



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

October 2018

£1



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What's On Guide**

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Copy for Publication

Please email items for
publication to:

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Please submit text in an editable
format, preferably plain text or
MS Word. Printed material
entrusted to the Parish Office
should be sealed and marked for
the attention of The Editor.

Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the
November 2018 edition must
reach the Editor by midnight on
Friday 12th October.

Items for inclusion in the
December 2018 edition must
reach the Editor by midnight on
Friday 9th November.



The hackneyed phrase “bumper edition” doesn’t quite do justice to this issue, the biggest we’ve ever printed at 68 pages. If you’ve contributed, thank you. You’ve helped to create what must be one of the most varied and interesting magazines this parish has seen. If bumpers are your thing, by the way, we have an article about the greatest motor museum Kings Norton never had on page 22.

Who could have foreseen that a giraffe would have become such a hit, and so quickly? It hasn’t taken long for Dexter (p.46) to win over our youngest readers. This month, in his third Wander through Kings Norton, he encounters our Churchyard Team; which is all the excuse I need to mention that the time will soon be upon us when we need your help to sweep up the leaves which threaten to engulf the graveyard every Autumn. This year’s Leaf Sweeping days are 3rd & 17th Nov and 1st Dec, 9.30-12.00. Please save the date and keep an eye out for further details.

The parish of Kings Norton used to be a great deal bigger than it is. In the 19th century, it stretched from Wythall in the south to Balsall Heath in the north and from Rubery in the west to Hollywood in the east. We therefore feel some justification in including a fascinating piece of research this month into the history of Stirchley Baths, which you will have passed every time you drive into Birmingham along the Pershore Road. If you have personal memories of the place in its heyday, do let us know.

Enough from me. There’s so much to enjoy here, I don’t want to keep you waiting.

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

Homeward Bound

Most of us enjoy being at home. We enjoy the comforts, familiarity, company and security of our homes. In the words of the old song, 'Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.' Our homes are a clue to who we are and how we see ourselves; they are an extension of what we value and of the lifestyle choices we have made. Home is where family and friends gather, where hospitality is shared and festivities are enjoyed. The Church of England wedding service contains the following prayer for the bride and groom:

'May the hospitality of their home bring refreshment and joy to all around them; may their love overflow to neighbours in need and embrace those in distress.'

Housing is a major economic driving force: building, selling, renting, renovating and demolishing houses generates billions for local and national economies. Finding, buying and renovating properties is the staple of various media shows, where the astute and the not so astute are thrust into a building scenario of risk and the 'entertainment' arises from what happens to them in the process. The homes of the rich and famous, historic homes and those which are unusual or



eccentric become tourist destinations. In the case of some celebrities (Elvis Presley's Graceland for example), they become a shrine to a fallen star and a place of enduring pilgrimage.

With so much invested in our houses, and in what makes them homes, it is not surprising to hear of the anguish and distress experienced when a house no longer feels like a home; where occupants become divided or estranged, or, through unforeseen circumstances, a family or individual is

forced to leave. The breakup of a home is traumatic and has long term consequences for all involved. For those aspiring to a home of their own it is increasingly difficult to afford decent housing.

Choosing where and how we live is an important factor influencing our long-term health and well-being; but many are excluded from this choice. Many young people are unable to save enough for a deposit; many individual and families are unable to move out of poor-quality rented accommodation to something better. All are denied the choice of where and how they will live and the scenarios of limited housing choice are increasing because of the lack of available, affordable accommodation. For those who have no choice at all in the matter of where they are housed, the situation is becoming desperate.

Reading the latest statistics on homelessness and the use of emergency accommodation in Birmingham is a salutary experience. Our city now has thousands on waiting lists for council accommodation and many are destined to be homeless, possibly for years. Families with children are being housed in emergency or temporary accommodation, which

‘Our city now has thousands on waiting lists for council accommodation and many are destined to be homeless, possibly for years.’

include bed and breakfast hostels and Travel Lodges. On a recent visit to families in a Travel Lodge, I noted that they have only a basic room with a bathroom as their living space. They have no cooking facilities, nowhere for children to play, no laundry facilities and, depending on where the

Travel Lodge is situated, no local shops. Families are often required to move to another Travel Lodge after 28 days, thus disrupting their lives and the children’s schooling.

It is too easy to blame the local council for these unsatisfactory situations. Local government has been constrained for years by national government policies and spending restrictions on building new houses. The private sector has not been able to keep up with demand and neither have housing associations. It seems we are where we are due to a lack of strategic thinking and investment at all levels of government as well as in the private and charitable sectors. Various rally cries for more ‘joined up’ planning and action between all the major housing providers has come too little too late. Maybe one of the results of the ongoing Grenfell inquiry will be that more recommendations will be forthcoming; but action will take time and determined political will.

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If each copy we printed passed through the hands of 3 readers, starting with the person who paid for it, each article and advert would be seen by over 1,300 people. That's 5% of the population of Kings Norton!

If only 2% of those 1,300 people chose to become regular subscribers each month, our cover price and advertising fees could remain stable for the foreseeable future. At the moment, however, despite our best efforts, we are not covering our printing costs. You can help us to do so if you...

...pass it on!

Like other faiths, Christianity has a lot to say about the integrity of homes and families. Homes are seen as a source of nurture and education, comfort and delight. Families are viewed as one of the basic nurturing units within society. The Bible speaks of households (extended families and helpers) who support each other in good times and bad and share a devotional life as part of their homemaking. Family lifestyles have changed over the centuries but the basics for human flourishing have not altered substantially: we all need shelter, protection, nourishment and companionship to thrive and our homes and families (whatever constitutes family for us) are at the centre of a fulfilled life.

Those of us in good-quality, secure homes may like to reflect for a moment how blessed we are to have gained such an advantage and be thankful for having achieved what is proving so elusive for tens of thousands of our fellow citizens. And maybe, if we have spare capacity in our homes, might we seek expert advice on how it might be used to alleviate the housing needs of others? Or consider supporting one of the many housing charities. Charles Dickens once wrote, 'Charity begins at home, justice begins with our neighbour.'

Revd Larry Wright

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Stirchley Baths

PART OF KINGS NORTON'S HERITAGE

Many people today think of Kings Norton as a suburb - if a rather special one - of Birmingham, but this was not always so. Until 1911, a large part of what is now South Birmingham was governed by Kings Norton and Northfield Urban District Council and, in its last years, it took on what proved to be one of its most troublesome but innovative projects.



The previous half-century had seen a huge increase in local industry and population, driven by the canal, the railways and the pressure of expansion from Birmingham. Much of the local farmland disappeared under rows of terraced streets. Across the country, public health concerns motivated the construction of large numbers of public swimming pools and washhouses, and the Council opened its first such facility at Tiverton Road in Selly Oak in 1906.

The idea of building a public baths and washhouse in Stirchley was born in 1903 when the Cadbury Brothers, as part of their philanthropic vision for the area, offered land to the Council for this purpose. Once this was accepted, work began on the first stage of the project.

The standard practice at the time was to fill swimming pools with water from deep underground wells, free, clean and plentiful. In the 19th century it was

common to empty and refill the pool once a week. Yes, the water got a bit dirty after a few days, but, well, we can always lower the admission price! So, at Stirchley, work to dig a well began in 1904... and it was here that the trouble started.

After some months, a depth of 300 feet had been reached, but no water had been found and the budget for the operation had all been spent. After some deliberation more money was allocated and the work resumed. After workmen had dug another 300 feet without finding water, the well was abandoned, and so, nearly, was the whole project.

The Council considered its options. Some Councillors wanted to build on a different site instead, maybe Kings Heath, or Kings Norton. (In 1911 the Council did acquire land in Kings Heath and Harborne for the building of public baths.) It is hard to believe that the Cadbury Brothers would have been

happy with such an outcome. Did they apply some pressure behind the scenes?

The solution adopted, to fill the baths with water from the mains, seems obvious to us today, but was quite radical at the time. It put a considerable strain on the limited public water supply and could only be done slowly and infrequently. It required a method for keeping the water clean and, fortunately, the latest technology was on hand to achieve this. The water was continuously circulated through a filter, which consisted of graded sand housed in a large metal tank. So effective was this system that it remained in use until the Baths' closure in 1988.

Once the technical and commercial problems had been overcome, construction work started in March 1910 and Stirchley Baths was opened by George Cadbury Junior in July 1911. Later that year, the City of Birmingham expanded to subsume Kings Norton and

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The former Council left an additional legacy to the City in the way that its pools were built. The coal-fired boilers of the day were designed to heat the water for wash baths, but it would have been too expensive to heat the pool. It became common practice to board over pools in winter and use the space for other purposes. Kings Norton and Northfield UDC designed its pools with this capability from the outset, and the practice was then adopted by the whole City. Boarded-over pools were put to a wide range of uses in winter: badminton, indoor bowls, chess, concerts. Stirchley Baths became known for its dances, with Kings Norton's own bandleader Den Jones providing the entertainment in the post-war years. This came to an end in 1956 with the installation of oil-fired

boilers across the City, and with it the capability for heating the pool all year round. No more smoky boilers, but no more dances either!

Structural problems forced the closure of Stirchley Baths in 1988, but a long campaign led to its rebirth as a community hub in 2016. The former pool is now very permanently boarded over, but it is still possible to look down into the deep end and, on some occasions, to go down there. The restoration of the building incorporated many features celebrating its Edwardian origins and its connections with the local community in the days when Birmingham was still 'another place'. There's more information about the past and present at www.stirchleybaths.org.

Phil Banting

Secretary, Stirchley History Group



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Adventures at the Back of Church

The difference between church
with & without kids

Part 2

In the second of a series of articles written especially for this magazine, Gemma Harris takes an honest look at the joys and the challenges of bringing small children to church.

Moving from the front of church to the back of church required some readjustment. During The Peace (the bit where you shake everyone's hands) I never got to shake hands with the people I'd become used to seeing because we were physically so far apart from my friends at the front, and they never came back that far. At that time, we were encouraged to shake hands only with those near to us. So if, during The Peace, you see me charging about like a bull in a china shop, it's for that reason: I now like to shake hands with as many people as possible! The kids are finally old enough to be left alone (6 years in) or to come with me. By the way, if they say 'The Force Be With You' instead of 'Peace be

With You', would you just go with the flow...? It's basically the same thing, right?

