



KINGS NORTON  
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE  
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

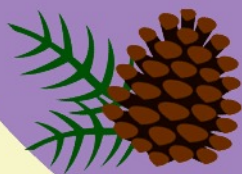
May 2018

£1



Education for Life	p.4
Farewell to The Navigation	p.8
RAF : 100 Years	p.14
U3A Celebrates Its First Year	p.16
The Fellowship of Like Minds	p.36
Lady Bird : Film Review	p.40
The Women's Fellowship : 65 This Year	p.44
Leaning Dangerously in Pisa	p.52

A Church of England Team Parish serving all in Kings Norton and Druids Heath through the Parish Church of St Nicolas and the District Churches of Hawkesley and Immanuel  
[parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk) | [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)  
Registered Charity 1134799



# WESTHILL HOUSE DAY NURSERY

2014|2015

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Early years provider

Open 07.30 – 18.00  
Monday – Friday



All year round spaces available from birth to 5 years



Free funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds



Before and after school club



Holiday club for over 5s during school holidays



Fresh and healthy food cooked on site



Qualified, dedicated and experienced staff



Large garden and playground



0121 458 2308



info@westhillhousedaynursery.co.uk



Westhillhousedaynursery.co.uk



36 Rednal Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8DR



## Editor & Advertising Manager

David Ash  
editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

## Subscriptions

Alison Blumer  
subs@kingsnorton.org.uk

Kings Norton Parish Office  
Saint Nicolas Place  
81 The Green, Kings Norton  
Birmingham B38 8RU  
0121 458 3289

## Copy for Publication

Please email items for  
publication to:

**copy@kingsnorton.org.uk**

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

## Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the June  
2018 edition must reach the  
Editor by midnight on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**May.**

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



We seem to have a lot of anniversaries this month, starting with the one on our front cover. The Royal Air Force celebrated its centenary in April. In their honour, we have a red, white and airforce blue cover and Pauline Weaver tells us more about her personal connection with the RAF on page 14. If you're in central London on July 10, don't miss the fly-past by 100 aircraft, including the Red Arrows. The RAF are also bringing a historic collection of planes to Birmingham on 25-27 August.

Other significant milestones this month include the first anniversary of our local University of the Third Age (p.16) and the twenty-fifth of the South Birmingham Ramblers, who are offering a Springful of healthy hiking in celebration (p.18). More venerable even than the Ramblers, Kings Norton's Women's Fellowship looks back on 65 years of friendship and shared experience (p.44), reinforcing our Assistant Rector's message (p.36) that life is richer when it includes opportunities for the gathering of like minds, with or without alcohol.

There is no excuse for loneliness in our corner of Birmingham. Our community and these pages are brimming with invitations to break the habits of individualism and isolation, to build bridges of friendship with others. Why not step out of your comfort zone this month and try something new?

The Editor

# FROM THE RECTOR

## Education for Life

Though I am not a trained teacher, being a school governor for many years has provided me with a privileged access to schools which has allowed insights into the achievements and challenges of our current educational system. If asked to sum up my experience, I would comment that learning comes naturally, teaching well is an advanced skill and providing the best environment for teaching and learning is vital to the whole enterprise.

What happens in our schools, colleges and universities is, and should be, a measure of our health and well-being as a nation. Education is about passing on values as well as imparting facts, figures and reasoning. Values, character and morality are spoken of in most schools and, in recent years, an explicit emphasis on teaching British values has been prevalent.

These British values are summarised as being the attributes and attitudes expected of all citizens who live in these islands: Democracy, Equality, Respect and Tolerance being uppermost. Of course, these values are not neutral and therefore have to be taught in context as a means of helping young people feel part of a society over which they have only a limited influence. They cannot



vote until they reach 18 and many other civic roles are denied to them until the age of majority. Therefore, the values element of education is preparation for a life to be lived in modern liberal, democratic, diverse, British society.

A poor or disrupted educational experience can impair a young person's ability to cope with the complexities of modern life and relate well to those around them. Leaving school with low literacy or numeracy

skills affects confidence and self-worth. Leaving school without a grasp on how to make good life choices or how to live alongside those different from ourselves is also a deficiency.

Do we expect too much from our schools and colleges? This is a question frequently asked by social commentators and educationalists. At the heart of it is a concern that education is expected to make up for all the deficiencies of home and family life as well as those of society generally. The well-known African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" is a reminder of the corporate responsibility we share for the care and progress of our children and young people.

However, the majority of us no longer live in villages where neighbours know each other and the community is static. We live in complex, diverse, transient conurbations in our nuclear families of 2.4 children. We may only know

immediate neighbours. Family ties are extended across the country or even the globe.

Safeguarding our children from danger is, rightly, a high priority and this limits our ability to take a healthy interest in children other than our own. Hence, schools become the place where our hopes and expectations for well-adjusted, well-educated and well behaved children are invested.

Schools are not alone in their endeavours to educate and to form children and young

people. Families play their part, for good or ill: friends and peers are influential, the media and commercialism are all-pervasive in young people's lives, and other community-based groups such as uniformed organisations, sporting clubs, the church and other faith groups are involved to a lesser extent in the formation of our young people.

"Do we expect too much from our schools and colleges?"



"I had considered helping with Tiny Tots, but I don't think I'm quite what they're looking for. Isn't there another way I can support my local church?"

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

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

# Don't throw me away! Give me away!



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

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

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

...pass it on!

Church of England schools (which I know best) have a long history of providing good-quality education in Britain. It was back in 1811 that the first Sunday Schools appeared with the mission to give poor children a chance of a basic education. Within 20 years these schools had expanded across the country. Currently Church of England and other Christian schools educate over a quarter of all children of school age.

In faith schools, spirituality is a feature of the learning process. Faith and education have always had a resonance. From the Book of Proverbs in the Bible to the latest comprehensive document from the Church of England's Education office; *Valuing All*

*God's Children* (see link below\*), the character and care of each child is regarded as of absolute value to God.

Whatever our own opinions about modern education, we should acknowledge the impressive work being done on behalf of us all in raising children and young people in a safe, stimulating and largely free national education system. It should not be taken for granted. Education is a highly political arena where policies and changes can have far-reaching effects. So let us value our schools and colleges as places where learning is preparation for life not only for graduation.

Revd Larry Wright

\* <https://bit.ly/2BJQsQJ>



# No More Missed Editions!



## BECOME A SUBSCRIBER TO THE KINGS NORTON PARISH MAGAZINE!

Take out your first subscription to The Magazine and we will either deliver to your door once a month free of charge if you live within the parish of Kings Norton or post your magazine to you if you live elsewhere. Alternatively, you can choose to collect from one of our three churches, St Nicolas', Immanuel or Hawkesley.

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).



