



KINGS NORTON  
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE  
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

January 2019

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## Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the  
February 2019 edition must  
reach the Editor by midnight on  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January.**

Items for inclusion in the March  
2019 edition must reach the  
Editor by midnight on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
February.**



This issue brings to an end my 5th year as editor of this Magazine. It gives me pause for thought. Sixty editions in which many new ideas have been tried, not all of which have stood the test of time. Among those which have fallen by the wayside are the Parish Interview; extracts from the Magazine of 50 years ago; the Book Review; Websites of the Month; le Mot Juste ('words for which English has no equivalent'); and the monthly round-up of Apps with a Heart. If these have disappeared, it's not necessarily because they were bad ideas, just that no-one could be found to nurture them. Writers are scarce and this publication usually comes to you courtesy of between 8 & 10 faithful contributors. Could you add to their number in 2019, bringing, perhaps, a new idea or a fresh voice to our pages?

It was in April 2014, not quite 5 years ago, that we printed our first article on the SWEET Project. You can still find it on our website's magazine archive page. This month (p.12), it is our sad duty to announce that this visionary organisation is closing for lack of funding. A tragedy, which will leave many of our neighbours with nowhere to turn; for the south side of England's second city now has no social work provision at all. Yes, really.

All is not lost, however. In fact, one very important local battle has just been won. It was in Dec 2017 that we first reported on the Council's threat to close the Fairway Day Centre. This month, thanks to the determination of a small number of indefatigable local residents, we can report that the campaign to save it has been successful (p.20). Though we may sometimes feel powerless in the face of changes beyond our control, surprising things can happen when we join forces to fight for justice, compassion and common sense. Happy New Year!

The Editor

# FROM THE RECTOR

## The World in 2019 : Predictions & Prophecy



Predictions, predictions, predictions! At this time of year we expect the usual stream of forecasters, analysts and even clairvoyants to offer their predictions for the coming year or more. How do we respond; with eagerness, scepticism or dread?

In a culture where information is power, anyone claiming expertise and privileged insights into the future will attract our attention. However, as we undergo the inexorable march of time in our lives, we look at such predictions with a wry indulgence. A quick internet search provides a list of historic predictions which proved spectacularly wrong.

*In 1946, Darryl Zannuck a producer at Twenty Century Fox films stated: "Television won't catch on because people will get tired of staring at a plywood box each night."*

*In 1977, Ken Olsen of Digital Equipment Corporation Ltd stated: "There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his (sic) home."*



*In 1995, Clifford Stroll wrote in a Newsweek article: "No online database will ever replace your daily newspaper."*

Predictions, even by 'experts', can prove misjudged. However, this does not invalidate the impulse to project some intelligent inferences

regarding facts or events and how they might unfold in the future. Perhaps a more positive view of future gazing may be found in the worlds of science and science fiction, where imagination and facts are intertwined and a re-imagining of the future emerges; dreaming and visions play a part in this reimagining of the world in new and creative ways, ways which advance our progress as human beings.

In all the major religions, visions of the future as paradise or catastrophe are self-evident. In our Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions, future gazing is regarded as a sacred activity undertaken by prophets and mystics who, sometimes reluctantly, are compelled to speak out about the future in terms of God's judgement or blessing either to individuals, to those in supreme authority or to a whole nation. The responsibility they carry is onerous and they may risk everything when responding to their call. Prophets, religious or non-religious, speak uncomfortable truths about the way we are living and its consequences, hence the risk they take when 'going public' with their beliefs.

'As we enter a new year, which predictions or prophecies will speak to us? Who will we listen to?'

So as we enter a new year, which predictions or prophecies will speak to us? Who will we listen to? Perhaps we first need to acknowledge our own preferences for what we want to hear. After all, if we were turkeys, anyone predicting the end of Christmas would be very appealing! In desperation, fear or perplexity we may be tempted to hear only those voices which neatly match our own needs and prejudices.

Maybe we take too narrow a view of events, only looking to those eventualities which will affect us directly: our doctor's advice, our workplace profits forecast, our predicted grades in education, the price increase in our house or the rent increase where we live. All are very important for individual well-being but are not prophecy.

In our mobile phone society, trending is the term used for all things which have gained credence and fashion in the virtual world of social media and the internet. If enough users claim it as a trend, we must acknowledge it as worthy of our attention and response. This is not prophecy; rather, it is a fleeting

attraction giving the illusion of being part of something greater than ourselves which we can follow, but it has only limited capacity to truly enrich or transform.

True prophecy alerts us to things we have missed, disturbs our complacency, and rallies our allegiance for new way of looking at the world. If we are serious about the world, rather than our own little world, we must heed the signs of the times (as Jesus once said).

However, we must be proportionate in our reception of news about the future. Let us not fall into the doldrums of despair nor whimsically contend that 'all will be well.' Our world looks immensely fragile (climate change, plastic waste), politically divided (Brexit), economically dysfunctional (food banks, inequality of incomes, universal credit), criminally out of control (gun and knife crime) and in a

spiritual crisis (falling attendances at churches). And yet, if we listen to the voices of hope, justice, endurance, goodness and decency around us (if we have ears to hear - something else Jesus said!) we can see another possible world emerging.

People of faith acknowledge that our understanding of the world is both partial and distorted by our own fears and uncertainties. At best, faith invites us to live with these fears and yet also to embrace another possible worldview, a reimagined world where truth, justice, beauty and goodness prevail; we may never see it in its fullness but we do glimpse it in the life of faith well lived and the fellowship we share with others on The Way. For some of us this is enough.

Happy New Year to you and all whom you love and care for!

*Revd Larry Wright*

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St Nicolas' Church relies on the goodwill of volunteers who help in all areas of the building, in church services, in the churchyard and even in our bell tower. Over 30 people help us run services every Sunday, including family baptisms.

We have been changing the way we support volunteers who help with our services, as part of our welcome team, by reading or by helping to serve Holy Communion. **We are holding a short meeting after the 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday 13th January to look at a**

**new way of managing the rota for services.** We will bring some extra cake!

**We are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to support our services.** We are particularly short of people who can support baptisms (4.00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month). Do come along if you would like to volunteer for any role, or chat to either of us at any time.