Another thing. At the end of the service, to begin with, I almost never got a cup of tea because I had my hands full with one, then two boys who, if left alone, caused havoc. Or, if someone passed me a cuppa, the combination of small kids running about and hot drinks was a potentially stressful situation.

'But why let them run about at all?' you may wonder. The service lasts an hour and a half. Most small boys (and girls) have trouble sitting quietly for longer than precisely twelve and a half seconds. And for them, until the age of 4, church



was primarily known for being home to Tiny Tots. Tiny Tots is the children's play group (Thursdays at 9.00 am), structured like a service but including craft and running about and dancing (as any good service should, in my opinion). It is joyous! In the first week of the summer holidays, there were approximately 70 children and 40 adults in attendance. It was our home from home. So, if you're wondering why kids act like they own the place... well, Tiny Tots just might be your answer!

I often missed the sermon because I'd been reading a story to Josh; missed the songs while changing his nappy; missed the prayers because he was crying. For weeks on end, I wondered whether I might as well not be there! And that's even assuming I could hear the service. Fortunately, the amplification has

improved a lot at the back for us mums what with new-fangled technology playing its part. But I did ask what good it did anyone, my being there. And I'm a (relatively) committed Christian. How must it feel to someone just trying out church for the first time?

Then I began to form friendships with other mums at the back. We'd share snacks and jokes and stresses and baby wipes. Those with multiple children needed the other mums to look after each other's kids so we often played child swap while one sat on the potty at the back. As the kids got more adventurous, we'd often chase each other's children around the church and start to engage differently with the service.

Suddenly, I'd arrive at the front during The Peace and I'd be shaking hands with

everyone at the front again. It was lovely to reconnect with old faces, and some new ones too.

There is something joyous about the friendships that develop between people at the back of church. Look around occasionally and you'll spot us. The parent tidying up all the jigsaw pieces for the next child. The mum desperately teaching her children about their 'indoor voice' during the prayers. The mum or dad generously sharing snacks because another mum forgot to pack hers. The frantic cry of 'Has anyone seen the potty?' during the Intercessions.

And during those services (the ones that make you want to cry with exhaustion) the exchanged looks of gratitude as another mum or dad comes to your rescue. Finally, the ripples of restrained giggles from four sets of parents as one child does something silly or hilarious. I love my time at the back now.

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See you next month!

Gemma Harris

AUGUST 2018 FUNERALS

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John ch.3 v.16)

3rd August	Olga Letitia Groves	83	SN.Bu.CY
8th August	Patricia Joan Pradey		In.CY
10th August	Gladys & Leslie Jones	76 & 86	Double In.CY
15th August	Joyce Margaret Clements	86	SN.Bu.BE
21st August	John Francis Morris	83	SN.Bu.QN
30th August	Thomas Patrick Kinahan	65	Cr.LH

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,
In : Ashes interred, **CY** : Churchyard, **BE** : Brandwood End, **KN** : Kings Norton,
LH : Lodge Hill, **QN** : Quinton

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In A Tudor Garden

Despite the hot, dry summer, the Tudor garden at Saint Nicolas' Place has looked lovely with its array of culinary and medicinal herbs & plants. The roses have obviously enjoyed the sunshine.

Once the garden was weeded and prepared, a group of children from Kings Norton Primary School (right) came and helped us to plant edging of box and lavender. They enjoyed smelling the herbs and learning what their purpose was in Tudor times. All of the things they planted are doing well and the lavender flowers have been cut and are drying for making into scented sachets.

The inner courtyard of Saint Nicolas' Place is still bright with pots and barrels of brightly-coloured begonias, bidens and geraniums. The beautiful wooden planters made by John Bowen make a strong statement as

containers for two standard trees. The wood used for the planters came originally from the Saracen's Head.

During the summer, we have had a small stand in the courtyard selling plants kindly donated and bought by visitors to Saint Nicolas' Place. Our plant stall at the Summer Fair raised money too and, at the October Farmers' Market, we will be selling plants, cuttings, pots of bulbs etc in order to have funds for continuing to make the Tudor garden and the courtyard attractive throughout the year. Any contributions of plants, seeds, or decorative plant holders would be gratefully received and can





be left by the old mangle in the courtyard; or we can be contacted by email (see below).

We would like to thank all those who have helped us during our first season with donations of plants or by buying plants. We are particularly

appreciative of the compliments we have received and we hope to continue to make the garden and courtyard attractive to visitors.

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Mission, People and Places 2

Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu, Assistant Rector of Kings Norton Team Parish, reports on his recent trip to Bolivia.

From the New Testament Book of Acts:

'So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, come over to Macedonia and help us. When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.' (Acts 16:8-12).

Christian Mission is all about passing on the message of salvation, hope and assurance of eternal life according to Christian beliefs. As long as you are willing and ready to communicate this good news and you do so by any means available, you are on a mission. What's more, any place you visit as you carry and deliver this good news becomes your 'mission field' whether at home or abroad.

It is with this understanding that an eight-person team from the Church of England in the Diocese of Birmingham left the United Kingdom on the 10th August 2018 heading for Bolivia in South America. There were so many similarities between this experience and the missionary experiences recounted in the Book of Acts which I have quoted above. Listen as I tell the story.

Our journey started in earnest at Heathrow Airport. We travelled via the cities of Philadelphia and Miami in the USA. From Miami, we flew to Santa Cruz in Bolivia, where we remained for several days, sharing the good news of the Christian faith with the people. For me this was not just a remarkable experience, it was quite a historical one, for I believe it was the first time a black African missionary from Nigeria had visited Bolivia with the Christian gospel. Moreover, the significance of our visit became more apparent as we were given a brief overview by our hosts of the economic, religious and political life of the land and people of Bolivia. Here is a summary of what we were told.



Bolivia, a landlocked country, is seen as the heart of South America. It shares borders with five of the twelve sovereign states of the continent including Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. From all indications, the country has yet to recover from the varied effects of prolonged exploitation by the Spanish colonialists in the fifteenth century. And, like most 'third world' countries, Bolivia seems to have had its fair share of corrupt leadership and poor governance. This has resulted in a remarkable poverty of mind and will, such that the people have failed to harness their rich natural resources for their own good. Consequently, the

people seem to be at the mercy of religious and socio-political ideologues, populists, Marxists and capitalists. The influence of the colonial masters lasted so long that it left the indigenous people with both inferiority and superiority complexes. While, on the one hand, some adore and seek to identify with the perceived superiority of foreigners, others, plagued by a sense of inferiority, live in fear and resentment all their life. People with such historical backgrounds appear to be physically and politically independent but psychologically and socio-economically, they are dependent and poor.

We arrived in Santa Cruz on **Saturday morning 11th August 2018**. Santa Cruz is viewed as the centre of business activity in Bolivia and serves as the diocesan headquarters of the Anglican Church. Our mission was to share lay leadership development principles and experiences with the ministers there and also to encourage evangelism and engagement with local communities. We had a session that evening with married couples of the church and a member of our team led discussions on the topic ‘strengthening the marriage relationship’, rooted in the idea that the Christian faith holds strong and encouraging views about family life. A successful and healthy marital relationship is liable to have a positive impact on communities far and wide.

On **Sunday 12th August**, we attended the morning service and, while a member of the team was chosen to preach, the rest of us were engaged in prayer and counselling ministry. Those who benefited from these interactions confirmed that our coming was indeed a blessing. On the Sunday evening, we paid a visit to a satellite church in the north of the city where we met some local people for the first time. They were quite warm towards strangers and treated us to some of their local delicacies.

The unique story of this satellite church is that it started as a children’s Sunday school club. The children were so affected by the care and the friendly atmosphere provided by lay ministers from the city church who were running

the monthly Bible club that they began to invite their parents. Soon, the adult invitees became committed members and started to hold Sunday services.

On **Monday 13th August**, we were taken on a nature study expedition. It was more of a natural reserve where we experienced nature at its best. There were different species of butterflies, parrots, tortoises and a few sloths. They all seemed to be enjoying their natural habitats. It was a beautiful site. On the Monday evening, we had two leadership training sessions on ‘being a leader in times like this’ and ‘world evangelism’. These were aimed at encouraging lay leadership and ministry in the diocese.

Tuesday 14th August was a full day of lay leadership training sessions where several topical issues were handled including Christian friendship & mutual support, adaptation to new ministries, having a personal relationship with God, caring for yourself while in leadership and team work in ministry.

Our stay in Santa Cruz lasted till **Wednesday 15th August** when we moved to Cochabamba for a national leadership training conference with all the ministers of the Bolivian church. Our experience there, our visits to tourist and religious centres and the way in which that affected the life of the missionaries and people of Bolivia will form the concluding part of our story in the next edition on *Mission People & Places*.

Eliakim Ikechukwu

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018



1918 -
2018

This year's Remembrance Sunday service will take place on **Sunday 11th November** starting with a short parade from outside the Post Office on Kings Norton Green into church. The parade starts at **10.20 am** and the service at 10.30.

The theme of this year's Remembrance is **'thankyou100'**, to mark the 100th year since the end of the First World War. As part of this, **we would like to try and create a roll of honour for all local people who have seen active service in the last century.** We are particularly interested in those who served in the First World War who may not be commemorated here.

If you have any information or can help us to fill in gaps in our knowledge of those whose names are listed on our war memorial or commemorated in our Churchyard, please get in touch with Pauline Weaver or Steve Wright via the Parish Office.



Photo top: from a forthcoming book by Paul Golightly & David Ash commemorating pupils of King Edward's School, Birmingham who fought and died in The Great War. **Photo bottom:** Remembrance Parade 2017, Kings Norton Green.

The Patrick Collection

Once a new era for Kings Norton

ONE OF THE country's most innovative motor museums, an international standard restaurant and a four-star hotel, The Patrick Collection brought all these to Kings Norton when it opened in 1986. Given a better economic environment, they could still have been here. Michael Kennedy tells a story that is both inspiring and

IN 1986, WITH a great fanfare, just off Lifford Lane close to the canal junction, The Patrick Collection opened. Housed in a spectacular new custom-designed building on the site of the old Kings Norton Paper Mill, it was a forward looking, ultra-modern motor museum, which seemed destined to add major new dimensions

to the area, in fact to the region, for decades to come.

