



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

November 2019

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‘Sometimes,’ wrote Agatha Christie in *Death Comes as the End*, ‘what you think is an end is only a beginning.’ It takes imagination, experience and perhaps a little wisdom to glimpse the hope which lies beyond bad news. Shock, denial and anger are natural reactions to loss, early stages of the Seven Stages of Grief. But if our grieving is healthy, they give way to acceptance and hope. At the end, we find that we are given the resources to accept what we cannot change and to begin to plan for the future.

It is something of a coincidence that this issue contains several reflections on loss: the loss of personality to dementia (p.46); the loss of loved ones to death (p.4); the loss, in one sense, of a much-loved community building to financial inevitability (pp.6-9). Each experience of bereavement can stir up strong emotions; but, as you will read, it can also open new avenues, offer fresh insights and sow seeds of hope. Change is unsettling, but without it, we do not grow. Anger and denial are natural, but they are staging posts, not destinations.

Enough! These pages also contain a feast of happy things, not least the news that Michael Kennedy’s much-awaited book about Kings Norton is finally off the press (p.10) and that Christmas is going to be very special this year (pp.42-45). I’ll let you get on with it.

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

A Season for Remembering

During October and November, St Nicolas' Church hosts the more moving and poignant services of the year. These events are usually referred to as acts of commemoration (remembering together) as times when people, who don't know each other, gather to remember and honour those who have died.

Baby Loss Awareness brings those who have been affected by the loss of a child at various stages from conception to birth or post-natal. Our annual memorial service (**27 Oct at 3 pm**) brings together the families for whom we have conducted funerals over the previous twelve months: as part of this service each name is read out and a candle lit in a darkened church, a symbol of hope in a world of uncertainty. Then we have our own parish memorial service for parishioners to which we bring the names of loved ones we have lost and whom we see no more. Finally, we have our annual British Legion Remembrance Sunday service (**10 November at 10.30 am**), when the fallen and those scarred by war and conflict are honoured for their sacrifice. Each of these services has its



own distinct character but all are united to a degree by the feelings engendered by grief and loss.

Grief is a universal experience for people and, it seems, for some animals. Each life is unique. So is each death and therefore the way in which we grieve for each person will be different. The general aspects of grief are shared by most people. The strong emotions brought about by the immediate sense of finality which the death of a loved one brings. Strong emotions may cause us to question, feel angry, want to blame,

deny what has happened, feel depressed or evoke periods of numbness as if our mind cannot cope and 'switches off' emotions for a while.

In addition to coping with the death of a loved one, families have to go through the stages of reporting the death, organising and paying for a funeral and informing as many people as possible. Funeral directors play a vital role in these early stages of bereavement.

For those who choose a Christian funeral service, the clergy guide and support families in the preparation of the funeral service and, at such times, may forge strong pastoral links with the next-of-kin. To be alongside a family deep in grief is a privileged ministry. In the days and weeks after a funeral the bereaved begin to adjust their lives as best they can. Some days are manageable but on other days the sense of loss is acute. Grief does not go away; most people have to learn to cope with it.

Bereavement is not only about losing a loved one. Losing a job, a relationship, our faculties, our strength or a dream or aspiration can

also evoke a sense of deep and profound loss. Losing something near and dear to us is as much a bereavement as a death. Our attachments to people, things or memories are powerful and meaningful. The power of memory is

a feature of our human condition; memories give us a sense of history and perspective. Where would we be without our memories?

People of faith have a different perspective on memories. We acknowledge that

‘Losing something near and dear to us is as much a bereavement as a death. Our attachments to people, things or memories are powerful and meaningful.’

our memories are part of our identity in God; we are what has moulded us. Every prayer offered, every cry of pain, every exclamation of joy, every shout of triumph and every quiet moment of satisfaction is attributed to the God who created us.

Pain, grief, loss and suffering are not only a human experience. God has joined us in our flesh and blood through Jesus. This is one of the unique characteristics of the Christian faith. As we enter into this season of remembrance, let us reflect upon the power of memory and remembering to give meaning to our lives.

Rev'd Larry Wright

Saint Nicolas' Place



Last month's news that the Parochial Church Council of St Nicolas' Church were seeking new owners for Saint Nicolas' Place alerted the Kings Norton community not just to the value of this unique building but to the spiralling cost to the church of keeping it open. Having sought extensive expert advice, the PCC reluctantly made one of the most difficult decisions in its recent history, a decision which was reported in this press release, issued in mid-October.

A key part of Birmingham's Tudor heritage, the building known as Saint Nicolas' Place, Kings Norton (formerly The Saracen's Head) is seeking a new proprietor to secure its future as an architectural gem and a well-used commercial and community enterprise.

The building began life as a Tudor merchant's house and was used for a variety of purposes until 1930, when the proprietor of the time, Mitchells & Butlers Brewery, transferred ownership to the parish of St Nicolas' Church, Kings Norton, the current custodian.

The church's role in the survival of the complex of Tudor, Georgian and Victorian buildings has been utterly vital. In early 2004, Saint Nicolas' Place and the nearby Old Grammar School won the prestigious national BBC2 'Restoration' television competition. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Nicolas' worked closely with the community to provide a sustainable future for the historic buildings of Kings Norton by conserving and enhancing them, thus making their heritage available to the widest possible audience. The restored buildings have offered a broad variety of community services, events and programmes combined with education, tourism and commercial use.

After 90 years of careful stewardship of Saint Nicolas' Place, the PCC have to acknowledge they are unable to sustain the level of funding required to maintain it. They feel that a new custodian would be appropriate at this stage to take the building into its next chapter.

The PCC have found it challenging to maintain a high level of conservation for all the historic buildings in their care. St Nicolas' Church, the 900-year-old Grade 1

Listed church building, requires major work on its roof and spire within the next 12 months to safeguard its future. This project alone will cost in excess of £300,000. Despite this pressure on its limited resources, the PCC has made provision for the continued preservation of the other historic property for which it is responsible, The Old Grammar School in St Nicolas' Churchyard, which has been part of the church's story for over 500 years.

Although it is with heavy heart that a new proprietor is now sought, the PCC have taken extensive professional advice and have conscientiously discerned this as the best way forward to safeguard the fabric of these buildings for future generations.

