



KINGS NORTON  
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE  
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

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What's On Guide**

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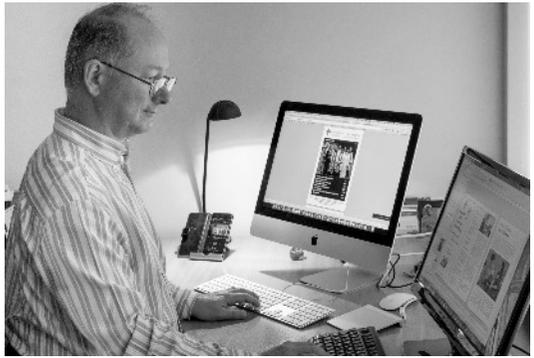
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## Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the  
October 2018 edition must reach  
the Editor by midnight on **Friday  
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November 2018 edition must  
reach the Editor by midnight on  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October**.



Welcome to September, the beginning of Spring if you live in the Southern Hemisphere, where Eliakim, our Assistant Rector spent the middle of August. Find out why on p.40.

So much depends on your perspective. If you were born before 1950, you are more likely to have fond memories of Cliff Richard and the Shadows (p.10) than if you're a Millennial. If you've experienced real loneliness (p.4) you are likely to feel deeper sympathy for the isolated than if you've always been surrounded by friends. If you're a parent, you will find much to agree with in Gemma's series, which starts on p.20, about bringing small children to church. If you're not, she'll open your eyes over the coming months. And if you're one of those children, you may recognise the sense of wonder experienced by Dexter as he explores the inside of that Pointy Building on The Green (p.42). Then there's politics. Should we call the country which Catherine, our curate, visited this summer Israel, Palestine, or both (p.16)? It depends on your point of view.

In short, as Michael Kennedy observes on p.14, it takes all sorts to make a world; and our only hope of sharing it peacefully with the other flawed humans who inhabit it (p.51) is to try to see it from where they're standing. As the novelist Barbara Kingsolver wrote, "Empathy is really the opposite of spiritual meanness. It's the capacity to understand [...] that someone else's pain is as meaningful as your own."

The Editor

# FROM THE RECTOR

## Feeling Lonely?

Recent research has revealed that chronic loneliness and isolation, across a broad section of the UK population, is causing serious physical and mental health problems. So concerned are health and social service professionals that the government has appointed Tracy Couch M.P. As 'Minister for Loneliness' and set aside a £20 million fund to counter the effects of chronic loneliness in our communities. The funding will support charities and community groups to bring people together and will go to support programmes that are proven to benefit individuals and society. Thousands of people will be helped to make connections in their communities. (You can find information about the fund online at [bit.ly/2vRxiYh](http://bit.ly/2vRxiYh)).

Why has chronic loneliness become such a major issue? Before trying to find answers to this question it is worth defining what is meant by chronic loneliness. For something to be chronic it needs to have long term effects upon our lives. Being alone for a while, even by choice, is different from being lonely. Long term loneliness can lead to profound feelings of isolation, isolation can feel like rejection and strong feelings of rejection can lead to feelings of dejection.

Most of us will have experienced periods of being lonely, when physically separated from family or friends for instance. We can



also feel isolated within a group, when we either do not seem to fit in or are not being allowed to belong. Human beings are created to be social therefore we soon feel the ill effects when we are without supportive, caring social or family groups.

When we consider people living with chronic loneliness what images do we conjure up? Maybe we think of an elderly person, widowed perhaps, with no strong family relationships, no neighbours to rely upon, no remaining friends and in

failing health, their days spent relying upon health and care professionals to visit and break the monotony of loneliness. However, an anxious child starting a new school with no familiar faces around them, or a student starting at college or university can also feel deep feelings of loneliness and separation; feelings which, if they are not overcome, can lead to emotional problems or worse. What about a couple splitting up where one or other has to leave the family home and find new accommodation away from all that is familiar? Then there is the asylum seeker who lands in a foreign country and places themselves at the mercy of the authorities for aid and assistance. Loneliness can affect us at various times in our lives and if it is not addressed, it leads to the health problems identified in recent reports.