IT WAS CREATED and managed by the Patrick Foundation, part of the renowned and respected Patrick Motors Group (PMG), which had a heritage in Birmingham dating back to the 1930's. Originally renowned for its coach building skills, PMG soon became one of the country's most progressive dealer networks, selling new cars from Alfa, Alvis, Aston Martin, Austin, Daimler, Lagonda and Lanchester and also American marques such as Oldsmobile and Pontiac. It played an important role in World War Two, offering its foundries, including one in Selly Oak, to produce





castings for military applications. After the war it even branched out into aviation, helping to establish Elmdon Airport as an international hub.

PATRICK MOTORS WAS always very much a family concern, innovative and highly successful as a business, but always with an admirable social conscience. Its dealerships are gone now, but the company is still a significant presence in the charitable sector, sustaining an outstanding record of philanthropy.

THE BROTHERS WHO founded the company, Albert and Joseph Patrick, and Joseph's son Alexander who took over the company, were above all car enthusiasts, and started to collect historic vehicles from the 1960s. Though The Patrick Collection was formally inaugurated in 1969, it wasn't until 1983 that they took the

decision to create a dedicated centre which would enable the public to view the collection on a daily basis.

ITS LOCATION IS an interesting story. In 1966, the Group was looking for a new headquarters, and chose to acquire and develop the eleven-acre site, on Lifford Lane, of the historic Kings Norton Paper Mill. It had been built in the 1850s by paper manufacturer James Baldwin, and by the 1880's was one of the most technically advanced in the country. But by the time the Patricks bought the site, it had been closed for many years.

FROM 1966 ONWARDS, PMG's main administrative functions were located on the site, in a brand new office complex. In 1983, wanting to do something dramatic to mark the forthcoming centenary of the motor car in 1985, the company decided on a

bold plan to create a dedicated museum complex. They were determined that it would be a fitting tribute to Birmingham's central role in the story of the motor industry. Their concept was ambitious: its brochure described it as being 'to represent the past, present and future of the motor car in a constantly-changing display that reflected the variety, ingenuity and sheer beauty of the automotive era'.

THE MUSEUM INCORPORATED the very latest in display technology. Exhibition designer Colin Milnes (who had created the imaginative 'Beatle City' exhibition for Liverpool) gave added impact by ingenious special effects, videos and music. In the words of a brochure at the time, the exhibition 'provided the people of Birmingham with a long overdue tribute to their skills and those of their forefathers'. The paper mill heritage was respected; the 'grandiose' frontage of the old mill formed one side of the museum's main display area.

THE VEHICLES THEMSELVES were indeed both historic and spectacular, with more than 150 housed in the museum when it opened. Exhibits included the first car ever acquired by the brothers, a Patrick Special saloon of 1934, based on an Austin 10 chassis; an early Austin from 1913; a 1933 Daimler luxury saloon; an Invicta Super Sports and an early Healey 100, one of the classic Midlands sports cars. There



were also other pioneering cars from around the world, including, of course, the Austin Mini, designed and made just down the road at Longbridge. There were other equally fascinating exhibits, including a Tardis from the BBC's *Doctor Who* series, and even more popular, Corporal Jones's van from *Dad's Army* (above).

AS WELL AS the vehicles, visitors could see an extensive assortment of memorabilia and literature, including a library of motor vehicle catalogues.

TO MAXIMISE THE appeal of the Collection, and the commercial opportunities it created, the company had the foresight to develop a stylish restaurant 'The Lombard Room'. Its standards were as high as any in the Midlands: on occasions staff were even sent down do London to purchase the best possible wines! There was plenty of scope for visiting companies to entertain guests and hold meetings and conferences, reinforced by the fact that on the same site there was also the newly-created Norton Place Hotel, which would have been rated four-star

had it been able to find space for a swimming pool!

SURE ENOUGH, FROM the very start the Collection was a major attraction. As well as an initially very positive response from the public, there was considerable excitement across the still flourishing Midlands motor industry, manufacturers and dealerships, and car clubs both local and national. Here, at last, there was a focal point in the heart of the motor industry to which VIPs and enthusiasts could be taken and entertained. It was rare for even a few days to go by without some element of the motoring fraternity holding a reception or a conference there.

LOCAL SCHOOLS EMBRACED the opportunity from the start, with regular visits to help pupils understand the motor car and its heritage. Attached to the main viewing area was a classroom, often used for Design and Technology teaching.

REGRETTABLY, THAT PERMANENT place in the future of Kings Norton was not to be. The concept was probably over-ambitious in terms of its scale, with the costs and other demands of sustaining such a large collection becoming more and more prohibitive as the general economic environment weakened. There had to be a gradual retrenchment. Daily opening to the public ceased in 1992 though for some years afterwards it remained possible



Parish Who's Who : St Nicolas' Church Wardens. From left to right : Simon Hill (Deputy Warden), Julie Hill (Warden), David Chadderton (Deputy Warden), Peter Hay (Warden).



for private groups to visit. As the new century dawned, the Collection was gradually sold off, with the famous Bonham's auction house holding major auctions of Patrick Collection cars, realising some spectacular prices.

THE PATRICK MOTORS Group itself was changing. Even before the Museum opened, it had decided to withdraw from the retail motor trade, which was completed by 2003. With that change of direction and the decision to close the museum, the Patrick Group did not need the whole of the Lifford Lane site any more. It retained some office space, which it continues to occupy, and let out all the other premises to a range of businesses. The Collection still continued in name, though its remaining vehicles were moved to a warehousing facility further up Lifford Lane.

BUT EVEN AS the Collection has dwindled, the Patrick Foundation has found ways of extending the life and legacy of the Collection. In January

this year, the company donated five of its remaining historic vehicles to the Black Country Living Museum for use within its planned 1940's to 1960's town at the attraction. The Foundation is also contributing to the project generally, including funding 'The Patrick Foundation Junior Motor Mechanic', to be employed by the Museum.

THE COMPANY IS still very active, using a significant part of its business income to sustain its wonderful record of charitable support. It founded the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign in the 1960s and has since provided millions of pounds worth of funding into research. Primarily through the Patrick Trust, it also continues to make a wide range of grants to local charities, primarily involved in care of the young and elderly, but also with an interest in the arts, combining these where possible. Beneficiaries have included the Primrose Trust, Marie Curie, the Scouts, the Birmingham Royal Ballet and the RSC.

WHILE ONLY A handful of the Collection's vehicles remain in Kings Norton, the Foundation does still respond to requests for visits when time allows. If you're interested, contact its Curator, Peter Harper, on 0121 459 4656 or **info@patrickcollection.org**.

Michael Kennedy

WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

Our guide to the best of Kings Norton's lively community life starts here. In this section of the magazine, you will find:

- A list of **Societies, Clubs and Venues** active in and around Kings Norton
- A summary of the **regular services and activities** organised by the church in this parish
- A detailed **Diary of Events** organised over the coming month by the organisations listed and others.

We divide the publicity which we offer to the local community into **advertising and listings**. We charge for **advertisements** placed by local businesses who are seeking to attract paying customers. Meanwhile, in *Societies, Clubs and Venues* and the *Events Diary* we print, free of charge, **listings** of events organised by local social or charitable groups, together with their contact details and a brief description of their aims.

To add your organisation's events to our *What's On* guide for next month, contact Michael Kennedy (michaelkennedy@talk21.com) by the submission deadline shown on page 3. To advertise in the pages of this magazine, contact The Editor, David Ash (editor@kingsnorton.org.uk). Details of advertising charges are available on request or can be viewed on the magazine page of the parish website at www.kingsnorton.org.uk.

Societies, Clubs & Venues

Contact information for Kings Norton organisations and locations that offer opportunities to get together for events and/or to meet people who have similar interests.

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

Kings Norton History Society www.kingsnorton.org.uk, clivehartwell48@sky.com

The Society's meetings take the form of talks covering a wide variety of subjects of historic interest, concentrating on the West Midlands region. We also run day visits to places of historical interest. Meetings are normally held in St Nicolas' Place on the last Monday of the month, unless otherwise specified, from September to May. Membership is £12.50 per annum. Talks are free of charge to members. Visitors are always welcome but a charge of £3 per talk is made.

Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve www.fknnr.org.uk, Amanda Cadman on 0121 624 3865 or 07 887 512 382

An informal pressure group to lobby for environmental improvements in and about the reserve. We organise a weekly working party on site (the Tuesday Workout from 10.30 to 1.00 pm, open to all) to manage the Reserve, to increase biodiversity and habitats and to enhance its value for both people and wildlife. We also organise a monthly walk. Dates and meeting locations are on our website.

Friends of Historic Kings Norton www.kingsnorton.org.uk, fhkn@btinternet.com, St Nicolas' Place 0121 458 1223

We raise funds for the restoration of the historic buildings that are known collectively as Saint Nicolas' Place (SNP), through membership subscription and events organised by the group. Members receive regular newsletters containing updates about SNP and listings of Birmingham-wide heritage events. Membership is £7.50 per annum or £5.00 for those not in full-time work. We also arrange guided tours of the Saint Nicolas' Place Heritage Buildings.

Friends of Kings Norton Park friendsofkingsnortonpark.blogspot.com, info.foknp@gmail.com

The Friends of Kings Norton Park and Playing Fields are a group of local volunteers who come together regularly to improve and protect the Kings Norton Park and its neighbouring playing fields. We plan activities and events which aim to make a positive difference to the recreational experience of the people who use these spaces, and we liaise with organisations, including the City Council, which organise events in the parks.

The Fields Millennium Green Trust www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk, Maggie Sweet 0121 628 1247, sweetc5@sky.com

The Trust and its volunteers meet regularly to maintain and improve the Millennium Green for the benefit of the community. We work closely with the National Trust who, with their young Urban Rangers and others, organise a programme of training and conservation activities. We usually work on Saturdays fortnightly from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm, and sometimes during school holidays.

SOCIAL CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Kings Norton Society John Bowen (Chairman) 0121 458 3747

Our origins go back to Kings Norton Youth Fellowship. We still have a few who remember those days but most are much younger. We normally meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club on the fourth Friday of the month for a bite to eat, a chat and general socialising. We have the

occasional walk, quiz or speaker or best of all, we organise our own entertainment. If you know a member tell them you would like to come, or call the number above.

Kings Norton Seniors' Club *St Nicolas' Parish Office, 0121 458 3289*

The Seniors' Club is for men and women aged 65 and over. We meet at Saint Nicolas' Place every Wednesday from 1 – 3 pm and have a varied programme of events.

