

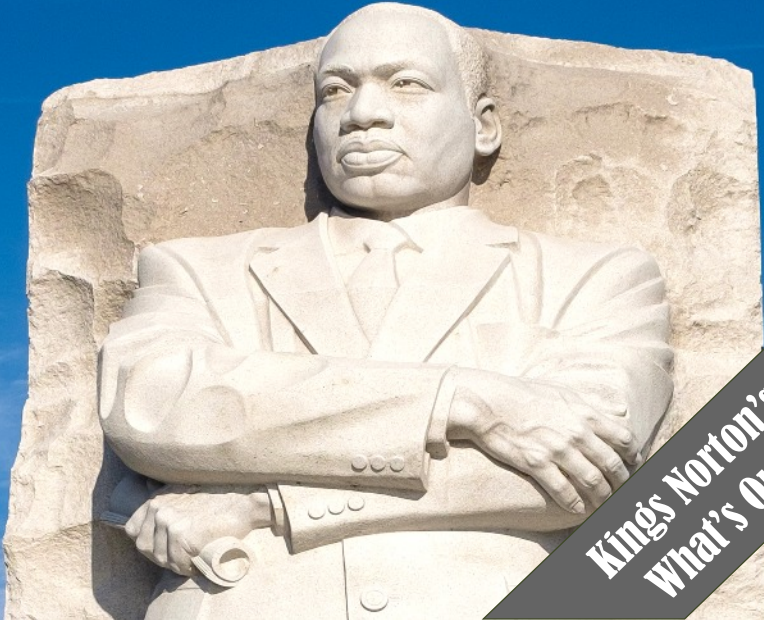


KINGS NORTON  
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE  
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

February 2019

£1



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

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MS Word. Printed material  
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the attention of The Editor.

## Submission Deadlines

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

Items for inclusion in the April  
2019 edition must reach the  
Editor by midnight on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup>  
March**.



Is there such a thing as an irreconcilable difference? To look at the current political stalemate your response might well be a despairing 'Yes'. But when the taking of sides (Leave, Remain) descends into finger jabbing accusation (Brexitar! Remoaner!) we are, as Larry Wright reminds us this month, perilously close to seeing those we disagree with as The Other, 'a target for our prejudice, suspicion and hostility' (p.6). At times like these, we need to be reminded of Christ's invitation to be peacemakers, bridge builders, those who live out the reconciliation we yearn for while defending those who find themselves the targets of irrational hatred (p.7).

Last October, I found myself standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. looking east towards Capitol Hill. Glancing downwards, I thought I could see letters carved into the marble beneath me. As I bent to look more closely, I froze as I realised where I was. Between my feet the words 'I have a dream' were carved into the stone on the very spot from which Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered a speech which has given hope to millions.

Dr King (photo, front cover) believed in the real possibility of reconciliation despite centuries of persecution and deeply ingrained racism. The power of faith ('soul force', he called it) to overcome the divisions which separate us will, no doubt, be one of the subjects for discussion during this year's Lent course which starts on 3rd March and to which you are warmly invited (p.17). Could any subject be more relevant or more urgent for the present time?

The Editor

# FROM THE RECTOR

## Christians in Crisis

In recent years we have witnessed a climate of increasing concern regarding the persecution of Christians in various parts of the world, Christians who are systematically targeted, violently ill-treated and driven from their historic lands.

The situation in parts of the Middle East is dire, with warnings that Christianity could be all but wiped out in the land where it originated, as it has been in parts of Africa and South Asia. The Indian sub-continent is not as safe as one might assume either. China has seen a startling growth in Christian conversions but, in an officially atheistic nation with no human rights protection, including freedom of religion, their existence is constantly under official scrutiny.

Prince Charles has spoken out publicly on this issue as have Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury and many other Western political and church leaders.

On Boxing Day, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced a global review of the persecution of Christians. At the launch of the initiative he stated, 'With Christianity on the verge of extinction in its



birthplace, it is time for concerted action that begins to turn the tide.' While laying claim to global leadership on religious freedom, he was not convinced that Britain's response to the threats facing Christians had 'always matched the scale of the problem, nor taken account of the hard evidence that Christians often endure a disproportionate burden of persecution. Perhaps this is born out of the very British sense of

awkwardness at "doing God". Perhaps it's an awareness of our colonial history or, because Britain is a traditionally Christian country, some are fearful of being seen to help Christians in desperate need. Whatever the cause, we must never allow a misguided political correctness to inhibit our response to the persecution of any religious community.'

Why are Christians being persecuted and what deeper lessons do we need to

learn about religious pluralism and tolerance in a globalised world? Firstly, we need to be reminded that persecution of Christians has a long history going back to the early martyrs of the church (those thrown to the lions) for refusing to worship human emperors as gods or to

renounce their religion and turn back to paganism. There is a clue here regarding where Christians see their primary allegiance that we will return to.

Christians are not alone in suffering for their faith. Jews (pogroms and the Holocaust), Muslims (mass expulsion from Spain in 16th century or forced conversion for those who stayed) and adherents of most other historic world religions have suffered for their beliefs. Earlier last year, the world was shocked

and appalled at the vicious persecution and expulsion of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar, formally the British colony of Burma.

