Shepherd and thinking about what makes a good leader.

Jayne Crooks

PRODH

Project for the Renewal of Druids Heath

Well, you have heard me tell many times about our recycling project and I think I told you that we had managed to gain some funding to buy the storage shed to hold the household items we are hoping to collect. Well, the shed has arrived! Now we just need to find some people who have the skills to use the provided foundation kit and the time to help put it all together. Please contact me if you can or if you know of anybody who may be able to help us.

The Focus Groups I told you about last time have happened and it has been wonderful to listen to people talking about the things they would like to see in their community. There were two groups that were a little special: the first were the young people at a youth club that is held at Bells Farm Community Centre. They told me that they would like houses just the same as the ones they had but not together (ie. detached), although one of the younger children said they would quite like to live in a castle! They also said that they wished there was not so much mess and graffiti around the estate and thirteen of the twenty said they would help if we organised a clean-up. The second were the ladies who meet at Dell Meadow and are taking a course in English as a second language. They represent a number of different countries: Iran, Somalia and Pakistan, to name just a few. They were very willing to talk, even though some of them still struggle a little with

English, but they were very positive about living in Druids Heath and very grateful for all the help that they had received. It was wonderful talking with them.

What we discovered through doing these groups is the real views of the people who live in the neighbourhood and now it is up to me to write a report that can be shared with others and ensure those voices are heard and that what they said has an effect upon their futures.

Going on from the Prayer Meetings we have been holding at Dell Meadow, we recently held a Prayer Day. Phill from Dickens Heath and I planned it with lots of help from the Prayer and World Needs Group and it was a superb day. James began with an Ignation Meditation. Deb moved us on to some beading where we thought about issues from the estate as we chose our beads. After lunch we listened to some wonderful music with Phill and let it lead our thoughts and prayers for the area. Finally, I led everyone in a Lectio Devina, using Scripture to meditate and relating it to the present. With thanks to those who attended and all those who made it possible.

God's Blessings
Karen

THE PARISH OF KINGS NORTON

A Church of England Team Parish incorporating the churches of
Druids Heath - Hawkesley - Immanuel - The Parish Church of St. Nicolas

WHO'S WHO AND ORGANISATIONS

Clergy:

Canon ROB MORRIS (Team Rector), The Rectory, Kings Norton B30 3EX 458 3289/459 0560
The Rev'd. REBECCA PULLIN (Curate) 458 2950
The Rev'd. JAYNE CROOKS (Team Priest) 15 Chalgrove, Avenue, Kings Norton B38 8YP 459 3733

Methodist Minister (Hawkesley):

The Rev'd. DONALD SAMPSON 476 7223

Lay Staff:

JESS BOULTON (Hon. Lay Pastor) c/o Parish Office
FAY FEARON (Reader), c/o Parish Office or..... 451 1914
RUTH HOWMAN (Reader), c/o Parish Office

Church Wardens

St. NicolasSIAN SMITH c/o Parish Office 458 3289
.....STEPHEN PLANT 458 3289
Hawkesley (Chief Stewards) JIM CLARKE Mobile 07939 838086 or 550 3455
RAY DAVIS 458 5774
PETER SMITH 453 9931
Immanuel (Warden) ALAN HAYNES 459 4711
(Deputy Warden) DEBBIE MALONE
(Deputy Warden) GERRY MOORCROFT

Candlelit Church Co-ordinator.....JESS BOULTON 458 6925

P.C.C. SecretaryDr. CATHERINE BENNETT
P.C.C. TreasurerRevd JAYNE CROOKS, c/o Parish Office 458 3289

Parish Office: **81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU** 458 3289
(Office: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday) Fax: 459 2529

Parish AdministratorCHRISTINE BOWEN 458 3289
Finance Administrator.....CHRISTINE GADD 458 3289

Organist and Music DirectorSYLVIA FOX, 9 Kingshill Drive, B38 8SA 07778 449170

Choir & Orchestra PracticesTuesday: Individual Tuition 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
Friday: Juniors 6.30-7.45 p.m., Seniors + Adults 8.00-9.00 p.m.