*Julie and Peter  
(Churchwardens)*



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# TESTING TIMES FOR The Grammar School

*The Old Grammar School in St Nicolas' Churchyard is, of course, one of the icons of Kings Norton, attracting visitors from far and wide. Established, it is believed, in the mid-1500s, it has had a chequered history. Sometimes, it has had a reputation as a place for poor behaviour, not only by its pupils but by some of its teachers, and sometimes it has had an outstanding educational reputation which spread its name across the country.*

There was a particular period when, over just a few decades, it plumbed the depths and then reached the heights. It was in the first half of the Stuart period, roughly between 1620 and 1660, a period in which England, having become staunchly Protestant, was constantly fearful of subversive Catholic activity. It was also a time when society was split between Royalists who supported the King, and anti-Royalists who sought to depose Charles I and were also largely committed to the Puritan way of life, a division that ultimately brought about the disastrous English Civil War.

Our story begins in 1623, when one Tobias Gyles was appointed master of the Grammar School. He was perhaps the worst of a succession of bad masters who had given the school a poor reputation, both locally and further afield. His suitability for the role seemed impeccable, having been educated at All Souls' College in Oxford. However, it seems he was not conscientious and, soon after his arrival, there were many

complaints, mainly about poor discipline and the frequent sight of boys loitering and playing games when they should have been working.

Gyles's weak attempts to justify himself did not please Kings Norton residents, who knew that the reputation of the school was a very important element of the parish's image. In theory, they should have raised their concerns with the church authorities which, in those days, managed many schools. But they may have felt that the church would not take notice, so they complained to people of influence in the parish, including one George Middlemore of Hazelwell. He had a reputation for firmly handling difficult issues. Sure enough, one morning in October 1625 he, with a number of other 'respected citizens', visited the school carrying cudgels and stones, intent on evicting Gyles and reinstating a former teacher. Gyles was not there, but returned in the afternoon. When the group came back, he managed





to foil them by the simple expedient of locking himself in and refusing to leave.

Middlemore appealed to the Bishop of Worcester but predictably the consequent Ecclesiastical Church Court requested that Tobias be given a second chance. He was reluctantly granted a reprieve, but he didn't seem to take much notice, and eventually lost the post in 1629.

By great good fortune for the school, he was replaced by one of the greatest men in the history of Kings Norton, the Reverend Thomas Hall. He was a committed Puritan who, over the following thirty years, built up the school's reputation, locally and nationally, to unprecedented heights. It didn't look too promising at the start: no experienced teachers were willing to

take on the challenge of addressing the school's problem and Thomas took over when he was only nineteen. Even more challenging, he was the only master, teaching Latin, writing and arithmetic.

Nevertheless, he had the courage to make the issue of bad behaviour his priority. After years of Tobias Gyles' mishandling, the boys were still extremely rowdy and in the habit of locking the master out of the school. A contemporary report described Thomas's approach: 'He abhorred the lewd custom of schollers shutting their masters out of doors and having broke in upon the boys he drove them forth but had one tooth strike out and two crazed. But since the breaking of his teeth broke the neck of the vile custom, it pleased him well.'



With the pupils quietened and progressively more responsive, over the next thirty years Thomas elevated the reputation of the School to unmatched levels. Pupils were sent from all over England and many of them qualified for university, some going, with Thomas's influence, to the Puritan New Inn Hall at Oxford. He also ran from his home a school for post-graduate theological

training. Besides teaching, Thomas also preached in Wythall and Moseley and later became a lecturer in Birmingham before being appointed curate of St Nicolas' Church in 1640.

Thomas also raised positive awareness of Kings Norton through his efforts as an author of books and pamphlets that attracted national attention. Perhaps



## Mike Baker



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most lastingly of all, he was determined to develop a library which would rival the best in the country. He did so with remarkable success, and his books are now housed in the Library of Birmingham.

But it wasn't all plain sailing within his parish. While the locals loved him as their schoolmaster, many deeply resented his extreme Puritanism. In turn, he resented many of them, whom he once described as 'rude, ignorant and drunkards'.

Worst of all, in the Civil War (1642-49) as a Puritan he sided with the anti-royalists while most people in Kings Norton supported the King. He was often attacked and robbed and on five occasions was imprisoned for promoting anti-royalist literature. But he survived as master and, after Charles I was defeated and executed and the Commonwealth and Protectorate were created under Oliver Cromwell, the Puritanism that underpinned the approach of the new government was reflected even more strongly in Thomas's writings.

It was often very controversial stuff. In 1660 he published a work attacking, of all things, 'maypoles'. Before then, he had risked the hostility of many of his parishioners with his writing on 'the loathsomeness of long haire' in 1654. He also railed against cosmetics: 'A word concerning the vanities, and exorbitances of many women in painting, patching, spotting and blotting themselves. The purpose of cosmetics is to inamour and ensnare others, and to kindle a fire and flame of lust in the

hearts of those who cast there eyes on them'.

Eventually, despite all his achievements and in the face of the resurgence of Royalist principles from 1660 with the Restoration of King Charles II, in 1662 he was dismissed. His health had been ruined by his controversial career, and he was faced with destitution; but he loved Kings Norton, wanted to stay here, and there were enough grateful local supporters to help him in his declining years. He died in 1665 and was buried in an unmarked grave in St Nicolas' Churchyard. He had declined the suggestion of a headstone 'to be like his parishioners'. Centuries later, in 1982 a plaque marking his achievements was placed above the front door of the school, just below the upper floor window, by the Birmingham Civic Society.

Michael Kennedy

#### **Note**

*Much of the information for this article has been gathered from the extensive informal history of Kings Norton developed by the late Maurice Robinson, whom many readers will remember. Maurice arrived in Kings Norton in 1975 and became fascinated by its history, investigating and recording the development of the parish from its earliest days. After also playing a prominent role in local social activities, he died in 1999 and is buried in St Nicolas' Churchyard, close to the Old Grammar School that he loved so much. Michael Kennedy is very grateful to Mrs Pam Robinson for the loan of Maurice's work.*

# SWEET SORROW

The April 2014 edition of this magazine carried an article entitled 'Rekindling Hope on the 3 Estates'. It begins, 'This is the story of two remarkable women whose vision and commitment may one day come to be seen as one of the reasons why social provision on the south side of Birmingham did not collapse completely during [the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century]'.

**That dream now appears to be at an end.** The statement below was released late in 2018. It is an appeal for funding and it seems to have been unsuccessful. In what is a tragedy for Kings Norton, not to mention the social work profession, at the time of going to press, the SWEET Project is expected to close by the end of January 2019.

*The Project's Director, Jayne Cresswell (pictured opposite, right, with co-founder Jayne Hulbert), writes:*

**The SWEET Project (Social Work Experience, Education & Training)**, based in south Birmingham, has provided vital community services for both vulnerable adults and families in crisis for the last 8 years. The organisation is not only a vital resource for service delivery but a unique and robust learning and training organisation for trainee social workers.