Christianity is the only major world religion whose founder was deceitfully betrayed by one of his own friends (Judas), was arrested, tortured, tried at a sham tribunal and executed in agonising pain on a cross. Jesus' family and followers,

traumatised by these shocking events, were left bewildered, fearful and bereft of hope. While in this state of dread and loss they suddenly experienced sightings of Jesus alive but transformed. These sightings spurred them on to a renewal of hope and belief from which emerged the early

Church. However, the persecution of those early believers and converts was to continue sporadically across the Roman Empire for another 300 years until Emperor Constantine decreed that Christianity should be the official religion of the Roman Empire in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The first age of persecution was, at last, over.

There can be many reasons why religious groups suffer persecution. Common to all of them is a belief or suspicion on the part of those who

'Why are Christians being persecuted and what deeper lessons do we need to learn about religious pluralism and tolerance in a globalised world?'

persecute them that a group's religious or ethnic identity is somehow incompatible with their own beliefs and poses either a threat or an intolerable offense to that religious or ethnic identity. As mentioned above, the first age of Christian persecution embarked upon by the Romans happened because Christians would not give absolute allegiance to the Roman gods and emperors. Christians, following a direct injunction from Jesus, are required to love only God and their neighbour, whoever that neighbour may be. If, as a result of our faith, we see the powers and authorities of this world as having only secondary claims upon our lives then we will always be viewed with suspicion.

In a globalised world, religion and identity have become means of separating and dividing a complex world into simplified 'them and us' categories, what is sometimes referred to as 'othering.' Once we 'other' people they become separated from us in our feelings, a ready deposit

for our fears or disaffections and a target for our prejudice, suspicion and hostility. From this point onwards, the 'other' will be at risk of being victimised for being other, despite whatever individual merits or intrinsic human value they may have.

Persecution has its roots in our failure, as a human race, to live well with difference, to conduct our social, political and economic lives by valuing the commonality of our shared humanness even when our experiences of being human are mediated through differences in religion, culture and ethnicity. If we are serious about living well with difference and diversity in a globalised world, we must consider how we avoid 'othering' individuals, peoples or groups. We must also be willing to engage constructively with those whose lives are different from ours, while maintaining our own values and beliefs. Not an easy path to tread but, for those who do, rich rewards await.

*Revd Larry Wright*

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# Suffering for their Faith

*Open Doors is a Christian charity, founded in the late 1950s, which works in over 60 countries, supplying Bibles, training church leaders, providing practical support and emergency relief, and supporting Christians who suffer for their faith. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors works to raise awareness of global persecution, mobilising prayer, support and action among Christians. Each year, it publishes the World Watch List, a regularly-updated compilation of the latest research into the persecution of Christians worldwide. In her introduction to the 2018 List, Lisa Pearce, the CEO of Open Doors UK & Ireland wrote these words.*

The *Open Doors World Watch List* is the product of year-round field and desk research, providing insight into the trends, scale and stories of the persecution of Christians around the world. In identifying the 50 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian, the research paints a picture of what it is like for a Christian to call one of these countries their home.

Christians are experiencing devastating levels of violence. From widows in Nigeria whose husbands have been killed by Boko Haram fighters, to girls in Pakistan who have been raped, forcefully converted and married against their will, to those caught up in the multiple bomb blasts and shootings in Egypt, the suffering continues.

But the suffering goes much deeper. Of the over 200 million Christians living in countries ranked on the 2018 *World Watch List* as experiencing a 'high' level of persecution or worse,

the majority are falling victim to non-violent persecution. This is in some ways far more dangerous and debilitating than the violence, because it is insidious and pervades every aspect of life. From the



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surveillance of Christians in North Korea, to the demolition of churches in Sudan, its aim is to stamp out the Christian faith wherever it is found. What is more, if left unchallenged, the squeeze of non-violent persecution can quickly turn into the smash of violent persecution.

Last year's report put its finger on the rising threat of religious nationalism in Asia, where the practice of conflating national and religious identity was rapidly gaining momentum. One year later and the practice of defining ethnic and national identity, even citizenship, in terms of just one 'acceptable' religion has escalated further, leaving religious minorities across Asia marginalised and vulnerable. This upward trend is evident in India, where another year of Hindu nationalist rhetoric has embedded the culture of impunity for those who persecute Christians, leading to India's rise from number 15 to number 11 on the list. Nepal has also sprung onto the World Watch List for the first time since 2007, in at number 25.

But as always, where Christians are under pressure, those from other religious minorities, and of no faith, often are too. Open Doors' mandate is to work with Christian communities around the world which are suffering for their faith, but in doing so we campaign for the right to freedom of religion or belief for all, as enshrined

in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is a right which must be taken seriously. Speeches and conferences on Article 18 are important, but action is paramount.

And 2018 is a pivotal year. Of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 30 priority countries, listed in its latest Human Rights and Democracy Report, 24 are ranked on the 2018 World Watch List. Persecution in these countries simply will not end without decisive action. It is vital that the UK government uses all its influence, through its foreign policy, aid and trade agreements, and its broader influence within the international community, to ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is protected around the world.