They believe this to be a great opportunity for another company or organisation, for Saint Nicolas' Place is a unique property with shop and café premises and has excellent event facilities for local groups or commercial purposes. It is hoped that the successful applicant will bring new energy and investment together with a strong passion to secure the long-term future of this much-loved and well used building.

For further information regarding the reasons for the PCCs decision:

Contact: The Communications Team at Church of England
Birmingham: comms@cofebirmingham.com

For expressions of interest in the building:

Contact: Ian Mercer
Ian.Mercer@brutonknowles.co.uk
0121 212 7662
Paul Blennerhassett
paul.blennerhassett@brutonknowles.co.uk
0121 212 7688

A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

As you will know, the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) recently came to the very sad conclusion that it cannot afford to offer further financial support to Saint Nicolas' Place. This is made all the sadder by the serious commitment the current staff team and volunteers have given to it.

What lies behind the decision?

Saint Nicolas' Place has been operating at a financial loss every year for the last ten years so that the PCC has put in over half a million pounds of subsidy. Losses have continued this year and, by the end of August, they had reached nearly £60,000. We estimate that the costs for the full year will be around £72,000.

Simply put, the PCC does not have that kind of money. St Nicolas' Church is beginning to show signs of deterioration: just keeping the scaffolding up to stop the roof damage from getting worse costs us £1,000 every month. We have some urgent repairs to the spire to make that will cost us about £12,000, and so on.

In addition, the PCC is not making its full contribution to the costs of the

Diocese's Common Fund because we are making a loss. It has few choices as a charity and has had to take action to address this very serious financial position.

What are we doing?

We have started to look for new owners for Saint Nicolas' Place who can offer it a future.

We have agreed to set up a 'Friends of St Nicolas' Church' charity to assist the PCC in its work of maintaining the church and its mission. The PCC decided that it has to give priority to the church building but it will also maintain the Old Grammar School and the churchyard. Hawkesley and Immanuel Churches will continue to be vital parts of what we do.

Meanwhile, the *Friends of Historic Kings Norton* are working hard to raise funds to keep Saint Nicolas' Place open for as long as possible until a new owner can be found. You can support their efforts by donating at the Reception Desk just inside the entrance to the building.

We have to raise additional income for St Nicolas' Church too. We have the beginnings of a programme of more activities starting with '*Flicks at St Nick's*' and a series of concerts, open church events, and so on. We also welcome any other ideas and offers of support.

We are getting lots of good advice

from the Diocese to support our efforts to preserve St Nicolas' Church and are making sure that we are well prepared for the hard work of applying for grants.

The PCC has been helped by an increase in regular giving for which we thank everyone. We will shortly be looking at the fees we charge. Watch out for the new card reader to allow cashless payment in church.

Where can I find out more?

We have put the full report from the PCC on the website and some paper copies at the back of church. The Churchwardens and clergy team will answer any questions you wish to ask.

Finally

We really do appreciate the efforts that many people have put into Saint Nicolas' Place and the generosity that has been shown throughout ten years when so much has been tried to make things work.

The PCC is made up of volunteers who agree to give their time and skills to guide the running of the church and its mission. We are all aware of the heavy requirements that go with charity governance. Your support for those affected by the decision, those saddened by it and those who have had to take it will be welcome.

Peter Hay and Julie Hill

Churchwardens

Kings Norton

A Kaleidoscope

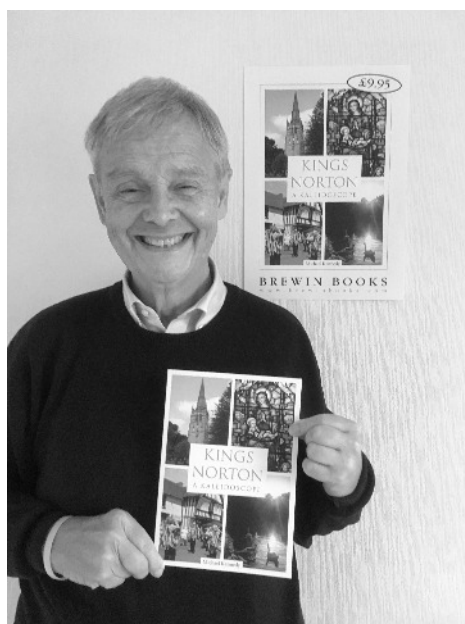
Our regular contributor Michael Kennedy's new book is a collection of the best of his monthly articles in the Parish Magazine over the past few years. Here, he explains why he thinks the book will help all its readers to understand just how special a place Kings Norton is.

I'd like to introduce to you a book that I think will bring great delight to readers who live in Kings Norton, and indeed to people who may have moved elsewhere, but retain affection for this parish.

It's a book that shows just how rich is the heritage that we all share. It shows what might be described as the many colours of Kings Norton down through the thousand years and more of its existence. That's why I've called it '*Kings Norton: A Kaleidoscope*'.

How it has come into being? Several years ago, I first wrote an article for the Kings Norton Parish Magazine. I was a regular reader but felt that it needed something more. So my article was devised to be an interesting and, as far as I could make it, an entertaining read.

Enough readers liked the article to



prompt me to look for other anecdotes about the parish. Little did I realise that some 50 monthly issues and more than five years later, I'd still be unearthing little gems about the place that I felt would make a worthwhile read.

Remarkable people who were born here or who came to live here, some nationally and even internationally famous (or infamous), some who have made a significant contribution to society far beyond Kings Norton itself.

Amusing, significant or serious anecdotes from the centuries since Kings Norton took shape, some going back into Tudor and Stuart times, some much more recent.

Stories about notable landmarks, some now demolished and forgotten.

All these stories have come to represent to me a remarkable cavalcade, which I believe, rightly or wrongly, few other parishes around

Birmingham, or indeed the country, can match. When I told him about it, a friend who comes from a much larger, but less accomplished, local community said to me: 'It must be something in the Kings Norton air!'

The process has literally transformed my perception of Kings Norton. When I came here in 1984, while I was pleased to be here, I felt that, apart from its celebrated collection of medieval buildings, it wasn't much different from other Birmingham suburbs. But I've found an extraordinary range of fascinating anecdotes that have made me realise that Kings Norton is, in fact, very special.

I'm pleased to say that the book isn't

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one of those often rather humble efforts at self-publication. It has been designed and printed professionally by Brewin Books of Studley, which some of you will know is a long-established publisher of local interest books in the Midlands. I was personally thrilled that Brewin considered it worthy of their imprint, because that is not only a guarantee that the book itself is of high quality in terms of printing and materials, but also carries their approval.

