



June 2018

£1



**Kings Norton's Only
What's On Guide**

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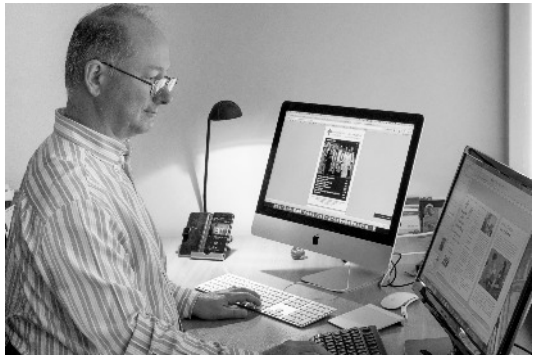
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Please submit text in an editable
format, preferably plain text or
MS Word. Printed material
entrusted to the Parish Office
should be sealed and marked for
the attention of The Editor.

Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the July
2018 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 8th
June.**

Items for inclusion in the August
2018 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 13th
July.**



Some of the things we learn at our mother's knee never leave us. Among the phrases which have been ingrained in me since childhood is the one which begins, *"If at first you don't succeed..."*. As long as we're still breathing, it's never too late. Never too late to have an adventure (p.4); never too late to make the second half count (p.32); never too late to respond to God's patient invitation (p.8). Whether you're a rule keeper (p.38) or a rule breaker (p.44), a late developer (p.7) or a hopeful traveller (p.5), it's never too late to have a happy childhood, to give up your prejudices, to do the right thing, to change.

As the Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho says, *"People are capable, at any time in their lives, of doing what they dream of."* Coelho, by the way, always knew he wanted to be writer, but his conservative parents had other ideas. When he was 17, they committed him to a mental institution to "save" him from his lack of realism. By the age of 20, he had escaped three times. Forced to go to law school, he soon dropped out, becoming first a hippy, then a drug user, songwriter, magician, socialist, actor, journalist and theatre director before, finally, starting the writing career which has made him internationally famous (250 million copies to date).

There is still time.

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

Foreign Parts

Going abroad for a holiday, business trip or to visit family is a commonplace event these days. However, it is worth reminding ourselves what a recent phenomenon large-scale overseas tourism actually is. According to the Office of National Statistics, in 1961, five million overseas holidays were taken by UK residents. Each year since then, UK overseas holiday travel has risen sharply reaching its peak in 2008 when 79 million overseas holidays were recorded. As we only have a population of 70 million it is clear that many of us are regularly taking multiple trips abroad each year. The majority of these holidays are, of course, by aeroplane; hence the sky is full and our airports crammed, especially in the peak holiday month.

The opportunities for international travel provided during the last 50 years have revolutionised our knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures. Mass tourism brings valuable income to destination countries, opens up areas of the world once thought to be unreachable and exotic and allows the pursuit of travel and sporting activities which were once the preserve of the wealthiest. It is possible to buy a return plane ticket to a range of destinations for as little as £10, cheaper than most railway tickets within the UK. Overseas tourism, like much else in the West, has become more egalitarian.



Inevitably, such a revolution in travel and tourism has its downside. Pollution has dramatically increased, some destinations have become overcrowded and degraded and environments are being compromised. In some countries, the reliance on tourism has led to an economic dependency on the continual flow of holiday makers such that any downturn in visitor numbers results in hardship or ruin for many. Sustainable levels of tourism are spoken about but no international targets are agreed.

The urge to travel, roam and journey is a

natural characteristic of human beings; after all, our earliest ancestors moved from central Africa northwards, spreading far and wide into the continents we know now as Asia and Europe. The urge to voyage towards horizons and to risk expeditions into unexplored lands is a constant feature of human history. Without the courage, tenacity and sacrifice of past explorers we would not know the world as we know it today.

In our religious quest for God, truth and meaning we have sought enlightenment, revelation and wonder by journeying to remote places or holy sites in the hope and expectation of encountering the divine. In the Old Testament, we read of the great journeys of Exodus and Exile which shaped the identity of the Hebrew people out of which eventually came Christianity and Islam. Both religions put an emphasis on religious pilgrimages as a means of deepening believers' faith and offering enduring spiritual benefits.

In recent years, we have become increasingly aware of those in our world who are forced to flee their homes and nations because of conflict, natural disaster or other calamity. Refugees carrying little, desperate and vulnerable, are a feature of our world and can be counted in numbers not seen since the end of World War Two. The challenge we face to provide safety, care, resettlement

and long-term integration among us has caused friction and division, while also prompting widespread compassion and charity.