### THE PARISH MAGAZINE : NEW SUBSCRIBER

**Cut out or copy and send to:** Alison Blumer, Subscriptions Manager, The Parish Office, 81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8RU enclosing **cash or a cheque**, payable to **KNPCC**, for **£12 / £20** (*delete whichever does not apply*).

I wish to take out my first subscription to the Parish Magazine for 12 months starting from:

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**My name:**

**My postal address** (including post code):

**My phone number:**

**My email:**



# FAREWELL TO The Navigation

## Part of our Social Heritage

*Unless they were regulars, there probably aren't all that many local people who deplore, or are surprised by, the closure of the Navigation pub a couple of months ago. Like many pubs, its zenith was decades ago.*



It has sat there on Wharf Road for more than a century, recently increasingly forlorn and unloved. But it shouldn't be forgotten that, for many years, it played a vital role in the social life of Kings Norton. Indeed, in the decades up to and including the 1930s, it was one of

no less than five hostelryes on and around The Green that helped to bring local people together socially in a way that no other places did, except, perhaps, for the church.

Five pubs? It's now almost impossible to visualise it, but yes, up to at least





1930, there they were. On the west side of The Green, the Bull's Head, which of course still survives. Next to it, the Saracen's Head, which closed as a pub in 1930 when owners M&B donated it to the parish. Of course, it's now St Nicolas' Place.

There were two pubs on the south side, the side opposite the church. Ye Old Bell was a massive three-storey edifice, covering the area between the current newsagent's and the card shop. The Plumbers' Arms was further along towards the Rednal Road, also three storeys but rather narrower, looking down onto where the zebra crossing is now situated. Both were closed by owners M&B in 1931: the Plumbers' Arms building was soon demolished, though the Old Bell building was converted into shops and was only pulled down around 1964.

As it's not located on The Green, The Navigation stood slightly apart, but it played an equally significant role in the life of the Kings Norton community.

Indeed, once every two weeks, it had a particularly distinctive and valued place. It stood right by the local cattle and poultry market, which occupied the space on the corner of Pershore Road South and Wharf Road. A fortnightly sale was held there until as late as 1927, with stock coming in from local farms: an indicator of the essentially rural community that was once Kings Norton. The current (actually, the former) Navigation car park occupies that space now. As it was so adjacent, the pub was the hostelry of choice for sellers and buyers alike.

To think of Kings Norton's pubs simply as places to drink does them a major disservice. Each was the centre of daily life for many, with a thriving social activity and its own fiercely loyal clientele that were often determinedly competitive with the 'rival' pubs. They often had their own bowls and darts teams, social committees with remarkably extensive agendas. There are some wonderfully evocative photographs of people posing proudly



outside 'their' hostelry, and charmingly nostalgic images of customers setting out on events such as charabanc trips organised by their respective landlords.

The central role of the pubs in terms of social cohesion was reinforced by the fact that during their heyday The Green was a truly open space in which hundreds of locals regularly assembled to celebrate major events such as the 1902 Coronation of King Edward VII, bank holidays and the end of the First World War. After the event, the natural process was to repair to your own 'local'

to continue the festivity. Over the years, however, the space became hemmed in as the trees, planted by the Council to prevent the excesses of the Mop Festivals, grew larger and larger, while the availability of motor cars demanded that areas of the Green and the pathways that crossed them were consolidated into roads and parking areas. So the scope for community gatherings was gradually eroded and the significance of the pubs also diminished.

It's a salutary experience to look at

## **NORTON DECOR**

A Full Design and Home Improvement Service,  
Repairs, Painting and Decorating

**83 AVERSLEY ROAD, KINGS NORTON B38 8PJ**  
**TEL: 0121-458 6498**



## Barlow's Blooms

Flowers, plants, gifts & balloons  
Weddings, funerals & special occasions  
Delivery service available

397 Redditch Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8ND  
0121 451 3388 or 07 768 947 996



pictures of pub-centred events and celebrations from the early decades of the last century, to feel the happiness and the boisterousness of those taking part, and to realise that by the mid-1930's, it had virtually all disappeared. The Bull's Head and the Navigation soldiered on, and now there's just one left.

That comment assumes that whoever has purchased the Navigation site doesn't intend to re-establish it as some sort of venue for relaxation and food. Though nothing has yet been revealed, that does however seem to be the least likely outcome. When the previous owners, Greene King, put the site onto the market last year, at a price of £600,000, they hedged their bets. On the one hand, they said "it offers considerable scope for local and regional public house operators and restaurateurs to further develop both wet and dry sales, building upon the local trade." But on the other, they added that "the property has potential for a range of other uses, subject to the granting of the relevant permissions, and is likely to be of considerable

interest to local and regional investors, developers, care home operators and builders."

Many readers will recall the fraught history of the site in recent years. On 2011, the Co-op wanted to buy it, demolish it and to create a grocery store. But there were waves of objections from local businesses and residents alike. Planning permission was refused on at least three occasions, on the grounds that the pub was part of the local heritage and should be used for community activities. The Co-op has, of course, now found another answer!

Who knows what battles will now be fought? Despite considerable pressure, Greene King have still not revealed the identity of the purchasers, so it is hard to target feeling. To their credit, our local politicians are ranging themselves against inappropriate redevelopment of the site. But whatever happens, it can never replicate the central place that 'The Navi' once had in the social life of Kings Norton.

*Michael Kennedy*

# A New Strategy For Church Fundraising

## ***The Reverend Larry Wright writes:***

Over the last few months, this magazine has reported on the magnificent, though inevitably rather slow, process of raising some £100,000 to fund repairs to the Baptistry area of the Church roof. Once the repairs are carried out, the area immediately under the roof would house a much needed facility for many local families, the parish's first toy library. By the end of last month a total of some £20,000 had been raised.

I now need to report to readers, and all those who have worked so hard to raise and contribute funds, that we have adopted a significant change of approach to the overall issue of the funding of Church repairs.

A particular prompt was the fact that, most unfortunately, in the past few weeks it has been discovered that repairs were also needed to an adjacent area of the church roof. Though not directly associated with the Baptistry roof issue, it would be logical to carry out this work at the

same time. This, of course, would increase the bill still further.

The Parochial Church Council has been considering the new situation and how it can best be handled. Our church is very old and historic and therefore structural issues are always likely to be cropping up. It seems to us that we do not want to have a future where, on an almost continuous basis, we will need to be raising funds to carry out repairs.

We believe that a much better policy is to consider the future of the Church as a whole, visualising in totality the work that would be necessary to strengthen the overall fabric of the building and create a modern structure (though it would look very much the same) in which the risks of short term problems were eliminated as far as it was possible to do so. By achieving this, we would create a legacy for those who come after us, a legacy that would ensure, as far as possible, that they were not constantly plagued by worries about, and the unexpected cost of, repairs to the building.