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# The Courts of Pie Powder

*Keep your feet clean on The Green ... or else!*

One of the best things about Kings Norton is that it has real history. Unlike most of Birmingham's suburbs, it developed long before the Industrial Revolution. It was for centuries a rural village, part of Worcestershire for most of that time, only officially becoming part of Birmingham in 1911. It existed well before Birmingham itself began to develop as a city, so it has a culture and a tradition which in many ways are unique across the area.

St Nicolas' Church, the Old Grammar School and St Nicolas' Place (the former Saracen's Head) and The Green all witness to that uniqueness. And what all that history also means is that, if you look at the social history of England over the past 1,000 years and more, the way people lived and the culture that affected and influenced them, you can often find evidence of that history here in Kings Norton.

In the last issue of this magazine, with the significant help of the informal history of Kings Norton developed by the late Maurice Robinson, we

looked at the story of the Old Grammar School in the early to middle 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Maurice has also provided many other intriguing little stories, including a national phenomenon unforgettably called the Court of Pie Powders, and how it played a key role in one aspect of Kings Norton life for a hundred years and more.

The reason for their existence? Well it was another of our great traditions, the development of The Green as a location for markets and fairs, now still existing in the form of the Farmers' Market and the annual Mop.

For centuries, Kings Norton was actually owned by the King, hence its name. In 1603, shortly after his succession, its new owner, King James I, gave the manor to his Queen Consort, Anne of Denmark. By 1611 it had become a relatively wealthy village and a focus for the area's activities and James gave permission for a market to be held there. It was an important step in the history of Kings Norton as, at that time, only



places of importance were given such approval.

Permission to hold a Saturday market was granted to four local men of influence. At the same time permission was also given for two other fairs a year, one of which was to be a 'Mop Fair', where local people offered their skills as cleaners and labourers to better-off families and local employers.

All the markets were very popular and people came from miles around. Traders set up stalls offering local produce, clothing and other goods, pie sellers and pedlars walked around shouting their wares, men came to show their strength in wrestling

competitions, travelling musicians played and often a dancing bear would entertain. A whole pig or ox would be turned on a spit and there was plenty of ale.

Almost inevitably, fights broke out leading to many rowdy scenes. Traders and stallholders were often accused of cheating and there were invariably thieves who stole goods from the stalls and cut-purses who roamed the crowds picking pockets.

This happened at similar markets across the country and it was to deal with them that special courts were set up, devised to make on-the-spot decisions and to inflict immediate punishment. There was a need for

swift justice because many of the offenders were itinerant, not permanent residents of the places where the markets were held.

Officially, when they were first established in England in the Middle Ages, they were called the Courts of Pieds Poudrés, derived from the term used in France where similar courts had originated. It was Old French for 'dusty feet'. Unsurprisingly, most English people could not pronounce the name, so the courts came to be called the Courts of Pie Powders.

Why 'dusty feet'? There seem to be two theories. First, that the travelling merchants across France who attended fairs rarely had time to clean their boots. Second, and perhaps more likely, it referred to the dusty feet of the vagabonds who invariably turned up at fairs intent on



mischief. In fact, even in modern French, the phrase *pied-poudeux* is still occasionally used to describe travelling beggars; it occurs, for example, in the works of Victor Hugo, author of *Les Misérables*

These courts had unlimited jurisdiction over personal actions for events taking place in the market, including disputes between merchants, theft, and acts of violence. The number of officials



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varied but was usually limited to three or four men. Trials were always short and informal: punishments typically included fines and the possibility of being put in the stocks or the pillory or being paraded around in a cart.

The Pie Powder Courts stayed in use for a surprisingly long time. The last one in England took place in 1898, in Hertfordshire. The last "active" Court of Piepowders, at the *Stag and Hounds* public house in Bristol, last sat in 1870 but wasn't officially abolished until 1971 (though a

## *Les Pieds Poudreux*

There is no higher authority in matters linguistic in France than the 'Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française'. The first edition, dated 1694, contains this rather derogatory reference:

*'Avoir les pieds poudreux, pour marquer qu'un homme est un paysan, un gueux'.*

(*'To have dusty feet, indicates that a man is a peasant / a bumpkin, a pauper / social outcast / down-and-out'*).

Historically, a 'pied poudreux' could also refer to a serial deserter, a French soldier who deserted every regiment he joined, or even a monk who never settled in one monastery for very long! By extension, it came to mean 'un vagabond, un homme sans considération' ('a vagrant, a man beneath contempt').

Unsurprisingly, the term is much older than the Dictionnaire and can be

traced back into the Middle Ages, when it was used to refer to a 'colporteur' (door-to-door salesman, peddler, hawker) as well as a travelling craftsman or merchant whose skills, perhaps in masonry or carpentry, required him to travel. One source tells us:

*'Colporteur, pieds poudreux, le marchand du Moyen Âge se déplace, parfois loin, pour acheter et vendre ses produits.'*

(*'Peddler, 'dusty feet', the medieval merchant travelled sometimes long distances to buy and sell his wares.'*)

Today, there are several historical reenactment groups in France who have taken the title 'Pieds Poudreux'. They can be seen performing in châteaux or at medieval fairs across Europe.

