



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

December 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 January
2019 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 7th
December**.

Items for inclusion in the
February 2019 edition must
reach the Editor by midnight on
Friday 11th January.



How would you react if the church banned Christmas? Before you protest that it could never happen, it already has. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Puritans of England and New England outlawed the festival. In Boston, Massachusetts, Christmas was banned from 1659 to 1681. Puritan laws required that shops and businesses remain open on Christmas Day and town criers walked the streets on Christmas Eve calling out "No Christmas!" They took their example from England, where all Christmas activities, including dancing, plays, games, carols, cheerful celebration and especially drinking were banned by Parliament in 1644, a ban which was only lifted in 1660, when Charles II became King. Meanwhile, back in the Colonies, Christmas did not become a legal holiday until 1856. Some schools in America continued to open on 25th Dec until 1870.

A ridiculous, authoritarian over-reaction or a brave and principled assault on what we would today call the commercialisation of Christmas? You decide. But what is certain is that, in the 21st century, Christmas has slipped its leash to become an uncontrollable global juggernaut. In Shenzhen, China, the population swells by 5 million in the summer to feed the worldwide Christmas electronics boom. In Yiwu, 600 factories churn out thousands of tree ornaments a day. In the UK (p.43), we spend £700 million on unwanted Christmas gifts and throw away 230,000 tonnes of food. Could there be less wasteful ways of celebrating the birth of Christ while reducing pressure on our planet's fragile resources? And if there could, what are we waiting for?

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

Finding Our Way Through Christmas

Navigating a steady course through Christmas and New Year involves the sort of planning and preparation worthy of an expedition! Whether we are home or away, expecting an influx of family and friends or steeling ourselves to cope alone, the demands are many. For young families, the delights of the season can be tinged with worry about the expectations of meeting every child's, and adult's, needs. For those with health concerns, there may be worries about how to join in celebrations with a shadow of uncertainty hanging over their lives. For those with restricted incomes, the commercial onslaught of advertising and the glittering inducements to 'spend, spend, spend' will ring hollow.

For the worldwide Christian Church, the festival will be celebrated in some of the most impoverished villages and homes in the world. In other places, Christians will fear that their celebrations may incur persecution, terrorist attacks or official sanctions from hostile governments. The place where the story began, Bethlehem, will once again be a tense focus where the faith complications and politics of Israel/Palestine will overshadow the public (and well-guarded) celebrations around the Church of the Nativity.



For people of uncertain faith or none, Christmas is at least a break in the mid-winter where the gloom of grey skies, icy weather and limited sunlight is relieved by time off work, parties and family get-togethers; though it appears that more people, at least those those who can afford it, are choosing to go away for Christmas either to warmer countries or to be looked after in UK hotels offering festive package deals.

There will be others who spend their Christmas volunteering with the many charities which work with the homeless, the destitute, the lonely and the seriously ill. Their efforts will bring comfort to those in need and their discreet, non-judgmental, acts of compassion will strengthen the bonds of human caring, bonds that are so essential for humanity to flourish.

For the vast majority of us, Christmas and New Year will be a celebration of all that we value most around this season: family and friends, colleagues and neighbours, good food and abundance. For Christians, the season marks the start of a new church year as the four weeks leading up to Christmas (those we call Advent) are the official start of the Western church's year. It is a time for reaching into the stories of how our faith came to be through thousands of years of spiritual questioning, to understand the great mysteries of life which touch all our lives. Why is there life at all? What happens after death? Are we just animals with big brains or something more? Are we destined to die out like the dinosaurs, or do we have a special and privileged place in Creation? And, of course, who or what is God? These and other questions have haunted humankind since the first days of our consciousness.

Whatever else Christmas has become, as people of faith we are marking our belief

and trust in the greater power of the universe (which we call God or the Divine) which brings life out of nothing, gives meaning and purpose to our existence far beyond the animal instincts we have inherited and sustains the complex and awesome materials of the cosmos. We believe that the Divine breaks into Creation's story in complex and miraculous ways. One unique claim we make is centred upon the birth of a child, born to a teenage mother and her carpenter husband in an obscure part of

'Why is there life at all? What happens after death? Are we just animals with big brains or something more?'

a great empire over two thousand years ago. The child grew to become the founder of the world's most global of religions, its followers the most numerous of any faith. It is a religion which has been battered by the storms of history, as well

as by its own imperfections, but it has endured.

As we sing our carols and as we, through worship, give expression to our beliefs, as we pray and work for a better world and, in doing so, acknowledge our faults and frailties, we stand united around our common quest for the ultimate meaning of life. As we do so, our minds and hearts are, by degrees, transformed.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a hopeful new year!

Revd Larry Wright

Christmas on The Green has more than ever!

*Kings Norton's annual Christmas Festival on **Saturday 8th December** will have a major new attraction: a Santa's Grotto inside St Nicolas' Place! And that's not the only exciting development for a day which promises to be full of fun and entertainment, together with a wide range of shopping opportunities.*

The Festival is always held on the day of the popular Farmers' Market, which this year starts slightly later at 11.00 am to coincide with the Festival, also closing later than usual at 4.00 pm. It will have more stalls than usual, offering a wonderful choice that would be hard to match in a conventional shopping expedition.