HEART 'N SOUL

6.00 - 8.00 pm each Wednesday

**[southbirminghamradio.uk](http://southbirminghamradio.uk)**

Christian comment, music and stories,  
presented by the Reverend Simon Gudger,  
Debra Mayo (Collins) and Roger Jones

We are now considering how this approach can best be implemented. Of course, stabilising the structure of our church for the long term would cost a massive amount, probably in excess of £1 million. But, paradoxically, there are organisations that, though they do not make grants available for relatively minor Church repairs, are willing to advance much more significant funds if a project meets their requirements. The National Lottery is one of those organisations.

The funds that have been raised specifically for the Baptistry roof will not be wasted. We will either bank them as we develop our new strategy, or commit them to other projects to support the local community, of which there are many.

Meantime, there will be no let-up in the overall effort to raise money. I'm very pleased to confirm that the much-anticipated Bat Walk will be held on the evening of Friday 11 May. It begins in St Nicolas' Place with a

'Bat Craft' session for children at 7.30 pm, then a briefing at 8.30 pm by expert bat-seeker Chris Sherlock of the *Brumbats* organisation, followed by the walk itself. Posters and flyers have been circulated and tickets are selling very well. If you want some, please contact the Parish Office on 0121 458 3289. We're also hoping for a particularly strong attendance at the concert in our Church by Eroica Camerata at 7.30 pm on Saturday 12 May, in which they will play works by Dvorak, Weber, and Brahms.

Of course, even though we are changing our approach to funding, we continue to welcome gratefully any donation or activity which will help us to cover the costs of running the Church and the many activities we provide for local people. One way of making a donation is through our page on the Just Giving website [www.justgiving.com/knpcc](http://www.justgiving.com/knpcc). You can also donate by texting STNR17 £ (your donation) to 70070.

# RAF : 100 Years

## *The Thoughts of a Lay Minister*

April 1st 2018 was not just Easter Sunday and April Fools' Day but also marked the centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force. The Royal Air Force was formed by the merger of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

My family, like many others, has multiple associations with the RAF. My father, pictured opposite, joined the RAF in the 1920s at a time when both flying, and photography, which was his 'trade' were still in their very formative stages. When I was a child, stories of hanging out of an aeroplane to take photographs seemed far-fetched, but his own archive attests to the truth of the tales. I wish I had listened more and asked questions, not to mention writing some of it down!

Delving into your family history often uncovers more details, so I'm tracing back to find out more about the work he did and the places he visited. It's very absorbing and, in fact, it delayed writing this article many times as there have been so many distractions as I hunt for photos, check details and go off in search of pieces of information, trying to fit things together.

During his early years, he will have seen photography change from plate to film

(I still have his plate camera), and aeroplanes change and develop

along with it, although you wouldn't know it to look at some of them. I wonder, in a hundred years' time, what our descendants will find fascinatingly basic compared with their future developments. I'm not sure what Dad would have made of digital cameras on mobile phones the size of your hand!

Dad was posted to various places during his career including Karachi (then part of India), Aden and later, strangely, of all places Blackpool! As a photographer, his personal photos from the time he spent in India provide a unique record of life there and in the Forces in the late 1920s. Some were photos he was probably quite daring to have taken, such as one of a leper. Others I'm not so sure he was supposed to have copies of, let alone keep!

One is of the Lloyd Barrage on the River Indus at Sukkur, now more commonly known as the Sukkur Barrage. I have a newspaper cutting with a photo of the barrage with the handwritten comment on the bottom 'What a fine



place this looks, are you near here?’ and it is clipped to the original, which he had taken. It must have been hard for his family back home, not knowing where he was and only receiving letters every few months. Air mail was in its infancy. In fact, one of the photos shows the inaugural flight landing at Karachi. The collection of photos is a real social history as well as a personal one and, hopefully, I can add some details and context to them for the future.

Perhaps you have stories and memories of the RAF too. Let us know if you do, so that we can share them during this centenary year..

*Pauline Weaver*



# **The Memorial Company**

## **0121 459 2355**



### **Modern & Traditional Memorials**

PROFESSIONAL AND FRIENDLY ADVICE  
COLOUR BROCHURE AVAILABLE



### **The Memorial Company**

277-279 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham B30 3EX

**[www.memorialcompany.co.uk](http://www.memorialcompany.co.uk)**



# U3A CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR

*Kings Norton & District University of the Third Age (U3A) was launched in the spring of last year. Here, Chairman Pete Miller reviews a first year that has been both demanding and successful.*

The U3A principle is to enable people to access groups for the purpose of Self Learning together. The opportunity is open to anyone of any age who is retired or semi-retired. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect and share our experiences over the past year of the setting up of the Kings Norton and District U3A.

Although a one year anniversary can be "Paper" we were not prepared for the deluge of paperwork which confronted us at the start of our journey! It was on a Saturday morning in September 2016 that my wife and I went along to St. Nicolas' Place for a coffee to meet up with Mary Sambrooke, the Chairperson of Harborne and Edgbaston U3A, to discuss the possibility of setting up a U3A in Kings Norton. Together with Mary, several others and advisers from Dorridge U3A, we garnered support to form a working group to see if it was feasible. Over the next few weeks we met up to plan the logistics, the first of which was to find a suitable venue.

After several visits we settled on St. Joseph and Helen's Church Hall in Cotteridge, it being the right location for a Kings Norton U3A, on a bus route, with adequate car parking and ease of access.

The next need was to publicise our intent with a leaflet and poster campaign around the area, followed by a launch event on the 7th February 2017, which was very well attended and brought a positive response in favour of going ahead. A week later a Steering Group Committee was set up, under the guidance of a Regional Trainer, to plan for our inaugural meeting in early March. This required a lot of time spent in getting Membership forms printed, various groups organised with leaders and venues where groups might meet if not in members' own homes. A daunting task but somehow we got it done and signed up over a hundred members very quickly, with around 30 groups. The groups meet as and when they want for a variety of activities and

there is a General Meeting once a month where members can come along have coffee or tea, hear any news and announcements and then listen to a speaker booked to talk on a variety of subjects.

It was a very proud moment when we received our Third Age Trust Certificate of Membership last summer. We have since developed our own Newsletter, which is published three times a year, autumn, winter and spring. It keeps members informed about what is happening with reports of how things are going around the groups. In the autumn we also created our own website which can be accessed at [www.u3asites.org.uk/kingsnorton](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/kingsnorton) to enable people to see the range of activities on offer.

We are now signed up to the National U3A "Beacon" Computer system which makes the administration of members and groups much easier together with Financial Accounting.