*David Ash*

# A Druid's Heath Christmas

*'Come and get your hot turkey baps, mince pies, creamy hot chocolate!' That was the beckoning call outside Kath's Café, Idmiston Croft, Druid's Heath on a dry, chilly evening before Christmas. 'And whilst you're here, join us for carols and write a prayer to hang on our Christmas tree'. And local residents happily did so. Children, mums, dads, older people, police officers and community workers joined each other to bring joyful, festive spirit to the estate.*



Even if everyone didn't join in the singing, we spotted some silhouettes in the block of flats opposite, listening and watching, maybe letting the familiar carols bring hope to an uncertain and challenging festive season. Prayers, mostly written by

children, ranged from the most universal 'Please God help everyone who doesn't have a home' to the most personal 'Nanny, I miss you and wish you were with us at Christmas'.

This tower block is one of eleven to be demolished during coming years as

part of Birmingham City Council's Regeneration Project for Druid's Heath. Whilst some residents, tired of continued vandalism and property abuse, are keen to move, for others these flats are home. As well as the significant challenges of poverty on the estate, there's the prospect of much change and loss to come. And with a lack of gathering spaces, Kath's Café is a wonderful place of welcome and acceptance for the rich and diverse community that gathers there.

Not only does the owner, Kath Coogan, provide a very naughty but extremely nice cooked breakfast, but she offers conversation, encouragement and connection to all who visit, a deep and genuine hospitality where the most resilient and the most vulnerable can share time and space.

This Druid's Heath Café can be identified as a 'third place,' a term used by Ray Oldenbury in his book, *The*

*Great Good Place*. In the article referred to below, Chris Peterson explains that, 'third places contribute to the life worth living. They root us; they give us an identity; they restore us; they support us. Bottom line: They allow us to be us. And everyone knows our name.' To me, this sounds a lot like church. I have no doubt that Christ's light shines within Kath's Café.

We intend to connect much more with Kath's Café during 2019 and are looking forward to how the Holy Spirit will draw us more deeply and more widely into the Druid's Heath community. We welcome your prayers for Druid's Heath and for our growing parish presence there and, if you want to get involved in this pioneer ministry, or simply fancy a wonderful, home cooked breakfast, then Kath's Café is the place to be.

*The Revd Catherine Matlock*

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# The Druid's Heath Regeneration Plan

Druid's Heath is the only large council estate in Birmingham that has not yet been subject to major regeneration. It is situated at the eastern end of the Parish of Kings Norton, whose eastern boundary runs along the A435.

The Cabinet of Birmingham City Council

met on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to discuss the regeneration of the estate and issued a Public Report after the meeting. The report is available on BCC's website and its stated purpose is 'to inform Cabinet of an opportunity to lead a regeneration programme for the redevelopment of areas within Druid's Heath. This will

provide mixed tenure housing, improvements to infrastructure, improvements to public open space and new opportunities for employment.’

Under the heading ‘Decision(s) recommended’, the Cabinet states that it ‘approves the Full Business Case for a redevelopment scheme at Druid’s Heath as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.’

Appendix 1 contains the following information:

‘This scheme would include [...] rehousing from and demolition of 5 High Rise Blocks which are: Hillcroft House, Kingswood House, Barratts House, Saxelby House and Brookpiece House. [Meanwhile,] Parker House, Middlefield House [and] Harrison House will be refurbished. [...] The first phase is anticipated to take 7 years to complete. [...] First phase planning to be obtained in 2020 [...] First build to start in year 2021 [...] Indicative completion of scheme 2022.’

The Appendix further lists these expected outcomes: 150 new affordable homes; 100 new homes for sale; rehousing of 250 council tenants; 2 improved public open spaces; 49 new apprenticeships.

Before far-reaching decisions such as these can be taken, the City Council is obliged to conduct and to report on a consultation with the local community. The report contains this summary of that consultation:

‘In January/February 2017, a public consultation survey was sent out to all residents/businesses in the Druid’s Heath regeneration area. This sought views on what people thought of the area [and it] identified a real mix of both positive and negative impressions. [...] Further consultation with the local community started in November 2017 [and] covered approximately 1,800 households. [...] The overall response rate to the consultation was 28%. Option A, which has the least level of rehousing and demolition and focuses on the rehousing of the High Rise Tower Blocks and possible development land, building houses on the previous Baverstock School site, was the most popular redevelopment option with support from 45% of respondents.’

The total estimated cost of ‘site assembly’ is £6.5 million. The estimated total cost of the entire development is £43.3 million.

David Ash

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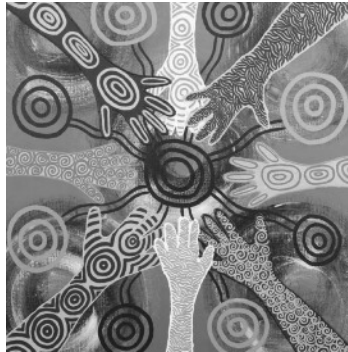
#### References for Catherine Matlock’s article:

1. Oldenburg, R. (1999). *The great good place: Cafés, coffee shops, bookstores, bars, hair salons and other hangouts at the heart of a community*. New York: Marlowe.
2. Christopher Peterson. *Happy Places : Third Places*. In *Psychology Today*, [bit.ly/2RKRwzz](http://bit.ly/2RKRwzz)



# **A Lent Course for Kings Norton Team Parish**

How can Christians be reconcilers and peacemakers in their everyday lives?