The Friends of Kings Norton Market have always had a special relationship with Santa Claus, and as usual he has agreed to make his entrance on his sleigh at 12.30 pm. Most years he normally has to leave at 2 pm, but this year he will be staying on. That's because, for the first time, there will be a very special Santa's Grotto, where in the warmth of Saint Nicolas' Place he will be able to hear local children's hopes for Christmas: each boy or girl will receive a special present and have

the chance a for a photograph with him. Santa will leave at about 4.00 pm.

Admission to Santa's Grotto will be by ticket only. Tickets, priced at £8 per child, including a present and a photograph, can be obtained from the Saint Nicolas' Place Office, which recommends advance booking because time will be limited. Any remaining tickets will be sold on the day.

Saint Nicolas' Place will also be a focus for the popular and varied Christmas Craft Market, with wonderful products from local craftspeople, located in the Ashford Hall and North Hall area of the building. And don't forget that another place to buy distinctive presents, often with a local angle, is the Gift Shop by the main entrance, which will be open through the day. The monthly book sale, organised by

the Friends of Historic Kings Norton, will also be held in St Nicolas' Place, and this time will include a bric-a-brac section.

Perhaps most remarkable of all, of on The Green from 11.00 am throughout the day will be performances by one of the largest gatherings of local choirs ever assembled in Kings Norton. Several school choirs will perform individually, including children from Kings Norton Primary School, West Heath Infant School, St Joseph's and St Paul's. There will also be adult groups, including the Cantare Community Choir. To add a distinctively modern musical touch, Kings Norton's new School of Rock will also be making an appearance. There will be also performances by the Black Adder Clog Morris Group.

The final element of a day's energetic singing is the chance for everyone to sing some favourite Christmas carols together around the Christmas Tree on The Green, leading up to the switch-on of Kings Norton's Christmas lights at 4.30 pm. The carols will be 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen', the ever popular and always moving 'Silent Night' and 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas'. It promises to be a truly memorable finale!

The day will be hosted by South Birmingham Charity Radio and is the result of co-ordinated planning by

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the Kings Norton Together initiative, The Friends of the Farmers' Market, the Friends of Historic Kings Norton and the staff of St Nicolas' Place.

For people wondering why St Nicolas' Church itself isn't the venue for various Festival activities as normal, that's because there's a wedding scheduled for the afternoon. It's likely to be memorable for more reasons than usual.

Further information about the Festival, and the opportunity to book a session with Santa and tables for the Craft Fair, can be obtained by contacting the St Nicolas Place Office on 0121 458 1223, or email bookings@saintnicolasplace.co.uk.

THE 3 AGES OF PANTOMIME

The Birmingham Hippodrome completed its first pantomime season in 1958, sixty years ago and about the time that Michael Kennedy started to experience the tradition. He takes a look back over the way that tradition evolved.

Most people, if they are lucky, have three phases when pantomime ‘spectaculars’ are a key feature of Christmas: when they are children themselves, when they take their own children, and when they take their grandchildren. I have to say that, as I’ve moved through those phases, I’ve gone from being thrilled to the core, to being reasonably amused and on to being so disappointed that I’ve resolved never to go again!

Around about the year that the Hippodrome had its first pantomime, I was being brought up near Manchester, where the Palace Theatre was the place for any child to be at Christmas. I remember with enormous excitement seeing acts such as circus performers Charlie Cairoli and Paul; Ken Dodd, who was even then already well into his remarkably durable career; a slapstick duo called Mick & Montmorency which included the popular comedian Charlie Drake before he became known in his

own right. Most of all, I recall crying with uncontrolled laughter over the antics of the great Mr Pastry as he stepped off a ladder with unerring accuracy into a bucket of whitewash, and tramped around for the rest of the scene with his foot stuck in the bucket. And all in a pinstripe suite and bowler hat.

If you went to the Hippodrome pantomime in those years, no doubt you have equally thrilling and vivid memories. The stars of the first Hippodrome panto spectacular were comedians Beryl Reid (later to become an award winning actress, and famous then for her Brummie radio character Marlene), the now forgotten Reg Dixon and the slightly better remembered Freddie Frinton in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. It was such a success that the run had to be extended into March.

Stars over the succeeding years were even more breath-taking. *Robinson*



Crusoe in 1958 was the internationally successful singer David Whitfield. In the 1961 *Cinderella* one of the Ugly Sisters was the unique Danny La Rue, and there

was also a pop star at the peak of his powers, the great Lonnie Donegan, who was also a natural entertainer. The following year it was the wonderful Norman Wisdom in *Robinson Crusoe* again, and later on there were the inimitable Morecambe & Wise.

The point was, these were not only genuine stars but were people you rarely saw, because TV was so limited and there were no social media or YouTube. These days, you can see stars almost whenever you want on 100-plus 24-hour TV channels and across the media generally, so even children can become blasé about them. In those days, they had a real mystique: magical celebrities who, at least to children, really justified that term.

Now, I don't know whether it's the rosy glow of nostalgia, or an inability over the years to keep track of what amuses younger people, but it seems to me that the pantos of my youth were the zenith of the tradition: sweet, gentle, boisterous without being violent, funny without



Mike Baker



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being tasteless. I remember being thrilled when the producers achieved the miracle of bringing a live animal on stage, usually a tiny and very tame pony pulling Cinderella's coach. I use to love the singalongs, when the words would appear on banners pulled down from the top of the stage. I don't remember much of the dialogue, indeed I don't remember any of it, but it rarely struck me as being over my head.