Since Christmas, we have qualified as, and have duly applied to the Charity

Commission to be a registered charity, a status which has been granted. We are now approaching our very first AGM and can't believe that a year has passed so quickly.

It has been very hard work at times getting everything off the ground but well worth it to see so many people accessing various groups, learning new skills and making new friends. I must also say a huge thank you to the many people who have given their time unstintingly, both those on the Committee and those who help out in so many ways to keep the ship afloat, including the leaders of groups and the staffing of our general meetings.

I hope this has given a taste of what we are about. Basically it's about having "FUN" with like-minded people and trying things that you always thought you would like to do. We now have around 250 members and some 40 groups to choose from. Please get in touch if you would like to know more. Contact details are on our website.

*Pete Miller (Chairman)*



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

\* Why, the parish website, of course: [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk). Give it a try!

# 25 Years of Rambling

This year **South Birmingham Ramblers**, organisers of the popular twice-monthly short walks around Kings Norton, are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their organisation.

The focal point of the celebration is a Walking Festival, which runs from **Wednesday 16 May to Sunday 21 May inclusive**. Its a fascinating selection of opportunities, ranging from the gentle to the very demanding, covering not only very local routes, but also walks in the Black Country, Warwickshire and Worcestershire

**Wednesday 16 May** : Wren's Nest (Dudley); Hedgelayers Walk (Bromsgrove); Bournville and Northfield

**Thursday 17 May** : Lickey Hills; Rowheath; Bidford-upon-Avon

**Friday 18 May** : Kings Norton Nature Reserve; Astwood Bank; Arley; Cofton, Lickey and Rednal Pub Walk

**Saturday 19 May** : Kings Norton mini walk; Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston and Birmingham University;

Along the River Rea; 'Up and Under in Dudley'

**Sunday 20 May** : Bournville Parks and local bye-ways; Great Alne; Stourbridge

Further details about the Festival, and those all-important start times and meeting points, can be accessed at [www.sbramblers.co.uk](http://www.sbramblers.co.uk)



# Bourne Harris LLP

## Solicitors and Conveyancers

A Complete Service For All Legal Requirements

Probate & Wills  
Conveyancing  
Divorce & Family  
Court & Litigation

---

conveyancing@bourneharris.co.uk  
privateclient@bourneharris.co.uk  
0121 451 1661

1 Redditch Road  
Kings Norton  
Birmingham B38 8RN

South Birmingham Ramblers are part of the Warwickshire Area of The Ramblers. Walks embrace many parts of the Midlands and sometimes beyond, on weekends away. The group upholds the ideals of promoting walking and access to the open countryside; protecting the countryside; and protecting and caring for footpaths.

*"Walking is the perfect way to improve your health and make new friends," says the Group's Publicity Officer, John Bowen: "New participants will always be made very welcome at any of our events, during the Festival and during our ongoing programmes. Walks are free and led by experienced leaders."*

Every week, the Ramblers meet up in the car park at Kings Norton Playing

Fields either to start walks from there, or to car share to the start of walks in other areas. There are short walks of 5 miles, a Wednesday walk of 7-9 miles and a Sunday walk of 8-11 miles. Also, in the summer months, there are Saturday walks that tend to be longer, more strenuous and which go further afield.

The two-mile 'gentle' walks around Kings Norton are held twice every month. In May, the dates are **Tuesday May 8 and Tuesday May 22**. They start at 10.00 am from the Playing Fields car park.

Members of the Ramblers have a varied social programme throughout the year which includes dances, quizzes, meals and walking weekends away.

# Serenade!

**Dvorak: Serenade for  
Wind Instruments**

**Weber: Bassoon  
Concerto**

**Brahms: Adagio from Serenade No 1**

**Dvorak: Serenade  
for Strings**

**Eroica  
Camerata**

**Rebecca Eldridge, bassoon  
Peter Marks, conductor**

**Sat 12th May 2018**

**7.30pm**

**St Nicolas Church  
Kings Norton**

**Tickets: £12, £10, £3  
[www.eroica.org.uk](http://www.eroica.org.uk)**

**Sp Adobe Spark**

# 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 ([michaelkenedy@talk21.com](mailto:michaelkenedy@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).

---

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.u3a.org.uk), [knu3a.membership@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 Birmingham 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 organise fundraising activities such as regular charity quizzes and stalls at local festivals. We also aim to raise awareness of the wide range of services offered by the hospice. If you can spare a few hours to help, please contact us. We meet on the second Monday of each month at Kings Norton Bowling Club.

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

**Health Exchange** [www.healthexchange.org.uk](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 Bowling Club**, 129 Wychall Lane, Birmingham B38 8AH, 0121 458 1570

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

**Kings Norton Tennis Club**, Grange Hill Road B38 8RE [www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk](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
-----------------------	-------------	----------------

## 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

## Open Church

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

We open St Nicolas' Church as much as we can so that all may share God's peace and promise in a space where they have been found and trusted for centuries. There is a place for you within its story. Please pray that more will know it as a safe place for prayer and healing, where sorrow and joy are held in God's love. We welcome volunteers to share in our offering of welcome, refreshment and care through St Nicolas', Hawkesley and Immanuel, to steward at St Nicolas' during Open Church and to care for our churchyard, flowers and brasses.

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

## For Young Children

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

## Growing in Faith

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

## Help us to keep our Parish Church open

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

## Baptisms and Marriages

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

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



# Events Diary May 2018

## **Tuesday 1 May**

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

## **Wednesday 2 May**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place 1.00-3.00 pm: Armchair exercise & Hoi
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

## **Thursday 3 May**

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

## **Friday 4 May**

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

## **Saturday 5 May**

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve Spring event 'Walks on the Wild Side': Dawn Chorus walk 5.30 am, main programme 10.00am-1.00 pm (with Treasure Hunt and Pond Dipping), Bat Walk at 8.30 pm. For more details see FKNRR website.
- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am
- Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library 1030 am-11.30 am

## **Tuesday 8 May**

- Kings Norton Library closed for Bank Holiday
- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.30 pm: George Hook 'History of Mother-of-Pearl'

### **Wednesday 9 May**

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

### **Thursday 10 May**

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00pm
- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 2.00 pm: 'Worcestershire Postal History & Redditch Needle Makers' (all welcome, tea & coffee during break)
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 11 May**

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm
- Bat Walk to raise funds for St Nicolas' Church, starting at St Nicolas' Place from 7.30 pm, including 'Bat Craft' activities for children, a briefing at 8.30 pm, followed by the walk. Tickets from Parish Office, 0121 458 3289

### **Saturday 12 May**

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- NAF Drop-In Craft Session, Kings Norton Library, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Eroica Camerata Concert, St Nicolas' Church, 7.30 pm (buy tickets on night or in advance from Parish Office 0121 458 3289)

