



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

July 2018

£1



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

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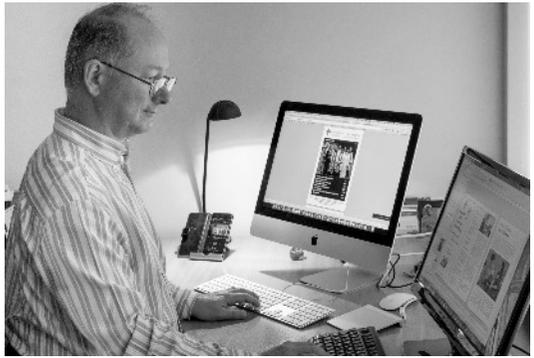
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Items for inclusion in the August
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July**.

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September 2018 edition must
reach the Editor by midnight on
Friday 10th August.



We all need to belong. The need for acceptance runs deep. Psychologists will tell you that a sense of "belongingness" is crucial to our well-being. So much so that a lack of it can affect your health and happiness. You are more likely to suffer from mental and physical illness if you feel you do not belong. You are also more likely to be a criminal.

Larry Wright speaks frankly this month (p.4) about his experience of crime in north Birmingham. The gang members he met there "knew they were outlaws, with no sense of belonging anywhere else but to their gang and neighbourhood". Even outlaws need to belong; and what you choose to belong to can determine the whole course of your life. That need within all of us to be a part of something greater than ourselves can lead us astray or it can save us. It is not insignificant that "a church willing to accept him despite his criminal past" was the key to one young gang member's escape from a downward spiral (p.5). The church is, fundamentally, about belonging (cover photo & p.7).

And so are books. It is a pleasure this month to be able to publicise Kings Norton Library's Summer Reading Challenge for children (p.13). The author F.Scott Fitzgerald wrote that, when you immerse yourself in a book, "you discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong." Maybe, if our children read more, they would be less likely to lose their way. Maybe if we read more...

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

Blades & Bullets

Britain is in the grip of an epidemic of knife and gun crime. Reading or hearing about these murderous attacks, one could be forgiven for thinking we are getting as bad as the USA. In fact, America has a much higher murder rate than the UK. So, despite the recent upsurge in gun and knife crime, the UK is still a relatively safe place to live. While statistics about such crimes may give us the raw data to help keep matters in perspective, they do not help us to understand the reasons behind the current upsurge. In the background stories of the lives of murder victims we glimpse their tragic consequences and the desperate pleas of their families are heart-rending. So what is causing these murderous attacks?

The previous parish in North Birmingham where I served was a gun and knife crime “hot spot” and we knew families directly affected by incidents of violence. The effects ripple through the whole community. A touching feature of the neighbourhoods were the fading street memorials made of flowers and cards, usually attached to lamp posts or fencing, where victims had died nearby; a silent witness to a life lost and a family forlorn.

Most of those who die by the bullet or the blade in the UK are young men between the ages of 16-30. The majority of those arrested and convicted are from the same



age group; our young men are killing each other in increasing numbers. A disproportionate number of the victims and perpetrators will be from black or South Asian ethnic groups. Many of the murders are so called “gang related”, a reference to the growth in gang culture in the UK in which young men are recruited into gangs who fiercely patrol their locality attacking anyone from another gang who dares stray into their territory. Their lifestyle is financed by criminal activities such as drug dealing, theft and burglary. A gang’s reputation

will depend upon the fear they instil and new members are initiated by proving how fearless they are. It is a spiral of violence where each attack incurs swift revenge and counter-attack. One is reminded of the verse from the Old Testament prophet Hosea when he laments the nation's lawlessness: *There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.* (Hosea 4.2)

The few of the gang members, or ex-gang members, whom I met in North Birmingham had many similarities in their lives. They had usually given up on any attempt at living a conventional life of education, work and family. They were in thrall to the glamorisation of gun, knife and gang culture of the USA and Latin America and the music they listened to and the language they used among themselves reinforced their violent, unforgiving, criminal sub-culture. Yet, they were not without conscience. They could be fiercely loyal to whatever family they had and to each other. They knew they were outlaws, with no sense of belonging anywhere else but to their gang and neighbourhood. Reputations were built upon daring, machismo and ruthlessness. A prison sentence was a badge of honour and notoriety highly valued. Another Bible quotation comes to mind: *Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways.* (Proverbs 3.31)

“What gave him the courage to break away was a return to the Christian faith of his childhood and a church willing to accept him despite his criminal past.”