In phase two, twenty years or so later, I started to take my son. I suppose I was still reasonably thrilled, but some things seemed to have changed. There were still stars, like Cannon & Ball, the great Birmingham comedian Billy Dainty, Des O'Connor and the genuinely funny



Krankies, but you'd seen them in lots of other places and so they didn't seem to dazzle. The trend had already started to include, near the top of the bill, the dreaded soap stars, people from *Crossroads* and *Coronation Street* and almost anonymous people from Australian soaps, who couldn't do much else than be the character they played in the soap. Then you had amusing but to me slightly discomfoting people like Christopher Biggins, starting the trend for dialogue to be progressively more risqué.

The humour seemed to me to be less gentle and even slightly nasty, including references that I was pleased to see seemed to go over the heads of the children in the audience. Of course, there were things that were better: the special effects for example, helped by technological evolution, were much more spectacular than I remembered from my youth.

I began my third phase some ten years ago, when even without the prompt of grandchildren I succumbed to the Hippodrome's irresistible publicity campaigns. I went to see Joan Collins in 2010 as a Fairy Godmother, but it was one of the many nights that she was described as 'indisposed'. Julian Clary was the other star, but he had to play up to the image that had brought him fame (or notoriety?); just not right for children. The singalongs seemed to be briefer and briefer, almost a gesture to the past. But the special effects were moving into new dimensions, with fairy coaches and magic carpets flying out over the audience (I still don't know how) and outstanding 3D effects for which you were given special

viewing glasses as you went into the theatre.

I felt then, and still feel, that directors have gone too far in trying to please every section of the audience. Whereas, in the 50's, I'm sure parents would go to a panto expecting that almost the whole of the production would be orientated towards children, now the directors seem to feel that the adults need entertaining on their own terms. And these days, that tends to mean innuendo that, for me at least, can reach the unacceptable. Even the Krankies, still going strong, have become reliant on smut, and some of the so-called stars seem more intent on telling us about their sexual orientation (as if we care) than making us laugh.

That's why I've stopped going to these so-called spectaculars. Especially if you're taking a young child, in my view it's

better by far to go to one of the shows at places like the Redditch Palace and the Artrix in Bromsgrove: less star-driven and gimmick-laden, and therefore much less pretentious and much more traditional. And cheaper to get in!

What do you think? And what fond memories do you have of those early years? Please do drop a line to the Editor.

Oh, and I nearly forgot. What happened to slapstick, which used to be one of the big highlights of every panto but you never see any more? Is it Health & Safety, is it too hard to do or is it just lack of talent?

Here's one for you. Pantomimes these days are a pale imitation of the golden years. Oh no they're not! Oh yes they are!

Michael Kennedy

OCTOBER 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*)

15th October	Jean Mary Stockton	89	Bu.CY
17th October	Hazel Doreen Nokes	70	SN.Bu.KN
23rd October	Brenda Ann Hall	80	Cr.LH
23rd October	Rita Kennedy	73	SN.Bu.KN
24th October	Joan Grimmitt	76	SN.Cr.RD
25th October	Gertrude Winnie Smith	88	SN.Bu.BE
26th October	Ronald Leslie Ayres	96	SN.Bu.CY
29th October	Vera Gregory	89	In.CY

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

ADVENTURES at the Back of Church

The difference between church with & without kids Part 4

In the latest 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.

St Nicolas' Church has different services depending on which week of the month it is. As a parent I am often more concerned by the question of whether it is an 'Oasis' or 'Godly Play' week, which runs in term time, every first and third week.

The big milestone was when one child was old enough to go out with the others into Sunday School. I was immensely relieved when the church offered to take children from the age of four, whether or not they were at school, as I seem to remember my eldest was getting a bit bored at the back of church. They had played with

every toy, built every puzzle and read every book and the prospect of going out with 'Auntie Pauline' or 'Auntie Nickie' and seeing their friends from Tiny Tots was just perfect. It also gave me a rare 45 minutes to spend with the little one, who, to be fair, pretty much demanded my full attention anyway, whether his big brother was there or not.

When I started coming to church in 2005, there was a tiny 'Oasis' group every week and I even led a few sessions before having my own children to juggle. Now, Immanuel Church and St Nicolas' Church congregations pool

their children every other week to make a larger group and the kids love it. What's more, they don't miss out on the more fun family services. All that said, I usually turn up with no clue whether it's a Sunday School week or not and so I look out for signs. If there are Brownies, Scouts or Rainbows present, then that means it is a Parade Service (2nd Sunday of the month), which also means that it's family friendly... so there is no 'Oasis'. If there are a lot of older members of the congregation at the front and a bunch of parents at the back, then it's probably a quieter Holy Communion service (1st & 3rd Sundays) and we're all sure (or hoping) that 'Oasis' will run.



But there are other options. The fourth Sunday of the month is sometimes a normal, quietish service in church and there's no Oasis to fall back on. But on those mornings, there are family services at Immanuel Church next door (held on the top floor of St Nicolas' Place). My boys started to call Immanuel Church 'Special Church' and it's where we go when we need a break

from the routine of St Nicolas'. It's a small congregation and everyone is welcoming. It also offers a more relaxed style of worship, often accompanied by instruments. If there's a Communion service, then everyone stands in a circle together. And if Pauline leads it, well, as with any service where she's in charge, anything goes!

'Gradually, I got relaxed in my own mental space again and paid attention and listened for the first time in years to the same messages of faith, reconciliation, compassion, generosity, humility... Serenity.'