Over the last 8 years, the organisation has trained over 1,000 students, who have become competent and confident newly-qualified social workers, gaining employment across

the country. Many have found employment in the Midlands, providing a steady stream into Birmingham adult and children's services. Some have travelled as far as Cornwall, Durham, and to many Boroughs of London.

**Because of significant funding cuts, this valuable resource is heading for financial crisis and is under threat of closure.**

Over the last 8 years, the organisation has supported and plugged many gaps in service delivery including child protection and adult safeguarding, all without essential funding. The funding received has been minimal for the level of work achieved by the organisation. We provide vital work not only in the

## REKINDLING HOPE ON THE 3 ESTATES Unraveling 'The Sweet Project, Part 1'

When gaping holes began to appear in the safety net of the British welfare state during the second decade of the 21st century, not everybody assumed that the crisis would be temporary and could be ignored until it went away. Seeing what was coming in the wake of economic mismanagement and increasing globalisation, there were some who did not dismiss the idea that the most marginalised of our neighbours would sink into destitution and despair unless a new spirit of solidarity, frantically sown by the Big Society, took root in our country and grew. They were the ones who saw the inevitability of change, the lack of an affordable alternative and the urgent need for creative action.

This is the story of two remarkable women – whose vision and commitment may one day come to be seen as one of the reasons why social provision on the south side of Birmingham did not collapse completely during that difficult period. Like so many champions of the poor, they are unsung and avoid the limelight. And yet, in four short years, their passionate concern for the people of the Three Estates of Kings Norton and beyond has given birth to a project which has brought to south Birmingham, including Pool Farm, Hawkesley and Primrose, some of the most talented future social workers now training in British universities. Despite growing recognition for their work, including an invitation to Downing Street to receive from David Cameron a Big Society Award in 2011, they remain relatively unknown in their local area except among those who share with them a concern for supporting vulnerable adults, families and children in one of the most socially deprived parts of the country.

In October 2009, Jayne Cresswell explains, "Birmingham's family support provision was moved to north Birmingham, leaving none in the south". She and her colleague Jayne Hulbert, who had been employed by a national charity which was well known and respected on the Three Estates, were made redundant. Long-standing and fruitful links with local schools, churches, police and health providers were severed and there seemed to be no way back.



Jayne Hulbert & Jayne Cresswell



community, but in schools, nursing homes, support for the local church and the local MP's office. We also provide support here at the organisation's headquarters, focused on domestic abuse, social isolation, debt advice, and crisis intervention.

All the directors and staff have worked extremely hard to develop this unique model by bringing learning, training and service delivery together. It has created a vital community resource for service delivery across south Birmingham, and is now the largest social work trainee unit in the country. Thirty-seven universities currently place students with us.

**Without funding, this creative and motivated social enterprise will face closure.** The SWEET Project is calling on the City of Birmingham to financially support it. To run our

project costs £30,000 per month. If it is to close, there will be a significant impact on trainee social work placements and our service users will be left without vital support.

Our trainee placements enable us to match referrals as soon as they come into the organisation with an extremely short waiting list. Our services are not time-limited. The biggest asset, which we pride ourselves on, is that we offer time for each service user. There is no-one in the city who can match us for manpower.

For more information about who we are, visit our website [www.sweetproject.co.uk](http://www.sweetproject.co.uk). Please donate and keep this project alive. This is the first time in 8 years we have called on the community for financial support...

# ADVENTURES at the Back of Church

## The difference between church with & without kids Part 5

*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.*

During prayers and sermons (i.e. the quiet bits) I noticed Dylan was very tactile. He used to like touching the raised letters on the plaques on the wall near the front and he'd climb over every obstacle necessary to get there. I started reading the names on the plaques with him, connecting with the historical communities of this church. Their names became, for that short time, as familiar to me as the regular congregation was around me. Maybe I imagined their faces.

Most of the congregation will have spotted parents ambling about up and down while their toddler explores. I used to try to keep the one toddler still but

quickly discovered I could have still or I could have quiet. I could not have both. So I opted for ambulatory quiet and calm! Once there were two boys to keep track of, matters became more complicated. Divide and conquer was their mantra. I could follow one or the other but, instinctively, they'd part and, as soon as I took my eye off one, they would be into some mischief or other. But in general, movement and snacks sated their curiosity and kept them calm.

As a parent, you want your child to engage with the service where possible but that doesn't always mean copying the grown-ups. I've learned that children



listen with their hands and feet sometimes as much as with their ears. Give them something to do and they'll absorb what they are meant to listen to. Force them to sit quietly and 'listen' and they'll concentrate so hard on the keeping still they won't hear a single word plus they'll get bored and then the game's up. So we walked!

We explored every nook and cranny. And I noticed something. I noticed after a while that you pay attention to prayers and sermons differently simply by moving around the space. Simply hearing the service from a different angle maybe, or facing it from a different side, changed my ability to absorb it. I was hearing for the first time things that

I'd doubtless heard a million times before!

Josh and Dylan were onto something! It used to really annoy me chasing them around and not being able to 'join in' but, gradually, I began to feel sorry for everyone stuck in their boring old seats. Little boys in particular find it hard to sit still but maybe we could all learn a thing or two from them. Fidgeting has now been shown scientifically to improve concentration (*Sydney Zentall, Ph.D., Purdue University*). I highly recommend that anyone who sits in the same pew every week start to move around and find a different spot each week too, or maybe even get up during the service. In the Anglican Church, there is an

**'I noticed after a while that you pay attention to prayers and sermons differently simply by moving around the space. Simply hearing the service from a different angle maybe, or facing it from a different side, changed my ability to absorb it.'**

unwritten rule that everyone stays glued to the same spot but, in Eastern Orthodox churches, people come and go throughout the service. I believe that's why, in the order of service, there is an invitation in bold type to sit, stand or kneel. To keep you on your toes, as it were.

Obviously, some of us find it easier or

more difficult to move about. It's worth remembering, too, that people who are new to church are sometimes anxious about not sitting or standing at the right time. Can we all just agree right now that none of that matters; that you can be sitting, standing, kneeling, crawling, changing a nappy, or scaling the pews to catch your toddler before they do something dangerous like jump onto a table that's on its side folded up?

As long as you are opening your heart to Jesus and to the messages in the service, you are doing it right! I grew up in a church where to fall asleep in a service was acceptable but to move around after your toddler was frowned upon. Can we just chuck that idea out with the recycling bin please?