Whatever our reasons for travel and adventure, we seem destined to go on exploring new frontiers. As Star Trek fans know: "Space [is] the final frontier" (as the original TV series used to declare).

But is space the final frontier any longer? Cosmologists are now speaking of multiverses, vast universes beyond what we have understood as Space. In another direction, marine scientists are plunging the greater depths of the oceans which are as unknown and as mysterious as outer space. It seems each new frontier we

cross reveals new vistas to explore, new questions to answer and new horizons to ponder.

Our family holidays and trips are the echoes of this urge for human wandering. We leave the familiar and the comfortable behind, place ourselves into the hands of the fortunes of travel and, whether venturing far or near, long for an enriching experience by living beyond our commonplace, daily lives. When our travelling goes well we return with a cargo of memories to cherish. If it goes wrong, we complain and feel cheated of anticipated pleasures. Either way, we start planning our next trips soon afterwards.

"It seems each new frontier we cross reveals new vistas to explore, new questions to answer and new horizons to ponder."

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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!

For the intelligent person of faith there are other boundaries to explore; the landscape of our inner lives. Our inner self is as complex, wonderful and perplexing as the exterior world we inhabit. Our urges and impulses, our subconscious and our beliefs are a rich mixture of memories, learned responses and imagination. Our biological evolution makes us a unique species, allowing us exceptional development and progress compared to others, yet we are capable of great acts of violence and destruction towards others, ourselves and our home planet. If we do not pay healthy attention to our inner lives we become prey to the negative impulses within, acting and speaking without deliberation and reflection, our lives dominated by inner forces of compulsion. It is for this reason that all the major world religions foster

spiritual practices to help balance our lives, providing equilibrium between who we are on the inside with how we present on the outside.

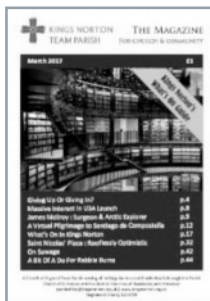
Whatever our travel plans this year, or our spiritual strivings, we are people who both travel and return, return to the place we call home, and are changed by our experiences. These lines from T.S. Elliot's poem, Little Gidding, are resonant:

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.*

(If you are travelling) Bon Voyage!

Revd Larry Wright

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KINGS NORTON WELCOMES

The Soon-To-Be-Reverend

Catherine Matlock

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to serve the Kings Norton parish as Assistant Curate (Pioneer), commencing on the 25th June. I am looking forward to spending the next three years with you all and meeting you in person. By way of introduction, here's a summary of my fifty-two years of life.

Ordination training at Queen's Foundation, Edgbaston, will be completed at the end of May, with much of June spent moving not only my items from East Devon to Kings Norton but also my 87 year old, widowed Father from Budleigh Salterton to Blaby, Leicestershire. I am an only child but thankfully have lovely friends who have offered to help with the transition process.

I have experienced a lot of movement and change in life and have had the pleasure of living in a variety of cultures and countries. Divorce in my late twenties without children, whilst not fulfilling the life plans I had imagined, has offered me the gift of freedom to follow wherever I believe God is leading me, whether that be the killing fields of Cambodia, a

remote island in New Zealand, a home for abandoned women and children in India or outer estates in Birmingham. I have had the joy of swimming in several of the world's oceans, am largely un-phased by lizards, cockroaches and land crabs sharing my sleeping space, and can recommend fried crickets as a lunchtime snack!

Born in Bahrain, I grew up in the Wirral, heading to York to study psychology before moving to London to work in the recruitment industry for eight years, this stage of my career ending with a short sojourn in Jersey. Whilst living in Devon from 1996-2006, I trained in counselling and British sign language and was employed by a local charity to facilitate community development with people with



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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.

physical and sensory disabilities and Deaf people who use sign language. Having achieved the goal of being Chief Executive, I became increasingly aware that ambition and success held no meaning for me compared with my Christian faith and so gave up 'regular' life in the UK to explore mission overseas.

For nearly seven years I had the privilege of training and volunteering with several international ministries and NGO's, living in the United States, the south Pacific, New Zealand and southeast and central Asia. I left hoping that I might save the world and ended up realising that it was I who had been saved.

A faith journey that started with limited, childhood beginnings in Anglicanism and that was resurrected within the Church of England in my thirties, took me to the charismatic Vineyard movement for twelve years before returning to a more contemplative, liberal expression of faith and probably the most

surprising, sobering and humbling question of my life in 2013 - could God be calling me to ordination?

During the discernment process, I studied for a Masters in Theology at Exeter University whilst working part-time for the local college and with a community chaplaincy organization supporting people in their rehabilitation process following a prison sentence.