### **Monday 14 May**

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Quiz & Raffle, Kings Norton Bowling Club, 8.00 pm. £3 per person, teams max 6 people. Contact Sue on 0121 608

### **Tuesday 15 May**

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Annual General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00pm: Adrian Reed 'Blood Bikes'
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 16 May**

- South Birmingham Ramblers 25th Anniversary Walking Festival (through to Sunday 20 May). Free guided walks from 2 to 10 miles including local routes and walks in other areas of West Midlands. For details see Ramblers' website
- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Planting for summer
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00pm-10.00 pm: NLA Competition
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 17 May**

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

### **Friday 18 May**

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

### **Saturday 19 May**

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

### **Monday 21 May**

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- King Norton History Society, St. Nicolas' Place, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm: AGM followed by John Townley 'Early Maps of Birmingham'
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: Judy Stephens 'The Origin of Surnames'

### **Tuesday 22 May**

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00-3.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 23 May**

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

### **Thursday 24 May**

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

### **Friday 25 May**

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

### **Saturday 26 May**

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- 'Elmer Day' Storytime & Craft, Kings Norton Library, 11am-12 noon

### **Monday 28 May (Spring Bank Holiday)**

### **Tuesday 29 May**

- Kings Norton Library closed for Bank Holiday
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 30 May**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Speaker, John Smith
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, The Bull's Head, The Green. Performers report at 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00 pm-10.00 pm.
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 31 May**

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

### **Friday 1 June**

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

# Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

## Monday

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

## Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

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

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

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm (enquiries@beechees martialarts.co.uk)

## Thursday

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

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

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

## Friday

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

## Saturday

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

## Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham B38

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

Get  
FRESH

**Next market**

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May**

**2018**

**9.00 - 2.00**



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



# MARCH 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*)

1st March	Frederick Foster	78	SN.Bu.KN
2nd March	Joan Winifred Haynes	86	Cr.LH
6th March	Margaret Mary Trew	87	SN.Cr.LH
7th March	Frances Jean Laird	70	SN.Bu.KN
7th March	Joan Mary Shaw	86	Cr.LH
15th March	Muriel Christine Maisey	89	SN.Bu.BE
16th March	Marion Beryl Vanstone	92	SN.Cr.LH
20th March	Evelyn Dugmore	95	SN.Bu.KN
21st March	Alison Jane Goldingay	55	SN.Bu.CY
22nd March	Charles William Hooper	85	SN.Bu.KN
27th March	Annie Helen Hoadley	92	SN.Cr.LH
28th March	Peter Roderic Legg	76	Cr.LH

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



**Mike Baker**



**Quality Property Maintenance**

**From small works to**

General building and roofing, extensions, refurbishments, brickwork, re-pointing,  
cladding and windows, doors hung, carpentry, patios and landscapes,  
barn conversions.



**A complete building service**

Freephone : 0800 0937 313

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



# The Fellowship of Like Minds (TFL)

*This month, Kings Norton's Assistant Rector goes "down the pub".*

Visiting a pub or *pubbing* appears to be a global experience. However, just like the experience, the content differs from one country or region to another.

In the Eastern part of Nigeria (Igbo Land), every local pub is renowned for the variety of delicacies served alongside its drinks. The regular varieties included **isi-ewu** (goat-head) specially prepared and spiced up with red pepper, bitter herbs and served on a wooden bowl; others include **nkwobi** (large lumps of cow meat) specially boiled and spiced up; **ugba na abacha** (African salad) composed either of tiny slices of oil-bin seed or tiny sliced and dried cassava roots, specially prepared and spiced up with hot pepper, potash, table salt and palm-oil; enriched with crayfish, stock-fish fillets and tiny slices of garden egg. Others could just do with goat-meat pepper-soup served with fresh **palm-wine** (a natural, local drink tapped from palm trees) or beer.

The story has it that a loving wife once felt she was consistently missing her husband's company as he often retired to one such local pub in their area after a day's work. Rather than complain, she

devised a means of keeping her husband at home. One day, before her husband got home from work, this woman had prepared all the local delicacies any local pub could offer in proportionate quantities and provided a keg of palm wine ready to give the husband a pleasant surprise.

The husband was just about to go to the pub when the wife lured him into their dining room and opened up the surprise package. Completely overwhelmed with joy, the husband sat and ate a little of each variety, had some glasses of the local wine and thanked his wife. The woman, beaming with smiles, said to her husband, "You see, you don't have to be going to the pub anymore because I have brought the pub home to you". Once more, the husband thanked the wife and with a slight grin on his face said, "I enjoyed the food and the drink, but what about the silly jokes and the fellowship of like minds that we share at the pub?" You can imagine as well as I can the feeling of defeat written all over the woman's face!

All the evidence suggests that there is



more to the pub than just a mere glass of any brand or a plate of food. There seems to be some sort of fellowship going on too. The unwinding and feeling of acceptance are all indicative of a fellowship of like-minded folks. Little wonder then that the patronage dies hard.

A legendary African writer, Chinua Achebe, in one of his famous novels *Things Fall Apart*, articulated the importance of community life as opposed to individualistic living by quoting a popular Igbo adage: **“When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so.”** What an encouragement to communal living!

Sometimes, the church and the pub seem to share a common and vital similarity : fellowship. Both offer their regular members some measure of hope and respite. However, leaving aside differences in content and atmosphere, there is a striking dissimilarity in the overall satisfaction each could afford upon delivery.

The pub offers fellowship of like minds while the church is a fellowship of people saved by grace, thereby offering her members what I call the Fellowship of Grace (or FoG)! The Psalmist described the impact of such fellowship or togetherness thus: **“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.”** (Psalm 133:1,2). He explained the beauty of such meetings, equating it with the splendid experience of Aaron, a legendary high priest of the Jewish religion who, on the day of his consecration, was anointed with oil. He pictured the glowing beauty of the olive oil poured lavishly over Aaron as it flowed down from his head through his beard down to his priestly robe.

As the church gathers, whether in church buildings or at home fellowship meetings, there is that spiritual impact that commands a divine presence. Jesus confirms this when he says, **“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”** (Matt. 18:20). Little wonder then that most of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances took place whenever and wherever his disciples were gathered in fellowship,



for a group meeting or for an evening stroll together.

You can't over-state the impact of the fellowship of brothers and sisters which lies behind the admonition in the Book of Hebrews, "...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."

If we can and do find comfort and encouragement in the gathering of like minds, and if people can and do gather to unwind and unburden their minds over a round of drinks, then a gathering at which the presence of the Almighty Creator and Preserver of Life is guaranteed is worth a try, if you ask me. A song writer sums it up like this: **"You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy. In**

**your right hand are pleasures for evermore."** (Psalm 16:11).

Whether down the pub or at church, therefore, we need to promote communal living as a better option than the individualistic lifestyle which has become so widespread.