Those who want to escape this world of wrath and violence risk everything when they break away, yet many do. One ex-gang member spoke of his growing realisation of how he was being systematically hardened and exploited by older members of the gang. They held over him the implied threat of physical violence for any act of disloyalty and he knew the crimes he had committed meant he could not trust going to the Police for help; he was trapped. What gave him the courage to break away was a return to the Christian faith of his childhood and a church willing to accept him despite his criminal past.

For many young men, a gang is the only means they can see of gaining any status in a status-conscious society. It is also a way of gaining a good income from dishonesty when they see no prospect of earning one through honest means. The best clothes, footwear, cars, phones and computers all cost money and they desire them as much as any other young person we might know.

Each murder has many victims. The one killed, of course, but their family and loved ones also. The communities where they lived and died are victimised. To be a community stigmatised by the shadow of guns and gangs is to carry a reputation for being violently dangerous in excess of the

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reality. For the sake of the communities who were suffering this stigma, local faith groups held a series of monthly peace walks for a year. It showed a determination to speak out against the people of violence, to show our solidarity with families and neighbours and to be a prayerful witness against the forces of hatred and revenge.

Gun and knife crime are now a feature of our cities. The young people caught up in this sub-culture are promoting a toxic lifestyle which is spreading across our region and attracting other desperate, low-achieving, vulnerable young people into its shadowy world. We could despair at this rising tide of bloodshed but, having met and worked alongside those who are tackling the gang culture on their own terms, I know there is hope.

We will always hear about the murders, but rarely do we hear about the successful work being done by schools, youth workers, charities, victims' families, the Police, ex-gang members and faith groups to tackle this sub-culture. A recent short film about a church working directly with gang members can be seen online at bit.ly/2sOk9hU (that's a capital letter O, not a zero in the middle).

Breaking any cycle of violence requires patience and perseverance. It also requires a belief that people, no matter how damaged by violence, still have an innate capacity to change and reform, to commit to a better way.

Revd Larry Wright



The Right Reverend Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston, presided at the annual service of Confirmation at Saint Nicolas' Church on Sunday 20th May.



SIR FRANK PRICE

A dynamic force with a local connection

Sir Frank Price, or Alderman Frank Price as he was better known in his heyday, died a few months ago. He was a truly remarkable man, admired and loathed in equal measure. With inexhaustible energy and a dominating personality, he radically changed the face of Birmingham in ways that still linger some sixty years later; numbered Royalty and Hollywood stars among his friends and contacts; and made a fortune in property. According to the records, he was also Councillor for Kings Norton from 1957 to 1974 ... but does anyone remember that?

His rise was both astonishing and unexpected, because he was born in a 'back-to-back' in Hockley in 1922, very much at the lowest end of the

social spectrum. His environment, and the indignities it created, so disgusted him that he became a Councillor in 1949, determined to eliminate the terrible conditions endured by so many fellow citizens living in places that were little more than hovels.

Yet even his boundless ambition could hardly have prepared him for the fact that by 1953 he had become Chairman of the Council's all-powerful Public Works Committee. His rise was fostered by Birmingham's highly influential and equally committed City Engineer, Herbert (later Sir Herbert) Manzoni, who was also determined to transform the city into a modern utopia. Together, they developed a strategic modernisation



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plan, eliminating the slums, creating wide, boulevard-style streets lined with trees and gardens, establishing imposing new public buildings and addressing the fact that Birmingham was at the heart of the country's thriving motor industry.

These were wholly admirable and visionary plans, which were forced through at almost breakneck speed from the second half of the 1950's. Unfortunately, the work of Price and Manzoni also created a negative legacy, for which their names have largely become reviled. That's largely because key to their ambitions was

the building of the controversial and soon-to-be notorious Inner and Middle Ring Roads which, in the view of many people then and afterwards, effectively devastated the heart of the city. Dozens of outstanding and historic buildings were swept away irreplaceably to make space, isolating the centre and creating a barrier with its surrounding areas. Even now, it seems an awful price to have paid.

The Price / Manzoni initiative prioritised the use of concrete as a modern building material, again leaving a negative legacy. For example, their futuristic new Bull

Ring Centre rapidly became regarded as a featureless eyesore, as did Birmingham's new Central library, both now demolished.