I can't pretend that the discernment process has been easy or straightforward. I have spent the last few years questioning, doubting, rebelling, running, hoping, marveling...and repeatedly and unreservedly experiencing the abundant grace, tenderness, gentle kindness and faithful love of God throughout...and happily the next stage of the journey leads me to Kings Norton!

Now I look forward to hearing your story....

Catherine Matlock



"I had considered joining the flower rota, but I don't think I'm quite what they're looking for. Isn't there another way I can support my local church?"

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

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

Bat Walk

On Friday 11th May Chris from Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group and her husband Mike came to talk to about 30 budding bat seekers. The evening started off with a bat craft session where the children made some wonderful bats and the adults who helped out seemed to be having more fun than the children. Chris started by giving us a very informative talk about bats and let us have a very up close look at some specimen bats.

After being fuelled by tea and cupcakes, off we went into the churchyard armed with torches and bat-spotting devices just as it was getting dark.

Unfortunately it started to rain, which is not good for bat sightings. Bats don't like to get their hair wet or waste energy looking for insects, which would also be sheltering from the rain.

It was jolly exciting when we first

heard bat noises coming from the bat detectors and we eagerly studied the sky looking for bats. There were two Pipistrelle bats sighted, which are the most common and smallest bats in the UK, but alas, that was all we got to see.

Unfortunately we can't control the weather and, whilst we were a little disappointed that there were not more bats to be seen, I think everyone went home knowing a little more about bats than we did before. Who knew that one small bat has to eat 3,000 insects each day?

Big thank you to Chris and Mike for giving up their time and to everyone who came along and supported the evening, where we raised about £100 towards the Church fundraising effort.

Julie Hill

It's Festival Time!

Don't miss the annual Kings Norton Summer Festival on Saturday 9th June!



Kings Norton's ever-popular Summer Festival is set for the second Saturday in June. Together with the monthly Farmers' Market and all its summer produce, it will be a varied and entertaining event for visitors of all ages. There's so much to see and do for the whole family. As usual, it

features a fascinating selection of stalls and information points in St Nicolas' Place, St Nicolas' Church and the churchyard, ranging from arts and craft stalls to displays about many local community activities. There'll be plenty for children to do, including a bouncy castle and face painting.



There's music of various kinds, including singers and our local bell-ringers, with live performances by the Black Adder Clog Morris group and The Appalachian Dancers. The Friends of Historic Kings Norton will be running a raffle as well as its monthly book sale. Last but not least, there's an extensive choice of food options at

the Farmers' Market, the award-winning Tea Rooms in St Nicolas' Place and various other locations. The Festival is organised by the team at St Nicolas' Place. As this preview is being written, even more attractions are being planned. Keep an eye out for leaflets and posters and make sure the date is in your diary.



Where can you find ... up-to-the-minute parish news; tickets for local events (bookable online); the churches' weekly newsletter; past editions of this magazine; details of Sunday services; contact details for the Parish Office; a Who's Who of the Ministry Team; information about booking a wedding; advice on planning a funeral; a parish map... **24 hours a day? ***

* Why, the parish website, of course: www.kingsnorton.org.uk. Give it a try!

Lost in the Mists of Time

Our regular contributor Michael Kennedy needs your help. He has been given a small booklet about the history of St Nicolas' Church, but is has no date, and he'd like to establish as precisely as possible when it was published. There are various clues, some of which might also give some of our readers the chance of a little nostalgia.

We'll start with the easy bit. Towards the back of the booklet, it lists the Ministers of Kings Norton, going right back to Richard de la Lee, who was in charge from 1310 for three years. The latest incumbent listed is Edward George Ashford, who took up his position in 1949. We know that The Revd Ashford retired in 1965, so the booklet was published sometime during that 16 year period.

But when? Though there are more than 30 pages of history, there's nothing there. Rather unusually, nor is there anything within the publisher's details or in the introduction by the author, who is J.E. Vaughan.

The only real clues are in the nine pages of advertisements by local shops and suppliers. Looking at these is also a charming reminder of how much simpler life was in those days (whenever they were!)

Surprisingly, only five of them represent businesses based on The

Green (though some others include no address, only phone numbers). Of these, there's a half page advert by the Post Office, telling us that it not only sells stationery, greetings cards and postcards, but also sweets, cigarettes and toys, including Meccano, Revell (presumably plastic

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The Answer's Yes!

kits) and products called 'Wendy Boston Soft Toys'. It's also an 'agent' for Parker Pens.