However, the church has even more to offer than just togetherness, wonderful though that can be. In addition to a cost-free fellowship, it offers healing for burdened minds and respite for troubled hearts, courtesy of God's promised presence whenever and wherever "two or three are gathered" in the name of Jesus.

*The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu*



The Church at Carrs Lane is the only Fair Trade shop in Birmingham city centre open during the week. They stock all of Traidcraft's food (over 100 items) and many of their crafts and cards. Anything not in stock can be ordered. They are always on the lookout for volunteers to look after the till and appreciate the customers.

The shop is open from Tuesday to Saturday and the hours for volunteers run from about 10.00 till 3.00. Many volunteers do one day a week but a smaller commitment is just as welcome.

Fair Trade helps to bring some of the poorest in our world a fair wage and the dignity of trade. Tradecraft have been pioneers in this great movement, and still are. If you are interested, please contact [fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk](mailto:fair-trade@carrslane.co.uk) or call 07 730 945 254.

# Walk on the Wild Side



## *with the Friends of the Nature Reserve*

The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve, who do such wonderful work in maintaining and enhancing one of Kings Norton's most fascinating areas, have organised a special event on **Saturday 5 May**. Called 'Walks on the Wild Side', it includes three key events which are open to all local people.

The first event of this special day means getting up particularly early! It's a 'Dawn Chorus Walk', for which attendees should meet at 05.30 am at the Wychall Reservoir entrance opposite Wychall Park Grove, which is off Wychall Lane.

The second event runs from 10 am to 1 pm, and will be a fascinating morning of activities including a Botanical Walk, various other Guided Walks; a Treasure Hunt with a Treasure Map; and Pond Dipping. It starts at BW Meadow on the corner of Wychall Lane and Meadow Hill Road.

The final event is a 'Bat Walk', which starts from BW Meadow at 8.30 pm.

More details are available on the Friends website [www.fknr.org.uk](http://www.fknr.org.uk)

---

## MARCH 2018 BAPTISMS

4 <sup>th</sup> March	Corey James Rudge Olivia Alicia Rose Jones
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Florence Rose Molyneux Kirstie Marie Gittings Freddie Stephen Edward Newitt Nayah-May Rose Sonia Woodhouse Riekiyah-Leigh Jane Woodhouse

**"BAPTISM** marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. "

*The Baptism Service, Common Worship*

# Lady Bird

*"I want you to be the very best version of yourself that you can be."*

*"What if this is the best version?"*

Once in a while a film comes along which captures the essence of a coming-of-age drama and the realities of modern life. *Lady Bird* is such a film. Though not a classic, and no doubt of limited commercial success, it deserves to be counted among the best of its genre. Here we have a comedy drama which explores the daughter-mother relationship under duress and comes out with an honesty and authenticity worthy of its subject.

*Lady Bird* is a 2017 American comedy-drama written and directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Saoirse Ronan (as "Lady Bird"), Laurie Metcalf (as her mother) and a personable supporting cast who give depth to the main story line. Set in Sacramento, California, in 2002, it is a coming-of-age story of a high-school senior (Ronan) and her turbulent relationship with her mother (Metcalf).

Both mother and daughter are strong characters, uncompromising yet with obvious fragilities. *Lady Bird* is about to graduate from her Catholic high school and longs to leave her home city for a more beguiling place like New York, where she imagines culture, life and independent thought will be all around her like a giant milk shake. However, her educational abilities and the family finances are all against her.

This is a film of many tender moments and memorable one-liners. Funny, poignant, romantic and quizzical, *Lady Bird* is a (young) woman determined to be different and yet wants to be loved by those from whom she wishes to be different. It is an age-old conundrum of the free-spirited individual who cannot fully break away from his or her roots, yet wishes to soar above the commonplace of life.

The religious dimension of the film is well portrayed. The Catholic high school is a place of learning and fun. The nuns and priests who make up most of the teaching staff are humane and compassionate. None of the scandalous and sinister shades of Catholic education are on display here. The overriding sentiment is that the church cares for the children in its charge and wants the best for them, even when they do not always see what is best for them.

Interestingly, the film has achieved commercial success and was nominated for various international awards and, although it gained no Oscars, it was nominated in five categories. If you have not seen this film yet, and especially if you are a mother or daughter, try and catch it on DVD or online. I hope you won't be disappointed.

M.G.M.

---

**Hawkesley Church** invite you to a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018** at the Pastoral Centre on the corner of Shannon Road and Old Portway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR. From 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Tea, coffee, home-made cakes, children's toys & books, tombola, bring & buy, bric à brac. Proceeds to Christian Aid. Your support would be very much appreciated.





One of the Lent “Conversations” held at Saint Nicolas’ Place during February & March 2018. Dr William & Mrs Veronica Morris of the Next Century Peace Foundation.



As local tradition requires, the morning service at Saint Nicolas’ Church on Palm Sunday morning (25<sup>th</sup> March 2018) began at the Lych Gate on The Green.



Easter Sunday morning at Saint Nicolas' Church (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018). The main 10.30 am service was attended by almost 250 people, of whom 43 were children.



Children welcome! Two small members of the congregation get a closer view of the proceedings as The Revd Larry Wright presides at the Easter Sunday Holy Communion

# The Women's Fellowship

*will be 65 this year & is celebrating in July*

*Here is a short history, written by long-term member Pam Manson, in collaboration with other long term members.*

The Evening Fellowship was started in the mid 1950's by members of the Women's Fellowship at St Nicolas' Church, to cater for young working women and those with small children who were unable to attend a monthly afternoon meeting.

The afternoon group was originally part of the Worldwide Mothers' Union, which still exists today; but, with encouragement from the then incumbent, The Reverend Ashford, who disapproved of the strict membership rules, the group left the Union.

Our Evening Fellowship was run independently from the afternoon group, with our own chairman, secretary, treasurer and committee. It met once a month in the large South Hall of the former Saracen's Head and in St Nicolas' Hall, now demolished, during the

restoration of Saint Nicolas' Place.

Over the years we have had a large variety of speakers, several cookery demonstrations, a cake competition organised by Bero and joint Christmas parties with the Afternoon Fellowship.

Once a year, we organised a special tea party, inviting long-term patients from Rubery Hospital who rarely, if ever, had visitors, but were well enough to be taken out. After a few years, this was discontinued by the hospital and replaced by our inviting a group of Down's Syndrome patients of all ages from Monyhull Hall Hospital. These were always lovely, happy occasions and our guests were so appreciative, joining in with our games and dancing. We always gave them a little gift to take back with them. After a few years, the situation changed again. Monyhull Hall Hospital was closed and the patients went out to live in the community.