The book looks stunning. The beautiful photographs on the front and back covers have been provided by our Parish Magazine Editor, Lay Reader and accomplished photographer David Ash. I'm deeply grateful to him for his generosity and overall encouragement.

Let me explain one other important thing. I'm not seeking to make anything for the book; indeed I've contributed a significant amount to the publisher's costs. Once my investment is recouped, any profits will go directly to church funds, to help meet the immense cost of the work that is needed to preserve St Nicolas' for further generations. So, if you buy a copy, you'll be helping with that wonderful work.

Some of the subjects of my articles will be known, even well known to some of you: but I hope and believe that most, if not all, of the thirty-two collected articles will surprise and delight you, make you laugh or even make you cry.

If you're not an enthusiastic reader, don't worry: they are all in what could be called bite-sized chapters, no more than three or four pages, and they are all effectively self-contained. You can dip in wherever you want, read for ten minutes or so, and emerge with new or enhanced knowledge.

Equally, there's no particular structure to the book. Deliberately, I haven't tried to group the stories in any way. I believe that including the stories in a miscellaneous way should actually increase your astonishment at the sheer range of things that Kings Norton has generated and, as has happened to me, enhance your pride at living here.

That might sound like an extravagant and over-ambitious claim, but I firmly believe it's true and that, if you buy one, you'll be delighted. It's priced at £9.95 and if you can't find me after various church services, you can always buy one at the shop in St Nicolas' Place.

In my view, it would make a memorable and rather different Christmas present for people you know who live in Kings Norton or who know the place but have moved somewhere else.

Michael Kennedy

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

Just over 30 years ago, in July 1989, the Kings Norton Parish Magazine reported on the restoration, then in progress, of the parish church and looked back to an earlier period of rebuilding in the 1870s.

An extract from the reports of the Restoration Committee in April 1874.

'In commencing the Restoration of the body of the Church, the Roofs of the Nave and Aisles were found, on removal, much more dilapidated than was expected, in fact, their condition was highly dangerous and any sudden weight on them, such as might be caused by a heavy snow or violent storm of wind, might have brought them to the ground. It is a subject of thankfulness that a calamity, which might have been attended with disastrous consequences, was averted in good time. It was decided from the first to place a new roof on the Nave and the North Aisle, and plans and estimates were adopted for this purpose. During the progress of the work it was found advisable to pull down and rebuild the arcade on the North side, instead of taking measures to restore it to an upright position as at first proposed [...]. In the South

Aisle, after a full consideration of the subject, it was decided to retain the Gables, which were not decayed like those on the North side, and to case Roofs internally with boardings of a similar character to the Nave Roof. [...] The Committee are able to report that the whole of the work undertaken by them has been paid for, the amount expended being £3,175.'

Restoration of the Parish Church, 1989.

'Work is now proceeding and (as we feared) decay which was previously impossible to detect has been uncovered. There is no special problem in the vestry. The wall plate (that is the timber which lies along the top of the wall and on which the roof rests) in the north aisle has been badly affected by wet rot, mostly due to the theft of lead at various times.'

Sustainability 6

In the 6th article in this series, Sylvia Fox considers the practicalities of being radical.

I have had several different lines of thought for this month's article: one was to take a view on Christmas buying: gifts and their wrappings have the potential to be ecological disasters. Then there was the thought of taking a phrase from David Ash's recent editorial (*Parish Magazine* October 2019) which referred to the need for a 'radical rethink'. But I've decided, on reflection, that I will take the line from that same magazine about my being '*Kings Norton's answer to Greta Thunberg*' (and I did laugh, in case you should you worry whether it caused me any offence).

I have never remotely regarded myself as a radical activist, though I can be quietly passionate about a variety of things, several of which are related to sustainability and agriculture. The very black-and-white views that a radical can contribute to any debate may not actually bring about the final or best solutions, but they do often spark conversation and action. The problem is, they can also trigger aggression and even violence, which is rarely if ever their intention.

Some of the things which the Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg is advocating are unlikely to be taken up in our 21st century world, such as doing away with air travel. Giving up the eating of meat is not going to solve everything either for, if the entire world population took to eating arable crops, the planet would be too small to grow them all. My cousin in France recently mentioned that if everyone in France drove electric vehicles there would not be enough electricity to power them. What Greta is doing, however, is raising awareness, particularly among politicians. She is also telling the world how real the fear is amongst her generation, that we are only a decade or two from a total mess.

What we really need is to return our land to the state it was in before the Industrial Revolution using all the 21st century technology and science at our disposal. We also need to acknowledge that our biggest problem is the fact that the world's population is growing too big for its backyard. Agriculture will be the subject of future article(s) as there

are many different points of view to explore and many possible solutions.

Air traffic produces under 5% of current emissions but it is set to increase. Car travel and single-use plastic actually generate considerably more emissions than air travel. Wind farms can create massive ecological upheaval during installation, but can actually lead to benefits for wildlife habitat once installed. However, their installation can change the whole ecology of an area of sea or land. There are no easy answers to these questions.

Last century, the car was seen by American planners as a 'simple' solution to an environmental headache. The growth of New York's population at the dawn of the 20th century had led to a

huge increase in the number of horse-drawn vehicles. Horses, of course, produce a lot of manure. The car was seen as an efficient way of dealing with this problem. The moral of the story is that potential solutions must be checked for unintended side effects.

What of the original idea for this article, the challenge to ensure that our Christmas wrapping is paper-based rather than paper and plastic combined? Well, whatever you decide to do, perhaps getting inventive with recycled newspaper, brown paper or cloth bags, just remember that to steer away from shiny, plasticised wrapping is a great start.

Sylvia Fox



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Late Autumn Beauty

Seasonal tips from a green-fingered reader



I hope your garden has been spared the worst of the various tropical and non-tropical storms thrown at us from across the Atlantic as we are about to announce the first of our **garden trees of the month**. Described as 'the finest of all garden trees' by one respected writer, *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia' has yellow-green ferny leaves turning to a magnificent golden yellow in the Autumn. The foliage flutters in the slightest breeze and if you haven't seen 'Frisia' lit by the sun against a stormy sky then you haven't lived! Any suckers can be easily removed and although the Royal Horticultural Society has reported some cases of die-back I have not seen any of it. Highly recommended!