Other Green-based businesses are Chas Mann, the only one recognisable today, selling 'scooters, mopeds and cycles', and two others that seems to have been lost in the mists of time. The Cottage Stores were located at 94 The Green, selling groceries and provisions, toys and stationery, and very specifically Wimbush Bread & Cakes; Wall's sausages, bacon, ham and pies; and Nielsen's Ice Cream. Also on The Green is Winifred Gerrard, a ladies' outfitter who sells Sally Slade Suits and Dresses, Gor-Ray Skirts, Hebe Suits, Rodney Dresses, John Craig Blouses, Berkertex Dresses, handbags, millinery and costume jewellery.

Again on The Green is the local branch of the Ten Acres & Stirchley Cooperative Society Ltd's Funeral Service, including a day and night telephone service at its main office in Stirchley.

Some adverts don't give a precise address. There's the local ironmongers, W. Evans & Son, which offers deliveries of Esso Blue Paraffin to your door. As well as the hardware and related products you'd expect, its product range also embraces 'Decorators' Supplies and Fancy Goods', an intriguing combination! There's also The Pet Shop, run by H.

H. Mann, which in a slightly confusing way states 'For all your Pet Foods and accessories birds and flowers, plants, seeds and all fertilisers.'

Shops and suppliers based away from The Green include two businesses based on or near Lindsworth Road, the Lindsworth Stores at number 63 (Proprietors E & F Horton) , and, on Lindsworth Approach, there's H. Powell & Sons, which combines the roles of greengrocer, butcher (at least for English Poultry) and fishmongers, with fresh supplies daily. A specialist family butcher to advertise is D.W. Boden at 143 Monyhull Hall Road, who also offers English Poultry, together with cooked meats.

Of course, there has to be a ladies' hairdresser. This one is Lillian Home at 1,820 Pershore Road in Cotteridge. She proudly boasts that she's 'London and Paris trained', offering an 'up-to the minute service in cutting, tinting and perming'.

On page 2, somewhat out of place, is a picture of a man working with machinery. It's aimed at craftsmen, telling them that they 'always prefer Exacta Press Tool Die Sets and accessories'. If they agree, they can buy them from Coley Bros (Tools) Ltd of Kings Norton, but no location is specified.

The back cover of the booklet is taken up by a full page advertisement

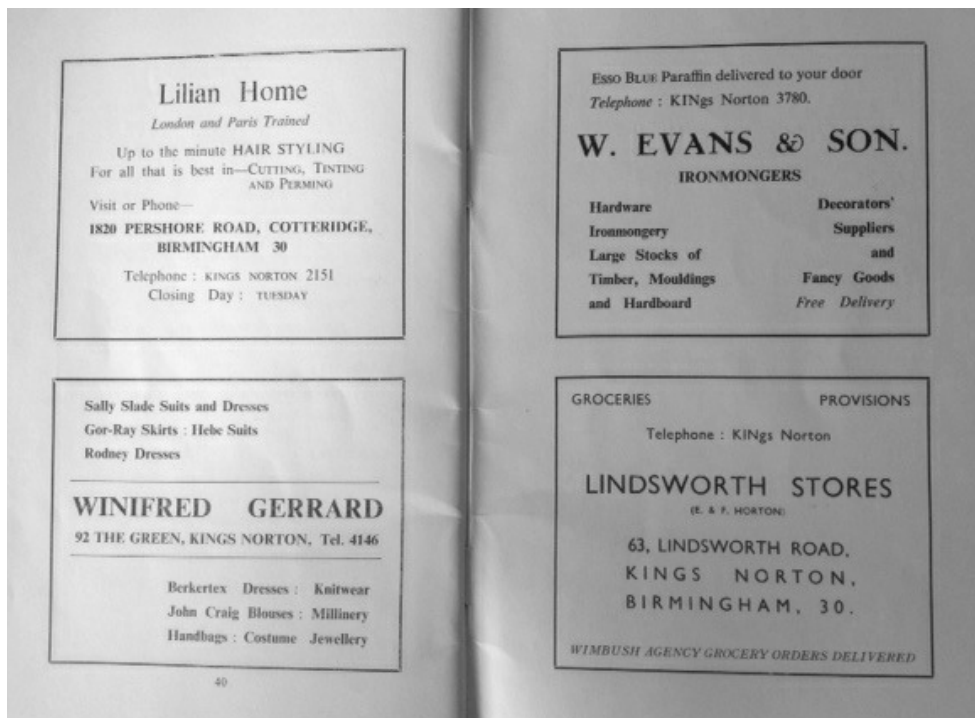
by the Old Mews Garage, directors V. Jones and A.B. Jones. There is a clue in our quest for a date in their name, because its official title is Old Mews Garage (1954) Ltd. They are based at 28 Redditch Road and offer Self Drive cars and 13 seat 'Omnicoches'.