Every summer, we had an outing,

visiting many interesting places including National Trust houses, a flour mill, Lichfield Cathedral and Hartlebury Castle, where we met the Bishop's wife. Sometimes, these places opened specially for us, providing a conducted tour and supper. Other outings included an annual amateur dramatics production by the Birmingham Operatic Society.

Usually, AGM's were held at the home of our chairwoman, although for a few years Joan Parker invited us to use her house in Beaks Hill Road, making it a more social occasion with a shared supper and competitions.

Another of our members, Rosemary Turpin, also kindly invited us to her home in Kings Heath for several September meetings when we held a "Bring and Buy" sale. Rosemary played the piano, accompanying the hymn which we sang at the start of all our ordinary monthly meetings. Nowadays, we just have prayers.

In more recent years, we have still enjoyed outings arranged by Marlene and Carol, but nowadays, owing to the drop in our numbers, we tend to join in with outings run mainly for the Seniors' Club. We owe Carol and Marlene much gratitude and thanks for keeping

the Fellowship going for so long with decreasing numbers and no committee.

We now meet in the afternoon. Meetings are held at Saint Nicolas' Place from 2.00 to 3.30 pm on the first Thursday of every month apart from August, when there is no meeting. The annual subscription for members is £10, and tea and biscuits cost £1 each meeting. Visitors are asked to pay £1.50 per occasion, which includes the tea and biscuits. Each meeting has a speaker or activity and we still have our annual "Bring and Buy" for our chosen charity. New members are always welcome.

**Positive™  
Group**  
(MIDLANDS) LTD

DESIGN | PRINT | WEB | EXECUTIVE CHAMPAGNE

- Letterheads
- Pull-up banners
- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Signage

**Full Design & Print Service**

**www.positive-print.co.uk**  
**sales@positive-print.co.uk**

**0121 459 3454**

26 Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Park,  
Birmingham B30 3HZ

**The Answer's Yes!**



# S. GASCOIGNE & SONS LTD

INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS



*Independent  
Funeral Directors  
& Monumental  
Masons*

**A well established  
family business built  
on reputation**

**Christopher Gascoigne** is a  
fourth generation funeral director  
offering a sympathetic and caring  
service at all times

- PRIVATE CHAPEL
- PRE-PAYMENT PLANS

277-279 Pershore Road South  
(next to St. Nicolas Church on the Green)  
Kings Norton,  
Birmingham B30 3EX



**24hr Personal Service**

**ALL AREAS OF BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT**



**0121 458 5859**

# Jumping to Conclusions

I was talking to one of my Foodbank colleagues the other day about our supermarket collections and she made a comment which set me off on a quite a train of thought: "You can never make any assumptions about anyone at a collection".

She meant it at face value. She could not predict who would give food donations, even from their interaction with her at the beginning. The person brimming with populist media myths may have been challenged by some real facts when they had that difficult first conversation with her. The person full of good intentions and positive talk may give nothing. And there's a whole range of reactions between these two opposites.

It is, of course, true of our clients as well. It is all too easy to make assumptions about what has brought them to the Foodbank.

Only a couple of days later, I was talking with The Reverend Larry Wright about a set of disastrous mismanagements in my work life (NHS: care of the older adult). There had been a proposal to move a lot of staff from one side of the city to the other. These were lower income staff, who neither drive nor own a car. Their 1-3 mile journey by bus or on foot would suddenly turn into

10-15 miles across town, reliant on buses only.

The manager's suggestion was "Use the car pool". As the NHS doesn't run to driverless cars just yet, this was profound in its assumption that all workers own and drive cars. Larry and I talked about all the other institutional assumptions that are made, such as the expectation that people have access to the internet to book or pay for services. It was a useful conversation in that we both vented frustrations; and we also challenged ourselves not to make similar mistakes.

Clearly, "assumptions" was to be the thought-word of Lent for me as, the day after our conversation, I did some mandatory training at work about equality and diversity. The scenarios presented challenged assumptions. Is the "binman" or airline pilot always going to be a man? Is the nurse always a woman? Was the young lady in a hijab or the man in a turban necessarily born outside the UK? You get the idea.

Even now, I am one of the few women active in the world of church organists and Catherine, our Tower Captain, is in the minority in the world of tower bell ringers. It is easy to make the assumption that the position must be held by a man.

I was reminded of the Christmas when we went to sing at Kings Norton Golf Club. Everyone was most welcoming, but all who came to greet us assumed that either my father, Tony Fox, or another veteran choir member, Leonard Miskin, were “in charge” because they were male and senior; or, if they knew the leader was a woman, they went to the most senior ladies present. Each time, they had made assumptions (with the best of intentions, of course).

In many professional jobs, clinical and other assessments have to be made, and many have to begin with assumptions. The challenge is to be able to move away from those assumptions as soon as it is realistic to do so. I have certainly been reminded to keep to the way of questioning I was taught right at the start of my clinical training: “How may we contact you?” rather than “What is your phone number or email address?”

Sylvia Fox



# FOODBANK NEWS

*Sylvia continues...*

Since we started in September 2013, when we thought 2 tonnes of food was a lot, we have slowly grown in size. We now give out nearly 2 tonnes of food each week, and our client numbers are now about 7,500 a year. Food was initially stored at Cotteridge Church alone, but we soon expanded out to the cupboards there. Hawkesley Clergy House was our next storage home, after *Big Community* had outgrown the space. We soon did the same and moved into the spare classroom adjacent to the Pastoral Centre at Hawkesley. We moved in over a Mop weekend (*the Kings Norton Mop is an annual fair held on The Green. Ed.*), and for three years we have been grateful tenants at Hawkesley, where we have been made very welcome.

After the deluge of giving the following Christmas, we took on a space at Access Storage in Selly Oak too, which was ideal for pallet deliveries from companies such as Kelloggs and longer-dated items. We have now expanded beyond what these two places can offer and need to store everything in one place. So, with many thanks for three years, we are saying goodbye to the Hawkesley classroom and are moving to a warehouse unit in Kings Norton Business Centre. This is obviously very near Cotteridge. It provides further support for distribution, gives us much greater floor space to work in and allows for much greater freedom of access (though, Hawkesley, you have been wonderful in letting us access your facilities at almost any time). The building will not have any visible branding to show where we are, as we will not be a distribution centre, but we will be high up on the hill, overlooking St Nicolas' Church and the park.



**[www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk](http://www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk)**

The Tudor Merchant's House and the 17th century Old Grammar School set around the Norman foundation of St Nicolas' Church and containing the 18th century Saracen's Head constitute the finest collection of mediaeval buildings in Birmingham. They are owned and managed by Kings Norton Parish church for all to enjoy and use.