But there was much that was entirely positive, with a dynamic approach to slum clearance and the creation of new housing in many of the city's poorest areas. Unfortunately, Price and Manzoni were often also criticised for fostering the city's apparent obsession with tower blocks, which became more and more common as the 1960's progressed. But in fact they did not support this answer to the housing problem, unless the blocks were accompanied by appropriate amenities and opportunities for social cohesion. In fact, it's a measure of Frank Price's exceptional self-belief and character that at one famous meeting he rounded on no less than Richard Crossman, the Government's Housing Minister, to accuse him of uncritical adoption of the tower block philosophy without the creation of suitable supporting facilities.

Before the tower block programme began in earnest, Price and Manzoni were no longer 'in charge'. Frank resigned from the Public Works Committee and Herbert had retired. Price had resigned because he wanted to develop a career in property development, and honourably saw a conflict of interest.

He stayed very active and influential in Council affairs, becoming Lord Mayor in 1964 and being knighted in 1966, and became involved with a series of activities in which his contribution was almost always highly positive. He became chairman of the Parks Committee, determined to elevate the cultural profile of the city. His most lasting achievement was the establishment of the Midlands Arts Centre in Cannon Hill Park. He was highly influential in the government's decision to site the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham, rather than in London as was expected. He also brought much-needed dynamism and



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

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vision to the floundering Telford New Town initiative in Shropshire, having become Chairman of its Development Corporation in 1968.

In the same year, he was made Chairman of the British Waterways Board, then a backwater in a literal and figurative sense. Arguably more than any other individual, he is responsible for the fact that many of Britain's then derelict canals have now been restored and refurbished and are popular and charming leisure facilities. He was Chairman right through until 1984.

He actually resigned from local politics in 1973, fed up with the animosity that characterised them, a decision which caused shock waves within Council circles and across the city as a whole. After leaving the Waterways Board, he retired to Mojacar on the Spanish Costa del Sol, where he died at the age of 95 in January this year.

Frank Price's energy, confidence and determination to network vigorously whenever and wherever it might help Birmingham and the other organisations he represented, gave him a national and even an international profile from the 1950's onwards. He travelled far in the desire to learn from the approaches of cities worldwide to the sort of challenges Birmingham faced. At various receptions and events at home and abroad he cultivated several surprising contacts, including the Hollywood star Shirley Maclaine, and our own Prince Philip. The Duke was once heard to say, rather affectionately, "Here comes trouble!" when they both attended the same event, and sent Sir Frank a remarkably complimentary personal letter at the end of his term at the waterways Board.

It's going too far to say that when he died he was a forgotten man, but it is

interesting that there's no profile of him in places such as Wikipedia, and if you want to read his autobiography (see below), you have to wait for it to be extracted from the Library of Birmingham Archives. Perhaps his abrasiveness, and the negative associations described earlier, mean that the powers-that-be just want to airbrush him out, even though he is without doubt one of our greatest citizens.

Oh yes, and according to the records, he was also Councillor for Kings Norton for much of his tempestuous career at the centre of city affairs. He and his wife bought a house on the Bournville

Village Trust in 1954, so he knew the area by the time he became Councillor for our ward in 1957. But there's no tangible evidence of what he did for Kings Norton people specifically, apart from his efforts to improve the city for those who live here. I have speed-read his highly entertaining autobiography, *'Being There'* published in 2002, but there's no reference to him even being a Councillor here, let alone anything he did. Did any of our readers ever come across him in his local capacity, and if so, can you provide us with any anecdotes?

Michael Kennedy



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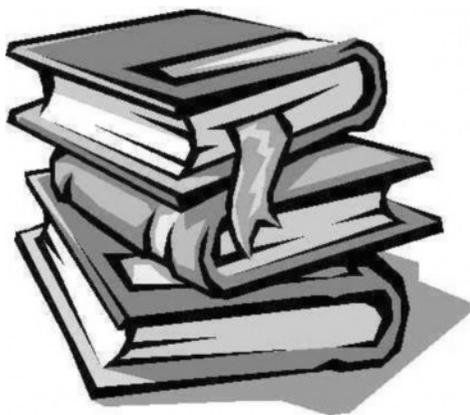
The Summer Reading Challenge

Kings Norton Library launches its Summer Reading Challenge on Saturday 14th July. It's called 'Mischief Makers' and it celebrates the 80th anniversary of the much-loved comic Beano. The library has provided the following information.