*Gemma Harris*





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# LIVE STREAMING

## Is It Film?



*Our regular cinema reviewer M.G.M. tackles the phenomenon of the live streaming of theatrical performances, such as plays, operas and musicals and asks, 'Are they really films?'*

I recently enjoyed another live streaming of a play, staged in Nottingham by the National Theatre, of Alan Bennett's, 'The Madness of King George'. The play had already been adapted to film in 1994, starring Nigel Hawthorn as King George III and Helen Mirren as Queen Charlotte, and it was directed by the ever-reliable Nicholas Hytner. But this live streaming brought the stage play to a larger audience by means of digital magic.

If you have not experienced live streaming yet it is definitely worth a go. The concept is simple: a major production in a theatre is filmed and simultaneously broadcast (live streamed) to selected cinema venues around the world (yes the world!). This has its restrictions. Being live streamed, it is shown at the same time in each time zone at every par-

ticipating cinema. So there's no looking for a matinee or another showing later in the week; you must get tickets for the night or day it is broadcast or else you miss out. The advantages, though, are many. You pay a fraction of the price of the live performance, you can attend your local cinema and you get additional interviews and analysis on film which the audience at the live venue do not. They, no doubt, rely on their programme notes for that bit of extra background.

How we 'consume' art is changing. Now, we can take virtual tours of art galleries around the world without the expense, effort and uncertainties of travel. We can watch on our television screens the great classics of our culture and never venture into a theatre. Since the advent of live streaming we can access the most sublime performances from London, New

York, Rome and Madrid without travelling further than the local cinema. Wonderful, you may say. But, are they films? Are they to be judged by the same standards and criteria as a made-for-screen film?

I make the following observations.

Firstly, live streaming has helped to democratise opera, ballet and high theatre, making it accessible to a vastly wider audience. It is, however, not film in a cinematic sense. We are watching a documentary of a performance. This matters, because what we will see is something the live audience will not; the over-acting that is necessary for an actor to con-

vey to an auditorium of hundreds what will appear to be an artifice when the camera is within feet of their facial contortions.

We should not judge them in the same way we judge made-for-screen films. There will be no Oscars for live-streamed performances. What there is are millions of cinemas goers who, for a reasonable price, are invited into the world of high culture from around the world and, while doing so, can sip a soft drink and munch their favourite, quiet snack as they do so.

*M.G.M. gives two cheers for live streaming!*



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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.

# Fairway Day Centre

# SAVED

If you are a regular reader, you may remember an article which we ran in December 2017 about Birmingham City Council's attempts to close the Fairway Day Centre. Entitled 'This is NOT a Fair Way to Treat the Vulnerable', it explained the situation at the time like this:

*'The Fairway Day Centre, at the western end of the parish of Kings Norton, is the **only** centre in South Birmingham which provides vital day care for people with physical and learning disabilities and older adults with dementia. It has been fulfilling that role for 40 years. For some local residents it is a vital lifeline. Despite this, Birmingham City Council intends to close it and, we believe, it has tried to do so without consulting the people most directly affected.*

*'The result has been outrage, which we are now constructively channeling into a campaign led by service users, their families, friends and local representatives, to make you, the public, aware of the Council's motives and actions whilst petitioning them to change their minds. As campaigners, we have encountered considerable resistance but, at the time of writing, we are persevering in our goal to see Fairway Day Centre saved for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. **We need your support!** '*

You can read the whole article on the Magazine pages of the parish website at [www.kingsnorton.org.uk/pasteditions](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk/pasteditions)

As we were about to go to press in mid-December, the news broke that the dedicated band of campaigners who have fought so long and hard to defend the Fairway Centre have won their battle! They were supported in their fight by the specialist public law team at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors (see the press release at [bit.ly/2QvEqGT](http://bit.ly/2QvEqGT)).

Late on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, the following announcement appeared on the 'Save Fairway Day Centre from Closure' Facebook page:

***'WE WON! Yes you read that right, WE WON! Our beloved Fairway Day Centre is NO LONGER CLOSING. This week Birmingham City Council (BCC) threw in the towel and settled the legal battle by "expressing its regret that its consultation with service users in respect of Fairway Day Centre fell short."***

***We are jubilant that justice has been done and finally those arrogant folks at BCC have been forced to acknowledge what the Service Users & Carers of Fairway Day Centre have been saying all along about the lack of consultation to close this facility. At this point we want to say a huge, sincere and loud THANK YOU to the Service Users, Carers, Family & Supporters of Fairway Day Centre, without your constant encouragement we could never have kept up the momentum to demand that BCC listen to our voice. VICTORY!'***

Unsurprisingly, congratulations started to pour as the news spread. Among the comments posted by friends and supporters on Facebook were these:

*'More good news. On 31 July, Cabinet also voted to adopt a new strategy called 'Day Opportunities Vision' which they had worked for months on. This would have threatened all the day centres around Birmingham as it proposed 'moving away from buildings-based care'. Today, they have settled out of court and agreed to quash that decision also'.*

*'Now is the time to engage with our Councillors who must be horrified at how they were lied to.'*

*'You stood up and spoke up for people who couldn't. For this I am so grateful.'*

The Kings Norton Parish Magazine is in touch with the organisers of the campaign and hopes to be able to publish more detailed news in February.

This is NOT a **FAIR WAY** to treat the vulnerable!

The Fairway Day Centre, at the western end of the parish of Kings Norton, is the only centre in South Birmingham which provides vital day care for people with physical and learning disabilities and older adults with dementia. It has been fulfilling that role for 40 years. For some local residents it is a vital lifeline. Despite this, Birmingham City Council intends to close it and, we believe, it has tried to do so without consulting the people most directly affected.

The result has been outrage, which we are now constructively channeling into a campaign led by service users, their families, friends and local representatives, to make you, the public, aware of the Council's motives and actions whilst petitioning them to change their minds. As campaigners, we have encountered considerable resistance but, at the time of writing, we are persevering in our goal to see Fairway Day Centre saved for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We need your support!

Meet Jackie\*. She is 73 years old, has cerebral palsy and lives with her 94-year-old mum who is her primary carer and whose health is failing. During a lifetime of struggling with a debilitating condition, Jackie has been here before. Twice. Two previous day centres which she used to attend were closed by Birmingham City Council (BCC). "It is always very difficult to adjust to a new centre," she writes "and as I get older, it becomes more frightening." This time, however, Jackie is not facing a move to a new centre, for there are none left on this side of Birmingham.

in which BCC advised her that the centre would be closed. This was the first she or any of her friends had heard about it. Although the Council is now claiming that there was a process of consultation before the decision was taken, it is a claim which does not stand up to scrutiny, as a glance at our Facebook page, "Save Fairway Day Centre From Closure", will show. What Jackie was offered by way of compensation was a social work assessment review aimed at determining how her care needs would be met in future. A review. Nothing more.