**Café** : Monday to Saturday 9am-4pm

**Gift Shop** : Monday to Saturday 10am-3pm

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

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

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

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

## CONTACTS

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

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

## THE MINISTRY TEAM

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

## THE CHURCH WARDENS

<b>St. Nicolas' Church</b>	Phil Burton & 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
Safeguarding Coordinator (0121 459 6185)	Clare Dean
Regular Giving	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Church Facilities Manager	Sylvia Fox
Flower Arranging (0121 486 2837)	Alison Blumer
Oasis (Sunday School) Tiny Tots & GPS	Pauline Weaver
Oasis (Sunday School) Immanuel	Nicky Moorcroft

## MUSIC

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

## BELL RINGING

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

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

## UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

### Scouts and Cubs

*198th Birmingham St Nicolas'*

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

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

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

### Guides and Brownies

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

### Guides and Brownies

*at Hawkesley Church Centre*

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

## Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

**Headteacher:** Mr Derek Higgins

# Leaning Dangerously in Pisa

*In this month's adventure, it's not just Pisa's famous tower which is having difficulty in standing up.*

Once again, my ship, the *Encounter Bay*, found itself berthed at Genoa in Italy. As we had a lot of containers to offload from Australia and New Zealand, the ship would be in port for three days. A welcome diversion was arranged for all the ship's company and wives on board. A minibus would run on two consecutive days to Pisa to visit the Leaning Tower and other attractions.

The first day was a great success and, on their return, a lot of the lads were, to say the least, well imbibed. So, the next day, I decided to join the bus for what promised to be a good day out.

Our drive along the Ligurian Coast was a long one but very scenic. The motorway there is a feat of engineering, the rugged coast road running through tunnels and viaducts under and around the mountains. The bus made a stop at a motorway service area after about an hour. Unlike British



motorway restaurants, the café there was allowed to sell alcohol and quite a few members of our party had a liquid breakfast, which guaranteed a jolly start to the day. The weather was hot and sunny too. As we resumed our journey, I distinctly heard the sound of a beer can

J & D Mason  
**Opticians**

Providing quality eye care  
for 40 years

WIDE  
RANGE  
OF FRAMES  
INCLUDING  
DESIGNER

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

2 The Green  
Kings Norton  
B38 8SD  
0121 451 3485

being opened.

Pisa is a small town, dominated, of course, by the Leaning Tower and a beautiful, marble medieval cathedral, mentioned by Lord Byron. I decided to head for the top of Pisa's most famous building. It was quite a climb up the windy stone steps but, once I got there, I had a marvellous view of the whole area, including the Piazza dei Miracoli below me and its stunning architecture, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I had to smile, though, because on the parapet of the tower was an empty can of *Foster's* lager, evidence of Jolly Jack's visit the day before.

Later, with the Second Mate and his wife, I went into a café where I bought a small home-made pizza. We enjoyed a glass of wine and decided to have a coffee. I ordered three sambucas to go with them. Sambuca is a clear, strong Italian liqueur which I had previously grown fond of during an Italian holiday.

We were joined at our table by three other officers, who asked what we were drinking. They sampled the sambuca and then ordered more. Quite a little "session" ensued. One of the lads even bought a bottle to take back.

There was lots of laughter as we learned that, the previous day, one of the

**PARKS & SON BUILDERS LTD**

FENSA HomePro

2 BRANSFORD RISE  
CATHERINE DE BARNES, SOLIHULL, B91 2TP

FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

PVCu GUTTERING & FASCIA  
FLAT ROOFING  
ROOF SLATING  
BRICK WORK  
FENCING  
SLABING  
PVCu DOUBLE GLAZING  
10 YEAR GUARANTEE

FREE ESTIMATES - WORK GUARANTEED  
FAX/TEL NO: 0121-705 7504

stewards, being quite tipsy, had fallen into one of the stalls selling local terracotta vases and plates. An Italian drama had ensued, and the lad had had to pay about £20 for damages or agree to accompany the carabinieri to the local police station.

All in all, it was a good day out, and badly needed after spending a month at sea following our departure from Australia. Who could blame us for letting off a bit of steam?

Eddie Matthews

## Advertise With Us!

It's easy and inexpensive. Prices start at £10 for a quarter-page advert for one month and a discount is available if you pay for a year in advance. You can even pay online. You'll find all the details on the parish website at [www.kingsnorton.org.uk/magazine](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk/magazine) or contact the Editor for more information.



MARCH 2018

# MARRIAGES & BLESSINGS

10th March

Geoffrey B & Margaret L M Sanders

24th March

Jeremy M Williams & Tina M Burgess



*Harry L Marks*



**MONUMENTAL MASONS**

**Quality Manufacturing Since 1898**

**To Deliver Your Requirements**

**Kings Norton's Nearest Manufacturing Mason**

Unique Materials- Individual Designs- Extensive Displays

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

“See Our Craftsmen At Work”

**0121 444 1840**

**“The Sculptor”**

Visit Our Showroom & Workshop at

Cemetery Works, Woodthorpe Road, Brandwood End, Kings Heath,

Birmingham, B14 6EH

[hlmarksmemorials.co.uk](http://hlmarksmemorials.co.uk)

## Copyright & Disclaimer

The contents of this magazine are © Kings Norton Team Parish 2018 and may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Editor. The views, opinions and comments expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the Kings Norton Parish Magazine, the Kings Norton Parish Ministry Team or its staff.

Material submitted for publication must be accompanied by the name and contact details of the provider including an email address if available. When possible, submissions will be produced in full, but the Editor reserves the right to make changes. If content submitted for publication contains quotations from other sources, the written permission of the copyright holder to reprint it must be supplied.



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE  
KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

*Gift Shop*

*Stained Glass Art by*  
**Clare Wainwright.**

**Saint Nicolas Place Cards**

**Blank cards with views of our buildings.  
Write your own message**

*Emily's Hand-made Preserves*

**'Pocket Money' Children's Toys**



**Friends of Historic Kings Norton**

**Big Book Sale,**

**Saturday 12th May 2018. 9.30 am to 1 pm  
and**

**Every 2nd Saturday of the month—Farmers' Market Saturdays  
All proceeds go towards the upkeep of our fabulous Tudor Buildings**

**Pop in and pick up a bargain !**

# My optician comes to me...

CELEBRATING  
**30**  
YEARS



Digital retinal  
photography  
available

## ...and it's **NHS** funded

Many people don't know that you can have a free eye test in your own home if you're aged 60 or over and can't get out without help.

The test is carried out by a qualified optician from The Outside Clinic and is NHS funded. Booking is easy - just call freephone 0800 60 50 40.

Book your free NHS home eye test today

Please quote  
KN-717

**0800 60 50 40**



**TheOutsideClinic**  
Home Optician & Hearing Specialist