If times hadn't changed so much, I suppose I could have called some of these businesses, but the telephone numbers are all in that beautiful style which was gradually phased out in the 60s and 70's... you remember, three letters and then four numbers. For example, if you wanted to buy a Wimbush cake, you could check by calling The Cottage Stores on KIN 4411 or if you wanted a new Gor-Ray

skirt you could ring Winfred Gerrard on KIN 4146. A far cry from these days, when they'd all be publishing websites, email addresses and easily forgettable 11-digit mobile numbers.

Did you shop or buy services from any of these? Do you remember when any of them finally closed? With the help of the Old Mews Garage, we now know that the booklet was published between 1954 and 1965 when Rev Ashford retired, but can you help us pin down the date even more closely? If you have any ideas, or just some fond reminiscences, do let the Editor know!

Michael Kennedy



WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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

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

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

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

Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOCIAL CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Kings Norton Society John Bowen (Chairman) 0121 458 3747

Our origins go back to Kings Norton Youth Fellowship. We still have a few who remember those days but most are much younger. We normally meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club on the fourth Friday of the month for a bite to eat, a chat and general socialising. We have the occasional walk, quiz or speaker or best of all, we organise our own entertainment. If you know a member tell them you would like to come, or call the number above.

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Women's Institute

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Photography Society *www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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

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

South Birmingham Ramblers www.sbramblers.co.uk

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

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

Active Parks, part of the City Council's Birmingham Wellbeing initiative, works in partnership with various organisations in order to offer a wide variety of free physical activities across Birmingham parks. With the Friends of Kings Norton Park group, depending on the season, it offers a range of local events, from jogging to Tai Chi, normally meeting in the Westhill Road car park at Kings Norton Park.

Kings Norton Bowling Club, 129 Wychall Lane, Birmingham B38 8AH, 0121 458 1570

We are long-established sports and social club, providing members with friendly company, a bowling green and a range of indoor activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morris Dancing is an ideal way of having fun and keeping fit. Dancers and musicians, beginners or advanced, men and women are welcomed by Black Adder. We meet most Thursdays (except August) from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. in Selly Oak Friends' Meeting

House at 930 Bristol Rd South, Birmingham B29 6NB. If you want to come along, please email us to check we're meeting that week.

COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC VENUES

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

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

The Church in the Parish

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

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

St Nicolas' Parish Church

on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

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

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

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

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

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

Immanuel Church

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

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

Open Church

Visit, pray, light a candle or share conversation over coffee.

We open St 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. We welcome volunteers to share in our offering of welcome, refreshment and care through St Nicolas', Hawkesley and Immanuel, to steward at St Nicolas' during Open Church and to care for our churchyard, flowers and brasses.

Wednesday	10.00 am – 12.00 noon, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : Candlelit Church with informal learning together at 8.00 pm. Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity & music. Come and go as you like.
Thursday	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries
Saturday	10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, "Knit & Natter" & prayer.

For Young Children

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

Growing in Faith

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

Help us to keep our Parish Church open

It costs more than £800 each week to keep St Nicolas' Church open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, ask how you can Gift Aid your offering.

Baptisms and Marriages

Please visit St Nicolas' on Thursdays between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm to ask any questions and arrange bookings with our clerks. One of the clergy is also present to help if there is a question over whether your service can be held in this parish.

More details at www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Events Diary June 2018

Friday 1 June

- Drop-In Craft Session, Kings Norton Library, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- 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)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 2 June

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am
- Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am-11.30 am

Tuesday 5 June

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork and 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, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 6 June

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place 1.00-3.00 pm: Tea Dance with 'Slow Train'
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 7 June

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 8 June

- 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)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 9 June

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- **The Kings Norton Festival**, in and around St Nicolas' Place and St Nicolas' Church, 11.00 am-3 pm

Monday 11 June

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Kings Norton Bowling Club, 6.30-7.30 pm

Tuesday 12 June

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.30 pm: John Smith 'A City of Music'

Wednesday 13 June

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

Thursday 14 June

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 15 June

- 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)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 16 June

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- 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
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton Quiz Night, in aid of the Saint Nicolas' Place Roof Appeal, St Nicolas' Place 7.30 pm. **Please confirm attendance by emailing fhkn@btinternet.com or register at Reception in the Gift Shop.**

Monday 18 June

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: John White, Performing Historian

Tuesday 19 June

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork and 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, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00pm: Phil Evans 'Wildlife Photography'
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 20 June

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

Thursday 21 June

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 22 June

- 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)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 23 June

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Children's Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 11.30 am-12.30pm