The Japanese anemone is our Flower of the month (*photo opposite page*). The period from August to November can be a little lacking in floral beauty but asters,

single chrysanthemums and the very reliable Japanese anemone can come to our rescue. Japan can be very cold in winter (how they cope with paper walls beats me) but an import from from China to Japan



many years ago is hardy in our country and seems to do particularly well in Bourneville. Ranging from white to dusky pink, the single varieties with five tepals look very fine at up to three feet high. (In case you were wondering, a tepal is a petal produced in the absence of sepals). Slugs will have a go at them, but that's it.

In the 1970's at Hadspen House in Somerset the head gardener spotted a unique flower with two smallish tepals and three larger ones in a strong pink colour set against rich green foliage. Now known as *Hadspen Abundance* this Japanese beauty is freely available and must be good because it has a RHS recommendation!

Incidentally, for you propagators, a good variety can be multiplied by root cuttings. Six centimeter lengths of fleshy root are laid on the

surface of multipurpose compost in a wide-ish pot and covered with 1 cm coarse grit or similar and patience will have its reward: lots of healthy new plants.

For this month's vegetable tip, try sowing broad beans now for a Spring crop (*photo below*). If you are short of ways to cook them, have a look in an Italian cook book where 'fave' are very popular. The seedlings will need covering as wood pigeons adore them!



Before Winter sets in, get out there with your secateurs and trim back your shrubs to a nice conical shape and you can also give lavender a good trim back. The vigorous yellow *Hypericum* can be cut back right down to 20 cm.

I'll be back in December.

Adam the Gardener

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St Nicolas' Church is in the early stages of applying for Eco Church status under the award scheme run by 'A Rocha', a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. This is quite a lengthy process and covers all aspects of sustainability: heating, lighting,

paper goods, food and beverages, management of the church and churchyard and much more. As the accreditation is for all buildings of all ages, some of the categories and questions are not particularly suited to our heritage building nor to an active churchyard, but we can address those areas which best fit our situation and work out how to tackle the less easy ones later. You may have noticed a small two-sentence entry on each weekly newsletter. This is one of the ways in which we will ensure that you are informed about how we are achieving sustainability.

Annual Autumn Churchyard 'Keep Fit'

This year's churchyard leaf-sweeping mornings will take place on **Saturday 2nd, 16th and 30th November between 10.00 am and 12 noon**. If you're able to join us (and we hope you will) please wear strong footwear and gloves. Bring a rake if you can, but we'll try to provide one if you can't. Lunch will be served at 12.15 pm. Who needs gym membership when you have a churchyard?

Remembrance : Gone But Not Forgotten

On **November 10th**, we will hold our usual Remembrance Day Service at St Nicolas' Church in the morning. In the evening, the **6.00 pm service** will be our usual service of Holy Communion with anointing for wholeness and healing. At that service, there will be an opportunity to read and remember, in thanksgiving, the names of those who have died in previous years. This is not the same as our annual memorial service, when we remember those whose funerals have taken place in church over the previous 12 months. Rather, it is intended as a chance to give thanks for family members and friends who died some years ago but whom we still want to remember in the context of a service. Names of those to be remembered can be given to the Parish Office in the weeks preceding November 10th, or to any member of the Ministry Team. Please label them 'All Souls' Service'.

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WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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

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

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

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

Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

An informal pressure group to lobby for environmental improvements in and about the reserve. We organise a weekly working party on site (the Tuesday Workout from 10.30 to 1.00 pm, open to all) to manage the Reserve, to increase biodiversity and habitats and to enhance its value for both people and wildlife. We also organise guided walks. 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 £10.00 per annum or £7.00 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. 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 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; (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 0121 459 2700 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.

Kings Norton Society *Annette Dickers 0121 459 2700 ardickers@outlook.com*

We are a group of very sociable people of all ages (not a youth club), now in our 59th year. We meet once a month at Kings Norton Tennis Club, usually on the last Friday of the month. Attendance normally averages 40 people or more. We have supper and a varied programme of events.

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

U3A (University of the Third Age) www.u3a.org.uk, knu3a.membership@gmail.com

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

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

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

Kings Norton Photography Society www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice www.birminghamhospice.org.uk
suebarkerdavis@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).

Kings Heath Horticultural Society bron.salway@blueyonder.co.uk

Kings Heath Horticultural Society is the local horticultural society for Kings Norton residents. It usually meets at Manningford Hall on Bells Lane, B14 5TJ. We have a wide range of speakers on gardening-related topics. We also hold two informal shows, spring and summer, where members display and then vote for their favourites. We meet from March to December, usually on the first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Membership costs £6 annually plus £2 members' entrance fee per meeting, or £3 for visitors. For more information please email Bron Salway.

Mentor Link www.mentorlink.org.uk, Elaine Southall 0805 937347,
elaine.southall@mentorlink.org.uk

Mentor Link is a children's charity supporting vulnerable and distressed children and young people. It works with schools across much of the West Midlands, including Kings Norton. It is seeking locally-based volunteers to help its work for one or two hours a week. Full training is provided.

SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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

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

South Birmingham Ramblers www.sbramblers.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

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

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

Druids Heath Library, 1 Idmiston Croft, Birmingham B14 5NU, druids.heath.library@birmingham.gov.uk, 0121 303 7171

The libraries provide a wide range of books, CDs and material for all ages including community information and local history. There are also meeting rooms for hire and internet access. The Libraries organise a range of regular events including activities for children and other specific interest groups.

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC VENUES

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

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

The Church in the Parish

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

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

St Nicolas' Parish Church

on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

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

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

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

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

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

Immanuel Church

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

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

During the Week

We open Saint Nicolas' Church as much as we can so that all may share God's peace and promise in a space where they have been found and trusted for centuries. There is a place for you within its story. Please pray that more will know it as a safe place for prayer and healing, where sorrow and joy are held in God's love. **All are welcome.**

Wednesday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon : **Open Church**
Thursday 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : **Marriage and Christening (Baptism) enquiries** in Saint Nicolas' Church
Saturday 10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Coffee and "Knit & Natter" in St Nicolas' Church

Children's Activities

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

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

Growing in Faith

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

Help us to keep our Parish Church open

It costs almost £1,000 a week to keep St Nicolas' Church open. We welcome all financial support through donations and especially through regular Planned Giving. Do ask for details and, if a taxpayer, ask how you can Gift Aid your offering.