Fracture, division and conflict affect us all. Maybe we hope for better relationships in our families, in our communities, in our country's polarised politics and systems, but it's often difficult to know where to begin. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we see God at work in reconciling humanity. God invites Christians to offer reconciliation and peace within a broken, hurting world.

**6 weekly sessions from week of 3 March 2019 to week of 7 April  
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office.**

# Flowers in St Nicolas' Church

The team of flower arrangers would love more people to join them. Can you arrange flowers or would you like to learn? We usually do the flowers fortnightly on a Friday morning, but if this is not convenient, we could make alternative arrangements to accommodate you. For more information please contact **Alison Blumer** on **0121 486 2837**.



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

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

...pass it on!

# WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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

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

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

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

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## Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

### LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

**Kings Norton History Society** [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk), [clivehartwell48@sky.com](mailto:clivehartwell48@sky.com)

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

**Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve** [www.fknnr.org.uk](http://www.fknnr.org.uk), Amanda Cadman on 0121 624 3865 or 07 887 512 382

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

**Friends of Historic Kings Norton** [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk), [fhkn@btinternet.com](mailto:fhkn@btinternet.com), St Nicolas' Place 0121 458 1223

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

**Friends of Kings Norton Park** [friendsofkingsnortonpark.blogspot.com](http://friendsofkingsnortonpark.blogspot.com), [info.foknp@gmail.com](mailto:info.foknp@gmail.com)

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

**The Fields Millennium Green Trust** [www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk](http://www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk), Maggie Sweet 0121 628 1247, [sweetc5@sky.com](mailto:sweetc5@sky.com)

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

## **SOCIAL CLUBS & SOCIETIES**

**Kings Norton Society** John Bowen (Chairman) 0121 458 3747

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

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

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

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

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

**Kings Norton Women's Institute**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

**Kings Norton Photography Society** *www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com*

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

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

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

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

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

**Greenlands Chess Club** [www.chess.com/club/greenlands](http://www.chess.com/club/greenlands), Richard Collett 0121 458 7617 or 07874 216935

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

**Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice** [www.birminghamhospice.org.uk](http://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk)  
[suebarkerdavies@gmail.com](mailto:suebarkerdavies@gmail.com), Sue Davies 0121 608 0646

We are a local group of volunteers who raise money to care for people living with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers in Birmingham and Sandwell. We organize fundraising activities such as regular charity quizzes and stalls at local festivals. We also aim to raise awareness of the wide range of services offered by the hospice. We meet locally at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month so, if you might like to join us or can spare a couple of hours occasionally to help, please contact Sue (as above).

## **SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS**

**Health Exchange** [www.healthexchange.org.uk](http://www.healthexchange.org.uk), 0800 1583535

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

**South Birmingham Ramblers** [www.sbramblers.co.uk](http://www.sbramblers.co.uk)

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

**Active Parks**, [www.beactivebirmingham.co.uk](http://www.beactivebirmingham.co.uk), 0121 464 2012

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

**Kings Norton Tennis Club**, *Grange Hill Road B38 8RE* [www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk](http://www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk), 0121 458 2351

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

**Kings Norton Motorcycle Club** [www.evoice.org.uk/knmcc](http://www.evoice.org.uk/knmcc), *Gordon Green* 07504 676766

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

**Kings Norton Golf Club** *Brockhill Lane B48 7ED*, [www.kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk](http://www.kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk), 01564 826789

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

**Push Bikes** [www.pushbikes.org.uk/event/bournville-gentle-cycling](http://www.pushbikes.org.uk/event/bournville-gentle-cycling), *John & Hilary Porter* 0121 477 2156

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

**Black Adder Clog Morris**, [blackaddersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:blackaddersecretary@gmail.com) or *find us on Facebook*

Morris Dancing is an ideal way of having fun and keeping fit. Dancers and musicians, beginners or advanced, men and women are welcomed by Black Adder. We meet most Thursdays (except August) from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. in Selly Oak Friends' Meeting House at 930 Bristol Rd South, Birmingham B29 6NB. If you want to come along, please email us to check we're meeting that week.



## COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

**Saint Nicolas' Place**, 81 The Green B38 8RU, [www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk](http://www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk), [info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk](mailto:info@saintnicolasplace.co.uk), 0121 458 1223.