Monday 25 June

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm

Tuesday 26 June

- Kings Norton Patchwork and 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, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 27 June

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Outing to Weston-super-Mare
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, The Bull's Head, The Green. Performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 28 June

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 29 June

- 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)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 30 June

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- 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

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

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@beechees martialarts.co.uk)

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)

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

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2nd Saturday Each Month

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2018

9.00 - 2.00



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APRIL 2018 FUNERALS

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

3rd April	Cassiopeia Pyke	34	SN.Bu.KN
5th April	Margaret Doreen Goodwin	91	Cr.RH
13th April	John Brian Allcock	81	Cr.RH
16th April	Alan Jeffrey Theophilus	73	In.CY
16th April	Graham Geoffrey Saunders	76	SN.Cr.RH
17th April	Maureen Joyce Kentish	79	Cr.RH
20th April	Dondru Annette McDonald	79	SN.Bu.CY
24th April	Stephen Alan Lloyd-Fitt	59	In.CY
27th April	Patricia Ida Mace	84	In.CY

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,
In : Ashes interred, **BE** : Brandwood End, **CY** : Churchyard,
KN : Kings Norton Cemetery, **LH** : Lodge Hill, **PB** : Perry Barr, **PR** : Primrose,
QN : Quinton, **RH** : Robin Hood, **RD** : Redditch, **SC** : Sutton Coldfield, **WI** :
Witton, **WM** : Widney Manor, **WP** : Westall Park, **YD** : Yardley
WY : Wythall, **YD** : Yardley

"Be willing to be a beginner every single morning."

Meister Eckhart (13th-14th century)




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Time & Chance Happen to All

This month, Kings Norton's Assistant Rector reminds us that, in the words of George Eliot, "It is never too late to be what you might have been".

"Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to the skilful; but time and chance happen to them all."

(Ecclesiastes 9:11)

The Jewish philosopher quoted here, commonly referred to in the Christian faith as "The Preacher" (Ecclesiastes), explores the importance of time management and the need to take advantage of opportunities as they occur.

Time appears to regulate every human activity and translate it into something of worth. Some business-minded people would boldly assert that "time is money, therefore engage with it wisely". Chance, on the other hand, is about opportunities. Life has a way of regulating those also. Only a few are privileged to have just a few more opportunities than others. Those who

are not so fortunate are left either to seize the moment or to live with regrets after it is gone. For instance, just yesterday, we had hardly said "Happy New Year". Today, the year is approaching its halfway point. It's June already!

I am not an ardent football supporter. However, there is something about the game that fascinates me each time I take an interest in watching it. It has to do with the way the time of play is divided into two halves. My interest is further heightened during the second half, as it always tends to decide the fate of the entire game. It is common to have a team take the lead during the first half, even with a wide margin, only to lose the match in the second half.

As a Nigerian, I remember the historic 1996 Atlanta Olympic football tournament where Nigeria won the gold medals in the finals. More remarkable still was the semi-final match between Nigeria and Brazil. At



half time, the Brazilian team were leading 3-1 against Team Nigeria. Up until the 78th minute of play, the scores remained the same. But between the 78th minute and the 90th minute, Team Nigeria had equalized with their opponents and the match went into extra time, with a golden goal rule, since a winner must emerge. The golden goal rule that year stipulated that whichever side scores the first goal in extra time wins the game. Nigeria not only came from behind to equalize at full time, but went ahead to win the game by scoring the first winning goal under the golden rule. It was in the second half that the match was decided.

As the year 2018 appears to be in the fast lane, wisdom demands that we

reconsider the words of this Jewish preacher about the management of time and opportunity. The disturbing bit of this “time and chance philosophy” is that it appears to negate the celebrated norms of life. Let me explain. In athletics, it is normal to assume that the fastest competitor should always win the race. The battle is usually decided by the strongest or the bravest of all. In other areas of life, success is expected to be a by-product of intelligence or wisdom, while people with skill should, surely, be the most favoured. But our preacher would rather lay the blame or the credit at the feet of anyone, whether they manage or mismanage time and opportunities, whatever the outcome of their life’s commitments.

Is it possible then that we all have equal time and opportunities to achieve success in life? Where time is concerned, yes. There are 24 hours for everyone in a day. What you decide to do with yours is entirely up to you. Some have decided to spend theirs seeking solutions to people’s needs and they have ended up solving problems and attracting financial gains and goodwill. Others have decided to spend theirs in discussing their and other people’s problems and complaining about everything that goes wrong. The same 24 hours have paid everyone their dues.