Every year, the Reading Agency promotes a National Summer Reading Challenge to encourage children to increase their reading throughout the school holidays. Children this year will follow clues to explore their colourful collector's map of *Beano* town, meeting Dennis, Gnasher and friends along the way. As children read library books, they will collect special stickers to help them find the mysterious buried treasure.

The event runs throughout the holidays. **Children are encouraged to come to the Library on Saturday 14th July, or any time after this date** to enrol in reading and collecting goodies. There are some super free events happening weekly as part of this Challenge. Find out more from the Library!

Everyone likes brand new books, so come early to choose from our new book collections for the Summer Reading Challenge 2018. The book collections comprise 70 new fun reads for children



aged 4-11, with something to enthrall every young reader, and will be available in the library during the Challenge. The collection brings together brilliant books chosen by children and librarians which capture the *Mischief Makers* spirit, and includes many brand new titles which will be published this summer.

There are two collections, one for younger children and one for more confident readers, representing the best in contemporary children's fiction, poetry, non-fiction, picture books and graphic novels.

The younger collection (ages 4-7)

A wide array of books features in the younger collection from across 25



different children's publishers. Titles include the wildly imaginative 'Are We There Yet?' by Dan Santat, the hilarious 'Don't Leap, Larry!' by John Briggs and Nicola Slater, and 'Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure' from the ever-popular Alex T. Smith. Also included are upcoming titles from favourites Jonny Duddle 'Pirates of Scurvy Sands' and Lucy Rowland and Kate Hindley 'The Knight Who Said "No!"'

The younger collection includes plenty of

early reader titles for those developing their reading skills, such as Michael Rosen and Nicola O'Byrne's 'Dread Cat' from dyslexia-friendly publisher Barrington Stoke, and the latest adventures from The Invincibles and Wigglesbottom Primary.

The older collection (ages 8-11)

The older collection includes a great mix of books, including new titles from favourites Steven Butler and Steven Lenton, 'The Nothing to See Here Hotel', and M.G. Leonard's 'Battle of the Beetles'.

Young volunteers

There is also a collection of titles on the Summer Reading Challenge section of the Reading Agency website (www.readingagency.org.uk) aimed at the teenagers and young adults who are expected to support the Challenge at their local library through the young people's volunteer programme. Reading Hack groups across the country have been busy reading and reviewing submissions and their favourites make up the 'Top 10 Volunteer Reads' list.

Children need to read at least six books to complete the challenge. Last year was a great success locally so help us make 2018 even better!

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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 or contact the Editor for more information.

Kings Norton's historic Old Grammar School received national news coverage on Friday 8th June, including a feature story on Sky News.



The School was one of the sites officially recognised in the list, published by *Historic England*, of the most significant sites of Suffragette Protest and Sabotage, to mark the 100th anniversary of the date when women were given the vote in Britain.

The coverage included an interview, filmed inside the Grammar School, with Helen Kempster of the Friends of Historic Kings Norton. It was the culmination of an unexpected and demanding few hours for Helen, who was contacted by BBC, ITV and Sky for more information about why the site had been chosen.

In some ways it's a unique story because, although Suffragettes broke into the School in order to cause damage, they

were so charmed by its historic character that they did nothing more than chalk a message on the blackboard!

"The most amusing question from a reporter was whether we had a picture of the message!" said Helen. "I had to remind him that, when the incident occurred in early 1914, photography was still a time-consuming and complicated business ... there were certainly no iPhones!"

The Suffragette raid on the Old Grammar School was the subject of an article in the February 2018 issue of this magazine. You can find it on the Kings Norton Parish website (www.kingsnorton.org.uk) by clicking on *Documents / Magazine Past Editions*.



FOODBANK NEWS

Although we are, primarily, a Foodbank (and fuel bank for those on prepaid meters), we also give out essential toiletries and cleaning or laundry products. Something that stays with me, even four years later, was a particular client's story.

The young lady in question had been made redundant unexpectedly when her firm collapsed. Her situation spiralled very quickly into homelessness as her salary had only met her essential outgoings. She had no savings. By the time she reached us, she had just been given the keys to a property. As well as receiving a food parcel, she asked if we had any cleaning products. "I can give it a proper clean then," she said, "and begin to get back on my feet." I so admired this woman's resilience and attitude and I wondered if I would be as positive in a similar situation. I am thankful to say that we found her some basic essentials.