Kings Norton Women's Fellowship *Carol Devic 0121 458 7667, St Nicolas' Parish Office 0121 458 3289*

A group for women of all ages. We meet on the first Thursday of every month from 2-3 pm at Saint Nicolas' Place and offer a variety of activities.

Kings Norton Women's Institute

The WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. It plays a unique role in enabling women to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. To accommodate the preferences of members, the Kings Norton WI activity is divided into afternoon and evening groups, each of which meets once a month at the Friends' Meeting House, Watford Road, Cotteridge.

Women's Institute (afternoon group) *Sally Saunders 0121 458 6019. Meets every third Tuesday of the month from 2pm till 4pm.*

Women's Institute (evening group) *Marion Atkin 0121 441 5817. Meets every third Monday of the month 7 pm for 7.30 pm.*

Kings Norton Rotary Club *Colin Guy 0121 444 2020, colinguy1930@yahoo.co.uk*

Rotary is an international network of clubs for business and professional men and women, both active and retired. Clubs are committed to helping local and overseas communities. The local branch meets most Tuesdays for lunch and fellowship at the Kings Heath Cricket Club, 247 Alcester Road South, Birmingham B14 6DT. Visitors are welcome at most meetings, but should contact Colin Guy in advance.

Bournville Townswomen's Guild *Sue Davis 0121 608 0646*

South Birmingham only has two local Townswomen's Guilds and the appropriate one for ladies in Kings Norton is the one based in Bournville, established 65 years ago. A flourishing Guild, it covers parishes within a five mile radius and several current members come from Kings Norton. The group meets every fourth Monday of the month at the Friends' Meeting House in Bournville from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Kings Norton 41 Club *Michael Bunn 07 831 775 473*

We are a group of former Round Tablers which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the KN Tennis Club for dinner and a themed talk. Any former members, or former Round Tablers, interested in joining us please make contact beforehand.

Kings Norton Supper Club *Annette Dickers, ardickers@outlook.com*

We meet every month at Kings Norton Golf Club for a two-course evening meal with coffee followed by a speaker. Membership is £12 per annum plus payment for the supper.

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

U3A (University of the Third Age) *www.u3a.org.uk, knu3a.membership@gmail.com, John Taylor 0121 458 6397*

Kings Norton's local U3A was successfully established in the first few months of 2017. The U3A is a nationwide organisation based on local groups providing opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come together and develop their interests. Run on a voluntary basis, it sees members sharing their knowledge and experience with others in interest groups through informal activity sessions covering a wide range of subjects and activities.

Spoken Trend *tom_mccann@hotmail.co.uk and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @spokentrend, Tom McCann*

Spoken Trend is King's Norton's first regular venture into 'open-mic' spoken word and performance poetry. Launched in January 2017, it is already attracting a significant audience. It gives participants of all ages, many completely new to the activity, the opportunity to perform their own works in front of like-minded people. It takes place on the first floor of the Bull's Head pub on the last Wednesday of every month. Those wanting to perform should check in from 7.00 pm. The event is free for performers while spectators pay a £3 entry fee.

Kings Norton Photography Society *www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com*

Membership is open to men and women of all ages, from beginners to advanced. We meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club most Wednesday evenings from 8.00 pm-10.00 pm throughout the season (October – April inclusive) with a varied programme of events and outings.

Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group *Sally Barney 07778 025725 or Deirdre Barker 07980 284416.*

We welcome people of all levels of ability. The group meets every Tuesday in term time at the Friends' Meeting House in Bournville from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm.

Birmingham Philatelic Society *www.birminghamphilatelic.co.uk, Robert Shaw, 0121 415 5226*

We are a group of stamp and postcard collectors, sharing our hobby through displays, buying and selling material, auctions and visits. Everyone with an interest is welcome including beginners. Our daytime meetings start at 2.00 pm at the Friends' Meeting House in Cotteridge.

Greenlands Chess Club www.chess.com/club/greenlands, Richard Collett 0121 458 7617 or 07874 216935

We are a small, friendly chess club, meeting most Tuesdays from 7.00 pm at the Greenlands Social Club in Longbridge Lane. We have members of all standards playing friendly or competitive league chess. New members are always welcome. There is a fee of £2 per night (the first two visits are free) or annual membership is £40.

Kings Norton Fundraising Group for Birmingham St. Mary's Hospice

www.birminghamhospice.org.uk, suebarkerdavies@gmail.com, Sue Davies 0121 608 0646

We are a local group of volunteers who raise money to care for people living with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers in Birmingham and Sandwell. We organise fundraising activities such as regular charity quizzes and stalls at local festivals. We also aim to raise awareness of the wide range of services offered by the hospice. If you can spare a few hours to help, please contact us. We meet on the second Monday of each month.

SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Health Exchange www.healthexchange.org.uk, 0800 1583535

Health Exchange creates an ongoing dialogue with the Birmingham community about health and wellbeing. It advises local volunteers who wish to offer relevant activities. A Health Exchange-supported walk, lasting for up to two hours with a break, takes place every Friday from 10.30 am, beginning in the car park of Kings Norton Park. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact walk leader Sally Saunders on 0121 458 6019.

South Birmingham Ramblers www.sbramblers.co.uk

Every week we meet up in Kings Norton Playing Fields Car Park to car share to the start of our walks. These are between 5 and 11 miles on various days of the week. For our current programme, please see our website and contact the walk leader for further details. For those interested in gentler exercise, we also have fortnightly mini walks on Tuesdays of approximately 2 miles, starting at 10 am: please contact Jenny (0121 444 4094) for further information.

Active Parks, www.beactivebirmingham.co.uk, 0121 464 2012

Active Parks, part of the City Council's Birmingham Wellbeing initiative, works in partnership with various organisations in order to offer a wide variety of free physical activities

across Birmingham parks. With the Friends of Kings Norton Park group, depending on the season, it offers a range of local events, from jogging to Tai Chi, normally meeting in the Westhill Road car park at Kings Norton Park.

Kings Norton Tennis Club, *Grange Hill Road B38 8RE* www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk, 0121 458 2351

Our members benefit from all-year round use of tennis courts (except on rare occasions when club matches or coaching take priority) and access to members' club nights. Membership fees are lower than many clubs in the area, with discounts for couples as well as families.

Kings Norton Motorcycle Club www.evoice.org.uk/knmcc, *Gordon Green* 07504 676766

Formed in Kings Norton in 1944, we are a family-friendly motorcycle club with interests ranging across all types of motorcycles, from classic to modern. Some members take part in trials, scrambles, and hill climbs. We meet weekly on Thursdays at the Woodbourne Sports and Social Club in Rumbush Lane, Earlswood from 8.00 pm onwards. There is a thriving programme of social activities.

Kings Norton Golf Club *Brockhill Lane B48 7ED*, www.kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk, 01564 826789

We offer one of the premier golf courses in the West Midlands, set in 220 acres of beautiful parkland and featuring 27 holes of championship standard, a par 3 short course, a putting green and practice facilities. Applications for membership are welcome. Our impressive Grade 2 listed Weatheroak Hall clubhouse is also a popular venue for weddings, private parties and marketing events. Throughout spring and summer 2018 the club is running a series of lessons for ladies who want to get in to golf. Participants do not need any special golf gear, clubs and balls are provided. The cost is £25 for 5 lessons. More details on the Home and Ladies' pages of our website.

Push Bikes www.pushbikes.org.uk/event/bournville-gentle-cycling, *John & Hilary Porter* 0121 477 2156

Push Bikes is a Birmingham campaign group for better cycling, encouraging people who are not regular cyclists to get on their bikes for easy and sociable outings. Routes, normally of 10 to 12 miles, are mostly traffic-free, exploring local paths and parks and going at the pace of the slowest participant. New riders are always welcome. The nearest local group to Kings Norton meets at 10.00 on Saturdays at Rowheath Pavilion, Heath Road, B30 1HH.

Black Adder Clog Morris, blackaddersecretary@gmail.com or *find us on Facebook*

Morris Dancing is an ideal way of having fun and keeping fit. Dancers and musicians, beginners or advanced, men and women are welcomed by Black Adder. We meet most

Thursdays (except August) from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. in Selly Oak Friends' Meeting House at 930 Bristol Rd South, Birmingham B29 6NB. If you want to come along, please email us to check we're meeting that week.

COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

Saint Nicolas' Place, 81 The Green B38 8RU, www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk, info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk, 0121 458 1223 .

Kings Norton Library, Pershore Road South, Birmingham. B30 3EU
kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk , 0121 464 1532

A wide range of books, CDs and materials for all ages including community information and local history. There is also a meeting room for hire and internet access. The Library organises a range of regular events including activities for children, reading and writing groups and our regular coffee mornings. A number of other organisations hold events at the Library.

Bells Farm Community Centre, Bells Farm Close B14 5QP, www.bellsfarm.org.uk, 0121 433 3532

Greaves Hall, Greaves Square B38 9LX www.opkn.co.uk/greaveshall, 0121 448 8760

Hawkesley Community Centre, 51 Edgwood Road B38 9RN,
www.facebook.com/HawkesleyCommunityCentre, 0121 399 0122

The centre organises a number of regular activities. Each Monday, between 5.30 and 7.30 pm, we offer exciting free activities for young people aged 11-17: just turn up. We also have a weekly Wellbeing Wednesday lunch for those aged 50 and over, with a free activity, costing £5.50. Please book in advance. We also run a drop-in centre for young adults aged 18-25 for help with job applications, or just a cup of tea and a chat. You can bring children, but please ensure they are supervised.

Manningford Hall, Bells Lane B14 5RY, www.manningfordhall.com, 0121 430 6005.

MUSIC VENUES

Tower of Song, 107 Pershore Road South, B30 3JC, www.towerofsong.co.uk, 0121 486 1300

We are a thriving music venue, created by a team of local volunteers and featuring music to suit all tastes. Most shows start from 8:30-9pm. Every Wednesday we have Rea River Roots and every Thursday is our Crossroads Blues Club. Please check our website for information on all events.