**Kings Norton Library**, Pershore Road South, Birmingham. B30 3EU  
[kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:kings.norton.library@birmingham.gov.uk), 0121 464 1532

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

**Bells Farm Community Centre**, Bells Farm Close B14 5QP, [www.bellsfarm.org.uk](http://www.bellsfarm.org.uk), 0121 433 3532

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

**Hawkesley Community Centre**, 51 Edgwood Road B38 9RN,  
[www.facebook.com/HawkesleyCommunityCentre](http://www.facebook.com/HawkesleyCommunityCentre), 0121 399 0122

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

**Manningford Hall**, Bells Lane B14 5RY, [www.manningfordhall.com](http://www.manningfordhall.com), 0121 430 6005.

## MUSIC VENUES

**Tower of Song**, 107 Pershore Road South, B30 3JC, [www.towerofsong.co.uk](http://www.towerofsong.co.uk), 0121 486 1300

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

# The Church in the Parish

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

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

## St Nicolas' Parish Church

*on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU*

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

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

<b>Mon &amp; Weds</b>	<b>9 am</b>	Morning Prayer
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## Hawkesley Church (Anglican & Methodist)

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

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

## Immanuel Church

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

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

## During the Week

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

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

## Children's Activities

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

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

## Growing in Faith

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

## Help us to keep our Parish Church open

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

## Christening (Baptism) and Weddings

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

**More details at [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)**

# Events Diary February 2019

## Friday 1 February

- 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
- Kings Norton Tennis Club Grange Hill Road: Musical Evening 7.00 for 7.30 pm including supper. Tickets (£10 for members or £12 for non-members) from Lorraine on 0121 459 0944.

## Saturday 2 February

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am
- Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 - 11.30 am
- Classical Music concert by new Chamber Orchestra, St Nicolas' Church, 7 pm

## Tuesday 5 February

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge 2.00pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.30 pm:

## Wednesday 6 February

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

### **Thursday 7 February**

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

### **Friday 8 February**

- 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 February**

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

### **Monday 11 February**

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

### **Tuesday 12 February**

- South Birmingham ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 13 February**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Meeting with Fairway School
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm
- Kings Norton 41 Club Members' Dinner & Quiz, Hillscourt, 7 pm for 7.30 pm

### **Thursday 14 February**

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

### **Friday 15 February**

- 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 16 February**

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

### **Monday 18 February**

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: Talk on 'Buying and Selling Antiques'

### **Tuesday 19 February**

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge group), 2.00-4.00 pm: Iris Montgomery, Chairman of West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 20 February**

- 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
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00 - 10.00 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 21 February**

- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm

- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 22 February**

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

### **Saturday 23 February**

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

### **Monday 25 February**

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7.00 pm: Max Hunt 'Herbert Austin, his life and career'

### **Tuesday 26 February**

- South Birmingham ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 27 February**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club: Outing to World of Wedgwood
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, The Bull's Head, The Green: performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00 pm-10.00 pm: Club Open Competition
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 28 February**

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

# Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

## Monday

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

## Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

Shapes & Adders Toddler Maths 9.45 - 10.45 am

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

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

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm

(enquiries@beeches-martialarts.co.uk)

Pilates 7.15 - 8.15 pm

## Thursday

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

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

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

Yoga Really Works Pregnancy Class 6.30 - 7.30 pm

## Friday

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

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

## Saturday

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

## Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham B38

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Each Month

Get  
FRESH

Next market  
Sat 9<sup>th</sup> February  
2019  
9.00 - 2.00

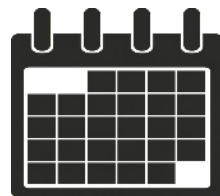


Founded 1616, re-established  
2005. The first Community  
Interest Farmers' Market  
in Britain





# Save The Date!



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

**The University of the Third Age (U3A)** Kings Norton has arranged a briefing event for members, which is free of charge. On **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February** there is a workshop on 'Poverty and Homelessness, causes and possible solutions', led by Councillor Sharon Thompson. It starts at **10 a.m.** at St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, B30 1JG.

The **Kings Norton Tennis Club** will be launching its 2019 programme of social events with a Musical Evening on **Friday 1 February at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm**. It includes a supper which is included in the ticket price of £10 for members or £12 for non-members. Places can be booked by calling Lorraine on 0121 459 0944.

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DECEMBER 2018

## MARRIAGES & THANKSGIVINGS

8th December      Luke Charles Baldock & Samantha Joanne Doupe  
29th December    Graham Frederick & Lynne Kathleen Chalk (married 57 years)

J & D Mason  
**Opticians**

Providing quality eye care  
for 40 years

WIDE  
RANGE  
OF FRAMES  
INCLUDING  
DESIGNER

2 The Green  
Kings Norton  
B38 8SD  
0121 451 3485

Friendly, professional service, Diabetic eye screening  
Free NHS sight tests when applicable

# Skills for Life

## *The Thoughts of a Lay Minister*



What is your first memory of baking? My daughter remembers standing on a chair making something chocolaty wearing a Spot (the Dog) apron. Mine is probably, like a lot of people I'm guessing, licking the cake bowl while sitting at our kitchen table.

One of my other early cooking memories is of going to someone's house (Mrs Hitchcock, Julie's mum, I think) to bake fairy cakes for my Brownie Cook badge. In fact, looking back in my *Brownie Guide Handbook* circa 1970 I can see that to be awarded our Cook's badge we had to be able to fry a piece of bread and one of the following: egg, bacon, sausage or something similar; prepare and boil potatoes and one other vegetable; stew fruit and make scones or small cakes. I can safely say I don't think that I have ever stewed fruit since!

I do, however, still remember the rhymes that we used to say with the stones from the fruit: 'When will I marry? This year, next year, sometime, never. And what will I

wear? Silk, satin, cotton, rags. And how will I get to the wedding?

Coach, carriage, wheel-barrow, dustcart'... and so on. But I digress!