John is 88 years old and suffers from dementia. At home, he is cared for by his daughter. During the three days a week which he spends at the Centre he enjoys

# A Lent Course for Kings Norton Team Parish

This Lent (6<sup>th</sup> March - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019), we will hold six gatherings focused on the theme of **Reconciliation**. The question we will be reflecting on is, 'How can Christians be reconcilers and peacemakers in their everyday lives?'

The course is resourced through The Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation team at Lambeth Palace and will be facilitated by Jayne Crooks and Catherine Matlock.

Further details will follow soon.

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## NOVEMBER 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*)

7th November	Dorothy Lilian Gardner	93	SN.Bu.CY
14th November	Daniel John McKeon	31	SN.Bu.KN
15th November	Mason Patrick Forward	Stillborn	Bu.CY
26th November	Joanne Sanders	62	In.CY
27th November	Wilfred Clarke	97	Bu.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

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk).**

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## 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](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk), [clivehartwell48@sky.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk), [fhkn@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://friendsofkingsnortonpark.blogspot.com), [info.foknp@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk), Maggie Sweet 0121 628 1247, [sweetc5@sky.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk)  
[suebarkerdavies@gmail.com](mailto: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 might like to join us or can spare a couple of hours occasionally to help, please contact Sue (as above).

## SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

**Health Exchange** [www.healthexchange.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk), [info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk](mailto:info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk), 0121 458 1223.

**Kings Norton Library**, Pershore Road South, Birmingham. B30 3EU  
[kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.bellsfarm.org.uk), 0121 433 3532

**Greaves Hall**, Greaves Square B38 9LX [www.opkn.co.uk/greaveshall](http://www.opkn.co.uk/greaveshall), 0121 448 8760

**Hawkesley Community Centre**, 51 Edgwood Road B38 9RN,  
[www.facebook.com/HawkesleyCommunityCentre](http://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](http://www.manningfordhall.com), 0121 430 6005.

## MUSIC VENUES

**Tower of Song**, 107 Pershore Road South, B30 3JC, [www.towerofsong.co.uk](http://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*

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

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

<b>Mon &amp; Weds</b>	<b>9 am</b>	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*

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

## Immanuel Church

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Worship (with "Oasis" for those at Primary School)
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays		Holy Communion;
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		Joint service with either St Nicolas or Hawkesley
4 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : <b>Open Church</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : <b>Marriage and Christening (Baptism) enquiries</b> in Saint Nicolas' Church
<b>Saturday</b>	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](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)**

# Events Diary January 2019

## Wednesday 2 January

- Kings Norton Library, re-opens
- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, , 1.00-3.00 pm:
- Kings Norton Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00-4.00 pm

## Thursday 3 January

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

## Friday 4 January

- 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 5 January

- 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 - 11.30 am

## Tuesday 8 January

- 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 9 January

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm:
- 41 Club, Kings Norton Tennis Kings Norton Club, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm



### **Thursday 10 January**

- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 11 January**

- 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 12 January**

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10 am-1.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10 am-1 pm

### **Monday 14 January**

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice Christmas Quiz, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Lane B30 2PR, 7.00 pm- 7.45 pm.

### **Tuesday 15 January**

- 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
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2pm-4pm: 'Dementia Friends'
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 16 January**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00 pm-10.00 pm: Altered Images competition
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 17 January**

- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 18 January**

- 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 19 January**

- 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
- Children's Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 11.30 am-12.30 pm

### **Monday 21 January**

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: John Flanner 'Fear, Fun and Faith'

### **Tuesday 22 January**

- 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 23 January**

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

### **Thursday 24 January**

- 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 25 January**

- 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 26 January**

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- U3A (University of the Third Age), St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 10.00 am: Members' Workshop 'How to go Green' (free to members)
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

### **Monday 28 January**

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7 pm: Mike Baxter 'Great Figures of British History'

### **Tuesday 29 January**

- 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 30 January**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 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
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00 pm-10.00 pm: Travelling Portfolios
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 31 January**

- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, 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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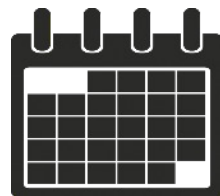
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# Save The Date!



*Two of Kings Norton's best-known organisations have asked us to give advance notice of events which they are organising in the next few months. We are happy to oblige.*

**The University of the Third Age (U3A)** Kings Norton has arranged two briefing events for members, which are free of charge. On **Saturday 26 January** there is a Workshop entitled 'How to go Green', and on **Saturday 9 February** there a workshop on 'Poverty and Homelessness, causes and possible solutions', led by Councillor Sharon Thompson. Both events start **10 a.m.** at St Joseph & St Helens Church Hall, Station Rd., Cotteridge, B30 1JG.

The **Kings Norton Tennis Club** will be launching its 2019 programme of social events with a Musical Evening on **Friday 1 February at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.** It includes a supper which is included in the ticket price of £10 for

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NOVEMBER 2018

## MARRIAGES

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# Dexter & The Fancy Oranges

Dexter here!

I hope you all had a happy Christmas. Did you have crackers? I love crackers and I found lots of new jokes in mine, like these!

Q: What's the silliest name you can give a giraffe? A: Stumpy.

Q: Why do giraffes have long necks? A: Because their feet smell!

Q: What do you call a royal giraffe? A: Your high-ness.

Do you have a favourite joke? Perhaps you could share it with us by emailing our editor, David.

We are now in 2019. I wonder if you could use the picture of a G for Giraffe on page 41 to make a calendar to hang on the fridge?

I hear that a lot of you like reading about my adventures and that not all of you are children! So a big 'Hello' to our older readers.

Dexter G

---

Dexter liked to wander. He liked to walk and find new places and new streets and new sights. He also liked to discover interesting things and how to do them.

Dexter had made friends at St Nicolas' Church, the big pointy building on The Green. They were very friendly there and always had something going on. Dexter had helped with tree decorating at Christmas and felt very proud of his achievement.

His new friend Pauline had told him of something very exciting involving one of Dexter's favourites: oranges! Dexter loved oranges for their smell, their taste and their colour! Pauline told him one of the ways they celebrated Christmas was to decorate oranges. This was called Christingle. So Dexter set off to buy some oranges to make all fancy.