The Church in the Parish

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

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

St Nicolas' Parish Church

on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (with "Oasis" for 7's-11's)
2nd Sunday	10.30 am	Parade Service or Morning Worship for all ages
	4 pm	Holy Baptism (1 st and 3 rd Sundays of the month)
	6 pm	Evening Worship (see below)

Every Sunday evening we offer prayer, music and quiet. 1st Sunday: Taizé Prayer, 2nd Sunday: Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing, 3rd Sunday: Night Prayer (Compline) and Reflection, 4th/5th Sundays: Evening Prayer or Creative Worship.

Mon & Weds	9 am	Morning Prayer
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Hawkesley Church (Anglican & Methodist)

at Hawkesley Academy on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Partway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Sunday	10.30am	Worship and Children's Activities (5-11's)
		1 st & 3 rd Sundays Morning Worship
		2 nd & 4 th Sundays Holy Communion
Tuesday	10am	Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)

Immanuel Church

at Saint Nicolas' Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

Sunday	10.30am	Worship (with "Oasis" for those at Primary School)
1 st & 3 rd Sundays		Holy Communion;
2 nd Sunday		Joint service with either St Nicolas or Hawkesley
4 th Sunday		All-Age Worship

During the Week

We open Saint 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. **All are welcome.**

Wednesday	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Open Church 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm : Open The Bible in Saint Nicolas' <u>Place</u>
Thursday	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : Marriage and Christening (Baptism) enquiries in Saint Nicolas' Church
Saturday	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Coffee and "Knit & Natter" in St Nicolas' Church

Children's Activities

Bumps & Babies: for new and expectant parents, in St Nicolas' Church every Monday from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm. **Tiny Tots:** for 0-5's and their parents or carers every Thursday at 9.00 am in St Nicolas' Church.

Children are welcome at all services in all our churches. We offer All-Age worship and special activities for children on certain Sundays.

Please see our weekly newsletter for details.

Growing in Faith

We are exploring fresh ways for all to grow in faith, those making their very first step, those who have made many and those who are rediscovering God's love after times of change. Please ask in each church or see our website for details.

Help us to keep our Parish Church open

It costs more than £900 each week to keep St Nicolas' Church open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, ask how you can Gift Aid your offering.

Christening (Baptism) and Weddings

Saint Nicolas' Church is open on Thursday evenings between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm for enquiries about Christenings & weddings. This is an opportunity to make a booking to talk about these services in more detail.

More details at www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Events Diary October 2018

Tuesday 2 October

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge 2.00pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.30 pm: John Ullah 'Laurel & Hardy'

Wednesday 3 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Armchair exercise & Hoi
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 4 October

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00pm
- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00 - 3.00 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 5 October

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 6 October

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am
- Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am-11.30 am
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton Quiz Night, Saint Nicolas' Place, 7.30 pm. Bring your own drinks, free tea & coffee. To register, please call at SNP Reception or email fhkn@btinternet.com

Monday 8 October

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Road B30 2PR 7 pm- 7.30 pm

Tuesday 9 October

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 10 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 - 11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Bring and Buy & Quiz
- Kings Norton 41 Club, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7 pm for 7.30 pm:
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 11 October

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 12 October

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- Folk evening with Tom Martin from Tower of Power, Kings Norton Tennis Club, Grange Hill Road, 7.00 pm. All welcome, £12 for non members including ploughman's supper. Tickets from Lorraine on 0121 459 0944.

Saturday 13 October

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10 am-1 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve Guided Walk 'Berried Treasure': meet at junction of Wychall Lane and Meadow Hill Road 10.30 am

Monday 15 October

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge,

7.00 pm: Wendy Hall 'Canine partners – Guide dogs'

Tuesday 16 October

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00pm: Barbara Evans on Craft
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 17 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Music with Martin Leonard
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 18 October

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 19 October

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 20 October

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 22 October

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7 pm: David and Pam Humphries 'The No.11 Bus Route'

Tuesday 23 October

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 24 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Meeting with children from Fairway
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 25 October

- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Councillors' Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 26 October

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 27 October

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start

Tuesday 30 October

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 31 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Outing to Broadway with train trip
- Explore Learning, Kings Norton Library: Fun With Phonics for ages 4-6yrs 2 pm-3pm & Creative Writing (Halloween Theme) for ages 7-13yrs 3.15-4.15 pm
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, The Bull's Head, The Green: performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song 8.30 pm

Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

Monday

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

Cantare Community Choir 7.30-9.00 pm (Rebecca 07 803 900 154)

Kings Norton History Society 7.30 pm (last Monday of the month)

Tuesday

Slimming World 9.30 am-11.00 am & 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm (Nicola 07 875 555 958)

Rhythm Time 9.30 am – 12.30 pm (Vicky 0121 447 7632)

Circle Dancing 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm (Jan Davies 0121 476 1301)

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

Shapes & Adders Toddler Maths 9.45 - 10.45 am

Kings Norton Seniors' Club 1.00 pm-3.00 pm (contact Saint Nicolas' Place Office)

FSK Karate 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm (07 703 754 900)

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm

(enquiries@beeches-martialarts.co.uk)

Pilates 7.15 - 8.15 pm

Thursday

Kings Norton Women's Fellowship (first Thursday of month) 2.00 -3.00 pm

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

Total Pilates 6.30 pm-7.30 pm (Pauline Austin 07 773 782 463)

Yoga Really Works Pregnancy Class 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Friday

Illumination Youth Theatre 4.00 – 5.30 pm (ages 5-10); 5.30 - 7.00 pm (ages 11-18) (Melanie 07 766 724 834)

Yoga Really Works Stretch & Relax with Baby 11.00-12.00 noon

Saturday

Feel the Rhythm Dance School for children and young people 10.00 am-1.00 pm (Donna 07 788 528 504)

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WANTED

St Nicolas' Church is currently asking what your dreams are for the future of our church building. Be a part of making those dreams come true!

The scale of the task and the ambition for St Nicolas' is huge, but we can do this if we use all the skills and talents that we have.

This month we are looking for:

eBay Genius and Jumble Giant

Could you help us to turn donated items into funds?

Intelligence agents

Could you find people connected to the church, research funding stuff and history? Could you visit other churches and see what they have changed then report back? Could you take photos too?

Social Media Whiz

Could you help us make more use of Twitter and Facebook?

Project name

We also need your ideas! What should we call this project? We need something a bit more creative than The St Nicolas' Development Project! Let us know your ideas and there will be a prize for the best name. We will also use it on all of our literature

Please speak to one of the Churchwardens via the Parish Office if you think you could help. And send us your ideas for names!



Every reasonable effort has been made to identify the copyright holders of the unattributed photos in this publication but some remain elusive. We will happily print the appropriate acknowledgements in future issues if the owners choose to contact us. The Editor.

Introducing Steve Wright

In writing about myself, I always struggle for a beginning. So perhaps advice from Julie Andrews' Maria might help: 'The beginning is a very good place to start'. So, that's what I'll do.

I was born in Batley, in the then West Riding of Yorkshire, on a very cold January morning in 1958, the first child of Ray and Peggy Wright. Dad was in his first appointment as a newly ordained Methodist minister. My brother Andy would come along two years later. So, I was 'born into the Manse' and was introduced to Church from the beginning.

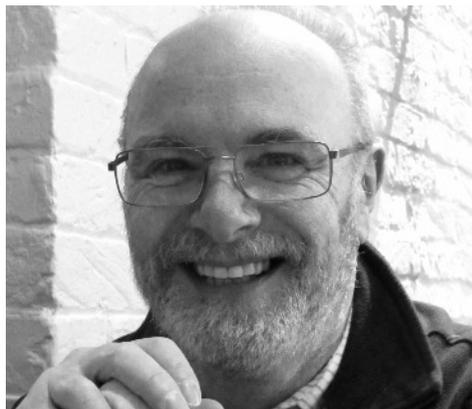
We moved to Derby when I was six and our family church was in Alvaston. I have some good memories of church: choruses I can still recall, Sunday School anniversaries, vying with all the other kids to throw leftover Communion bread to the birds after the service(!)

In 1967, our family's life changed in a huge way. Dad had applied to do a six week 'pulpit exchange' in the USA.

The Church had other ideas and we spent twelve months in Greeneville, Tennessee. So Andy and I experienced American school life in a brand new school, round in shape and open plan in design. We ate 'Sloppy Joes', drank milk from cartons, learned Spanish and did our money maths in dollars and cents not pounds, shillings and pence. The winter of '67 was snow-filled and our sloping front yard was turned into a sledging run. There's loads more, but that will have to wait for another time.

That experience of America led to two further exchanges, this time only a few weeks during the summer holidays. Eventually, Mum and Dad would travel back to the States to spend fifteen years in Idaho.

In 1971 we moved to Hull and it was in our family church in Willerby that I really took my first steps along the road to becoming a Methodist Local Preacher. We had a fantastic Youth Fellowship (YF) with fantastic leaders. One of them was Alan Swearman, a Local Preacher, and once a year he gave over an evening appointment to



the YF. With his help and guidance we planned and led the service.

I went to Southlands College, London, to train as a teacher. I met Caroline and we were married in 1979. As newly-weds we went along to the Methodist church nearest our new home in Leicester and we were welcomed with open arms. They had been praying for a young couple to come and take on the young people's group. And that's what we did for the next two years. I also became a Boys' Brigade officer.

Teaching wasn't working out too well for me so I applied for a youth work job in Birmingham. That didn't work

out either, but contacts led me to the brand new Youth Training Scheme and I worked on that until it closed in 1989. I went back into teaching, eventually running the Careers Department and Work Experience at Kings Norton Boys' School. I then moved into another job that ended sooner than I expected, but that in turn led me to five and a half wonderful years working at Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service as its Lead for Children & Young People. And now I'm retired.

My Local Preaching? Well, Caroline and I joined Kings Norton Methodist Church, which not long after, became part of The Cotteridge Church. It was with the help and support of the Reverend Joe Stephens that I followed my call to preach and I went on 'full plan' in 1986. I have led worship and preached on Waseley Hill, in a campsite high in the Idaho mountains, in churches, halls and city centres and now I am blessed to be part of the team in St Nicolas' Parish.

Steve Wright

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Hawkesley Church

Fundraising News



A well-supported barbecue in Erica Elliot's back garden on 15th September raised at least **£530** for Hawkesley Church in one sunny, breezy afternoon! Grateful thanks to all who helped to make this such an enjoyable occasion and who gave so generously.