Being alone for short periods can be refreshing. Time alone can feel like a precious commodity, the busyness of life and the demands of everyday relationships allowing little time for being with oneself. Being alone allows us to think, reflect and prepare, giving us space to be reflective and creative. It allows our thoughts and imaginings to be put into perspective. It also allows us time to just relax, do nothing or do that which nourishes our inner self.

Religions, philosophy and well-being advice actually encourage us regularly to seek out places and times where we can be alone with our thoughts or with our God,

but it has to be balanced with being fully present when fulfilling our social and family responsibilities.

Solitude is something we can learn to appreciate for itself: a time when we can focus upon ourselves and our needs, not in a self-centred way, but in relation to the life values we seek to live by. In this

way, solitude becomes a period of self-examination of conscience and a review of one's life. The theologian Paul Tillich, wrote: 'Loneliness expresses the pain of being alone and solitude expresses the glory of being alone.' There is something exalted

about being in a regular, healthy state of solitude which will, by degrees, enable us to be better in society.

So why are we seemingly in the grip of a chronic loneliness epidemic? Some aspects of modern life seem to be obvious causes. We are a more transient society, people will travel for pleasure or work away from their family roots. Family life is under constant strain and the older certainties of family roles and responsibilities are changing. Individuals in Western countries have multiple choices of lifestyles and may re-invent themselves a number of times during their lifetime, each re-invention often requiring a move or a leaving behind of others. Evidence is emerging that modern technology, especially computers and mobile phones, have a tendency to isolate us as we become

'Human beings are created to be social therefore we soon feel the ill effects when we are without supportive, caring social or family groups.'

# Don't throw me away!

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

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

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

## ...pass it on!

absorbed in the vivid, virtual world of the internet and its inducements.

We are also living longer – a blessing for most – but many elderly people live with life-limiting conditions which curb their mobility and their ability to join in social activities. The longer one lives the more funerals one attends, as family and friends pass away. The elderly isolated probably make up a large proportion of the lonely whom the government funding is trying to reach.

As churches, we pay close attention to those who, because of age, ill health or any other reason, are no longer able to attend their church. We have a pastoral team which visits the housebound. We hold afternoon teas with transport provided for our seniors. Through these

and other ways, faith and community organisations endeavour to ameliorate the effects of chronic loneliness. However, the task is greater than these quiet acts of charity offer; hence the current national spotlight on loneliness.

We can all play a part. We might have neighbours who, we sense, may be lonely or isolated; or we may have lost touch with someone we once knew who may appreciate a telephone call, a letter or a card. We may need to acknowledge that we are feeling lonely at times and the source and reason for those feelings. Mother Teresa of Calcutta wrote: "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty."

*Revd Larry Wright*

# National Trust volunteers help out at Fields Millennium Green

*The Fields Millennium Green, one of the nature conservation areas in Kings Norton, is currently the focus of a national training initiative. The work of the local Trust is being supported by volunteers who are being trained as part of the national Green Academies Project (GAP). The Project is funded by the Big Lottery and run by the National Trust, with funding channelled through the 'Our Bright Future' initiative which supports young people in the places where they live.*

The Fields Millennium Green is an area of green public space maintained by a trust. It is accessible from pedestrian entrances from Longdales Road, Sisefield Road, Gildas Avenue and Primrose Hill. There is a small car park for the disabled off Longdales Road, opposite Kings Norton Cemetery. Disabled access from this car park is via a gate opened with a RADA key.

The site is semi-natural, with grasslands, woodland, an orchard, a natural play area and an event field on which games can be played. There are also benches and three picnic tables.

For the GAP Project, The Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust has developed the management plan for Millennium Green and the other Midlands locations where the project is running. The Birmingham Youth Service and Adult Education Departments are also involved. The

GAP team helps students to gain diplomas in Land-based Environmental Conservation. Another local initiative has seen locally-recruited 11-to-16 year olds opening up green spaces in the Dell in Druids Heath, making pathways accessible, putting in picnic benches and making it an attractive place in which to play and spend leisure time.