Christening (Baptism) and Weddings

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

**More details at www.kingsnorton.org.uk
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk 0121 458 3289**

Events Diary Nov 2019

Friday 1 November

- Explore Learning 'Handwriting Zoo', Kings Norton Library, 10.00-11.00 am (please contact Library, to book)
- 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
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton, Christmas Wine Tasting event with Majestic Wines, St Nicolas' Place, 6.30 pm (tasting of 7 wines with food to complement). £15 per ticket from FHKN shop in St Nicolas' Place.

Saturday 2 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Churchyard leaf sweeping, St Nicolas' Church, 10.00 am -12 noon (lunch from 12.15). Please wear gloves and strong footwear.
- Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Fields Millennium Green, Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am (morning session only, then helping with Diwali event in Clent)

Monday 4 November

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Heath Horticultural Society, Manningford Hall, Bells Lane, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm: AGM

Tuesday 5 November

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm: Max Keen 'Lord Nelson, Britain's Greatest Hero'

Wednesday 6 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 - 11.30 am
- Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00 - 4.00 pm

- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00 - 3.00 pm: Planting Bulbs for Winter & Hoi
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 7 November

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 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 November

- 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 9 November

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am - 2.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 - 11.30 am (re-starts today: please contact the Library, for details)
- Eroica Camerata and Ex Urbe Choir Mozart and Haydn concert, St Nicolas' Church, 7.30 pm (tickets on the door, £12, £10 concessions/students, £3 child)

Sunday 10 November

- Remembrance Day services, St Nicolas' Church

Monday 11 November

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Lane B30 2PR, 7.00 pm

Tuesday 12 November

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville 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 13 November

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

Thursday 14 November

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8-10 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 15 November

- 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
- Quiz Night, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7pm (Teams of up to six, £10 members and £12 non-members including hot food). Contact Lorraine on 0121 449 0944

Saturday 16 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Churchyard leaf-sweeping, St Nicolas' Church, 10.00 am -12 noon (lunch from 12.15). Please wear gloves and strong footwear)
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am (re-starts today: please contact the Library, for details)
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am
- Tear Fund Charity Big Quiz Night 2019 (nationwide church quiz), St Nicolas' Place, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm (teams of up to 6, £3 per person, tea and coffee provided). More on www.tearfund.org/quiz

Monday 18 November

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: Andrew Crabtree, Christmas Songs and Carols

Tuesday 19 November

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville 10.00 am- 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00 - 4.00 pm: Craft afternoon
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 20 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club: Christmas Shopping in Worcester
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 21 November

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 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 22 November

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

Saturday 23 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am (re-starts today: please contact the Library, for details)

Monday 25 November

- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm: Mary Bodfish 'Beer, Bets and Bull Baiting'

Tuesday 26 November

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 10.00 am- 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 27 November

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Armchair Exercise & Bingo
- 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 November

- Councillors' Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 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 29 November

- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- Kings Norton Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7.00 pm

Saturday 30 November

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Churchyard leaf sweeping, St Nicolas' Church, 10.00 am -12 noon (lunch from 12.15). Please wear gloves and strong footwear
- Children's Book Club, Kings Norton Library, 11.30 am-12.30 pm (re-starts today: please contact the Library, for details)
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

Monday

Pilates with Julia 11.00 - 12.00

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

Shapes & Adders Toddler Maths 9.45 - 10.45 am

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

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

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm

(enquiries@beeches-martialarts.co.uk)

Pilates 7.15 - 8.15 pm

Thursday

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

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

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

Yoga Really Works Pregnancy Class 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Friday

Illumination Youth Theatre 4.00 – 5.30 pm (ages 5-10); 5.30 - 7.00 pm (ages 11-18)

(Melanie 07 766 724 834)

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

Saturday

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

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38

2nd Saturday Each Month

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2019
9.00 - 2.00



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**SEPTEMBER 2019
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 September	Harry Graham Horton-Walsh	19	SN.Bu.BE
6th September	Margaret Mary Lawrence	80	In.CY
10th September	Deborah Patricia Hughes	59	SN.Bu.KN
11th September	Samantha Joanne Baldock	30	Cr.LH
18th September	Henry Houghton	84	Cr.LH
24th September	June St Claire Eustace	63	SN.Bu.CY
27th September	Doreen & David Collins	85 & 79	In.CY
27th September	Sheila Beekes	81	SN.Bu.CY

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

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FOODBANK NEWS

In October, our annual dedication service took a look at the past year. We took Biblical readings which talked of hospitality being given without knowing the recipients, and also explored the '5 Week Wait', which is the length of time people have to wait for their application for Universal Credit to turn into money in their account. I still fail to understand why our politicians think that this is acceptable. If someone is claiming Universal Credit (UC), it means they need income or benefit support and they need it now.

The actual concept of UC is quite sensible: combining a whole collection of different benefits into one and thus having only one to apply for and not several different applications at once. What is not sensible is that the claimant has a great gap between application and delivery, and also may not realise that they are now responsible for

paying their rent, when their housing benefit used to do that directly.

Take an example: a young single person with a job falls quite seriously ill. It is some weeks before they can even consider returning to work and it will be part time hours for a while as they rebuild stamina and concentration. Their outgoings are usually well managed, on a pretty tight budget, but do not diminish when they are unable to work. If anything, the outgoing will increase as they will need to put the heat on at home during the day.

They usually walk to their place of work so there is no reduction in travel costs. Statutory sick pay does not come close to meeting their outgoings, and there is the 5 Week Wait for UC. So just how are they supposed to bridge the gap? Family may or may not be able to help: they have outgoings of their own and a limited income.

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At least in this case there is a family and they have a good relationship. Friends are all on equally tight budgets and can only spare help in the form of the odd meal on a plate. The easiest temptation is to borrow, but the only option would be to turn to a loan shark or 'high level lender', as I think they are known in the jargon. No bank would say yes, as there is currently no income except for statutory sick pay. The loan shark could charge 50% or more in interest, so the original loan would very soon spiral out of control.

This particular case did work out safely, as there was a family member who could help out. But not all people in such circumstances have a family, or at least one with whom they have a good

relationship.