Can we then say that we all have

equal opportunities to make a difference in life? It appears that is not what this preacher is saying. He seems to emphasise rather that an opportunity well taken is worth hundreds that may never occur. One of those, I realise, is the fact that one is alive, or healthy, or has the capacity to think and make choices in life or is privileged to have all of the above. The value of any of these privileges is measured in the light of those who do not have them. The purpose of life demands that every day, there is an opportunity to improve on whatever is available. Martin Luther King Jnr said *“If you have an opportunity in life to fly, fly. If you cannot fly, run. If you cannot run, walk. If you cannot walk, crawl, but keep moving...”*

The year is almost halfway through and there is still not much to show for it. I say don't give in to discouragement! The game is not over yet! The second half has a way of taking you by surprise and deciding the outcome. Seize the moment! Make every minute of the second half count, whether in business or career or vocation. Keep moving! Approach each new day with a purpose. Another Christian preacher once said, *“The largest room in the world is the room for improvement!”* We cannot all fly, run, walk or crawl, but time and chance happen to us all. Make yours count!

The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu

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THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY

This 2018 British historical drama directed by Mike Newell is based on the 2008 novel of the same name, written by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The film is set in 1946, Britain is recovering from the war and a budding London author is intrigued by a letter from a local literacy society which had developed on Nazi occupied Guernsey after its occupation in 1940. How many of us remember that the Channel Islands were the only part of Britain to be invaded?

A strong British cast of old familiars (Tom Courtney and Penelope Wilton) are joined by comparative newcomers (Lily James and Michiel Huisman) playing the two lead roles; Huisman as a plaintive Guernsey farmer (Dawsey) and Lily James (Juliet) as the budding London author enticed to the Island by the thought that reading was a liberating experience for those under Nazi occupation for four years. The locals are a mixture of the eccentric and the shadowy.

The era is beautifully evoked and one can be forgiven for thinking the Channel Islands should have equal billing as a star of the film; it all looks so idyllic, now the

Germans have gone. However, Lily uncovers hints of a dark secret overshadowing the island people she begins to admire. She extends her stay and, in doing so, becomes closer to Dawsey than is fitting for a women engaged to be married to a high flying, young American diplomat back in London.

Juliet uncovers a hidden story of love, fraternisation and betrayal. As Juliet's affection for the people increases she realises the trauma they carry from the recent occupation and finds herself conflicted between her personal future and the islanders' recent past. Holding the film's narrative together is the love of books and reading. It was in reading the

classics of English literature while under occupation that the literary society found solace and mental escape from the indignities and dangers of oppression.

This is a story of courage in the midst of danger and of forbidden love. It is also a story of redemption. As the secret unfolds, relationships deepen and the recent past is healed by the acceptance of a hard truth that human beings, even in extreme situations, can be overtaken by a deep and mutual love for another.

Parts of the film take liberties with the narrative but the overall effect allows us to forgive these conflation. Will Dawsey and Juliet, so different yet so connected by their love of books and the bond of shared secrets, find their way to a shared future? Or will the lure of cosmopolitan London and prospects of marriage and a new life in America prove too much for Juliet? See the film and find out.

M.G.M.



The Rules

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

There are lots of rules in life. School rules, rules of the road, rules of law. Some of you may even have 'house rules' of your own.

If you are a fan of the American television series *NCIS* you will know all about 'Gibbs' Rules', a set of rules to live and work by used by the key character. Each one is assigned a number, such as *Rule 8: Never take anything for granted*; or *Rule 31: There's no such thing as a coincidence*.

We all need a set of rules to live by. Without them we would have chaos. Some we may think idiotic, like a school rule which forbids children to walk on the snow in the playground in the winter. Some are more sensible and are intended to protect and to guide us. But we are not always good at following them. How many of us have driven too fast or parked where we shouldn't? Or maybe, as a child, we stole some sweets or took money out of the

collection plate instead of putting it in!

We need that code, that set of rules to live by even if we don't always manage to follow them. As Christians we have the Ten Commandments. We often can't even remember what all ten are, let alone follow them; but they are the basis of many of our rules and laws such as not killing and not stealing. It's as a young mum told me at one of our baptism preparation sessions. We were discussing how to bring children up as Christians. She just looked at me and said 'It's obvious, isn't it? You start with the Ten Commandments.' And actually, she is right. It is a very good place to start.

I wonder, if we were to try to write our own rules to live by, what we would come up with.



Would we be able to restrict ourselves to just ten or would be nearer to the 50 Gibbs' Rules? Perhaps our starting point should be the one commandment that Jesus gives us : 'Love one another as I have loved you'.