During the last few weeks I have been thinking about those who do not have

access to their own laundry facilities. One of the many practical things that made it possible to nurse my father at home was that our washing machine was functioning all the time and was able to run a 24/7 service for a week. We also had a strong network of friends who offered to wash, iron or take things to the dry-cleaner's.

Just how do you do that if you are living in a bed & breakfast or a hostel in a strange town where you know no-one? The laundrette offers a service but at a price and you do as few loads as possible to save money; so the niceties of sorting coloureds from whites from delicates doesn't happen and things wear out faster than they should. Like so many other cycles within the poverty trap, it can become a vicious circle.

There are no easy answers, but it is another aspect of life for those who may have to use Foodbanks for more than a single visit.

Sylvia Fox

MAY 2018 BAPTISMS

20th May

Patrick Peter Matthew DeWard
George Ian Doxianidis
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"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. "

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WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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

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

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

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

Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOCIAL CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Kings Norton Society John Bowen (Chairman) 0121 458 3747

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

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Women's Institute

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Photography Society *www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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

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

South Birmingham Ramblers www.sbramblers.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC VENUES

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

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

The Church in the Parish

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

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

Saint Nicolas' Parish Church

on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.30 am	Holy Communion
But 2 nd Sunday	10.30 am	All-Age Service
	4.00 pm	Christening (1 st and 3 rd Sundays of the month)
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship (see below)

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

Mon & Weds	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
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Hawkesley Church (Anglican & Methodist)

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

Sunday	10.30 am	1 st & 3 rd Sundays	Holy Communion
		2 nd , 4 th & 5 th Sundays	Morning Worship
Tuesday	10.00 am	Hawkesley Coffee Morning (every two weeks)	

Immanuel Church

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

Sunday	10.30am	1 st Sunday	All-Age Worship
		2 nd Sunday	Bible Study
		3 rd & 4 th Sundays	Holy Communion
		5 th Sunday	Prayer & Praise

During the Week

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

Wednesday	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Open Church 10.30 am - 11.30 am : Open the Bible in Saint Nicolas' Church 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm : Open The Bible in Saint Nicolas' <u>Place</u>
Thursday	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : Marriage and Christening (Baptism) enquiries in Saint Nicolas' Church
Saturday	10.00 am - 12.00 noon : Coffee and "Knit & Natter" in St Nicolas' Church

Children's Activities

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

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

Growing in Faith

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

Help us to keep our Parish Church open

It costs more than £900 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.

Christening (Baptism) and Weddings

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

Events Diary July 2018

Tuesday 3 July

- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 4 July

- 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: Music with Norma & Olly
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 5 July

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00pm
- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm: Anthony Wilkinson 'Latin-American Islands'
- 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 6 July

- 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 7 July

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5 km 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

- Saturday Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am-11.30 am

Monday 9 July

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

Tuesday 10 July

- 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
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.30 pm: Norman Bartlam '101 things you didn't know about Birmingham'.

Wednesday 11 July

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

Thursday 12 July

- 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 13 July

- 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 14 July

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am-1.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5 km 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
- Kings Norton Library: start of Summer Reading Challenge (see p.13)

Monday 16 July

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: Anne Adams 'Casualty Stimulation'

Tuesday 17 July

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00pm: West Midlands Fire Service 'Fire Safety'
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 18 July

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

Thursday 19 July

- 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 20 July

- 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 21 July

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5 km 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

Tuesday 24 July

- 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 25 July

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: River Trip, Upton-on-Severn to Tewkesbury
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, Bulls Head, The Green: performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 26 July

- 10.30-11.30am Children's Holiday Event, Kings Norton Library 10.30 am -11.30 am: Drumming/Music with BCAT
- Councillors Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- 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 27 July

- 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 28 July

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5 km 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 am-12.30 pm

Tuesday 31 July

- 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

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)

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2018

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MAY 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)

2nd May	John Frederic Briggs	71	SN.Bu.KN
9th May	Pamelia Eugenia King	64	SN.Bu.CY
11th May	Colin Mathias	64	Cr.LH
11th May	Jean Elizabeth Hodges	68	In.CY
15th May	Barrie James Funnell	85	Cr.RD
15th May	K.J.Brown	22 weeks*	SN.Bu.KN
16th May	Lascells Samuel Gibbs	87	SN.Bu.KN
16th May	Patricia Ivy Fletcher	80	In.CY
17th May	Margaret Ann Woodall	83	SN.Bu.KN
17th May	James William Draper	68	Cr.LH
29th May	Sheila Allen		In.CY

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,

In : Ashes interred, **BE** : Brandwood End, **CY** : Churchyard,

KN : Kings Norton Cemetery, **LH** : Lodge Hill, **PB** : Perry Barr, **PR** : Primrose,

QN : Quinton, **RH** : Robin Hood, **RD** : Redditch, **SC** : Sutton Coldfield, **WI** :

Witton, **WM** : Widney Manor, **WP** : Westall Park, **YD** : Yardley

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All You Can Do Is Enough!