Immanuel Music Group LeaderSARAH CROOKS

Sunday School/Junior Church Superintendents:

Oasis (St. Nicolas) contact via Parish Office 458 3289
Hawkesley
Oasis (Immanuel)NICKY MOORCROFT
Impact!GARETH JONES mobile 07929 154003

Hawkesley Anglican

Methodist Church
Primary SchoolShannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR
HeadteacherGRAEME DOBSON 459 6467 Fax: 459 6468

Bell RingersPractice Tuesdays at 7.30 to 9.15 p.m. in the Tower
Ringing MasterGEORGE HARRISON, c/o Parish Office
SecretaryCLAIRE CALVER 458 2342

Kings Norton Handbell RingersPractice, Mondays at 7.30 p.m.
Secretary.....JO NELSON Mobile 07970 852280 or 208 4013

Bible Reading Fellowship

Secretary JULIE CALEY, 25 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, B38 8BS. 458 3328

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

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

Telephone prefix in all cases 0121

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

**Kings Norton Parish Office, St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B38 8RU.**

tel:- 0121 458 3289 fax:- 0121 459 2529

e-mail:- parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk website:- www.kingsnorton.org.uk



SERVICES

St Nicolas Church

Sundays:

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

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

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

Every Mon/Wed/Thursday:

9.00 am Morning Prayer.

Every Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion (traditional language).

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

Open Church

Wednesdays, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
and 6.30 – 8.00 pm (Candlelit Church);

Thursdays, for all Weddings and Baptism enquiries, 6.30 – 8pm
Saturdays, 10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, knit-and-natter, quiet prayer or to look around.

Candlelit Church

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

Hawkesley Anglican/Methodist Church

Meeting at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre, Hawkesley School,

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

Immanuel Church

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

Druids Heath

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

Café T

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

For Young People

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

Baptisms and Marriages

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

All enquiries to:

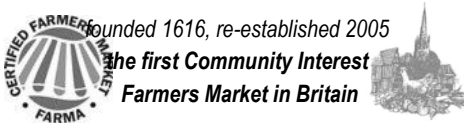
The Parish Office: St Nicolas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B38 8RU Tel 0121 458 3289 Fax 0121 459 2529
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk www.kingsnorton.org.uk
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CONFIRMATION is on Sunday 10th May

It will be a United Service with Bishop Tony Dumper. Please be with all who are being Baptised and Confirmed in this service – in prayer and in person, so that we may all be renewed.

Changes to services at St Nicolas on 3rd and 10th May to enable Confirmation:

May 3rd 10.30am Parade Service
6.00pm Parish Communion within Taizé worship.

May 10th 10.30am Confirmation with Baptism and Holy Communion
6.00pm Evening Worship with Prayer for Healing

Sunday 31st May at 7pm in St Nicolas Church

We're delighted to welcome back the **Apollo Sinfonia**

– a wonderful Birmingham based orchestra of young musicians, many of them friends from Birmingham University Music Department or Birmingham Conservatoire.

They will be performing Beethoven's 5th Symphony, Mozart and Weber.

If you were at their concert in here in February you will know what a wonderful sound they made in our ancient parish church
– and if you think that this sort of music is not for you, please come and prepare to be amazed and inspired.

Tickets on sale soon, with church and orchestra sharing the proceeds.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm in the Ashford Room, St Nicolas Place. This will be our Charity Evening. Our speaker for the evening will be Pauline Weaver who will talk to us about Donor Family Network, so do come along and enjoy a very interesting evening. Come and join us – you will be made very welcome.

Marlene Collyer, Chairman

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CALOR

PHONE FALLON'S FIRST



CALOR

This month we meet Mena Day who led the Seniors' Club in the parish for 27 years.

Mena Day



Where were you born?

I was born in Yardley, when it was just a village, not like it is now. I've lived in Birmingham all my life including in Northfield and now in Kings Norton.

I met my husband, Alan, before the war at a series of Gilbert and Sullivan shows and we were married until he died in 1970. We had three children and I now have 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. I'm looking forward to meeting my great grandson Samuel for the first time next month when he comes over from Australia with his family.

What was your occupation?

When I left Grammar School I tried working in an office but I hated it, so I trained to be a teacher. I taught at West Heath Primary School for 11 years, mainly in the reception class. It was difficult but rewarding and I especially enjoyed hearing them read for the first time.



Why Kings Norton?

I wanted to be near school. We had a large house in Northfield and I was looking for somewhere a bit smaller. My daughter spotted a house for sale in St Nicolas Gardens and I put in an offer straight away. I went to St Laurence Church when I lived in Northfield and moved to St Nicolas when I came here. Tony Balmforth had been to visit me before I'd even got my carpets down!

Continued on page 31

Continued from page 29

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Why is your Christian Faith important to you?