Which reminds me of a song! Louis Armstrong singing 'What a wonderful world'. I have a recording of it which includes a piece of dialogue at the beginning, that goes something like this:

'Some of you youngsters ask me, "What do you mean about a

wonderful world? How about wars? You call them wonderful? And what about hunger and pollution? They ain't wonderful." Seems to me that it ain't the world that's so bad but what we are doing to it. See what a wonderful world it would be if only we would give it a chance. Love is the secret. If lots more of us loved each other we'd solve lots more problems. This world would be a better world. So that's why I sing "It's a wonderful world".' Sounds like a good place to start to me.

Pauline Weaver

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FOODBANK NEWS

I have two pieces of news to share this month. One is that we have yet to move from Hawkesley to the new warehouse. This is because the legal trail required to rent the warehouse has taken much longer than we had anticipated it would. The aim is still, very much, to move; but just when all the paperwork is signed and sealed (in triplicate at least). Hopefully there will be news in the July edition.

Our second piece of news is that the Support Worker, for whom several of you helped to provide funding, has started in post. Adam Booth is employed by The Project in Rubery, which is an advice centre providing free support with benefits, debt and housing issues. Adam has had previous

experience working in Wolverhampton, and has built up considerable experience of issues related to Universal Credit. You, as supporters, raised £5,000 towards Adam's funding and salary.

Coming to each B30 Foodbank session at Cotteridge, Adam has already sorted out problems for several of our clients. Benefits issues are part of the financial crises that bring about 75% of our clients to use the B30 Foodbank. Clearly, if we can help to alleviate these, people no longer have to come to us. Adam's is already proving to be an excellent appointment.

Sylvia Fox

APRIL 2018

BAPTISMS

1 st April	Daniel Nash Evie Suzanne Lincoln Charles Ernest Christopher Lindow
15 th April	Henry Dodd Isaac Noah Job Lola Rose Thomas
29 th April	Rosie Carew Rio Jude Forde

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Gift Shop : Monday to Saturday 10am-3pm

Guided Tours: Friday and Saturday at 11am and 2pm.

Group tours can be booked at various times during the week.

Booking: Visit our website for details and photos of our facilities for weddings, family functions, corporate and community events and training. We offer a wide range of catering options too. You are welcome to view at a time to suit you. Call us on **0121 458 1223** to arrange a visit or email **bookings@saintnicolasplace.co.uk**.

Marriage and baptism enquiries are welcomed at St Nicolas' Church on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8pm.

CONTACTS

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

81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk 0121 458 3289

THE MINISTRY TEAM

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

THE CHURCH WARDENS

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

OTHER CONTACTS

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

MUSIC

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

BELL RINGING

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

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

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Scouts and Cubs

198th Birmingham St Nicolas'

*Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall,
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS
www.myscouts.co.uk*

Guides and Brownies

Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

Alan Haynes (Group Scout Leader) 07 534 615 489
onenineeight@btinternet.com

Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm
Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm
Scouts (10½-15½): 8 pm

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

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

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr Derek Higgins

Beware of Wacky Backy!

Last month, it was alcohol. This month, we are pleased to present Eddie on drugs. Cannabis in particular.

As you are perhaps aware, there are many differing opinions of the legality of cannabis. Across the world, you can find people who hold the view that it should be legalised for all. Having experienced its use at sea, I personally hold quite vehement views against this drug. I will, however, make one small exception: cannabis oil can be used medically in some cases to help sufferers from multiple sclerosis and other conditions.

As Head of the Catering Staff at sea, I encountered cannabis-related problems on several occasions. Some cooks and stewards smoked it in quite large amounts. The seamen also caused problems at times. On some voyages we would have to ensure that the ship's galley (the kitchen)



was locked each night. The cooks would remove large trays of meat from the freezers each afternoon and leave them out to defrost overnight in preparation for the following day's meals. The cannabis

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smokers would eat very little for a day or so but would suddenly get "the munchies", which drove them to enter the galley late at night to steal and cook food, making a terrible mess in the process and using items left out for the cooks the next morning. I would have to watch my staff very carefully if I knew they were using cannabis. The drug could be purchased cheaply and easily in some ports, which proved one temptation too many for some crew members.

Examples of drug-induced behaviour would include a surly attitude to authority, poor personal hygiene, a pale complexion and a lack of interest in duties. Such problem voyages were not too frequent, thank goodness!

My attitude was to be stringent with my department only as required, to maintain a benign stance but not to become too familiar, which is never a good policy, as I learned at college in Liverpool. But I would attack drug use with firm discipline backed by the

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Captain, and I would use procedures which, on a few occasions, led to the end of a career at sea.

Experience has left me with the very firm view that cannabis is dangerous and should under no circumstances be made legal.

Eddie Matthews

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