I am borrowing this thought from book entitled All You Can Do Is All You Can Do But All You Can Do Is Enough! (Art L. Williams, 1988). I wish to encourage all who feel they have underachieved in life to be their own celebrities, if society fails to accord them such recognition. Quite often, success stories are told by ordinary people, who look anything but special. We can all have success stories to tell. Everything depends on your perspective on life.

Art Williams believes that everybody wants to be somebody. After all, we all want to reach the place called “fulfilment”; yet there are many different ways of getting there. While some people consider fulfilment from the point of view of achievement, others see it in terms of accepting how much they can do. Those who consider their best to be enough tend to celebrate who they are, where they live and what they do to earn a living. With such a mindset, at whatever station their life-journey-train stops for them, they alight peacefully, and that’s it. They’ve made it!

Incidentally, I come from a different culture, where fulfilment in life is considered from the point of view of achievement. The average person with my culture’s worldview inherits a template for success which often begins

like this. You either go to school or serve a master in trade as an apprentice. You graduate, look for job, or get settled into your own business. If you are male and you make money, you start your own family; and if female, you pray to be discovered by a prospective well-to-do suitor and get married so that you can start making babies to prove your fertility ... or otherwise. The struggle continues as you try to build your own house, train up all your children and begin to feel fulfilled in life.

Now, that puts the average African (and members of every other culture which shares the same worldview) under constant pressure, from the cradle to the grave. Consequently, at whatever stage of this process people die, leaving any of these stages incomplete, their families cry out in their hearts, because such people



he says:

Own your own happiness and be responsible for doing those things which bring joy into your own heart independently of life and people and money. They don't necessarily bring you happiness. He suggests that nobody other than you holds the key to your happiness; not family, friends or even property should be your reason for fulfilment in life, because they are not just going to make that happen for you. Secondly, he says:

Challenge your own story. Change the way you talk to yourself about who you are, what has happened to you and what you want to do in life. Jakes suggests here that, quite often, the stories we tell about ourselves can only be a prospective

are considered to have underachieved and therefore to have been unfulfilled in life, irrespective of their age at the time of departure.

One of the contributors to the Old Testament Book of Psalms believed that God holds the keys to avoiding the pressures of life. He appeals to God to help all who struggle, so that they can find early fulfilment, so that they enjoy life rather than simply endure living. Thus we read, *“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days”* (Psalm 90 verse 14). The writer realised that working with, or serving God with a mindset of unfulfillment would make work a struggle.

On the other hand, the American charismatic Christian preacher T.D Jakes believes that every individual holds the key to their own happiness and to a stress-free life. Here are some of the steps he proposes towards achieving that. First,

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The Answer's Yes!

truth and not “the truth”. We can always change our view of what makes us feel fulfilled in life. Again, the preacher says:

Enjoy the journey and not the destination. A lot of people delay their happiness, thinking “When I get to this level... When I get married... When I get a degree... When I get my own children... When I get enough money... I am going to be happy.” If this is your point of view, your fulfilment depends on earning achievement points. But fulfilment in life is part of the journey; so relax and enjoy the ride! Our friend Jakes also says:

Make relationships count. Everything in life is about relationships, with God, yourself and other people. As long as you know that there is someone who can share your concerns, you don’t have to endure the journey alone.

And while we’re talking about our relationship with God, another Jewish poet, the chief of the Psalmists, David, admonished his audience to “delight themselves in the Lord”. In return, he wrote, they would have their needs met and their fear for unfulfilled desires allayed permanently. *“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”* (Psalm 37 verse 4).

If you have good relationships with God and with others, you can rest assured that there will always be ears available to listen when you need to unburden yourself of the responsibilities which weigh upon you. None of us can be greater than the relationships with which we surround ourselves. And if these are all you can achieve in life, it is enough!