I was brought up in a Christian family and it has always been a way of life for me. It has seen me through many problems. I went to Sunday School when I was growing up in Yardley. Nowadays I read and am a sidesperson at St Nicolas. I had just retired when Bill Norman asked me to run the Seniors' Club, which I did for 27 years.

Do you have any spare time for hobbies and interests?

I used to like walking, but now I am more home based, I enjoy reading and keeping in touch with family, which is a full time occupation!

Do you have a favourite book?

'Three Cups of Tea' by Mortenson, who founded schools in Pakistan. My granddaughter sent me the book from America. It is so inspiring I've read it three or four times. He says that if you have a cup of tea with someone then you are an acquaintance, but by the third you are a friend.

What would be your luxury and book on Desert Island Discs?

I would like a torch and plenty of spare batteries. I would need my Bible and Book of Common Prayer. Every week I'll have my Collect, Epistle and Gospel all set out for me.

Do you have a favourite memory?

One birthday, my son paid for me to go up in a glider in Yorkshire. It was a most wonderful experience. The silence was amazing. We went across Fountains Abbey. It was a perfect day.

What are your hopes for the church in Kings Norton?

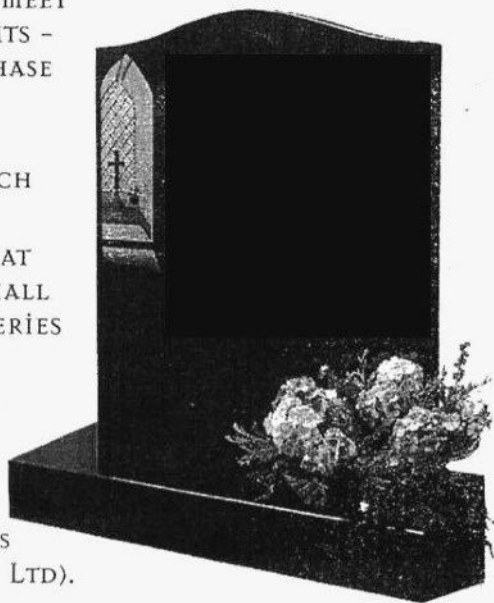
For it to progress as it is at the moment. When you see the contrast of the various services, it is encouraging seeing people being in church and attracting young people.



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GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL CHURCH!



We have recently had our AGM, as part of a thanksgiving service. All who have served Immanuel over the past year were thanked for their work and support. We had presentations about Café T, being a Reader and from Immanuel's Oasis.

Two Wardens were elected – Alan Haynes (until the end of July, when he will “retire” after 12 years of being Warden!) and Gerry Moorcroft. Debbie Malone was appointed as Assistant Warden, Evelyn Finn as Treasurer. A full DCC was elected. Chris Gadd is continuing to serve on the Deanery Synod and it was pointed out that we are privileged to have Chris also serve on the Diocesan Synod.

All who were elected to serve as officers were commissioned in prayer.

Fay thanked all who serve as volunteers in our two local schools as they are appreciated by the schools.

It was agreed that our Celebration at Pentecost, 31st May, will again be a Gift Day including a shared lunch.

Susan Haynes



HAWKESLEY CHURCH

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS at 10am in the Pastoral Centre:

5th May – “Visit to Gambia” (Liz and John Power)

19th May – “Memories”

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

We are holding a coffee morning for Christian Aid on Saturday

16th May and this will include bring and buy, bric-a-brac, cakes, books, etc. It will be from 11am to 1pm in the Pastoral Centre. Please give this your support. Thank you.



CHILDREN'S PAGE...

with Karen

Dear friends,

It is good to be back with you. I was on holiday over Easter with my Nan in Yorkshire. I went for an 'Ecumenical Walk of Witness' where all the local churches met together and walked all around the little town, chatting and getting to know one another, stopping now and then to listen to the Easter story from the Bible, sing hymns and say prayers. It was quite a special experience.

We spend a lot of time talking about all the things that happened at Easter, but we rarely hear what happened afterwards until we come to Pentecost so I thought I would tell you about that today.

Karen

After the Resurrection

After Jesus was seen alive again by his friends and went up to heaven, he came back over the next forty days many times to talk to and teach his disciples. They ate together and he told them more about God and heaven and how in the future God would bring his Kingdom to Earth to make it a new place of peace. Jesus also told them that they must stay in Jerusalem.

"You must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptised in water; you will be baptised in the Holy Spirit. And soon."

I am sure the disciples were both excited and a little scared of what was going to happen to them when the Holy Spirit came.