He knew where the Co-op shop was on The Green, and he knew that that is where people bought food and other things; but he had never done it himself before. Dexter felt a little nervous but he so wanted to make a fancy orange with the others at church. He wandered over to The Green to give it a try.

Dexter found the front of the shop. It was very big and bright and he could see people moving around inside through the windows. He was looking for a door handle when... WHOOSH! ...the door suddenly opened by itself! Dexter wondered if it was a magic door.

He walked inside and stared. There were rows of shelves full of everything you could think of. He saw flowers and sweets and sandwiches and soap and milk and magazines. His head was spinning and his antlers were twitching. Dexter thought, "I will never be able to find oranges in here!" and he slowly backed up toward the magic door.

A man was standing by a stand of flowers. He looked at Dexter and smiled. His name tag read 'Orphin'. 'Can I help you find something?' he asked kindly. Dexter was a little scared but tried to



'I offered to help them get rid of that dratted giraffe, but he said that they were an 'inclusive parish', whatever that means. Surely there must be some way I can help my local church?'

'Where there's a will, there's a way, Edgar. 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.*



answer... 'Oranges?' he squeaked out very quietly. But the man heard him and smiled. 'Oranges are right here. Did you want big ones or little ones?' Dexter thought for a moment and then answered, 'I don't know, I am making fancy oranges for church.' 'Then you need the big ones.' Orphin said.

He showed Dexter which ones and smiled. Dexter smiled too. 'After you get the ones you need, just go over to that counter and pay for them. If you need anything else just let me know. Have a good day!' Orphin waved and walked away.



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## The Answer's Yes!



Dexter was very happy. He had done it! He picked out two very bright orange ones and then started to go towards the counter. A man named Andy called him over and Dexter handed him the oranges. '£1.40 please,' Andy said. Dexter handed him the money.

Andy asked, 'Do you want a bag?'

'No thank you.' Dexter said politely, 'I will just carry them.'

'OK, here you are. Have a nice day!' Andy said.

Dexter thanked him, took his lovely oranges and walked to the magic doors wondering if they worked on this side too. WHOOSH! ...they opened and he went out, heading towards the church with his oranges, which were soon to become very fancy.

Dexter felt proud of himself. 'These wanders of mine are really getting adventurous!' he thought. 'I wonder where my next one will take me?'



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

Word List

CHRISTINGLE JANUARY CANDLE RIBBON WORLD  
SEASONS ORANGE SWEETS LIGHT ROUND

# Funny Thing, Humour

## *The Thoughts of a Lay Minister*



What makes you laugh? One of the things I enjoy about Christmas is the silly jokes that you get in Christmas crackers. My sense of humour tends to be at the level of a seven-year-old! It's also a good time of year to watch old Christmas specials. I've been enjoying some of the old *'Mrs Brown's Boys'* ones this week and hopefully there will be some new comedy to enjoy over the holidays.

But humour is a funny thing (sorry, couldn't resist). What makes one person laugh doesn't always have the same effect on the next person. If you have ever tried to explain a joke, you'll know what I mean. If that person also comes from a different country or culture, then it can be even harder. Trying to explain a play on words or a reference to a television programme, for instance, can be almost impossible and it probably isn't funny by the time you've finished either. Or

perhaps you just have to be in the moment and, when the moment is gone, no matter how well you describe it, it just isn't funny unless you shared that moment.

*'Let's turn that frown upside down and let us use humour to help relieve the stresses of daily life.'*

Laughter is healthy. Sharing a silly story together or watching a daft video on Facebook or YouTube (like people jumping into frozen lakes and bouncing: it makes me chuckle every time) brightens our day, aids our wellbeing and helps to reduce stress. Often, though, when we are feeling upset or stressed, it can be hard to laugh or to see the light side of a situation. That's where friends come in, to help us to see the funny side, to share that silly story. Sometimes, humour just has to be shared for it to work.

Children are great at humour. They will laugh at the silly things we adults do and will laugh at it again and again. One little boy at Tiny Tots would laugh at me each week if I did robot actions to one of our songs. Every week! It was a great, special moment we shared together.

So, to coin an old phrase, 'Let's turn that frown upside down' and let us use humour to help relieve the stresses of daily life. Dexter has been sharing some giraffe jokes with us this month and I thought I'd share just one more with you.

A devout zookeeper lost his favourite Bible while he was mending fences at the zoo. Three weeks later, a giraffe walked up to him carrying the Bible in his mouth. The zookeeper couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the giraffe's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, 'It's a miracle!' 'Not really,' said the giraffe 'your name is written inside the cover.'

Boom Boom

Happy New Year everyone!

*Pauline Weaver*

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# Pilgrims' Progress 2

*In the last Parish Magazine, I told you a bit about the parish pilgrimage to Rome in November. In this final report, some of the pilgrims have added their thoughts and impressions on what the pilgrimage meant to them, accompanied by more quotations from John Bunyan's famous hymn.*

## COME WIND COME WEATHER

*Sue Newbury wrote, 'I was going to Rome! To Rome on a pilgrimage! I didn't know what to expect or what would be expected of me. I had some concerns. I had let my heart rule my head. I need not have worried as everything was taken care of by Thelma and Neville to the very last detail ... the transport, the flights, the travel passes and the very busy itinerary which took us on our journey to Ancient and Modern Rome and safely home again. Larry said a prayer for our safe keeping and we were off!*

*I think the saying goes 'we hit the ground running'! Following a light lunch upon our arrival we started our busy schedule with a minibus tour of the city. It started to rain. By the time we arrived at our first destination, San Giovanni in Laterano, the primary cathedral of Rome, it was pouring but that didn't deter us. What a first impression that made on me! What a beautiful place! We continued our journey. By now the rain was falling in torrents. We were wading through rivers to reach our second stop, Santa Maria Maggiore. The soaking we had*

*was well worth what we saw and experienced. It was magnificent! I decided that if the journey had ended there and then I would have been more than satisfied.*

*We returned to our hotel in preparation for our evening together. We shared our meal, talked over our experiences of the day and got to know each other better. Each evening we met after dinner, discussed the plans for the next day and prayed together. This was a very special time. Jayne led us and read passages from her favourite spiritual author, with the help of Larry, Catherine and Heather. We even sang!*

*Throughout our time it just got better and better, and we had some good weather too. San Clemente, the Trevi fountain, the Coliseum, the Forum, the Spanish Steps, but especially the time we shared with the welcoming congregation of All Saints' Anglican church at their patronal festival and their 'Pot-luck Lunch' which was so delicious. Still more rain and a tremendous storm that continued throughout the service, which all added to the wonderful atmosphere.*





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The sun came out and it was time to gather up our belongings and start our journey home, but not before a short stop on the way to the airport to Saint Paul's Outside the Walls. Wow! It was too much to take in. Beside all that magnificence there was a concert performance too, which started one or two of us humming as we did a quick tour of the church and cloisters before we re-joined the group and the waiting coach which whisked us off to the airport for our flight back home.