The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu

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2001 : a space odyssey



It's Spring 1968 and the cinema world is overawed by the most revolutionary experiences of the decade: Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece, 2001 A Space Odyssey, screenplay by Arthur C. Clarke. Fifty years on, the film still has the ability to awe and perplex in equal measure.

If you are one of the few who has not seen it, here is a brief summary of the story. The film begins with a mysterious black monolith in space which is next seen on pre-historic earth. Early man is depicted as a fearful and animalistic but through contact with the monolith takes a leap forward; so does the film. It switches to 2001 and a manned Moon station where the same black monolith is discovered and investigated.

The rest of the film takes place on a long-distance space ship heading for Jupiter where the crew are reliant on a super computer, HAL, for all their needs. Humans and technology in perfect partnership, or are they? HAL is not what it first appears to be. The final scenes are beyond infinity (and, for some viewers, beyond compre-

hension also) as we are transported beyond time and space until, in the closing scene, a child in embryo is depicted hovering over the cosmos.

2001 is film about evolution and existentialism. What have we achieved as a human race and what are we destined to achieve with our superior brains and seemingly limitless imaginations? The year 1968 was a high point in the NASA space project, with rockets travelling to the Moon. A year after the film was made, the first men landed there. It was a time of optimism and of a growing belief in what science could achieve for us. It seemed the universe would soon be a place we could explore at will.

It is also a film about the limits of our understanding and the dangers inher-

ent in over-reliance of technology. HAL is a computer which can make independent decisions (what we might refer to now as having Artificial Intelligence or A.I.) but it (he?) goes beyond human understanding and logic, leaving the last remaining crew member to commit an act of heroic self-sacrifice. His act is not the end,

though, but the start of a new beginning. Perhaps the star child of the final scene is the genesis of a new humanity, maybe even a new Adam from which Eve will come and a new cosmic race will be born.

M.G.M.



The Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Reverend David Urquhart, a keen motorcyclist, paid a flying visit to Chas Mann Motorbikes on The Green on the afternoon of the Kings Norton Festival (9th June). News of his arrival must have got out...

In a recent article on the website of the Church of England, Birmingham (www.cofebirmingham.com), the Bishop wrote:

“Sometimes it may seem that our faith and the world itself are hanging precariously. The promise of God is that, in Jesus, he will always be with us and never let us go.”

Bread Pudding

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

Recently, a friend returned from holiday to find that there had been a problem with her kitchen electrics and that her freezer had defrosted. Luckily, it must have happened shortly before she returned home as she was able to salvage most of the contents. Her dilemma was then what to do with them and, as a result, I was given the challenge of creating dishes using the several loaves of bread and tubs of soft fruit that had been saved.

I am always happy to be given a challenge and my first thought was, "Bread Pudding!" It's easy to make, the bread doesn't need to be fresh and it's very tasty. I had to message my daughter to photograph the recipe from my mum's old cook book and, as the recipe from an old copy of Mrs Beeton only uses one egg, some sugar and dried fruit, it is relatively inexpensive.

As I was making it with my friends' youngest daughter, she was telling me about a recipe for carrot biscuits that they had tried at

school as part of a project on the Second World War.

I explained

that this pudding was also one that people would have made when money was tight or when ingredients were in short supply. We were making the pudding with milk, but if times were hard you would soak the bread in water instead.

Then we looked for other recipes using bread and I was reminded of things like Apple Charlotte and Summer Pudding; again, cheap to make and using bread and seasonal fruits, which could have been hedgerow fruits. Summer Pudding doesn't even need cooking, so it saves money on fuel too.

It strikes me that our older family members knew a thing or two about cooking on a tight budget, perhaps because they had had to be creative due to wartime shortages or, in the case of my own



family, from poverty between the wars. My mother and her sister were brought up by their grandmother during the 1920's and money was in short supply. She remembered her grandmother counting out slices of bread for each of them, the focus being on filling them up rather than on nutrition. Fruit and vegetables were seasonal and often grown in the garden or gleaned from hedgerows or the fields. I can remember going 'gleaning' with my mum in the local fields to collect potatoes rejected by the harvesting machines for being mis-shapen or

damaged.

Family recipes are often passed on down the generations and sometimes forgotten about, written in the back of recipe books or in old notebooks. Perhaps, in our times of austerity and food poverty, it's time to dig out those recipes and revisit them, to share them with others. Perhaps you have some austerity recipes in your own family that you would like to share with us in future editions of the magazine. I'll start you off with mine for Bread Pudding!