The initiative is complementing the ongoing work of the Fields Millennium Green Trust, which is also closely involved in the project. 'Our usual Saturday fortnightly volunteer sessions



have involved various conservation tasks in which we have been helped greatly by eight National Trust Green Academy students and their leaders, and some young Urban Rangers who attend sessions at The Factory in Longbridge,' explains Trust Secretary Maggie Sweet. 'There have also been two days on which corporate groups from GVA, arranged by Groundwork UK, have joined us. We have replaced worn gravel boards on paths, re-surfaced some paths with gravel, replaced worn wooden steps, constructed a new "living" handrail near some steps, planted new hedges, pruned fruit trees in the orchard, cut back brambles, strimmed long grass, mown path edges and removed litter!'

'In addition, representatives from the National Trust, with help from some of the GAP students, have organised sessions where children from some schools in the constituency, together

with police, teachers and staff from the Fire Service, spend a morning doing woodland tasks and then learn some bushcraft skills such as fire-lighting and den-building.'

The Trust has maintained the Millennium Green since 2001, and has made a range of improvements, planting bulbs and putting in picnic tables and new seating. It organises activities such as coppicing of hazel, den-building and litter picks and larger events such as its regular Open Days.

'We are always looking for new volunteers,' adds Maggie Sweet. 'We provide protective gloves and all the tools, so that new recruits can just turn up!' For all Millennium Green sessions, meet at the picnic area near the lower Primrose Hill entrance, off Briar Way. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For further details and dates of conservation sessions, please see the Trust's website [www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk](http://www.fieldsmillenniumgreen.btck.co.uk) or email Maggie Sweet on [sweetc5@sky.com](mailto:sweetc5@sky.com).



**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!

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# KINGS NORTON'S PLACE IN *The Story of Pop*

*Michael Kennedy thought for many years that Kings Norton had produced no pop stars. Now, he knows differently!*

My ears pricked up a few weeks ago when I was listening to BBC Radio WM's excellent weekly 'Network Gold' programme, presented by John Platt. Part of the programme covers the anniversaries of significant people in the history of pop music, and I suddenly sat up when he mentioned Kings Norton. On checking, I realised with some pride that the parish does have at least one claim to pop fame: a member

of that much loved, evergreen group, The Shadows!

As most, if not all readers will fondly remember, The Shadows rose to fame as the backing group for Cliff Richard, beginning in the late 1950s. While still supporting Cliff, they also achieved a memorable succession of hits themselves, beginning with Apache and including several further major hits such as FBI, Man of Mystery, Dance On,



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Kon-tiki and Wonderful Land. The original members were lead guitarist Hank B. Marvin, rhythm guitar Bruce Welch, drummer Tony Meehan, and on bass, the moody and mysterious Jet Harris.

The Kings Norton connection begins some four years into The Shadows story. Jet Harris left to pursue his own career as a pop idol and, after his replacement failed, in mid-1963, the group took on a Kings Norton born player, with such success that he stayed with the group until it ceased recording around the end of the 1960s.

His name was John Rostill (2<sup>nd</sup> from the left in the photo above\*). He is not particularly well remembered, but he was fundamental to the continuing success of The Shadows in terms of their music and their enduring

popularity. His bass guitar technique was ahead of its time and much admired and emulated. In his later career, he supported such major acts as Tom Jones at the zenith of his career in America and was also a respected composer, whose songs were recorded by such pop 'greats' as Elvis Presley and Olivia Newton John.

Though John was definitely born in Kings Norton, on 18 June 1942, I can find no other details of where he was born, or why his parents were here and for how long. Well before his career developed, he and his family were based down south: his secondary school was in South London, which he left in 1959. By then he was already an accomplished performer, soon to become a regular member of the backing groups for American acts

(\*Hank B. Marvin, John Rostill, Brian Bennett and Bruce Welch at the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium, 9<sup>th</sup> May 1964 © of this and the photo on p.12 : Georges Delec.)



visiting Britain, including the Everly Brothers.

The Shadows officially broke up in the late 1960's, though Hank Marvin and Bruce Welch continued to pull groups together and perform for some 50 years (including numerous so-called 'Farewell Tours!').