This is so often the situation that brings our Foodbank clients to our door. They are left in an impossible situation and the Foodbank is the one lifeline that can provide, if nothing more, a few days of food for them and for any dependents they may have.

Demand is not reducing either. By Christmas, we hope to have moved to a larger warehouse very close to the current one. Only 6 years ago, when we started out, everything was in one room at Cotteridge Church. The need has grown exponentially. We thank God and all of you that, so far, the giving has pretty much kept up with the demand.

Sylvia Fox

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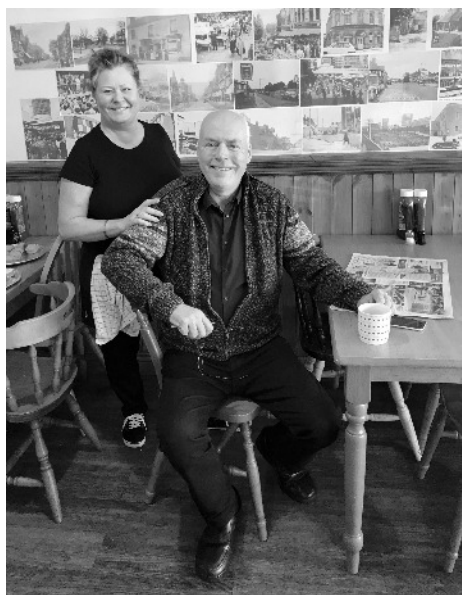
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This Month's Goings On At Kath's Café

Wednesday Prayer Gatherings

We continue to meet at 10.30 am every Wednesday at Kath's Cafe. Our lovely group of Druids Heath residents and New Beginnings Church representatives is often joined by visitors from the parish or from further afield. We share stories of what is happening in our lives and the lives of those we love,



we pray for each other and enjoy food and fellowship. It's a precious gathering where we feel safe to share the seriousness and silliness of life!

Drink Driving?

Kath was inspired to start the café when she was a driving instructor and realised that instructors have nowhere to relax and drink coffee whilst their pupils are being assessed at Maypole Test Centre. Just to prove that her vision lives on, we bumped into our very own **David Smith** (photo left), driving instructor and member of Hawkesley Church, having a well-earned cuppa.

Prayer on Wheels

Our monthly prayer expedition to Druids Heath was launched in September. Sylvia Fox provides the wheels in her red van,



Joyce Hancock and Pauline Wells, two members of our pioneer prayer team.

Making Music Together

During October, experienced musician and teacher, **Kieran Graham** (*photo below*) is our BCAT facilitator (Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies) enabling Druids Heath children to make music together at Kath's every Wednesday afternoon. With the aid of drums, guitar, keyboard and percussion instruments, Kieran is teaching us rhythm and how to write and play our own tunes. Maybe we'll create a Druids Heath anthem for our proposed community choir to sing one day!

transporting Kings Norton parish volunteers to pray for the estate in chosen locations, followed by a delicious lunch in Kath's Café. Six of us gathered for the inaugural journey, staying dry in the café whilst we prayed for residents, businesses, shops and community gathering spaces in Idmiston Croft and Maypole. Pictured above are

Rev'd Catherine Matlock



An Excellent Parish Pilgrimage To **Lincoln Cathedral**



*Pilgrim
People
Pilgrim
Church*

This was a day to record in superlatives! Excellent coach driver, excellent weather, excellent group of Kings Norton pilgrims, excellent tour of Lincoln Cathedral and excellent extra tour of the adjacent ancient church of St. Mary Magdalene, led by their church warden who came to meet us specially. Then followed an excellent stroll in lovely autumn sunshine

round upper and lower Lincoln on their annual heritage day and an excellent and very welcome afternoon tea at the nearby Lincoln Hotel. To change the superlative, the day closed with a magnificent and truly awe-inspiring Choral Evensong back at the cathedral where we were welcomed by name during the service.



'I was surprised to learn that the church is not rolling in money. It seems that it has about as much spare cash as there is fresh water in Antarctica. Most of it's frozen, locked up in assets. So it's up to us, I suppose.'

'Indeed. But 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.

The tour of cathedral included the cloisters and the chapter house. The cathedral is a magnificent medieval edifice, despite the current scaffolding, dedicated to the glory of God and the tallest building in the world until 1548. Walking through the slype, which is a covered corridor between the main body of the church and the chapter house and a new term to most of us, we loved its carved roof. Lincoln Cathedral slype is one of only a handful to be found in British cathedrals. Oh and yes, we found the Lincoln Imp! It was a long, glorious day, with friendships developed and new ones made, which reinforced an increased sense of being a part of the wider Anglican community.

We were not exactly a rowdy group. Pete, our coach driver, thought he was driving an empty coach on the way home as folk quietly chattered! The next day, everyone was in church: now **that's** a successful pilgrimage! One pilgrim wrote;



'It was a wonderful day. We really enjoyed ourselves and the fellowship between all our pilgrim friends was great. Barbara's guided tour of the cathedral and all the historical information she gave us was very interesting. How she remembers it all I'll never know! The afternoon tea went down a treat after all the walking we had done. The beautiful voices of the choir at Evensong ended a perfect day.

A more local pilgrimage in early Spring is in the planning stages. More news on that soon.

Thelma Mitchell

CHRISTMAS 2019

Ways To Get Involved

The Christmas Challenge

We will be collecting gifts to support our local children's homes, the Sweet Project and the Central Baby Bank. We accept donations of new or used items in excellent condition that are unwrapped. You can drop gifts into St Nicolas' Church or the Parish Office or bring them to the Toy Service at St Nicolas' Church on Sunday 8th December. An Amazon Wishlist will be available from early November. Please check the parish newsletter for details.

Advent

We will be collecting Advent calendars for the Sweet Project. Please place them in St Nicolas' Church or take them to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you may wish to complete a reverse Advent calendar by putting an item of food into a box every day during Advent to donate to the Foodbank.

The Posada

During Advent, our Posada figurines will be travelling from home to home. If you would like to host them, please look out for the rota in St Nicolas' Church or contact the Parish Office. This year, to highlight the plight of the homeless, we will be continuing the Posada after Christmas, echoing the story of the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt.

To Bethlehem 12-14 December

Come and see our new Christmas production. See our website for more details and for tickets.