Cooking is something that many of us did at home with parents or grandparents and the same is probably true of other things: knitting and sewing, gardening and woodwork, fixing things or servicing the car. What we remember is not just the task but the time shared with someone important in our lives. What we learn is not just a skill for life but very often a passion for something that stays with us.

Experiences are still something we can share with children that can survive all the other multitudes of entertainment options because it is something we do together. Spending time together, making memories and sharing skills is important to all of us

*'What we remember is not just the task but the time shared with someone important in our lives.'*

and doesn't have to cost a fortune. In fact, it can even save money.

In times of austerity and poverty all those skills become essential: how to cook and not rely on ready meals and takeaways, how to make and mend clothes, how to grow and harvest vegetables and then know what to do with them, how to fix things rather than having to replace them. And it has the added bonus of taking us away from our screens, our phones, computers, television or games, although a screen can come in very handy if you need to find a recipe online or watch a 'how to' video on *YouTube* (not that they always work). Personally, though, I still prefer a good recipe book!

I wonder what skills you have that you could pass on to future generations? Perhaps there are adults who would like to learn some of these things as well, not just children and perhaps that is where community comes in.

To help each other to develop these talents and to provide company and friendship as well. Our *Knit & Natter* group does this each week, getting together to share skills, work on projects and spend time together. Perhaps it is time for more groups with different skills. Who is up for the challenge?

*Pauline Weaver*

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# Dexter & The Cream Tea

Dexter here!

I've been very excited to meet up with my friend Meemie! It's great to have friends to chat to and laugh with. There are so many exciting things to do in Kings Norton and I can't wait to show her around. I hope you have lots of friends too who you can go out and have fun with.

This month's craft is a friendship bracelet, Giraffe-themed of course! But you can make yours any design you like and use stick-on gems and sequins to make it sparkle or cut out shapes to make it bright and colourful. This one is made using a cardboard tube and they are super easy. Just cut to the width you want. Don't forget to get a grown-up to help you with the scissors if you need to. Then cut a slit down the tube so that it fits on your arm. Finally, decorate it. Perhaps you could make two and give one of them to a friend.

Dexter G

---

Dexter normally liked to wander, but today was a Very Special Day and he had no time for a Wander! He was meeting his most favourite cousin, Meemie. She had recently moved to Kings Norton where Dexter lived. Today they were meeting for a "So happy to see you again!" Celebration.

Dexter's friend Jayne had suggested having a Cream Tea at the café near St Nicolas' Church. It was called St Nicolas' Place and it was a BIG black and white building with lots of



rooms. Jayne had described what a Cream Tea was to Dexter and he thought it sounded like just the right thing. So off he went to St Nicolas' Place.

Dexter got to the Tea Room at St Nicolas' Place. He was not sure where to

go and felt a little lost. A smiling man was sitting at a desk as he walked in and said 'Hello!' He said his name was Clive and he showed Dexter where the café was.

Dexter went in and looked around. He didn't see Meemie anywhere but he was a little early. He wondered if it was OK to sit down first.

A lady behind the tea counter saw him standing there and called out, 'Can I help you?' Dexter thought she looked nice so he said, 'I am meeting someone here for a Cream Tea, but she is not here yet. Can I sit down and wait?'

The lady smiled and said, 'Of course! Let me know when your friend is here and I will bring it right over to you. My



'I offered to set up a soup kitchen in the event of a No-Deal Brexit but they accused me of being over-dramatic. Surely there must be some way I can help my local church?'

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

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



name is Michaela.' Dexter thanked her politely and went to sit down.

But just as he had taken his seat, in walked Meemie. Meemie was small and very bouncy! They had been good friends when they were little and were so happy to see each other again.

After they had laughed and hugged and smiled and laughed some more at each other they sat down at the little café table. Michaela came over and said 'Hello' to Meemie. She said that she would bring their celebration meal over straight away. Soon, a tray with cakes and cream and tea and little tiny sandwiches arrived. Everything looked so delicious! Dexter and Meemie ate it all.

Michaela came back and asked how it was. "Sooooo good!" said Meemie bouncing just a little in her chair. She was too full to bounce as much as usual!

Dexter and Meemie decided that, since they lived so close to each other, they could now do things together once in a while. They could call each other on the phone and make plans.

Dexter told Meemie about some of his Wanders and she thought they sounded amazing. She wanted to know how he decided where to go and wondered where he was going to wander next. Dexter thought about it and wondered too.



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Word List

FRIENDS LAUGH CHAIR CAKE TEA  
 BOUNCE CREAM TABLE TRAY HUG  
 FAMILY SMILE TALK CAFE MUG

# The World Day of Prayer

The annual service for this global, women-led, ecumenical organisation is on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** this year and takes place at St Nicolas' Church at 1.30 pm and 8.00 pm. The service is created by the Christian women of Slovenia and explores the Bible story about the invitations to the Great Feast in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 14.



There will also be a shorter and much more informal time at 10.30 am, where we will look at the Bible passage and the lives and prayers of the women of Slovenia. All three services welcome people of all ages, but the morning one is specifically aimed at those with young children.