Though John (left) had left the group, he seemed poised for further success.

But tragically it was not to be. On 26 November 1972 Bruce Welch found him in a recording studio in Radlett, Hertfordshire, the victim of an overdose of barbiturates. He left a wife and a one year old son.

Having discovered one Kings Norton born pop star, it was ironic that almost at the same time I was prompted into the awareness of another, or at least a pop group with strong local connections, The Rockin' Berries.

My prompt came from someone who remembered members of the group using the services of a local hairdresser. Following up that clue, I found out that the group was originally formed just down the road at Turves Green School in the late 1950s, and were so named because they loved to play Chuck Berry songs. It's especially noteworthy that an early keyboard player with the group was no less than Christine Perfect, later Christine McVie of one of the world's most successful groups, Fleetwood Mac. She grew up in Bearwood and studied art at a local college. It's fascinating to think that, with the embryonic Rockin' Berries, she

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was playing in and around Kings Norton as she laid the foundation of an incredibly successful international career.

The Berries took a major step forward when another local boy, Geoff Turton, joined as singer and guitarist. After a period playing abroad, they signed for Pye Records. *He's in Town* reached no 3 in the charts in late 1964, and *Poor Man's Son* reached no 5 a few months later.

There were no more major hits, but the group focused on becoming, in the phrase of the day, 'all round entertainers' on the cabaret circuit, with impersonations and comedy routines, so successfully that they appeared at the Royal Variety Performance in 1967. Amazingly, there's still a group called the Rockin' Berries performing today, usually with at least one of its original, locally-born members.

There was also another Birmingham group from the heyday of Sixties pop, The Cheetahs, who were formed in Longbridge and were memorable for wearing imitation leopard skin outfits on stage. They had no chart success until Kings Norton vocalist Ray Bridger joined them in 1964. Signed by Philips Records, they then reached the UK Top 40 with two of their singles, *Mecca* and *Soldier Boy*. Ray continued to perform and record until recently.

Finding these local connections also prompts me to describe the career of Kings Norton's only truly genuine pop



music icon. I've known about him for a while, but wasn't quite sure whether the story of his group was right for the pages of a parish magazine. But here goes.

Mick Harris was for a significant period the drummer for a 'heavy metal' group which had enormous commercial success internationally. Unfortunately, the group's name is for me one of the most tasteless names ever selected for a band: Napalm Death. When I first heard that name many years ago, I was disgusted that what I assumed to be an American band should be so misguided as to choose such an awful name. It was not until a few weeks ago that I realised that in fact the group was created in Meriden, the heart of England!

They formed in 1981, and were joined in November 1985 by drummer Mick, who was born in Kings Norton in October 1967 (according to Wikipedia and one or two other sources). Once again, I can find no details about where he was

born or why his family were here, or where precisely they lived.

He became a major factor in the ongoing success of the band, who were regarded as pioneers of the 'grindcore' genre, described memorably as 'elements of crust punk and death metal, using a noise-filled sound that uses heavily distorted, down-tuned guitars, grinding overdrive bass, high speed tempo, blast beats, and vocals which consist of incomprehensible growls, or high-pitched shrieks, extremely short songs, fast tempos, and socio-political lyrics'. The band's debut album Scum, released in 1987 by Earache Records, was highly influential in the 'heavy metal' sphere.

Mick is generally credited with popularising the 'blast beat', which has since become a key component of much of extreme metal and grindcore. One memorable quote said of his drumming 'This sounds like someone is literally firing a fully automatic rifle while a bassist and guitarist try to keep up.'

Mick left the group in 1991 to focus on other genres. He withdrew from music a few years ago but then resurfaced last year under the name of Fret, with a brand new album. Tempted? No, neither am I, but it takes all sorts!

*Michael Kennedy*

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# Remembering Marion Collett

Marion Collett, whose funeral took place earlier this summer (*see July 2018 Funerals below*) would have been a familiar face to many who lived and worked in Kings Norton during the last quarter of the 20th century. Her son Andy has been in touch to explain why and to provide a few personal details.