One day, they were all sitting

together on the Mount of Olives and the disciples asked Jesus, "Are you going to bring God's Kingdom to Israel now? Is the time right now?"

Jesus said, "You don't get to know the time. That's not up to you. It's for God to decide. What you will get is the Holy Spirit and when that comes to you, you will be able to tell people all about me. You will travel all over the country, even to other countries, all over the world"

Then, as the friends watched, Jesus was taken up into heaven and, as they watched him go, a cloud hid him from their sight. They kept

looking up at the sky, trying to see where he had gone, but instead two men appeared in white clothing.

"Why are you looking at an empty sky?

Jesus has been taken into heaven and, just as you have seen him go, one day he will come back the same way."

On hearing this, the friends returned to Jerusalem.

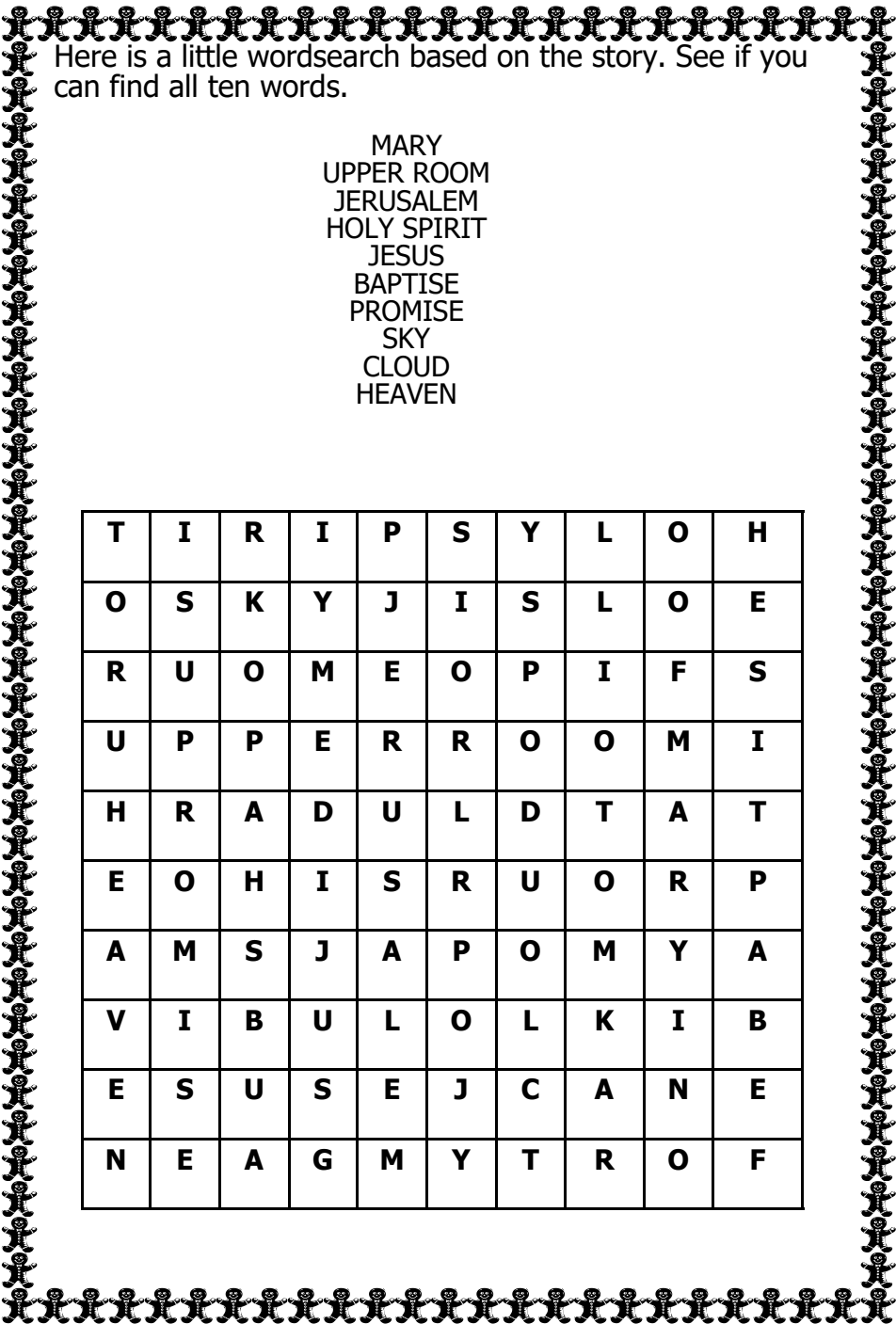
If you want to read this for yourself, you can find it in the Bible in

Acts chapter 1 verses 1-14.