Pauline Weaver

BREAD PUDDING

Ingredients

8 oz stale bread
4 oz raisins or sultanas
2 oz brown sugar
2 oz suet or margarine
½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 egg
Milk or water

Method

Break bread into small pieces and soak in milk or water for at least half an hour.

Squeeze out the liquid then put into a basin, mashing out any lumps with a fork.

Add other ingredients and mix well, adding milk/water back in so that mixture drops easily from spoon.

Place in greased tin and bake in oven for about one hour at gas mark 3 or 170 degrees C.



Blackbirds!

Since our last edition went to press, the blackbird chicks which have been nesting inside the porch of Saint Nicolas' Church have fledged.

This photograph of the mother with her offspring was taken on the day of the Kings Norton Festival (9th June, photos opposite), shortly before the chicks left the nest.

Blackbirds rear two to three broods a year, so who knows when they'll be back?

As part of its work to learn from the past, the Church of England has commissioned the *Social Care Institute for Excellence* to undertake an independent and anonymous survey to learn from experiences people may have had of abuse or harm or of feeling very vulnerable within the church. This is part of a broad range of work by the Church of England. You can find further details at

bit.ly/2JDzKdM

Responses submitted during June will inform further developments in the Anglican Church's work to ensure the safety of all.

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David Ash
photography

CONTACTS

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

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

THE MINISTRY TEAM

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

THE CHURCH WARDENS

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

OTHER CONTACTS

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

MUSIC

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

BELL RINGING

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

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

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Scouts and Cubs

198th Birmingham St Nicolas'

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

Guides and Brownies

Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

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

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

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

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

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr Derek Higgins

Home From Africa

In which a trainee Radio Officer drives home his point

The *Encounter Bay*, our large container vessel, was on the regular trip to Australia and proceeding south off the coast of southern Africa. We were some two days from Cape Town, where a boat from the ship's agent was scheduled to meet us in order to collect and deliver mail and other items. The plan was that the ship would slow down as it approached Cape Town. Once the visit was completed, it would pick up speed for the next 14 days at sea before reaching Perth in Western Australia. But, unbeknown to us, a major diversion was to occur.



One of the containers on board carrying hazardous chemicals was found to be leaking and was getting warm. As this could endanger the ship, we had to put into Cape Town and were berthed there for over two days. The dock areas did not have a container crane to lift the other containers away from the danger. Eventually, a portable crane reached the trouble spot and landed the hazardous container ashore. In the mean time, most of the crew ventured into Cape Town.

We had an extra Radio Officer on board who was new to the company and who had joined us to learn his job under the

wing of Rod, our usual radio man. Well, given our position, the company said that the trainee could be flown home and that they would find another ship where his skills were needed. He was a rather withdrawn character, so our crew were not going to miss him.

A week later, Rod the Radio Officer came bursting into the Officers' Bar with some dramatic news from the UK. The junior man had indeed flown home from Cape Town. Before he left, though, he had visited one of the tourist attractions, a Zulu reserve

where the local people are dressed in tribal costume and entertain the tourists with ritual dances and so forth.

Souvenirs were on sale, so our man had purchased a shield and a short spear. Some time later, he had arrived at his home in England unannounced, because he wanted to surprise his wife. He let himself in, of course, and is supposed to have said something like, "Surprise, surprise, honey, I'm home".

Unfortunately, his wife was not alone in bed! And as he was carrying his spear from Africa, he is alleged to have stabbed the visiting gentleman in the cheek (I can't say which one, but it wasn't his face). A visit to hospital ensued where some stitches were provided. Of course, all of us back on board were in stitches too!

Eddie Matthews

MAY 2018

MARRIAGES

19th May

Neil John Edwin & Kim Teresa Warrilow

19th May

Martin John Walsh & Natasha Powell



Found In The Mists of Time

Following his article in the June issue of the Parish Magazine, several readers contacted Michael Kennedy to help in his quest to establish a publication date for a booklet he had acquired about the history of St Nicolas' Church.

One of them was able to provide conclusive evidence of the date, so

the effort has been successful. Michael thanks all those who helped, especially those who took the time to provide such fascinating memories of shops and services around The Green in the 1950's and 1960's. Those reminiscences will be the subject of an article in our August issue.

The date was 1960.



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