Marion and her husband, who were subscribers to this magazine over many years, ran the newsagent's at No.4, The Green from 1975 until 2000. During that time, the shop became a meeting point for local people, who would often drop in for a chat. Their German Shepherd dogs were great favourites with the customers too. Andy writes, 'Both my parents retired in 2000, to the dismay of the residents, who have, over the years, told us that the shop was never the same.' When Andy announced Marion's death on Facebook, he was 'blown away by the support' : 500 people got in touch to express their condolences or to share their memories.

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## JULY 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*)

4th July	Dorothy Margaret Atherton	90	Bu.CY
12th July	Robert Tyndall	50	SN.Cr.LH
18th July	Marion Collett	80	Cr.LH
23rd July	Madeline Mawhinney		In.CY
24th July	Diana Rosemary Duffy	71	SN.Bu.CY
25th July	Darren Robert Parker	45	SN.Bu.KN

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

# PILGRIMAGE & DISCOVERY IN ISRAEL / PALESTINE

*Born in the Middle East, I believe that something deep in my soul responds to the sights, sounds and smells of this diverse and beautiful region whenever I re-enter the 'Promised Land.' However, this was the first time I had journeyed within Israel/Palestine and had the privilege of walking on the ground, breathing the air and setting foot in the waters where Jesus and his disciples spent their day-to-day lives.*

St George's College, Jerusalem, and The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, offered me the opportunity to join another twenty-five Anglican ordinands and deacons from across the UK in a pilgrimage through the Holy Land.

We were based at St George's, situated close to the Damascus Gate of the Old City in Jerusalem and in the same grounds as the Anglican Cathedral Church of St George the Martyr.

Local streets are busy yet peaceful, Jews, Arabs and Christians seeming to live in apparent harmony and co-operation. The residential proximity of neighbours from the three Abrahamic faiths is revealed clearly at weekends. Shops closed on Fridays indicate Moslem owners, committed to Salat; those with shutters down on Saturdays are managed by Jews, resting on Shabbat; and Christian vendors cease selling their wares on Sundays. Yet there are symbols of the contradictory and often confusing



religious conflict repeatedly making themselves visible throughout the architecture of this ancient landscape.

The Temple Mount (photo bottom left) offers a stark yet beautiful witness to the convergence and conflict of the major faiths in Jerusalem, the site's hallowed ownership severely contested by Orthodox Jews and Moslems. Whilst the Jews' most holy place of worship, the Western Wall, flanks one side of the Mount, access to the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, considered to be the third most sacred site in Islam, is restricted to Moslems only, through ten of the eleven gates in the Herodian walls.

When viewing the magnificent, golden dome for the first time from the Mount of Olives, it is

extraordinary to discover that the second Jewish temple (516 B.C. - 70 A.D.), refurbished to a grand scale by Herod the Great, would have been twice its size. What an imposing symbol of religious and political power this vast structure must have been for Jesus as he journeyed towards the City for the final time! It affected me deeply to think that, if only in a limited way, I could share Jesus' visual perspective from this place and contemplate how, in walking to his own death, he passed through the Jewish cemetery, now a vast and poignant expanse of white tombs sprawling across the mountainside.

The bleakest reminder of religio-political division is no doubt the partition wall that tears through the topography of Israel/Palestine (below). Rising up from nowhere, it





snakes its way through the centre of ancient villages like Bethany and Bethlehem, violently separating families and communities. Palestinian Arabs living in Jerusalem seem to live in apparent liberty whereas those who reside in the West Bank or Gaza Strip experience ever-decreasing social, political and religious freedom.

Yet this troubled land continues to attract millions of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant pilgrims every year, each desirous to connect with Christ in a tangible way through visiting

sites that mark his birth, life and resurrection. Israel/Palestine does indeed offer wonderful opportunities for contextual interpretation of the biblical text, putting living flesh on the bones of ageless stories and parables.

In the next edition I will share a few of my personal “wow” moments during this pilgrimage, as I learned historical truths that breathed new life into scripture.