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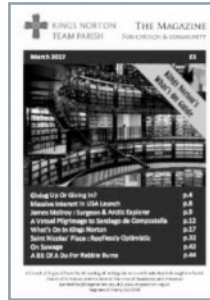
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A year's subscription comes to just **£12** unless we send your magazine to you by post, in which case the annual cost is **£20**. **To renew an existing subscription, please do not use this form** but contact Alison Blumer either via the Parish Office or at [subs@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:subs@kingsnorton.org.uk).



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# Thank You, Pam!

After 50 years of cleaning the brass work at St Nicolas' Church, Pam Manson has said goodbye to the *Brasso* and will now be enjoying a rest. On behalf of everyone at St Nicolas', I would like to say a big thank you to Pam for her hard work over the years and for organising the rota for the team of brass cleaners.

We are so grateful for the valuable support of all of our volunteers, all of whom are important in supporting the mission and worship of our Church. If anyone would like to volunteer to join the team or would like to find out more about what is involved, please contact Peter Hay or me.

*Julie Hill (Churchwarden)*



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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.

Nothing in Foodbank ever seems to happen in small increments. It is either boom or bust in almost every aspect, even when it is about carrier bags.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in St Nicolas' Church between 10.00 am and 12 noon we will be having a 'bag sort'. This is to separate out the useful bags for life' and other stronger bags from

the very flimsy variety. These latter will then be recycled.

Please do come and join us: many hands make light work. And Foodbank team members will be there to answer any questions you've always wanted to ask too.

*Sylvia Fox*



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## DECEMBER 2018 BAPTISMS

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# An Unusual Day

*In which Eddie's First Class services are requested by a Very Important Person.*



Whilst serving on the *S.S. Canberra* I became a Cabin Steward in First Class. It was during a return voyage from Australia that my unusual day occurred.

The Suez Canal was still closed after the Suez Crisis, a conflict between Egypt, Israel, Britain and France in the mid-1950s; so we were obliged to travel via Cape Town. One morning, my call light came on and I answered the telephone in the service pantry. The Chief Steward told me that the Purser wanted me in his office immediately. So, after putting

on a white jacket, I made my way to the ship's Bureau. I was mystified and, I must admit, rather worried.

'Come in, Matthews,' said the Purser, who was looking at me from behind his desk. 'You may sit down.' 'I have received a radio message from Cape Town,' he continued. 'A passenger whom you looked after two months ago has booked from South Africa to Southampton. Do you recall a Miss Meek?' 'I certainly do, Sir,' I replied. 'Well,' the Purser went on, 'Miss Meek insists on being berthed in one of the cabins on your section. As the woman has V.I.P. status and is a regular traveller, this will be done.' And it was!

Well, she may have been Meek by name, but she was certainly not meek by nature! A lady of some years, if I can put it that way, she was quite formidable and outspoken. Personally, I got on well with the 'Old Bat', as I referred to her. I found that, beneath that fierce façade, she was quite human and kind.

During her earlier voyage, she had been unwell for a few days and so we had served her meals in her cabin. She would sometimes rant about this and that aboard the ship. In return, I would give her snippets of harmless ship's gossip, which she relished.

One day, when I was giving her her breakfast tray and she was venting, I had felt obliged to say, 'Madam, it's a waste of time ranting to me. You will only get blood pressure problems if you carry on.' She had glared at me, but had then suddenly burst out laughing.

And so she embarked at Cape Town and travelled back with us to the UK. She still terrorised the senior officers when

invited to the small cabin parties for the V.I.P.s. When she was invited to sit at the Captain's table in the restaurant, she replied, 'Certainly not! I don't particularly like the man.' Of course, I had to keep a straight face.

I was later thanked by the Powers That Be for keeping her happy while she was on board. She gave me a most generous tip and got a bit emotional when saying goodbye at Southampton. She said she hoped to sail with me again. 'My pleasure, Miss Meek,' I replied as I folded the envelope containing her large gratuity, 'Enjoy your stay in the UK.'

*Eddie Matthews*

+*Harry L Marks*+

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Assistant Rector	The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu
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Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Jayne Crooks
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Music Ministry	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Chris Gadd

## THE CHURCH WARDENS

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

## OTHER CONTACTS

Parish Administrator & P.C.C. Secretary	Judy Ash
Finance Officer	Catherine Dehghani
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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,  
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Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm  
Scouts (10½-14): 8 pm

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

### Guides and Brownies

*at Hawkesley Church Centre*

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Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm  
Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

## Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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# A New Electoral Roll

Every six years, a completely new electoral roll must be prepared in each parish. This is a more extensive exercise than the annual revision of the existing roll. In February 2019, new forms will be made available. Everyone who attends one of our churches and who wishes to be eligible to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see below) must fill out a form even if their name has appeared on previous electoral rolls. There will be a box in Saint Nicolas' Church for completed forms or they can be returned directly to the Parish Office. Hawkesley and Immanuel Churches will also be distributing forms to their congregations.

**This year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

## DECEMBER 2018 FUNERALS

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

7th December	Sheila Ann Henn	80	SN.Bu.CY
12th December	Anthony Lavasier Halsall	62	SN.Bu.CY
14th December	Roy Freeman Newport	79	In.CY
20th December	Minnie Lavinia Jones	99	In.CY

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

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