Sponsored Walk Raises Hundreds

At Hawkesley Church, we held our annual Sponsored Walk on August 25th 2018. Roy with his dog, Kevin, Margaret, David, Joyce, Pauline and Erica with her dog, walked just over 3 miles around Kings Norton.

Starting at Saint Nicolas' Place, we entered the Nature Reserve down Beaks Hill Rd and passed Merecroft Pool before walking past Wychall Reservoir to Popes Lane and walking down Wychall Lane to Kings Norton Park. We carried on through the park and across the Pershore Rd South and along the path of the Playing Fields to the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

Our last part of the walk took us along the canal towpath to Wharf Rd and back to Kings Norton Green and Saint Nicolas' Place.

The walk raised a fantastic **£617** for Hawkesley Church and our thanks go to members of the parish, family and friends.

I also give a BIG thank you to Steve and his staff at The Green Tea Room for advertising the walk, for helping to raise people's awareness of it, and also for raising funds.

Kevin Hurney



Hello everyone!

Dexter here! What an exciting month it has been. I love Autumn, don't you?

I know that, over the Summer, you have been out and about having lots of fun and that some of you visited Worcester to see lots of different giraffes hidden around the city, like the one in the photo on the right. Alex and Joseph and their family had lots of fun and sent us some photos of some very unusual giraffes. Thanks for sharing them with us.

Another thing that has been fun to do over the Summer, and is still going on, is painting and hiding rocks. This month there is an outline of a giraffe's head for you to copy onto a rock and paint. Then you can hide it somewhere and hope that someone finds it!

#kingsnorton rocks

Dexter G



Dexter & The Crispy Leaves

Dexter liked to wander. It was getting closer to Autumn time and starting to feel brisky outside and the leaves in the trees were starting to change colour. Dexter loved crispy, crackly, crunchy leaves. He remembered that the place where he found the Visiting Stones had a lot of trees. That meant, Dexter thought, that there should be a lot of leaves too. He happily wandered on down.

Sure enough, it was a beautiful morning and there were birds and squirrels and crispy, crackly, crunchy leaves aplenty. Dexter kept finding better and brighter coloured ones, (he was especially fond of the orange ones). The Visiting Stones place was very big and Dexter walked back and back and back....and there was still more.



Dexter with Fred, Shane, Dave & Peter in the Churchyard

Suddenly, he noticed a group of men laughing and working among the Visiting Stones. Dexter felt a bit shy but one of the men noticed him and waved. 'Hello!' he said, and Dexter walked along to where they were working. 'Are you collecting leaves too?' Dexter asked?

One of the men, who was wheeling a splendid wheelbarrow, answered, 'Well, it's not exactly collecting. We rake them up into piles and put them in bags to be taken away. Otherwise they get all damp and smelly when it rains or snows and makes it very slippery and messy for people trying to visit.' 'Oh I see.' said Dexter. He was trying not to stare at the wonderful wheelbarrow one of the men was trundling along. He had always want to ride in one.

The cheerful men introduced themselves: Fred, Shane, Dave and Peter. Dexter told them his name and that he was pleased to meet them. (Dexter always tried to use his best manners.) Shane said, 'Very pleased to meet you Dexter. Would you like to help us raking leaves?' Dexter agreed happily and spent the next hour raking the crispy, crackly, crunchy leaves into piles.

It was a beautiful day and the time passed quickly. Dexter was surprised to find that they were all finished. 'Thanks for all your help Dexter!' said Fred. 'We can always use an extra Churchyard helper, there is a lot of work to be done here. If you ever want to come down again, you will always be welcome!' Dexter felt very proud of this and a little brave too because he asked, a little nervously, if he could have a ride back in the wheelbarrow. Fred and Peter laughed and said 'Of course!' Shane helped Dexter up and off they went!

Dexter thanked the men for everything and said he would be back again soon. He wandered back home and thought about what a nice day he had just had. And he wondered where his next Wander would take him....



(If anyone is interested in being part of the cheerful Churchyard Team, please contact the Parish Office, or just come along down to the Churchyard on a Thursday morning. Unfortunately, we can't really give anyone wheelbarrow rides, but the Team will be glad to see you and can always use more help! The Editor.)



"I had considered joining the Churchyard Team, but I find squirrels intimidating. Isn't there another way I can support my local church?"

"Where there's a will, there's a way, old chap.
Where there's a will..."

It's never too late to be generous. Talk to one of the clergy about remembering Kings Norton Team Parish in your will, or enquire at the Parish Office.

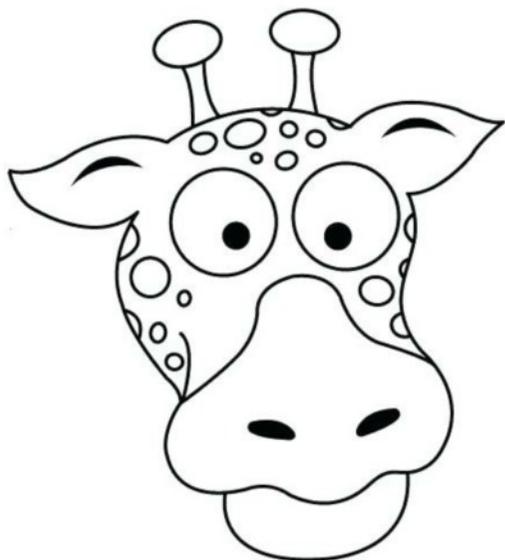
My wordsearch this month is full of trees and things to do with them. Can you find all fifteen?

To make a Dexter Rock, ask a grown-up to help you copy this picture of my head onto a stone. Paint it and, when the paint is dry, hide it for someone to find.

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

Word List

WHEELBARROW	CONKERS	WILLOW	HAZEL	ASH
SYCAMORE	CONIFER	BIRCH	RAKE	OAK
CHESTNUT	LEAVES	BEECH	TREE	YEW





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The Answer's Yes!

Questions?

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

Questions, questions, questions. One of the things I love about working with children is the questions they ask. Questions which I know that as a parent can drive us slightly bonkers. The endless 'Why?' questions phase is one known to drive parents to distraction! But children do ask the best questions and often they are completely random, almost impossible to answer and usually asked at the most inconvenient times, when we are busy or trying to concentrate and aren't able to give our full attention to how to answer (something that very often comes back to bite us!). I remember my daughter asking, 'Why is the sky above us?' just as I was trying to negotiate a very busy road junction.

Add into this God, church and all things connected, and it becomes a whole lot more complicated. Children seem to manage to voice the questions that we ourselves are struggling with or would like to ask or don't really understand the answer to. Let alone trying to work out how to answer it in a way that a five-year-old will understand. Like these questions asked by a five-year-old this week:

'How many bricks are there in the church?'

'How long did it take to build the church?'

'Are angels' wings attached to their bodies or their clothes?'

Well. Er. I'm not sure. Let me think for a moment. No, not good enough! Need an answer that isn't wishy-washy or half baked! This is how I answered, and then how I thought about them.

Number of bricks? I don't know, I've never counted them. Then I wondered, has anyone ever tried to count them? Could someone estimate them? Is that what people do during boring sermons? (Not that our sermons are ever boring, of course!). Followed by wondering if they are called bricks or stones or have some other name.

How long did it take? The honest answer is, we don't know. Not accurately, as records don't exist and it was built in stages without machines like cranes. Then I wondered, 'Well, how long did it take? Are there really no records? How could we work it out? Could we estimate it? How long would it take to build today?'



Angels? On their bodies. Top-of-the-head answer followed by 'Is that right? Do I know that? Or did I just guess?' It has to be the body as it wouldn't work if it was the clothes. I've never seen an angel, so how would I know? Do all angels have wings? What about the wings in the film 'Maleficent'? (You know, the baddie from 'Sleeping

Beauty'!) In the film she loses her wings. How did they remove them? I need to watch it again to find out.

And so it goes on, my mind coming up with loads more questions and things to discover thanks to the inquisitiveness of a five year old. Thanks, Thomas!

Pauline Weaver

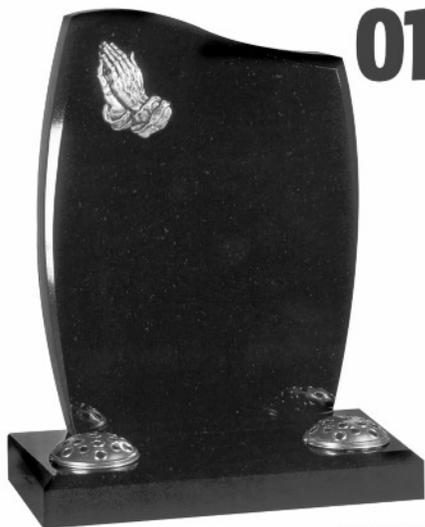
A WAR GRAVES WALK

Saturday 10th November, 11 am and 1 pm, starting at the Lychgate, St Nicolas' Churchyard, on The Green.

You are invited to join Steve Wright for a walk to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War and learn about the men who are remembered on our memorial or whose final resting place is our Churchyard.

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NO PLACE LIKE ROME

'All things atrocious and shameless flock from all parts to Rome!' said Tacitus, the Roman senator and historian, in about 100 AD. How times have changed ... or maybe not!



A group (not particularly atrocious nor shameless!) from St. Nicolas' Church, Kings Norton, will be travelling to Rome on pilgrimage at the beginning of November for a few days. Rome, since its foundation, has always attracted pilgrims, religious, students, teachers, poets, writers, tourists and the frankly curious from all over the world. It was an essential stopover during the 18th and 19th century Grand Tours of rich young men. The poets Keats and Shelley, as well as Shelley's wife and

son, alongside many other notable names, are buried there in the beautiful non-Catholic cemetery.

In the hearts of many Christians, Rome holds a special place. It is the Eternal City, the cradle of European Christianity. A city of many layers dating back to pre-Roman and Etruscan times, on every street corner is evidence of its Christian heritage dating back over the past 2,000 years. Churches abound on every street, large, small, significant and the local parish centre. Basilicas such as

St. Peter's (technically in Vatican City State) St. John Lateran, Saint Mary Major, The Gesù Bambino are absolutely stunning, built centuries ago on a scale intended to impress and inspire. Some, like the Pantheon, were converted from Roman temples. Here, the niches which contained images of the pantheon of Roman gods were replaced with those of Christian saints.