*Revd Catherine Matlock*



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# FOODBANK NEWS

There are various ways in which you can support the Foodbank and its work of providing emergency food for those in crisis.

There are the more obvious ones of one-off or regular donations of non-perishable food items, which must not have passed their 'sell by' date. There is a collection bin near the entrance steps into St Nicolas' Church, and many others dotted about South Birmingham shops, churches, schools and branches of Lloyds Bank. Several local supermarkets have collection bins and also host collection days.

There is the option to give financially, supporting the costs of running and housing the Foodbank, as well as buying food items if necessary. This giving can also be one-off or regular. There is the option to buy 'alternative gifts' for family and friends at Christmas, or to ask for donations instead of presents for a birthday or anniversary. Or how about

Alternative Advent Calendars, donating or requesting a food item for each of the 24 doors on the calendar? There is even the option to include the Foodbank as a bequest in a will.

There is a new way to support through food giving. Some people have begun to give through internet shopping. Instead of having the food delivered to their home, the shopper arranges for it to be delivered to directly to the Foodbank. Now that we have the new warehouse, we are asking that all deliveries be directed there during specific delivery time-slots. Contact us for details.

If you pray, please support us through prayer too: for those who use the Foodbank, for all the volunteer teams, for those lobbying for fairer benefit systems and rates of pay, and for those with the power to make those changes.

*Sylvia Fox*

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JULY 2018

## BAPTISMS

1 <sup>st</sup> July	Grace Elizabeth Herd
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Sofia Arabella Scott Freddie George Scott James Frederick Francis Griffiths
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Jolene Olanma Chizi Ugwunne

**"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*

# Adventures at the Back of Church

The difference between church  
with & without kids

Part 1

*In the first of a series of articles written especially for this magazine, Gemma Harris takes an honest look at the joys and the challenges of bringing small children to church.*

I have been a regular-ish churchgoer since my childhood in Coventry. My mum, who was born in 1940's Spain, was brought up a Roman Catholic and she made sure I got an understanding of the Catholic service, taking me regularly to Mass.

The rest of time I went to my local Church of England and I went to C of E primary and secondary schools. I was in the school choir aged 11-12 and we performed as a stand-in choir for Wells Cathedral choir and at Westminster Abbey. I guess it was a rarefied upbringing, but to me it was

normal. It was normal to sing the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis\* an awful lot. But my family also helped me to criticise religion and to think for myself. Dad always refused to take Communion (although sometimes he'd receive a blessing) and we'd discuss our beliefs passionately at the dinner table. I'm grateful for all of it.

When I went to university, I gave up church life for a few years until I put down roots in Kings Norton. And that's when I rediscovered the church service as an outsider. For a few wondrous years, I sat and listened

and participated and found myself on a journey of self-discovery. I battled depression in my 20's and my faith and I grew stronger. I made Christian friends, planned my wedding and planned a family, witnessed my friends' heartache, all the time coming back to that special time on a Sunday morning where I could separate myself from "real life" and immerse myself in a sermon and prayers and grow in faith. It was an amazing experience. And then the babies came.

My first time coming to church as a mother was weird and it continued to feel weird for quite some time, years perhaps. It felt weird because, for 6 years, church had been my refuge; a place of quiet, joy and reflection. I'd come out feeling my sanity (such as it was) had been restored.

Once you sit in a pew with a baby asleep in the pushchair beside you there is a lot less contemplative thinking and a lot more stressed-out thoughts about the logistics of nappy changing, bottle warming, screaming babies and so on. Josh used to be passed around the church regularly, everyone was very nice to me and gradually I began to relax; but spirituality became a hazy memory because the wriggly boy began to make church life very challenging.

I was still clinging to my old church life, sitting with childless friends in a

pew near the front until, one Sunday, Josh took a flying leap off the seat during the service, landing slam on the floor and bawling hysterically for a while. I straight away re-located to the back of the church, feeling like the whole community was looking at me and branding me a bad mother.

And that was it. That was the beginning of my 'adventures at the back'. I began to meet lots of other mums and dads and wriggly kids and in these articles I'm going to describe the church service as far as I can from the perspective of mums and dads at the back of church.