One of the things I love about the

story is how much Jesus cared for his friends to carry on teaching them to be sure they were ready for the big task that lay ahead of them; bringing Christianity to the world. I also like the way that when they returned to the Upper Room it was not only the disciples that were there, but also Mary, Jesus' mother and his brothers. All of Jesus' friends and family together.





Here is a little wordsearch based on the story. See if you can find all ten words.

- MARY
- UPPER ROOM
- JERUSALEM
- HOLY SPIRIT
- JESUS
- BAPTISE
- PROMISE
- SKY
- CLOUD
- HEAVEN

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

Pentecost - 31st May 2009

Pentecost is one of the Christian church's more exuberant and joyful celebrations. Considered to be the Church's birthday, Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Story of Pentecost

Believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, the story of Pentecost dates back to the first century. The feast originated from the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honour the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labours. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions.

Meaning of Pentecost

According to Scriptures in the Book of Acts, the Church came into being on the Day of Pentecost. As 120 worshippers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent, rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and

words and became followers of Jesus.

Pentecost Traditions

There are many Pentecost traditions. In some churches, baptisms are performed throughout the day. Pentecost is also known as Whitsunday, because of the white garments worn by those who are baptised. In most Pentecost services, priests or church officials wear red vestments. Sanctuaries are decorated with banners depicting flames, wind and doves. Churches in Italy disperse rose petals from the ceiling to symbolise the tongues of fire described in the book of Acts. French churches blow trumpets throughout the service to suggest the Holy Spirit coming with a violent, rushing wind. Both Catholic and Protestant services have scripture readings from the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel or Acts.

The purest meaning of Pentecost is that of a time of renewal for Christian believers. Through studying the story of Pentecost, many seek and pray for spiritual gifts for the church during this time of holy celebration. There is a renewed focus on evangelism, empowerment from the Holy Spirit, deeper intimacy with God and fellowship. For Christians, the celebration of Pentecost imparts faith, hope, a sharing of community, and an awareness of a purpose much greater than themselves.

[Source: www.faithclipart.com]

converts, 3000 realised the truth of his

God at Work

A leading merchant banker, who is a churchwarden of one of the largest Anglican churches in London, has been in Birmingham to launch a course helping Christians to live out their faith in the workplace.

Ken Costa was introduced by the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Revd David Urquhart. The Bishop and Mr Costa have been friends for more than 30 years. They met in the 1970s when both were working in London. Bishop David spoke about his time working for BP and the daily decisions he faced in the world of business, which he would now label 'ethical' decisions. He said Christians in the workplace were on the frontline and said the God at Work course showed great realism as it tackled issues such as stress, failure and disappointment, ambition and life choices.

During the launch of the God at Work course, Chairman of Lazard's Bank, Ken Costa, outlined his perspective on the current financial turmoil in a talk called "Responding to the Vision in the Global Credit Crisis".

Mr Costa told the 130 business people gathered at Birmingham Cathedral that what we were seeing was a financial tsunami, a massive dislocation which was only seen once in every 100 to 150 years.

He said there was an immediate need

to fix the banking system and that the question that everyone should be asking was not, 'How long will this last?' but 'What will emerge from the crisis?'

"Trust has been fractured", he said. "Money is not gold. Money is a promise. Trust is required for our economic system to work and this has been fractured. A new trust economy will have to emerge."

"This is not just a financial tsunami, although its roots are in the financial realm, it is a spiritual and moral tsunami. Morality was contracted out and ethical commentators marginalised."

"The spiritual dimensions of fuelling a binge of artificially stimulated desires and the moral dimensions of making investment decisions without understanding what the instruments are and how they would affect people's lives can't just be put into a little box marked 'Financial'. It affects every aspect of our lives. And who is responsible for this irrational exuberance?"

Was it:

- * the governments who were asleep?
- * the regulators who didn't spend their time regulating the capital and the liquidity of the financial institutions?
- * the boards of the financial institutions or their shareholders?"

"I don't know – it's too close to give a precise answer. But could it be you and me who spent more on our credit cards than we knew was wise to do? We did not have the wisdom to show restraint. We bought houses that were

just a little more expensive than we could afford.”

“I don’t think we escape. The uncontrolled fear, the deception, the ignorance of risk and the lack of knowledge about the value of investments became a way of living and the market economy became a god.”