Christmas Services

Sunday 8th December 10.30am

St Nicolas' Day Toy Service at St Nicolas' Church

Thursday 12th – Saturday 14th December

'To Bethlehem' at St Nicolas' Church & Druids Heath Library

Sunday 14th December 10.30am

Christingle Service at Hawkesley Church, Shannon Road

Sunday 15th December 4pm

Nine Lessons and Carols at St Nicolas' Church

Friday 20th December 3–5pm

Carols At Kath's at Kath's Cafe, Druids Heath

Friday 20th December 5pm

'Night of the Stars' at St Nicolas' Church

Saturday 21st December 2pm

Knock Knock Nativity at St Nicolas' Church

Sunday 22nd December 10.30am

Carol Service at Hawkesley Church, Shannon Rd

Sunday 22nd December 6pm

Carol Service at Immanuel Church, St Nicolas' Place

Christmas Eve 5pm

Crib Service at St Nicolas' Church

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

Midnight Communion at St Nicolas' Church & Hawkesley Church, Shannon Road

Christmas Day 9am

Christmas Morning Service at St Nicolas' Church

Christmas Day 10.30am

Christmas Morning Service at St Nicolas' Church & Immanuel Church, St Nicolas' Place



A new diocesan newspaper? Yes, it's happened! The Church of England, Birmingham, is about to send out the first edition of *The Paper*, sixteen pages of 'thought-provoking articles, engaging images and glimpses of good news' from around the diocese. The plan is to publish three issues a year.

The organisers have recently written, 'We know there are plenty of people in Birmingham who don't spend much time online, so we were prompted to create a resource for our diverse

church communities, with special consideration for those who appreciate the physicality of paper and those who struggle with screens.

'Each edition includes faith stories, punchy essays and practical ideas to equip communities and individuals for everyday life and ministry. We hope and expect to include more reader content submissions in upcoming issues.'

Copies will start appearing in churches very soon.

All I want for Christmas is...

If *'To Bethlehem'* (opposite page) is going to be the theatrical extravaganza that it deserves to be it is going to need a few props. This, then, is an appeal. We need two categories of thing: things we can return and things we can't. If you can supply any of these, please contact the Parish Office.

Things we can return: gazebos, cushions in browns and beiges, wooden bowls, baskets, wooden utensils, pots & pans, jugs, lanterns (think '1st Century Israel').

Things we can't return: old, plain sheets and duvet covers or curtains. Old keys.

To Bethlehem!

Join us this
Christmas to
experience the
Nativity on a
journey to
Bethlehem

All proceeds in aid of
the St Nicolas
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Thursday 12 December - Saturday 14 December

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Book now on our website: www.kingsnorton.org.uk



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That Thief, Dementia

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

This summer, I lost my brother Brian. He was much older than me and he had Alzheimer's Disease. The middle of my three brothers, he had a family, a career; he had lived in and travelled to many places. He loved making things, music, fishing and much more. But this is an illness that is no respecter of character, intelligence, or life style.

I had heard much about dementia over the years and had met many people with the condition. But I really had no idea, until I spent time with someone I loved, of the extent to which dementia robs you of a person. Many families have to live with and witness the decline of a loved one and feel the hopelessness and desolation of the impact of this illness. Many of the people in the home where Brian lived for the last few months of his life had few visitors.

'I really had no idea, until I spent time with someone I loved, of the extent to which dementia robs you of a person.'

But for me, being able to spend time with Brian at the end of his life was a huge privilege and a real insight into this cruel illness. There was confusion, lack of recognition and understanding, some violence and yet, amongst it all, there were moments of lucidity and love. Seeing my brothers tell each other publicly that they loved each other; trying to get Brian to say tongue twisters and being told that 'red lorry, yellow lorry' was too hard; trying to feed him with food that my dog wouldn't touch and dodging the flying chocolate that he couldn't swallow but spat out with great panache. Trying to understand what he was saying to me and dealing with the constant repetition of the word 'tassimo'. Praying the words of the 'Nunc Dimittis' over and over again as I



didn't know what else to do. Telling him it was OK if it was time for him to go.

On reflection, looking back at those last weeks and at his funeral, my overriding impression is not of the dementia but of love. Strangely, in spite of it all, it was love that shone through. The devotion of a husband and wife who had been married for over 64 years. The love of a family for this man who was at its centre, a family who weren't afraid to say it out loud when it mattered. The care of the staff at the home, for not just my brother but for all the other residents. The friendship of local

people in his home village. His faith and commitment to God. The poor vicar who was rather bemused by the family joining in the singing of 'Does your chewing gum lose its flavour on the bedpost overnight?' as the curtains closed around the coffin. The music and the laughter at the centre of it all.

Yes, dementia is a cruel disease. But it cannot beat love. At the funeral, I read the words of 1 Corinthians 13 : 'Love never fails [...] And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'

Pauline Weaver

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1st Sept

Lacie-Mai Ann Badham
Scarlett-Rose Irene Badham

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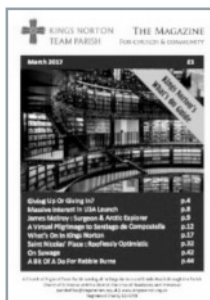
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A year's subscription comes to **£18** unless we send your magazine to you by post, in which case the annual cost is **£30**. **To renew an existing subscription, please do not use this form** but contact Alison Blumer either via the Parish Office or at subs@kingsnorton.org.uk.



THE PARISH MAGAZINE : NEW SUBSCRIBER

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Revenge at Sea

Come-uppance. What a great expression! Why isn't there more of it? If your reading of the news has left you feeling that justice is not served often enough in this mixed up old world, this tale will bring a smile to your face.



Shore leave was over once more. I'd spent a pleasant few weeks at home, but it was time to go back to work. 'Here we go again,' I said to myself, as I set off for Southampton docks to join one of the fleet's container ships. I caught my train at New Street Station at 9.30 am on a sunny morning. I had mixed feelings as I set off. I knew that, once I was on board ship, my days would be busy. There would be a crew change, a visit from port officials, and a set of ship's articles for me to complete, which had to be signed by

every member of the new crew. I settled into my seat. Trains in the 1980s were far more comfortable and roomy than the Cross Country carriages of today. The modern trains may be faster, but I find the seats uncomfortable and the leg room cramped in comparison. My journey on this occasion was a pleasant one and I enjoyed the country views en route. What I didn't realise at the time was that I was enjoying the calm before the storm.