See you next month!

Gemma Harris

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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](mailto:michaelkennedy@talk21.com)) by the submission deadline shown on page 3. To advertise in the pages of this magazine, contact The Editor, David Ash ([editor@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:editor@kingsnorton.org.uk)). Details of advertising charges are available on request or can be viewed on the magazine page of the parish website at [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk).**

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## Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

### LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SOCIAL CLUBS & SOCIETIES**

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

Our origins go back to Kings Norton Youth Fellowship. We still have a few who remember those days but most are much younger. We normally meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club on the fourth Friday of the month for a bite to eat, a chat and general socialising. We have the

occasional walk, quiz or speaker or best of all, we organise our own entertainment. If you know a member tell them you would like to come, or call the number above.

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

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

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

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

### **Kings Norton Women's Institute**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Kings Norton Fundraising Group for 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Active Parks, part of the City Council's Birmingham Wellbeing initiative, works in partnership with various organisations in order to offer a wide variety of free physical activities

across Birmingham parks. With the Friends of Kings Norton Park group, depending on the season, it offers a range of local events, from jogging to Tai Chi, normally meeting in the Westhill Road car park at Kings Norton Park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MUSIC VENUES

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

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

# The Church in the Parish

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

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

## Saint 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
But 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	<b>10.30 am</b>	All-Age Service
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	Christening (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month)
	<b>6.00 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: Compline and Reflection, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Evening Prayer or Creative Worship.

<b>Mon &amp; Weds</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	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*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays	Holy Communion
		2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Morning Worship
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10.00 am</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>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	All-Age Worship
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Bible Study
		3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Holy Communion
		5 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

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

## Children's Activities

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

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

Please see our weekly newsletter for details.

## Growing in Faith

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

## Help us to keep our Parish Church open

It costs 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.

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

# Events Diary September 2018

## **Saturday 1 September**

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

## **Tuesday 4 September**

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

## **Wednesday 5 September**

- 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: Rita Sutton 'Adventures with Young and Old'

## **Thursday 6 September**

- BCAT Step On Virtual Cruise, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-1.30pm
- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

## **Friday 7 September**

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- 70s/80s evening with band, curry supper and Rock 'n' Roll bar, Kings Norton Tennis Club, Grange Hill Road, 7.00 pm. £18 for non members. Tickets from Lorraine on 0121 459 0944.

### **Saturday 8 September**

- 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 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
- Craft Session with NAF, Kings Norton Library, 10 am-1 pm
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

### **Monday 10 September**

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, 6.30-7.30 pm. For details please contact Sue Davies 0121 606 0646 or email [suebarkerdavies@gmail.com](mailto:suebarkerdavies@gmail.com)

### **Tuesday 11 September**

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

### **Wednesday 12 September**

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

### **Thursday 13 September**

- BCAT Step On Virtual Cruise, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-1.30pm
- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm: On Board Displays 'Holidays'
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 14 September**

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

### **Saturday 15 September**

- 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

### **Monday 17 September**

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm: Gil Bedford "Can Do' Approach by Head Teacher'.

### **Tuesday 18 September**

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00pm: Talk on 'Victory Belles & Co. WI'
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 19 September**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: 'Rolling Back the Years, a Musical Journey' (Solihull Arts Club)
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Thursday 20 September**

- BCAT Step On Virtual Cruise, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-1.30pm
- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 21 September**

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

### **Saturday 22 September**

- 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

### **Monday 24 September**

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas Place, 7 pm: Sue Tungate 'Matthew Boulton and the Soho Mint: from Copper to Customer'

### **Tuesday 25 September**

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
- South Birmingham Ramblers: two-mile gentle walk, Kings Norton Playing Fields car park, 10.00 am
- 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
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

### **Wednesday 26 September**

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Alison Singers
- 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 27 September**

- BCAT Step On Virtual Cruise, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-1.30pm
- Crochet Group, Kings Norton Library, 2-3pm
- Councillors' Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