Sometimes, one child has decided they don't want to go out to 'Oasis'. That's fine. Sometimes after a few minutes, they've changed their mind, so we've scurried out the door to deliver them; better late than never. They get their own snack there and make things, play with toys to re-enact stories and listen to the odd Bible story. But whenever my two return, as with every club, class or school day, they never know what

they have been learning about, except for the fact that they've had fun!

It is strange and wonderful letting them go. I would be fretting at first in case they didn't settle or they wrought havoc. Parents are welcome to sit with their child while they are settling, but my two usually wanted me gone! So I sat in church, in the now-quiet play area, sometimes helping other parents with babies. Or sometimes, I moved down to the front, for the first time in 5 years, to sit and face the vicar during the sermon. I'd almost fallen into the habit of hearing it while facing in different directions, or to listening with half a brain while reading Hairy McLairy to my youngest. For a few weeks, I kept drifting off, sure I should be doing

something else! But, gradually, I got relaxed in my own mental space again and paid attention and listened for the first time in years to the same messages of faith, reconciliation, compassion, generosity, humility... Serenity.

And then they come crashing back in! Sometimes in time for the last song. Often brandishing smiles and the pictures they have drawn which they thrust into your hands while asking 'Is it biscuit time yet?' It's a chance to be grateful for the space of being apart but I swear the happiest feeling of the day is seeing them stream back into a quiet church with their energy and boundless enthusiasm. Thank you God!

Gemma Harris



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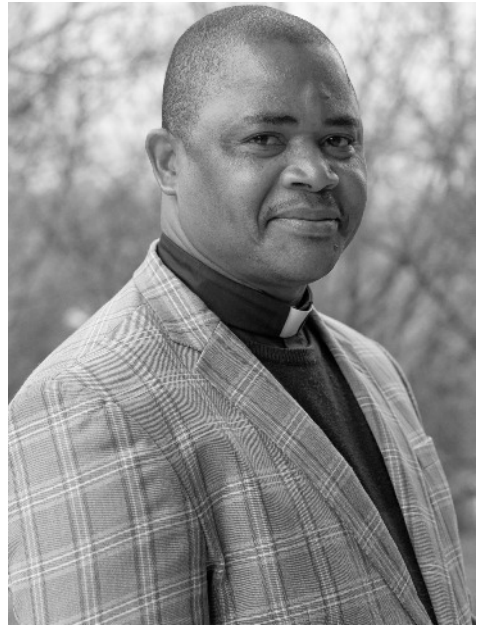
A CHRISTMAS GIFT... BUT DOES ANYONE CARE?

'For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

It seems like only yesterday that we were wishing family and friends a Happy Christmas 2017, usually following up with gifts of various kinds and qualities. It is often a season of great delight and fun for many. Well, it is here again!

It is no longer seen as strange that many people receive loads of gifts, even more than they can store up at the end of the season, while others may hardly get anything at all. Such is the unfairness of life. However, there is always something or someone that could serve as a consolation gift for those who wish to explore further and freely. It is the gift of life and the giver of it.

In a passage taken from the Bible, the Prophet Isaiah made a remarkable announcement that marks the essence of the Christmas celebrations, especially among Christians. It was more like a declaration of the arrival of a valuable asset to a deprived and



impoverished community. He writes, 'For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us.' The tone in which this information is communicated suggests that there seems to have been a longing for this news. The people to whom this message came appear to have been long deprived of peace and

justice. They seem to have waited long to experience the birth of this special baby, whose life and mission at maturity would be an invaluable gift to their community.

But why did Isaiah use two terms to describe one person in one sentence? Firstly, he described him as a **child** born for us and then he referred to him as a **son** given to us. For each description, he uses different prepositions: a child born **for** us, a son given **to** us. It appears that the writer wants to capture the developmental stages of this person's mission to humanity.

At birth, he was only a child born for the people who were expecting his arrival. All he could offer his admirers at this stage was the joy of a new-born baby to a nuclear family. His mission to the community was not yet certain, though the people were curious. However, the Prophet looks beyond this stage of childhood into his adulthood, when, as a son, he becomes a gift to his immediate community and perhaps to a global community as well.

Moreover, Son is a significant title in Christian symbolism. Among Christians, 'the Son' or 'Son of God' are names which refer to Jesus Christ. Again, Christians, who believe in the doctrine of Trinity (the belief that God is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit), see Jesus as the human incarnation of God, the second person of the Trinity, known as 'God the Son'. In the Gospels also, Jesus sometimes referred to himself as the 'Son of Man'.

Therefore, the Prophet Isaiah appears to be saying things that demand further and deeper interpretation. He goes further, to declare boldly that this Son has authority like a ruler. And the nature of his reign is captured in the names by which he shall be identified, including: ***Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace.***

In a world full of crisis and constant conflict, we could do with some wise counsel against intolerance, hate speech and discrimination of all sorts. People and places also need to experience some measure of peaceful

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coexistence. Amazingly, Isaiah promised that this gift of a Son would guarantee all of these and more with his arrival. What a gift to desire!

Little wonder, then, that Christmas is not just a commemoration of the birth of a child; it is a celebration of the gift of a Son. It is a celebration of a life of simplicity, peace, caring and sharing among friends and families. Moreover, the gift of life is free for everyone, even though living it sometimes can and does prove costly for many people.