I gained in so many ways from my experience, mentally, physically and spiritually. I had experienced the celebration of the Glory of God in so many places, the marble statues of the saints, the mosaic floors, the beautifully painted ceilings, the gold and ornate decorations in the churches and cathedrals of Rome. We experienced the atmosphere around the Vatican for the papal Mass and the throngs of people gathered there to pay their respects to the Pope. The piazzas in the rain, the horses and carriages, the cafés and the street performers, all made a contribution to the very special atmosphere of the

celebration of all the saints.

It has taken a while to process the experience and it would be good to return to Rome one day, but at the same time I was glad to get back to St. Nicolas', which is very special too. More importantly for me was how a group had grown into a very special group of people with a better understanding of each other and our differences and hopefully for me friendships that will stand the test of time.

### OUR FIRST AVOWED INTENT TO BE A PILGRIM

*Amanda Wright reflected on the 'Humbling sense of closeness to the early Christians and martyrs ... stunning beauty of the Romanesque mosaics ... startling encounter with Roman, Renaissance styles, especially the Cosmatesque ... Warm welcome and gentle conviviality in our hotel ... joy of access to churches without pressure to pay ... Friendliness of Romans to so many tourists ... Mesmerizing murmurings of starlings over the Tiber at dusk ... Elegance of so many handsome old buildings ...*

Charm of multiplicity of small shops ... Cheer of the Omnia buses and white taxis ... Affection and support within our group ... Spirits lifted to transcendence ... Greatness of the Christian heritage ... Delight of welcome and shared fellowship at All Saints' ... Satisfaction of flights without hassles.'

WILL HAVE A RIGHT TO BE A PILGRIM

*Carol Devic added her thoughts.* 'After landing from our plane journey we were taken by coach to see some more parts of Rome before arriving at our hotel. During the four days of pilgrimage we saw many beautiful churches, with richly decorated domes and ceilings and colourful

marble and mosaic flooring, also great works of art on the walls.

I particularly enjoyed the church of San Clemente which goes down on four different levels. We saw excavations revealing ancient corridors and chambers, believed to be the home of St. Clement himself many years ago.

On our last day we attended a service at All Saints' Anglican Church which was Thelma and Neville's place of worship whilst living near Rome. We were all invited to a parish lunch which was very enjoyable. We thank them for the kind hospitality shown to us. I enjoyed the four days immensely.'

-oOo-

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*Catherine Matlock sums it up.* 'New to the team ministry here in Kings Norton, I went to Rome knowing very few of our pilgrimage group, so it was a joy to find this a time of gentle fun, understanding, connection and companionship. Yes, we visited some beautiful, magnificent, spiritual sites, were amazed at the most stunning art and sculptures and revelled in the historical riches of this ancient and evocative city. But it was the people with whom I connected, particularly within our group of 16, who had the deepest impact.

In his book, 'The Road to Emmaus, Pilgrimage as a way of Life', Jim Forrest says that 'to be a pilgrim ... is to be open to contact, willing to share stories, willing to talk about the real issues in one's life, willing to listen

with undivided attention'. Pilgrimage is about being open to seeing Christ in each other and in the hidden treasures in our everyday lives.'

Many thanks to my Rome companions for the treasures of life and faith that we shared, for the hopes, joys and challenges that draw each of us into deeper pilgrimage towards Christ.'

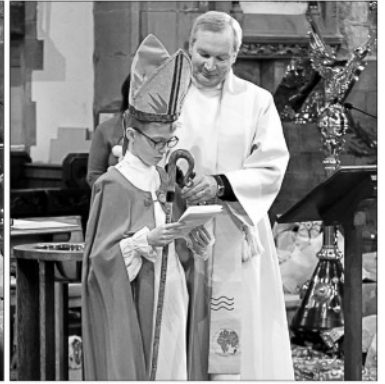
What better way to end our pilgrim reflections on our Christian journey through life than with some of the last words from John Bunyan's hymn?

WE KNOW WE AT THE END SHALL  
LIFE INHERIT, WE'LL LABOUR NIGHT  
AND DAY TO BE A PILGRIM!

Amen to that!

*Thelma Mitchell*





The annual Patronal Festival (the Feast of St Nicolas) and Toy Service at St Nicolas' Church on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018. In keeping with local tradition, a choirboy was consecrated Bishop for the day.



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# Traidcraft Is Changing

Some years ago, we had a Traidcraft stall in St Nicolas' Church. It was introduced to encourage us to purchase fairly-traded items of food, household goods and gifts. It built up a faithful band of regulars and many occasional shoppers. Once Fair Trade items began to appear in the main supermarkets, however, they had the edge over our church stall, as the bulk purchasing available to a supermarket chain meant that the same goods could be bought more cheaply without compromising the support for the producers. Our own stall closed, but the seeds for buying fairly-traded goods were well sown. Our story was repeated all around the country. Traidcraft was the seed-corn for fair-trade shopping on a national scale.

Traidcraft, one of the original advocates of fairly-traded goods, is still hard at work in that field and it is not closing, despite what was claimed in badly-reported news in the autumn. It is, however, undergoing some very large changes. They have faced severe financial difficulties recently but, following an extensive consultation process, have created a plan to move the business forwards and to evolve as they head for their fortieth birthday in 2019. In their own words,

*“The new Traidcraft will be slimmed down, and the product range will be smaller. This does mean that we won't be able to work with as many producers as we have previously, but the good news is that we will still be able to work with some of the groups that we've developed relationships with over the years. We're working with our sister charity Traidcraft*

*Exchange to help those groups who are worst affected.”*

At the beginning of November, the Board of Traidcraft accepted a plan for a slimmed-down Traidcraft with the aspirations of fair trade, community buying, transparency and 'market disruption' remaining at its heart. The evolution is a very serious down-sizing: 12 employees instead of 67 staff; a slimmed-down catalogue of core grocery lines and fewer craft items; and perhaps more reliance on co-operatives who are able to “bulk-buy” items to sell on.