The dome of the Pantheon, which is the best preserved ancient Roman monument, designed and built circa 120 AD for the Emperor Hadrian, is a miracle of engineering. The height of the dome, which is 43.3 metres (142 feet), is equal to its diameter, made from concrete and tufa, and is still the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome. The oculus (the hole at the top of the dome)

still provides the only light. If you are there during a service and it rains you just get wet!

Recently, the ancient church in the Forum was excavated. The church of Santa Maria Antiqua was built in the 5th century. It was abandoned and sealed off in the 9th century following an earthquake, which preserved the beautiful, colourful freschi (the wall paintings) depicting Mary and the Infant Jesus, saints and martyrs. The church is being renovated and has been a focus of archaeological exploration since 1984. We are hoping it will be open when we visit as it is such a beautiful Christian building with ancient historic appeal.

So how does a pilgrimage differ from a holiday, if it does? Humans have

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recognized pilgrimage over the centuries as a way of making sense of life, of developing spiritual values and recharging the batteries. For hundreds of years, Jews journeyed from Judah to the Temple in Jerusalem for the main festivals of Pesach (Passover) and Sukkot (festival of Tabernacles). Muslims have made pilgrimages (hajj) to Mecca since the 7th century. There are many pilgrimage sites which are holy to Hindus, mostly in India.

Our entire lives could be described as a pilgrimage of one sort or another, as we grow older and perhaps become more wise, more understanding of life and situations. For people of faith, the physical exertion required to reach a holy site is part of the spiritual journey. (Even with modern transport methods travel can be exhausting.)

Christian pilgrims, of course, will admire the treasures of the art and history of a holy site, a site of special significance to their faith. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, they will, however, 'step outside of themselves in order to

encounter God where he has revealed Himself, where His grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness amongst those who believe.'

A tall order for a small group of pilgrims from the Midlands to the city of Saints Peter and Paul, but we're up to giving it a go! There will be a break of habits and routines, an opportunity to reflect on our Christian experiences and to add to them, to renew our Christian faith. We will be a new family unit for a few days, a new fellowship in a new situation which could be transformative. We will be praying for guidance and a continued sense of our Christian life journey. I suspect there will also be a lot of fun too!

We will pray to bring back our experiences to our worship and fellowship at St. Nicolas' for sharing and support. Be assured that we will tell you all about it soon!

Thelma Mitchell

To mark Baby Loss Awareness Week we will be holding a special service at St Nicolas' Church on Sunday 14th October at 4.00 pm. This service is for anyone who has been touched by the death of a child through miscarriage, still birth, neo-natal death or the death of an older child. It is for mums and dads, grandparents, family, friends, whatever the circumstances, however long ago.



PILGRIMAGE & DISCOVERY IN ISRAEL / PALESTINE PART 2

In September's magazine I shared experiences of a recent pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine, having had the privilege of seeing first-hand the topography of the land where Jesus taught, healed and shared life with others.

As my feet walked across rough, desert terrain and my skin tingled with the heat of the dazzling Middle Eastern sun, my body, mind and spirit were impacted by the everyday authenticity of places

previously known to me only as written words in my Bible. Jerusalem, Galilee and Capernaum became living, breathing spaces of diverse humanity as passages of Scripture were brought into context through the geographical, historical and archaeological knowledge of our St George's College course directors.

If we drop some loose change in our homes, we are likely to find it again

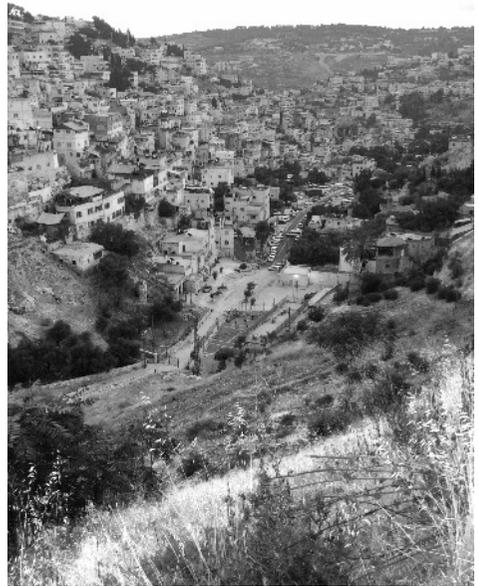


quite easily, unless it rolls out of sight behind the furniture. However, the woman in Luke 15:8-10 has to light a lamp, sweep through the whole house and search with meticulous perseverance in order to find her lost, silver coin.

Jesus teaches this parable as he makes his way towards Jerusalem, journeying through villages and towns. Jesus based the majority of his Galilean teaching ministry in Capernaum, a fishing town and the site of Peter's house. Although Luke is unspecific about exact location, his listeners would understand the determination necessary to find one lost coin in such a setting.

The houses in Capernaum were built of the local basalt, a grey, volcanic rock, the floors regularly covered in dark sand due to the town's proximity to Lake Galilee. Keeping such homes light and clean would have been a demanding and rather thankless task. Maybe such contextual understanding sheds light on why Jesus would tell this story to reveal God's heart for each and every individual, particularly those considered sinners by religious Jews.

Have you ever wondered why the sick man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5), believes that he remains unwell because of not being able to access the water when it is stirred up? Scripture describes the site as having five porticoes, filled with those hoping to be cured of their disabilities by the healing water. The archaeological site we



visited is indeed huge, consisting of two deep pools and foundations that could hold up many columns. What adds surprise to the story is that Bethesda was a pagan healing shrine. Jesus, a committed Jew and Rabbi, did not discriminate according to circumstances and belief systems when he offered compassion and new life. He also demonstrated that the man's healing did not originate from the power of the water but through God's love. We learned that "stirring up" occurred simply through an increase in rainfall in the mountains causing changes to water movement and levels in the valleys below.

When Jesus symbolically used water to complete the healing process of a blind man in John 9, the passage indicates that he had just left the temple (8:59). At Jesus' request, the man washes in the pool of Siloam and comes back able

to see. However, this pool was not merely a stone's throw from the temple, but a very tough walk downhill through the Kidron Valley and back up again, through very rocky terrain, especially dangerous for a man born blind with mud in his eyes! This man, about whom there was to be much legalistic and discriminatory argument and consternation, offers us an example of bold faith and pure hearted hope in Jesus' power to heal and save.

These are some of my 'Wow!' moments from my time in Israel/Palestine. However, the most important learning

for me was that, yes, a trip to the Holy Land can offer us a richer context through which to understand the Bible, but that we don't need to visit famous pilgrimage sites in order to experience a deeper presence of God. The Holy Spirit is just as close, personal, generous and mysterious in Kings Norton as in Middle Eastern shrines. So, may we all become increasingly aware of the wonder of divine presence in the everyday, just as Jesus' disciples were in their ordinary, daily lives.

Catherine Matlock



The Birmingham Philatelic Society, whose monthly meetings are included in our Events Diary, raised **£1,100 for The Acorns Children's Hospice** in the recent Charity Auction at the Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge. They have asked us to express their grateful thanks to everyone who took part and to those who gave generously to this wonderful cause. The Society will be taking a break over the winter and will begin a new season in February next year. For contact details, please see our What's On section.

AUGUST 2018

BAPTISMS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 5 th August | Leo Jonathan Phillips-King
Harry Jason Bishop
Sophie Louise Bishop |
| 12 th August | Archie Francis Stanford Bristoll
Persian Oscar Bristoll
Kathleen Nora Bristoll
Graham Alan Sweet |
| 19 th August | Jaxon Grey Steven Waldron
Aurora Blossom Mear
Esme Ella Tipper
Jamie Graham |

"BAPTISM marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. "

The Baptism Service, Common Worship

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



WWDP HAS ITS origins in the 19th century when the Christian women of Canada and the USA founded many effective women's mission boards, both home and overseas. This meant they could work directly with, and for, women and children. They met with considerable opposition from the all-male mission boards in many cases.

ALONGSIDE THIS ACTION developed days and even weeks of communal prayer. Initially, they were denomination-specific, but then began to join together in organised days of prayer for missionary work, abroad and at home.

IN 1922, TWO separate united days of prayer, one in Canada and one in the USA, came together with a common date, the first Friday in Lent.

IN 1926, THE women of North America distributed the worship service to many other countries and mission partners and the response was enthusiastic. The World Day of Prayer was born. It arrived in the UK in 1930, first in Scotland, and then spreading to the rest of the UK over the next 5 years.

THE GLOBAL SPREAD was very rapid in the years after World War Two. Some

countries retained the name World Day of Prayer, though most took Women's World Day of Prayer as the title.

IN THE PAST few years, several countries have returned to the original name, to ensure there is no unintentional discrimination. The UK has made the change this year, but has a strapline to the title, making it very clear that it is a women-led movement. This is deeply important. In many countries, the service on the first Friday of Lent is the only time when women lead worship. Most of the charities supported by WWDP are linked with the protection, nurturing and development of women and children.

OUR NEW TITLE is now

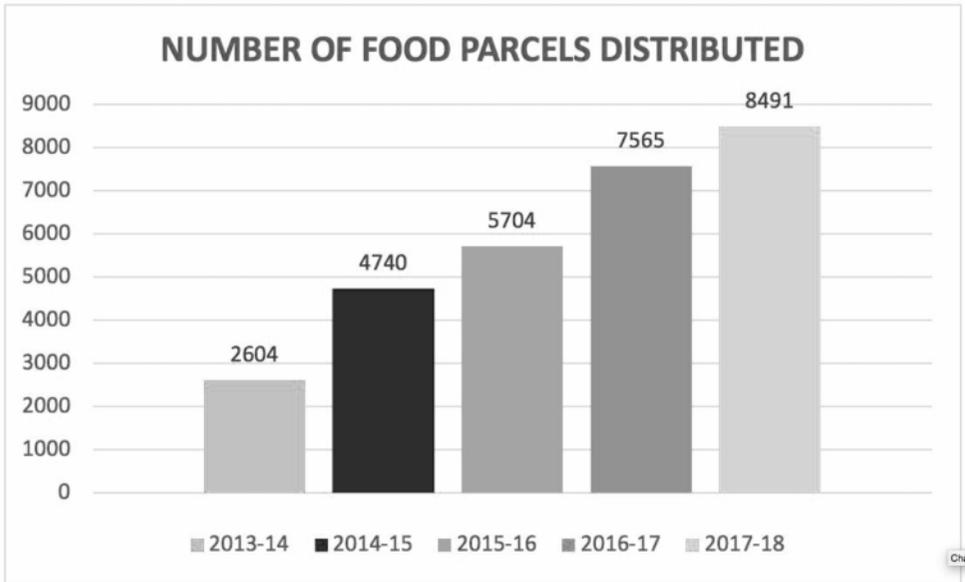
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER : a women-led, global, ecumenical movement.