Whatever the circumstances, Isaiah maintains that this gift of a Son is given to us all. That means that he has enough love and care to go around for everyone who wishes to celebrate him

this season. It doesn't matter whether you are expecting any material gifts from people or not. It doesn't matter if anyone remembers to include you in their season's visits or greetings this year. There is the gift of a person, who is already and always at your service. He is the summary and the only true symbol of the Christian faith, Jesus! The commemoration of his mission and of his ministry of peace, in the quietness of your home or in the company of other people, could turn out to be an invaluable gift for anyone who wants it during this Christmas season.

Care to celebrate him? It's Christmas!

Rev'd Eliakim Ikechukwu

Don't throw me away!

Give me away!



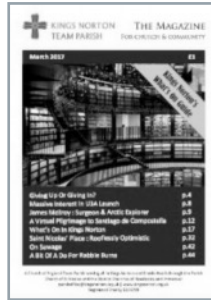
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WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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 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 organize 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. We meet locally at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month so, if you can spare a few hours to help, please contact Sue (above).

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
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 almost £1,000 a 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 December 2018

Saturday 1 December

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club & Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 – 11.30 am
- Fields Millennium Green, Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 3 December

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: Christmas 'Bake-Off'

Tuesday 4 December

- 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
- 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: Carols

Wednesday 5 December

- 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: Decorations for Christmas
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 6 December

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00pm

- 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 7 December

- 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 8 December

- Christmas Festival, The Green & St Nicolas' Place 11 am-4.30 pm (with Christmas lights switch-on at 4.30 pm)
- Farmers' Market, The Green, 11 am-4.30 pm (please note changed timing)
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 11 am-4.30 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10 am-1 pm
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

Sunday 9 December

- Traditional Christmas lunch, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 12.30 for 1 pm. Four courses including wine, £25 for non-members, £20 for members. Please book early, it is normally a sell-out. Contact Lorraine on 0121 459 0944

Monday 10 December

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice Christmas Quiz, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Road, B30 2PR, 7 pm- 7.45 pm. Large car park, £3 per person, teams maximum 6 people. Please contact Sue Davies on 0121 608 0646, suebarkerdavies@gmail.com

Tuesday 11 December

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- 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 12 December

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club: Christmas lunch at the Old Rose & Crown
- Kings Norton 41 Club, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 13 December

- 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 14 December

- 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 15 December

- 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
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

Monday 17 December

- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas Place 7 pm: Sharon Turner 'My Concertinas: a History of the Instrument and its Music'

Tuesday 18 December

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am

- 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: Christmas Festivity
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 19 December

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Carols in St Nicolas' Church
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 20 December

- 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 21 December

- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 22 December

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- (Kings Norton Library, closes at 5 pm for Christmas & New Year break, re-opening on Wednesday 2 January)

Thursday 27 December

- 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

Saturday 29 December

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

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)

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38

2nd Saturday Each Month

Get
FRESH

Next market
Sat 8th December
2018
9.00 - 2.00



Founded 1616, re-established
2005. The first Community
Interest Farmers' Market
in Britain



An Advent Calendar in Reverse?

As we journey through Advent, you may wish to try a ‘reverse’ calendar. Instead of opening a door each day, you place an item of food into a basket, bag or box instead . Please begin a week early, so that the Foodbank gets it the week before Christmas, or save the parcel up till mid January, or deliver it to St Nicolas’ Church, or to another collection point near you, in weekly instalments.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Tin of fruit | 13. | Carton of long-life milk (blue) |
| 2. | Tin/packet of custard | 14. | Carton of long-life fruit juice |
| 3. | Tin of rice pudding | 15. | Bottle of squash |
| 4. | 500g bag of sugar | 16. | Packet of biscuits |
| 5. | Jar of jam | 17. | Packet of cooking rice |
| 6. | Tinned/microwave pot pudding | 18. | Jar of pasta/cooking sauce |
| 7. | Tin of tomatoes | 19. | Jar of coffee |
| 8. | Tin of spaghetti pieces/hoops | 20. | Jar/bag of instant hot-chocolate |
| 9. | Tin of fish | 21. | Tin of peas |
| 10. | Tin of ham | 22. | Tin of carrots |
| 11. | Tin of corned beef | 23. | Tin of sweetcorn |
| 12. | Tin of meat-based meal | 24. | Chocolate treats |

If you are kind enough to want to include a Christmas pudding in your calendar, the Trussell Trust asks that we only give out alcohol-free puddings.

Of course, you may vary the contents if you wish, but please avoid pasta, baked beans, long-life milk and tea. We have lots of each at the moment. I am keenly aware that this entire list could be quite pricey too; so the budget version might run something like this, with the same list repeated for each of the four weeks.

Tinned veg (x2); tinned tomatoes (x2); tinned spaghetti; tinned custard; tinned rice pudding.

Sylvia Fox

Dexter here!

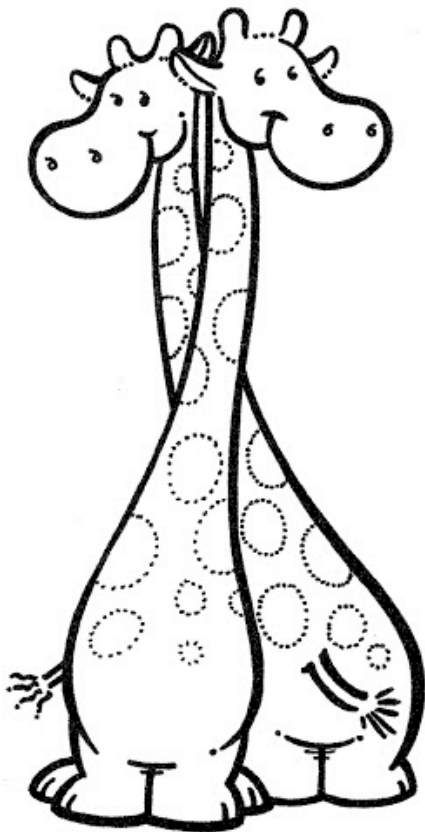
I'm very excited! It's nearly Christmas. This time of year is called Advent and all sorts of exciting things happen like putting up Christmas trees and lights and opening another door on the Advent calendar.