I arrived on board at lunch time. I was due to relieve the Catering Officer, a Mr Barnes. You may remember that I mentioned this gentleman in a previous tale, where I described him as a 'Henry VIII lookalike'. He was also rather short-tempered at times.

True enough, as soon as I arrived on board, he met me, red faced and spitting expletives. The problem seemed to be that he was way behind with his handover to me and very angry about it. He told me that he had gone down to the Catering Office at 8.00 a.m. that morning as the ship was berthing. He had been unable to open the door and his keys did not work. Chaos had

ensued as HM Customs wanted the crew declaration form so that they could work out the duty and VAT owed to them. The ship's agent also wanted various bits of paperwork and there were other documents too. Mr Barnes was supposed to sign off the departing ship's company before the crew changeover but had been unable to do so. A panicked phone call was made to arrange for a Petty Officer engineer to break into the office. The Captain was furious at the delay on this busy day: everything and everyone was already on board awaiting departure. When the door was broken down later that morning it was discovered that the lock had been filled with superglue.

I found out why almost immediately. One of the lads told me that it was revenge for what had happened on the ship's homeward voyage. They had been close to Singapore and moving north. A small boat had been spotted and a rescue had ensued. Fifteen men, women and children were taken on board and just in time too, for their frail vessel sank soon after they left it. They were fleeing from Vietnam and, in those days, were known simply as 'Boat People'.

Space was found on board for the survivors, who had been robbed by pirates off Sumatra. The crew gave them clothing and so forth. They were given permission to use the ship's galley at night to cook the food which was supplied to them. However, the Catering Officer, Mr Barnes, had refused to supply these poor people with goods from the ship's canteen store. Simple things such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, razors and perhaps some chocolate for the children.

Of course, eventually, the Captain intervened (not politely) and signed for the cash involved, so Barnes had no choice but to comply. His action had made him most unpopular with everyone. And so it was that the door to his office had been sealed for arrival at Southampton in an act of revenge. As a result, I had a very busy day, much busier than normal, and all because of one very tactless man.

Eddie Matthews



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Hawkesley Church	Jim Clarke 0121 550 3455 or 07 939 838 086
Immanuel Church	Sue Hartley

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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*

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Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm

Scouts (10½-14): 8 pm

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Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00-7.30 pm

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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

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Vicky Sumner



Come and join The Big Quiz Night at St Nicolas' Place on **Saturday 16th November** and be part of a nationwide event, raising money for Tearfund, a Christian charity, providing support where the need is greatest in more than 50 of the poorest countries in the world.

Tearfund is one of the charities this parish supports. Its aim is to help communities overcome the worst effects of poverty and disasters, believing that the same people who face these issues also have the best understanding of how to overcome them. Working alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations it has, over the course of its 50-year history, enabled millions of lives to be restored and released from poverty. On this occasion, we are joining with many other churches across the country to raise money and awareness. It will be a fun quiz night, so find a team or gather one together (maximum of 6) and help us to make this a great fundraising event for some of the most deprived people in the world.

Venue: St Nicolas' Place. **Time:** 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. **Cost:** £3 per person . **Food & drink:** Tea and coffee provided, but feel free to bring your own supplements. We are hoping to have a raffle. Donations are welcome. Please bring them to the Parish Office.

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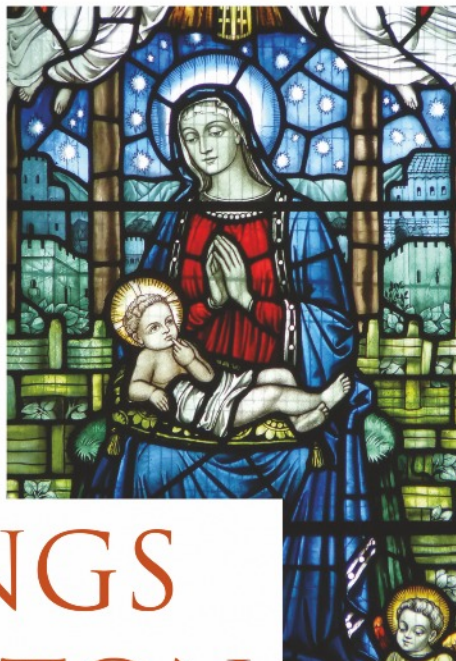
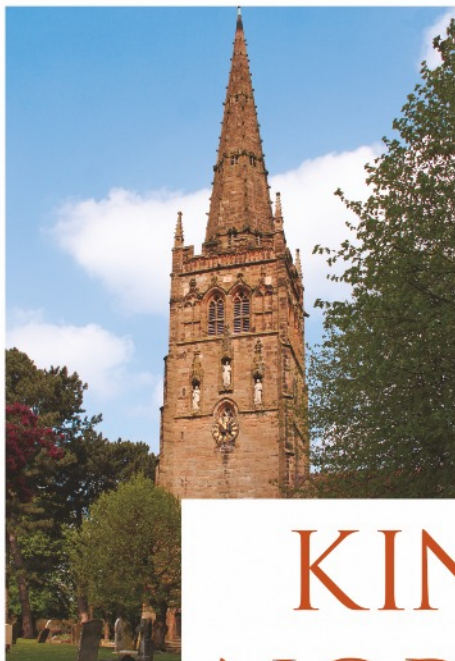
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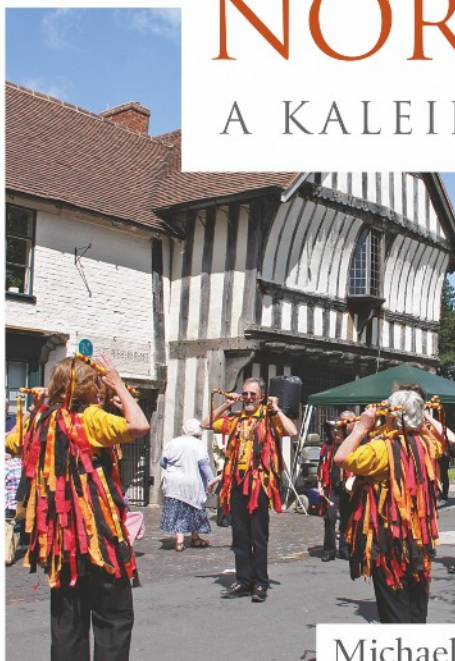
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