



Sunday 2nd April 2017 - Lent 5 – Passion Sunday

The OT reading for this week is the marvellously dramatic passage known as The Valley of the Dry Bones. Ezekiel has been in much prayer for the "People of God" (that is, Israel). The Hebrew (Jewish) people, had seriously strayed from God and Ezekiel has a vision of their restoration. All around him, on an arid valley floor, are disconnected human bones. God challenges him; can these bones live once more?" Ezekiel's wise response is: "O Lord God, you know". God promises to put spirit (breathe) into the bodies that once surrounded these lifeless bones, if Ezekiel will prophesy to them.....so Ezekiel does something that is pretty barmy in human terms; he commands the dry bones to "Hear the word of the Lord". And the result is a complete miracle: the bones are slowly reconnected into living and breathing bodies again. Ezekiel's prayer and belief in God can bring a transformation to the bones (the People of God), however unlikely a task it seemed initially.

Many of us know of this passage through the 19th century spiritual: "Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones..... O/Now hear the word of the Lord". It would have been sung by Afro-american workers, trusting that God had a better future for them, despite their earthly life being one of slavery or subservience.

Whether we see ourselves as Ezekiel himself, one of Ezekiel's co-worshippers. or the dry bones themselves, there is much for us to take "home".

It was read before my first anatomy lesson, back in 1982, by a Principal who was making it quietly clear to 40 young adults what and who her life was centred on: as well as "bringing to life" the bones held in each of our boxes. ~ Sylvia Fox

Children & young people are welcome at every service.

Tiny Tots: Thurs. 9.00 am
Bumps & Babies: Mon 1.00 pm
BOTH AT ST. NICOLAS' CHURCH

Sundays for Children (3yrs+)

1st Sunday - Oasis at Saint Nicolas' Place
2nd Sunday – All Age at St Nicolas' Church
3rd Sunday - Godly Play @ SNP
4th Sunday - All Age @SNP

**Next GPS Youth Group:
26th April 2017**

Foodbank News: Each week, I unpack the wheelie bin at the back of church, and find just the items we need most – thanks very much. Demand continues to outstrip income, but supermarket collections are, thankfully, building up again. Our most urgent needs are tinned spaghetti, tinned/packet custard, tinned tomatoes, sugar (500 g bags), coffee, long life milk (blue and green), tinned fruit, tea, cooking rice, long-life fruit juice and hot chocolate.....and carrier-bags. Many thanks

Worship In The Parish Today

St Nicolas'	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Rev Larry Wright
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev Larry Wright & Ruth Howman
	4.00 pm	Baptisms	Rev Larry Wright & Pauline Weaver
	6.00 pm	Taizé	David Ash
Hawkesley	10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mandy Butler
Immanuel	10.30 am	Holy Communion/AGM	Rev Robin Mortimore

This Sunday's Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14 OT p.820
Psalm 130 OT p.585
Romans 8:6-11 NT p.153
John 11:1-45 NT p.101

Collect For This Sunday

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday: there will be services at St Nicolas' each evening at 7.30 pm (Mon-Thurs & Sat) and on Good Friday 12-3pm (in three 1 hour sections). Please see the magazine or website for more details.

Bible Reading Fellowship publications: 'New Daylight' and 'Guidelines'. The cost is £13.20 for 3 magazines. If anyone is interested in subscribing please contact Julie Caley on 0121 458 3328

If you are hoping to pay for a church chair with a dedication on it, please return your chair forms/donation to Sylvia. (preferably by Palm Sunday)

KNPCC / APCM Meeting : Monday 24th April @ 7:30 in St Nicolas Church

Please pray for the Diocesan link with the Anglican Church in Bolivia and our own link with Father Walter Toro and the People of Jesus the Good Shepherd Church in Tarija, Bolivia.

Please pray for residents, workers, staff, pupils and parents of :

BRaid Close, Bramshaw Close, Brassie Clsoe, Bridle Mead
Pool Farm Nursery, Hawkesley Church Primary Academy & King's Norton Primary School

Please pray for those preparing for Baptism and Marriage.