I've been for a wander into church to see the Christmas tree inside. I've hidden a very special decoration on the tree. I wonder if you can spot which one it is? There are some other decorations too, some of a very special Saint called Nicolas. Can you work out which decorations are for him? Don't forget to look for the star on the very top of the tree too.

Perhaps you could colour in this picture, add some glitter and ribbon and put your very own Dexter decoration on your tree.

I hope you all have a very happy and spotty Christmas and I'll see you next year!

Dexter G



Dexter & The Christmas Tree

Dexter liked to wander. Usually, he didn't know where he was headed until he got there, but today was different. Today was special. Today, Dexter was taking a very special Something to a very special Place to do a very special Thing!

One of the places Dexter found in his wanders was St Nicolas' Church on Kings Norton Green. He liked the nice people there and the beautiful coloured windows and the biscuits! Today

Dexter was going there because Jayne and Pauline (two of his new friends) had told him about the Christmas tree decorating. Dexter LOVED Christmas trees and their bright, shiny decorations and everything that went with it. So he was going to visit and was bringing something with him to put on the tree. Dexter hoped his friends liked it.



When he got to the church there was a bustle and a hustle and people going back and forth. Dexter felt nervous for a moment and stood on the steps uncertainly. But Jayne saw him across the aisle and waved. "Hello Dexter! I'm so glad you've come!"

This made Dexter happy and he went in. The Christmas tree was up in the front of the

church and it was ENORMOUS! The lights were sparkly and there were boxes with all kinds of interesting ornaments, just waiting to be put on the tall tree.

Pauline was there too and she came over to say hello. "What have you brought in your bag Dexter?" Pauline asked. Dexter shyly brought his special Something out. It was a

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beautiful Giraffe Ornament! Dexter was hoping they would let him put it on the tree and had worried a little about it. But he needn't have! Pauline and Jayne both loved the ornament.



They took Dexter over and let him choose a spot. It looked very nice on the tree, all lit up by the lights. Dexter stayed and helped with the rest of the ornaments and decorations too. He was very handy at putting things on the higher branches! After all the work was done everyone sat and had some tea and biscuits. Then they turned the lights out and admired the beautiful, sparkling tree. Dexter felt very happy and proud of the job that he had helped with.



As he went to leave Jayne called out, 'Thank you for all your help Dexter! And Merry Christmas!' Dexter waved and smiled, then he turned and went out into the cold afternoon. But he was full of warm thoughts and felt glad that his ornament was on the tree with all the other ones. This had been a very special wander!

*Can you find Dexter's ornament on the church tree?
What other ornaments can you see (page 39)?*



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

Word List

DECORATION WRAPPING TINSEL CANDLE TREE
 CHRISTMAS SPARKLE LIGHTS RIBBON STAR
 PRESENTS BAUBLE ADVENT BOXES FIR

Hawkesley School Remembers

The children of Hawkesley Primary Academy marked Remembrance Day 2018 with a beautiful display of poppies and art work.





FOODBANK NEWS

For some time, I have wondered about the food-canning process and how I might find out more about it. This interest has been sparked by handling so very many cans of food and the worry that somehow canned food isn't as nutritious for our clients as fresh food might be.

Right on cue came a recent documentary programme, which showcased the entire process of 'creating' baked beans at a factory owned by that well-known manufacturer of 57 varieties. There is quite a percentage of recycled metal in the cans (which are made of tin and steel, hence "cans" not "tins") and the sauce-covered beans are sealed into the cans before cooking, which is done with steam under serious amounts of pressure.

In this documentary, they performed various laboratory tests, and it became clear that the product remained fresher than some "fresh" foods (those which had been stored for several days), due to the canning process. As the food is

already cooked, it could, if needed, be eaten without reheating, which is important in an emergency for someone with no source of cooking. They then finished the programme by inviting the celebrity 'cooking-on-a-budget' chef, Jack, to make a gourmet meal for some tasters .. only she used nothing but canned products without the tasters' knowledge.

Her fishcake starters and curry main dish were very successful. The tasters liked them and they cost a fraction of the price she would have paid if she had used fresh ingredients. I found it very reassuring that most of the food we give to our clients is actually very nutritious and fresh, especially the unprepared things like fish, vegetables, tomatoes and fruit. A bit of judicious label-reading to ensure that there is limited or no added sugar and salt, and the humble tin can of food can prove to be a pretty nutritious addition to the food cupboard.

Sylvia Fox

OCTOBER 2018

MARRIAGES & WEDDING BLESSINGS

19th October

Steven Vincent Cattell & Diane Lorraine Cattell

27th October

Luke Anthony John Sawtell & Amber Lily Sally Wallace

Night of the Stars

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

If you are of a 'certain age' you may well remember the ritual of the lighting of the *Blue Peter* Advent crown. Each year on children's television we were shown how to make this festive decoration lovingly out of wire coat hangers, tinsel and candles. I don't think there was any of the famous 'sticky-backed plastic'.