Traidcraft's CEO Robin Roth said: *“We want our members to be co-conspirators in changing how trade is understood and practised. We want to tell consumers ‘who gets what’ from the Traidcraft products they buy. We want to annoy and irritate those who profit unduly through the non-transparency of their trading activities. We will cause good trouble, just as those six Fair Trade pioneers who started Traidcraft did back in 1979.”*

For many years, 'Meet the People' tours have enabled supporters to visit producers and see the impact of fair trade and Traidcraft's work. Organised and operated by Skedaddle, these tours will continue to be a celebration of the wonderful work of fair trade producers and an opportunity for an inspiring holiday with a difference for ethical travellers.

[www.meetthepeopletravellers.co.uk](http://www.meetthepeopletravellers.co.uk)

Sylvia Fox



# FOODBANK NEWS

At the time of writing, we have just been discussing the November figures for the Foodbank and discovering the horrifying fact that we fed 50% more people this November (930) compared with November 2017. (609). The attendance during the first week of December would suggest that December's figures will match November's, or may even be higher.

The other figure that is giving cause for concern is the number of people attending twice. This has also risen significantly. Previously, the vast majority of our clients were those who came just once in a 6 month period to be helped through a period of crisis. Often, their second visit was to donate food for others, as 'we know what it's like to be in complete crisis'. Now, more people are needing to come twice, a sign that the period of crisis for the individual or family is more protracted.

Food donations are currently just about keeping up, but our fear that the new warehouse might not be big enough for Christmas has proved unfounded. The food is skimming the shelves and going out almost before it is stored. We remain deeply grateful to all those who donate in food or money while, at the same time, wishing we didn't have to exist and that the need was not there.

Alongside the Foodbank is the Fuelbank: this provides a fuel voucher for anyone on pre-paid meters (about 70% of our clients). They, too, are available once in a 6 month period.

The third support that we are able to offer at Foodbank sessions is that of a Benefits Support worker. We share Adam Booth's time and salary with The Project in Longbridge and the proportion of his salary that is our responsibility was met by specific fundraising last year. A bid for grant funding has been put in to cover his salary from March 2019 onwards for 3 years.

Adam is able to support some very vulnerable clients, who are unable to make benefit applications for themselves. Here are two examples, taken from the recent Newsletter, which is always available in the clear plastic rack near the Foodbank bin at the back of St Nicolas' Church:

*'B30 Foodbank is helping an increasing number of clients who are being short-changed by a PIP benefits system designed to support people with extra living costs caused by long-term illness or disability.'*

*'In one case, a 36-year-old single man suffering from severe post-traumatic stress disorder and mental health'*

problems, was not capable of making a claim for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) without the help of our benefits expert Adam Booth. Ultimately, the client received an extra £180 per week and more than £3000 in back payments.

"It's a really complicated process," Adam explained. "Without me filling in the form and advocating his claim, he wouldn't have got the money he was completely entitled to. And I'm seeing more and more of these sort of situations where vulnerable people are being denied their benefits."

'In another case, a 16 year old boy who attends a special school was denied PIP after previously receiving disability benefits. "We've lost about £500 a month, including my carer's allowance,"

mum Vicky explained. "It's no wonder people end up at foodbanks. It's a bit of a nightmare." Adam's confident the decision will be overturned at a tribunal, but that could take nine months, a situation he described as "despicable".

'PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance. The Government says the change saves £1.5 billion and targets support at those who need it most. It adds that it'll improve the PIP process to provide world-leading support.'

Those of us involved at the sharp end of the benefits world are rather less sure of that confidence.

Sylvia Fox

Don't throw me away!  
Give me away!



Where do your Parish Magazines go when you've read them? Would you consider giving your copy away to a friend, neighbour or stranger instead of recycling it?

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!

# The Albatross

*It's not just Ancient Mariners who are privileged to meet the legendary albatross. Kings Norton's favourite merchant seaman and raconteur, Eddie Matthews, relives close encounters with an iconic bird.*



The *M.V. Mairangi Bay*, our large container ship, had entered the port of Otago near Dunedin, New Zealand. The approach to this small port town was quite stunning and resembled a Scottish loch with high green hills and rocky cliffs. This was our last port of call before crossing the Southern Ocean and the Atlantic, where we would be heading north to Europe, a total of

almost a month at sea, non-stop including Christmas.

Once ashore, I approached the small supermarket in Otago and arranged to purchase some Christmas items for the ship. The manager was very friendly and introduced his wife. They were an altogether charming couple. They asked if I would like to visit the cliffs by the harbour entrance to see where some albatrosses were nesting. So it was that, one afternoon, they drove me to the site.

In the long grass on a wind-swept cliff top were several nests. Most had one bird on each. From time to time, a second bird would fly in and there would be much clacking of beaks. Albatrosses mate for life. They usually have a single chick and take turns to sit on the egg. The other flies off to collect food, usually squid, once the chick has

hatched. The cliff top is an ideal location for them as taking off is not easy when you have a wingspan of up to 12 feet!

These birds only land to breed. Often, at sea, the ship would be followed for days on end by these birds. They swoop and soar on the air currents generated by the ship. The old legend has it that the albatross carries the souls of lost seafarers. They are quite a sight to see!

I had a habit of walking around the decks each afternoon as we crossed the vast Southern Ocean, perhaps a

thousand miles from land and in quite rough weather too. I would take a loaf of bread to the after end of the vessel to feed our attendant birds. There were always one or two. I would see them drop to the water to retrieve some bread. A little later, they would catch up with us once again. I must admit being moved to watch this wonderful sight and would say a small prayer of thanks for the chance to observe one of the wonders of God's kingdom.

A very happy New Year to you all.

*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](http://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](http://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,            Fay        Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Lay Preacher	Steve Wright
Music Ministry	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Chris Gadd

## THE CHURCH WARDENS

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

## OTHER CONTACTS

Parish Administrator & P.C.C. Secretary	Judy Ash
Finance Officer	Catherine Deghani
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  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

## Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

**Headteacher:** Mr Derek Higgins

NOVEMBER 2018  
**BAPTISMS**

21<sup>st</sup> Oct Brodie-Leigh Hope Phillips  
4<sup>th</sup> Nov Milania Emika Barrett  
18<sup>th</sup> Nov Sophie Nancy Cunningham  
Sebastian-James Stephen Trew-Millichap

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[www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk](http://www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk)  
0121 458 1223

**Keep an eye open for:** *Sinfonia Scintille* performing on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019** at 7.00 pm at St Nicolas' Church. Haydn's *Sinfonia Concertante* in B Flat Major & Schubert's *Symphony No.5* in B Flat Major. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for concessions.

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🌐 [www.interservehealthcare.com](http://www.interservehealthcare.com)



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