Please remember in your prayers:

Beryl Wilkes, Joan Pearce, Ray Davies, Beryl Jones, Edna Mullis, Natasha Markovic, Mary Williamson, Nan Hoadly, Florence Bonner, Lillian Hillier, John Clark, Joan Gunter, Olga Groves, Joyce Hawkins, Em & Tina Drakeford, Connie Wilson, Simon Hambly, Dorothy Gardner, Harry Cox, Addie Tilley, Paul Shelton, Delsie Burges/Brooks, Mason Green, Jacob, Christine, Joan Grimmitt, and Doug Sansom

Please remember those who are ill, receiving treatment or recovering from surgery:

Yvonne Whittingham, Jonathan Rogers, Annie Edwards, June McCoy, Bob Evans, Sandra Sandilands, Ann Connelly, David Barker, Marlene Collier, Gabrielle Pond-Baker, Neville Mitchell, Sandra W, Gill Broadhead and Veronica Clark.
Children Charlie Ramsey, Twins Stella & Francesca, Oscar Hooper and Sahar Kaussar.

Please pray for those who have died and for those who grieve for them:

Bernard Binding, Beryl Morris, Audrey Avery, Edward Hollyoak; Dusan (Dave) Devic

Open Church

St Nicolas' Church is open as often as possible. Do visit, pray, light a candle or share conversation over coffee at the times shown below.

Wednesday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon & 6.30 - 8.00 pm
(Candlelit Church).

Thursday 6.30 - 8.00 pm for all marriage and baptism enquiries.

Saturday 10.00 - 12.00 noon for coffee, Knit & Natter & space for quiet prayer.

Please join us.

This Week 3rd – 8th April 2017

in St Nicolas' Church unless otherwise stated

Monday	1pm -2.30pm	Bumps & Babies
Wednesday	10am - 12.00 noon	Open Church/Open Bible, Lent Course
	12 noon	Holy Communion
	6:30 - 8pm	Candlelit Church
	8:00 pm	Open Bible, Lent Course
Thursday	9am – 11am	Tiny Tots
	2.00 pm	Women's Fellowship (<i>Saint Nicolas Place</i>)
	6:30pm - 8pm	Wedding & Baptism bookings
Saturday	10am - 12.00 noon	Knit & Natter
	<i>Farmer's Market</i>	The Green

This year the **Wednesday Evening Lent course** is based around the film 'The Way'. The course follows different characters from the film each week, asking questions about their journey of transformation. Remember that you don't have to have watched the film to take part in the course.

5th April – How are we saved?

Group sessions for discussion will from 8pm - 9pm on Wednesday evenings in St Nicolas Church. See Gail Rogers for details.

Next Sunday : 9th April 2017 : Palm Sunday

St Nicolas'	9.00 am	Holy Communion	Rev Robin Mortimore
	10.30 am	Palm Parade	Team
	6.00 pm	Holy Communion with anointing	Rev Jane & Gail
Hawkesley	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev Caz Hague
Immanuel	10.30 am	<i>At St Nicolas' or Hawkesley</i>	

Next Sunday's Readings

Psalm 118 : 1-2, 19-end OT p 576
Matthew 21: 1-11 NT p 21
Isa 50: 4-91 OT p691
Ps 31 : 9-16 OT p 517
Phil 2: 5-11 NT p 194
Matt26: 14-end of 27 NT p 28

Easter Flowers in St. Nicolas Church – I would welcome donations towards the cost of the flowers. Please hand to me or place in the flower donations box in Church. Offers of help to arrange the flowers on Easter Saturday morning would be much appreciated. Alison Blumer – 486 2837

For more detailed information about what's on in Kings Norton, pick up a copy of the **Parish Magazine.**

When visiting our churches, please take care of your personal belongings as you would in any public space.



St Nicolas' Church has an induction loop (T-Loop). This operates with any standard hearing aid when switched to the >T= position.