Looking back, it is amazing that they never burnt the studio down. Perhaps there was a strategically-placed fire extinguisher which we couldn't see! I'm not sure they are allowed to do it now. I do wonder how many families actually attempted to make one at home or even succeeded. I know I never did.

This year in Kings Norton we are attempting to start a new Christmas ritual of our own but, hopefully, one that won't be anywhere near as dangerous or difficult. It is called 'The Night of the Stars' and links into this year's Church of England theme of **follow the star**. #FollowTheStar: A

journey through the 12 days of Christmas

invites everyone to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men to meet Jesus.

The church year begins with Advent. When we explain the church year to children during 'Godly Play' sessions,

it goes something like this.

'This year in Kings Norton we are attempting to start a new Christmas ritual of our own'

'The days are really short. It gets dark really early. It looks as if the light is just about to go out. Just when it feels like the light is coming to an end, it is time for Advent.'

The year ends and begins again and we get ready to enter the mystery of Christmas.'

During Advent, we light special Advent candles in church. You may have some at home too, or an Advent calendar. (You might be really lucky and have ones with special treats or toys inside). All over Northern Europe, houses will display lights in



their windows during Advent, sometimes Advent bridges and sometimes Advent stars.

This year, we are planning to decorate the path to church with stars, to light our way through the darkness and into the light of Christmas. Now, this is where you come in!

We would like you to make a star. We are going to need lots of stars to decorate the garlands along the path. They can be made out of anything: cardboard, material, wool, recycled plastic bottles or cans, anything at all. Please add a loop to your star so we can hang it, and write your name on

it if you would like it back after Christmas.

Then bring your star along to our Night of the Stars event on **Friday 21st December** (the longest night) at **5pm** where you will be able to add it to our display. There will also be hot drinks and carol singing to enjoy. It's the last day of term so a great way to start the Christmas holidays.

I do hope you will be able to come along and join us and make it a magical night to remember.

Wishing you all a magical and peaceful Christmas

Pauline Weaver

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CHRISTMAS FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

We all know the most important facts about Christmas, after years of practice. But you probably won't know these.

THE COST

£1,600,000,000 - The total spent in the UK at Christmas

£51,000,000 - The amount saved each year through the use of discount voucher codes

£700 Million - The amount of money spent on unwanted Christmas gifts

230,000 Tonnes - The amount of wasted Christmas food that is thrown away each year

16 - The average number of Christmas presents a UK child receives

£330 - The average amount a UK adult spends buying Christmas presents

83 Square km - The amount of wrapping paper sold in the UK every Christmas

6 Million - The number of rolls of Sellotape that will be sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas

THE FOOD

10 Million - The number of turkeys cooked in the UK every Christmas

25 Million - The number of Christmas puddings we eat in the UK every year

57 - The number of Olympic sized swimming pools that could be filled with the beer consumed in the UK over Christmas

300 Million - The number of mince pies eaten over Christmas

120,000 Tonnes - The weight of potatoes that will be eaten over Christmas

1 - The number of mince pies you should eat on each of the 12 days of

Christmas to bring good luck

957 - The typical number of calories in your average Christmas dinner

THE TREE

8 Million - The number of natural Christmas trees bought in the UK each year

15 - The average age of a Christmas tree when it is sold

3 - The number of Christmas trees planted to replace each one harvested

3:1 - The ratio by which natural Christmas trees outsell artificial Christmas trees

OTHER TRIVIA

6.8 Million - The number of iOS and Android devices that will be activated on Christmas Day

4.25 Million - The number of British people who will travel abroad for Christmas

1647 - The year in which Oliver Cromwell banned celebrating Christmas because he believed it was immoral to feast and drink on such a holy day

364 - The total number of gifts listed in "The 12 days of Christmas"

AND THE ONE WE'VE ALL BEEN WONDERING ABOUT

2,340,000 mph - The speed at which Santa's sleigh would need to travel if he were to reach every home in the world on Christmas Eve

For these, we are indebted to the 'Find Me a Gift' on-line shopping organisation,



'I thought of offering to play the part of Santa Claus in the annual Nativity Play but they didn't seem interested. How else can I help 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.

Pilgrims' Progress

Who would valiant be? Thelma Mitchell reports on the recent Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.



Back row: Alan Cupples, Karen Watkins, Sue Newbury, David Badger, Larry Wright. **Middle row:** Carol Devic, Catherine Matlock, Diana Common, Amanda Wright. **Front row:** Penny Bryan, Sue Sandilands, Thelma Mitchell, Jayne Crooks, Heather Flack, Fran Badger, Neville Mitchell. **Kneeling, front:** Father John Kilgore, All Saints, Rome.

When the Kings Norton Team Ministry Parish Pilgrimage set off for Rome, the cradle of European Christianity, early in November, we were not expecting it to be quite so action packed! The words of *To Be a Pilgrim* by John Bunyan became as apt for the 21st

century as it did for the 17th century. We didn't quite encounter any *hobgoblin nor foul fiend* but an encounter at 6.00 am on The Green left everyone somewhat shaken. The last three to arrive saw the coach disappearing down the hill!