WE CONTINUE TO be guided by our other strap-line : **Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action.**

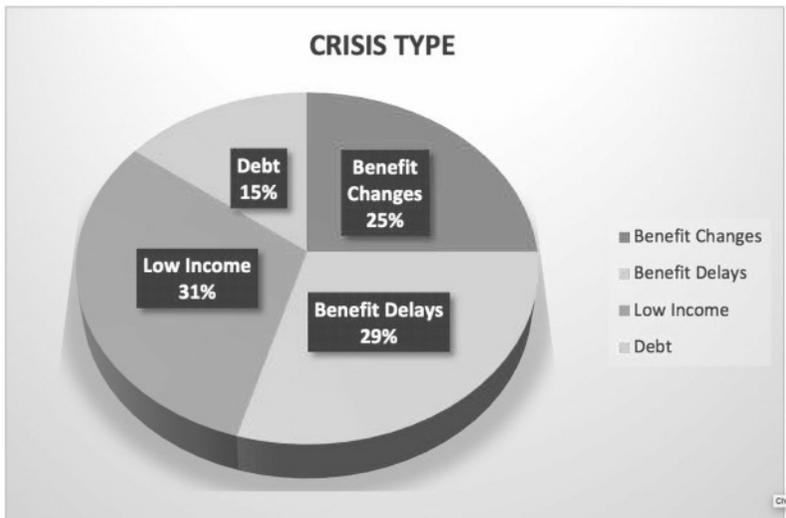
THIS YEAR, THE services will be held at **St Nicolas' Church on Friday 1st March**, the first Friday of Lent.

FOODBANK NEWS

Sometimes, a graph says it all



Last year saw a 12% increase in the number of emergency three-day food parcels given to people in need. That's a 226% increase since the first year of operation (2013).



A Letter to the Editor

Our articles earlier this year about the shops around The Green have stirred up a lot of interest and many fond reminiscences. In this letter to the Editor, local resident Brian Bates, who must have a prodigious memory, remembers how things used to be around The Green.

Dear Sir,

Michael Kennedy's articles 'Lost in the Mists of Time' recalled the advert for the 'Post Office on the Green', and asked 'Did anyone know its position?' I enclose two photos of this Post Office which pinpoints its position [one of which we have printed on the right. Editor]. It is indeed where the Hospice shop is now.

From the one photo we know that it was there in 1977. It later moved to the corner of Back Lane, Sylvia Fox being right on both counts, but I cannot recall when it moved.

For those interested in Kings Norton history, five maps/plans/photos of Kings Norton Green, covering dates commencing in 1840, are hanging in the Library in the first room on the left, where the coffee mornings are held. These were produced by the Kings Norton History Group, who meet in the Library the first Wednesday in the month from 2 - 4pm.



The Green, Kings Norton, c 1977.

Mention of Lindsworth Approach prompts me to mention that my family moved into a new house there in 1935. I was just 6 months old at the time. The shops then (also new) were in sequence as follows:

Lindsworth Post Office - run by Mr & Mrs Murphy, who also sold items of kitchenware, hardware and paint, birthday cards etc.

Pearks Stores - grocers, and part of a large chain.

H. Powell & Sons - greengrocers, (yes they were there from the start).

Lawton's - delicatessen, and first half of the corner shop.

D. W. Boden - the butcher (he also was there from the start) and the other half of the corner shop. He later took over the other half. His address was, I think, given as Monyhull Hall Road.

Next came **Bournes** - the newsagent/tobacconist, who also sold ice cream, sweets, pop, and toys.

Cartwright's - Drapers and Haberdashers.

Then another double shop, but smaller than the corner shop, with a chemist in one half, and a cobbler in the other, but I cannot remember their names.

Lastly was the **Wine Shop**, but sadly I cannot recall the name of the owner, although I can still see his face! He too was a tobacconist.

Clearly, with that array of shops you could buy almost everything you needed, certainly the main day-to-day items, without going any further afield.

Brian Bates



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If you would be interested in using an experience pack for a few days, please do call Elizabeth/Lizzie so she can arrange a time that suits to deliver.

There are also part-time and full-time work opportunities available. Please do ask Elizabeth/Lizzie for more information in her role as a business coach and mentor.

A Liverpudlian Story



Some years ago my company enrolled me on a course at Colquitt College in Liverpool, a 3-week cooks' course which taught advanced catering at sea. The group to which I was assigned did practical work every morning. We catered for the Silver Service restaurant where we provided lunch for local dignitaries and the like. All the dishes had to be made from basic ingredients. Meanwhile, in the afternoons, we attended lectures. Our tutor said that, during our last week, five of the team would be preparing a cold buffet to be served at a special function at Liverpool Town

Hall. Princess Anne would be visiting to sample our efforts.

It was rather challenging work, but interesting. We glazed a ham and a salmon, all garnished to a high degree; we prepared chicken galantine and many other dishes. Each day, the presentation had to be first class under the strict and watchful eye of our tutor.

As the day of the function drew near, we were invited to hand in our cooks' clothing to be laundered.

On the day of the buffet, we were due our final examination. The Principal suggested that we attend the college early, at 8.00 am, to complete the exam dishes which, we were told, could be prepared collectively. So, one of us prepared the soup, another the fish, and so on, including my own dessert, a Charlotte Russe. We completed it all by 10.30 am and laid it out as for Silver Service. The Principal tasted our efforts and told us that all five of us had passed with high grades.

A chilled van then arrived at the college and all the food we had prepared was loaded onto it, to be

delivered to Liverpool Town Hall. We all changed into our laundered cooks' wear. We were provided with white cooks' hats and were inspected.

The reception room at the Town Hall was magnificent, with three huge chandeliers to complete the picture. Many of the civic buildings in Liverpool and Birkenhead are very grand and opulent, a sad reminder of the central role played by Liverpool in the slave trade in the 18th century. The buffet looked really good when laid out in its entirety.

Princess Anne, in company with the Lord Mayor, eventually made a

selection of food. She smiled, said 'Good afternoon' to all of us and told us how impressed she was with the spread. An interesting experience for us all.

A small footnote. Some ten years later, I found myself back at Colquitt College on a six-week course to obtain my Purser's, Chief Steward's and medical certificates. This time, our small group took their lunch in the Silver Service restaurant every day. No more buffets for us!

Eddie Matthews

+*Harry L Marks*+

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CONTACTS

If you cannot find what you are looking for here, you will probably find it on the parish website (www.kingsnorton.org.uk). Alternatively, please ask questions at services, during Open Church or at the Parish Office.

81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk 0121 458 3289
www.facebook.com/KingsNortonTeam

THE MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector	The Revd Larry Wright
Assistant Rector	The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu
Parish Lay Minister	Pauline Weaver
Curate (Pioneer)	The Revd Catherine Matlock
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Methodist Minister	The Revd Caz Hague
Readers	David Ash, Mandy Butler, Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Music Ministry	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Chris Gadd

THE CHURCH WARDENS

St. Nicolas' Church	Peter Hay & Julie Hill
Hawkesley Church	Jim Clarke 0121 550 3455 or 07 939 838 086
Immanuel Church	Sue Hartley

OTHER CONTACTS

Parish Administrator & P.C.C. Secretary	Judy Ash
Finance Officer	Catherine Dehghani
Safeguarding Coordinator (0121 459 6185)	Clare Dean
Regular Giving	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Church Facilities Manager	Sylvia Fox
Flower Arranging (0121 486 2837)	Alison Blumer
Oasis (Sunday School) Tiny Tots & GPS	Pauline Weaver
Oasis (Sunday School) Immanuel	Nicky Moorcroft

MUSIC

Church music, choir training and handbells are overseen by Sylvia Fox (07 778 449 170). Choir practices : Fridays (tuition 4.45 - 6.30 pm, juniors 6.30 - 7.45 pm, adults 8 - 9 pm). Handbell practices : Mondays 3.30-4.30 pm (number notation & sheet music) and 7.00 - 8.00 pm (number notation only). Please phone first to check we are meeting.

BELL RINGING

Catherine Taylor c.r.taylor@bham.ac.uk

Practices are held on Tuesdays from 7.45 to 9.00 pm in the church tower. Ringers of all abilities are welcome. Newcomers are particularly encouraged. If you are interested in finding out what bell ringing is all about, please contact us in advance so that we can arrange your welcome.

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Scouts and Cubs

198th Birmingham St Nicolas'

Alan Haynes (Group Scout Leader) 07 534 615 489
198thscouts@gmail.com

*Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall,
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS*

Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm
Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm
Scouts (10½-14): 8 pm

Guides and Brownies

Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 - 6.30 pm
Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00-7.30 pm
Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm
Guides (247th Birmingham): Mondays 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm
Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

Shannon Road, Hawkesley, Kings Norton, B38 9TR 0121 459 6467

Headteacher: Mr Derek Higgins

AUGUST 2018

MARRIAGES

4th August	Sam Jones & Kirsty Louise Robinson
17th August	Carl Robert Upton & Catherine Winifred Hollier
18th August	Daniel Edward John Best & Georgina Julie Rose Mary Anderson Aaron Joseph Allen & Sarah Elizabeth Fawkes Nathan Keith Wood & Kelly Lorraine McNaught
25th August	Daniel Robert Biddle & Elizabeth Grace Wright Nicholas Andrew Close & Lennie Michelle Dews



Saint Nicolas' Place
81 The Green
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Shop : Mon-Sat 10.00 - 3.00
Tours : Fri-Sat 11.00 & 2.00

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& community events.

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- Opportunity to join mens and mixed doubles teams.

ROOM HIRE

Our airy lounge accommodates up to 70 people (50 seated). It has a balcony with sliding doors overlooking the courts, a fully fitted kitchen and well stocked bar. Our bar can be Staffed for any function and catering can be provided by agreement.

If you are interested in viewing or booking our Club House please contact Jackie on 0121 459 9827, who will be happy to help. To Check availability and costs, please complete the form online & email to info@kingsnortontennis.co.uk



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