“The resulting global structures were being formed without any reference to God. We became proud. We thought we were in a steady state of governance and globally we would be intact. How shallow that is looking now. We became proud, we became powerful. We were told the market could provide happiness.”

“One of the great post war lies was that material prosperity could bring happiness. We became very proud of our achievements. Our globalised world became nothing more than the unrestrained access to further consumables. One word in my mind characterises this whole era: more.”

“Then this amazing, complex edifice just toppled over. People sometimes ask me if this is the judgement of God. I don’t know. But we are living with the consequences of our actions lived without reference to God who created the way of life for us.”

“When trust is broken at that exaggerated level, it is no different from trust being broken in your life and my life. We have to mend it painfully and step by step. There’s no global solution to trust and let me say this: trust is profoundly not an accounting pro-mech-

anism. It is not a concept of finance and economics. It is profoundly a spiritual and Biblical notion.”

“This is why we need to recognise that repentance is needed. What is repentance? Recognising what I’ve done wrong, determining not to do it again and turning my back on it.”

“And then once the trust is restored we would expect to see a reshaping of the wreckage. We will need new global institutions that:

- reflect our values;
- reflect the moral and spiritual aspects, as well as the financial aspects, of what we have seen.”

“The search for spiritual and moral values, the search for the values that underlie the nature of our social and economic lives, has never been more acute. This long, humanist winter is ending. It was unable to provide us the answer – happiness, security, purpose, insulation against shock. What will come in its place? We must agitate for new values. We must buy into something bigger than ourselves, which is the Body of Christ working and agitating for change.”

Mr Costa reminded the congregation that workplaces were places into which Christians were called because work is valuable in the sight of God. By making ethical and honest decisions, people could extend the kingdom of God’s influence bit by bit.

He said that although it felt difficult to make a difference, and it is on your own, 12 people filled with the Holy Spirit of God turned the world upside down.



David Chedderton and Betty Griffiths enjoying their Shrove Tuesday pancakes at Hawkesley.

[With thanks to Tony Hill for these photographs.]

Jacob Rogers at his Baptism on Easter Day with his proud parents Gail and Karl and being held by Godmother Karen Urwin.



'If the Spirit of God can overcome death on a cross, it can overcome a recession he concluded.'

information about God at Work, see www.godatwork.org.uk

Source: birmingham.anglican.org

This is an abridged version of a talk given By Ken Costa at Birmingham Cathedral. You can hear the full version of a similar talk given at Holy Trinity Brompton on November 23rd. It can be heard via podcast on htb.org.uk/downloads. For more

Summer Activity Day



We are planning to hold a SUMMER ACTIVITY DAY on Tuesday 28th July at Blackwell Court Scouting Centre from 10.00am to 4.00pm for 8 to 16 year olds. We would like parishes to sponsor children and young people for the day who either would not normally get an opportunity to visit such an outdoor activity centre, perhaps due to family or financial circumstances, or are going through a rough time and would really benefit from a fun day out.

The cost is £20.00 per child and it is hoped that this will be borne by the sponsoring parish. Perhaps you could get other children and young people to come up with ideas on how they could raise the money. Each Deanery is asked to sponsor 12 children in total and the suggestion is that the Deanery either hire or borrow a minibus to transport their children and young people to the centre, accompanied by at least 2 safely recruited children's or youth leaders - please discuss this with colleagues in your Deanery.

Please request a form from Jelena (0121 426 0435, email: jelena@birmingham.anglican.org) and submit this by 26th June 2009, with the 11 other sponsorships from the Deanery, together with details of the leaders who will be accompanying them and transport arrangements - can your Deanery hire or borrow a minibus for the day?

Claire Wesley
Bishop's Adviser for Children's Ministry

Source: birmingham.anglican.org

KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese:
'Our Father,
Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.
Amen.'

~~~~~

A little boy was overheard praying:  
'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.  
I'm having a real good time like I am.'

~~~~~

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.
His father asked him three times what was wrong.
Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

~~~~~

A Sunday School teacher asked her children as they were on the way to a church service,  
'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'  
One bright little girl replied,  
'Because people are sleeping.'

~~~~~

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin (5) and Ryan (3).
The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.
Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.
'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,
'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'
Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,
'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

~~~~~

A father was at the beach with his children when the four year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.  
'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked.  
'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied.  
The boy thought a moment and then said,  
'Did God throw him back down?'

~~~~~

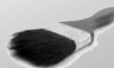
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Jim thinks Fairtrade cookies take the biscuit



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