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They caught up with us at McDonald's! Prayer from our rector Larry and some of Carol's homemade flapjack soothed our spirits and we were on our way. *No foes were going to stay our might!* A smooth, quiet flight and a quick passage through the vast space which is now Rome's major airport to find our coach waiting settled us, though we weren't expecting quite so much rain!

Our hotel, run by the Waldensians, one of the earliest reforming groups in Christianity, is in a peaceful part of Rome yet only a short walk from the Vatican, Piazza del Popolo and other major sites, as well as the Metro. Welcomed by a good lunch, we set off for the churches of San Giovanni in Laterano and Santa Maria Maggiore, two of the major basilicas of Rome. On the last minute we had hired a coach to take us around. Did we need it?! Oh yes! Rain seemed to explode from the skies as if all the clouds had burst together! We dodged, not always successfully, over-the-ankle deep puddles, though the beauty of these Christian monuments made up for it.

We postponed our visit next day to St. Peter's as there was a Papal mass for

All Soul's Day. The bonus was to find the glorious San Clemente church almost empty. San Clemente is on four levels, going down past glorious frescoes to a pre-Christian Mithraic temple and Roman street. A short walk from there to the Coliseum and on to the open-topped bus. Mercifully, it was not raining this stage!

Let's gloss over the one-hour walk past thousands of people queueing for the Vatican museum (the 1st and 2nd November are public holidays in Italy). We were not able to get in anyway, despite our fast-track tickets. Instead, we enjoyed a good lunch together in one of the side streets and hit other major attractions!

The next day is lost to me because I was slain with a vicious flu-like infection and slept for 24 hours! The rest of the group found their own way around, meeting up in Piazza Navona for a picnic lunch, which they ate on a slightly damp wall at the side of the Pantheon. (Don't tell anyone.) They came back in high spirits, having taken in as many sites as they could fit in, culminating at the Trevi Fountain.

Did any of this *daunt our spirit?* Of

course not! On Sunday, they were up and out straight after breakfast to explore some more. We met up at All Saints' Anglican chaplaincy, off Piazza di Spagna, for a majestic service to celebrate the festival of All Saints. Afterwards, there was an absolute feast laid on for the congregation. As bring and share lunches go, it was quite something! Two o'clock, back to the hotel and a coach to our final call, to the mighty, major basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls. Our final, beautiful memories are of the brass ensemble and organ concert taking place in that most awesome of settings. What a memory on which to depart from Rome!

This was a kind, caring, supportive, patient group. There must be something negative to say, but I can't

think of it! For me, it was a privilege and joy to share the time together, including after dinner each evening when we met for prayers, readings and pilgrimage thoughts led by Jayne Crooks.

The Christian life is a pilgrimage until *at the end we life inherit*. It is a bit over the top to say that we stepped out of our '*easy going, dull Christianity for the thrill of great adventure*', as one commentator declared. We did have a fantastic time, though, as, good humouredly, we grew so close to each other and appreciated so much each others' skills and talents. A little bit of easy going, though **never** dull, Christianity will certainly do us for now until the next time!

Thelma Mitchell

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Remembrance Sunday

11th November 2018

Over 400 people attended the commemoration at Saint Nicolas' Church of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.



Fiddles at Sea

Not all passengers on cruise ships are honest. Retired mariner Eddie Matthews recalls a cruise or two on the Canberra.



In the 18th century, most ships of the Royal Navy had a fiddler amongst the crew who would play traditional music to accompany songs and hornpipes for dancing. In more modern times, passenger ships would have dining tables fitted with wooden flaps that would be raised in rough weather to prevent the table contents from falling off. These were known as 'fiddles'. But the type of fiddle at sea which I want

to tell you about this month is something quite different.

The P&O liner *Canberra* did several summer cruises from Southampton. Passengers enjoyed themselves on the whole. One of the attractions on board was the so-called 'Pilot Sweep'. Bets were placed as to the exact minute when the harbour pilot would board the ship at the various ports visited. The Deck Quartermaster would visit the public rooms with an easel and a board on which was a large circle, drawn on white paper. In the centre was a smaller circle, which concealed the minutes of the hour, set out at random, while the outer circle was divided into 60 segments. You could pay to have your name and cabin numbers entered on the circle for a fee of £2 per entry.

After the harbour pilot had boarded, a written confirmation from the Navigator was posted on the board and the middle circle was uncovered to reveal the minutes, and hence the

winner. Sometimes, there were several boards in operation. The winner would receive £120 or more. Not a fiddle as yet, you may say. But read on!

A final sweep would be available on the last day of the cruise. It would be focused on the moment when the pilot boarded in the Solent before the ship berthed in Southampton. As this was the last sweepstake, the entry fee would be doubled to £4. Now, Tommie the Quartermaster had to be on the lookout for a certain type of passenger, one who had been on this cruise before and knew how the system worked.

Sure enough, a lady paid for a bet and was overheard saying, 'I seem to be lucky as I won the sweep last year at Southampton.' And guess what? She won again. How strange! The entry was shown on the board with the time from the bridge. Presumably, the lady knew that the passengers would disembark from 11.00 am onwards and that there would therefore be no close scrutiny. So, it was a big fiddle indeed! Tommie did not realise that those of us who were public room stewards always had our ears open; so that's how we knew what was going on.

Eddie Matthews

+*Harry L Marks*+

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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, Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Lay Preacher	Steve Wright
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

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

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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

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OCTOBER 2018
BAPTISMS

7th Oct Isabelle Ann Reeves
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‘Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?’ (Dr Seuss, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas.*)

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