### **Friday 28 September**

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

### **Saturday 29 September**

- 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

# Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

## Monday

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

## Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

Shapes & Adders Toddler Maths 9.45 - 10.45 am

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

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

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm

(enquiries@beeches-martialarts.co.uk)

Pilates 7.15 - 8.15 pm

## Thursday

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

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

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

Yoga Really Works Pregnancy Class 6.30 - 7.30 pm

## Friday

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

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

## Saturday

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

## Kings Norton Farmers' Market

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# Kings Norton Tennis Club Update

Kings Norton Tennis Club has announced that its latest coaching initiative for children begins on Wednesday 5 September. There are separate coaching sessions for under-5s, 5-to-8 year olds and 9 year olds and above, and also Family Tennis sessions for any child who is 5 years or older, plus a parent. Those interested can arrange a free trial at any one of the dedicated sessions.

Details can be found on the Coaching page of the Tennis Club website, [kingsnortontennis.co.uk](http://kingsnortontennis.co.uk),

which also offers an opportunity to book. Further information can be obtained from coach Matthew Hillman on 07503 747433.

The Club is also holding a 70s & 80s themed evening on Friday 7th September. Music will be provided by the talented Bravo Boys, who will be playing music from that era. There's also a curry supper and a rock 'n' roll themed bar. Tickets are £18 per person for non-members and can be obtained from Lorraine on 0121 459 0944



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If you would be interested in using an experience pack for a few days, please do call Elizabeth/Lizzie so she can arrange a time that suits to deliver.

There are also part-time and full-time work opportunities available. Please do ask Elizabeth/Lizzie for more information in her role as a business coach and mentor.

# Mission, People and Places

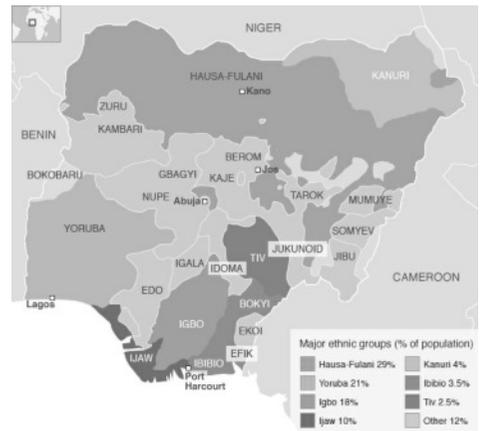
## *The gratitude of an African Missionary-Priest in the Church of England*

My story is bigger than that of Assistant Rector in Kings Norton Team Parish. I am also a Missionary Priest in the Church of England, willing and ready to explore any missionary activity that my diocese (Birmingham) may choose to assign to me. My story is an act of gratitude, as an African, for the activities of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in Nigeria and specifically in Igboland, my region, nearly two centuries ago. For today, I am one of the many products of that successful mission expedition to West Africa.

On the 27th July 2018, the Igbo Christian Community in England joined their Igbo brethren worldwide and celebrated 161 years of Christianity in Igboland. We called it the *161st CMS Niger Mission Anniversary 1857-2018*. As one of the keynote speakers said, it was a fulfilment of a popular verse in the Bible: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined' (Isaiah 9:2).

It was and will always be for us, a period of reflection about where we are coming from, where we are and where we are going in the practice of our religion and faith. It often inspires an attitude of gratitude that God did indeed bring us from darkness into his glorious light. I would like to tell you how it happened.

After many unsuccessful attempts by Western missionaries to bring the good news of the Gospel to the countries of West Africa, it took the missionary activities of CMS led by **Bishop Ajayi**





**Crowther** (*photo on next page*), a converted and Christianised slave of Nigerian origin, to finally achieve this feat. Born in 1806 in Osoogun in present day Ogun State, Nigeria, Samuel Ajayi Crowther was captured and taken into slavery in 1821. By divine providence, he was rescued and taken to Sierra Leone, where he was converted to Christianity, baptised, trained and was ordained as a priest.

After being reunited with his family in Nigeria in 1846, Ajayi Crowther led the CMS missionary team that landed in Onitsha, a city near the Niger River area, on 27th July 1857. From there, he pioneered the evangelisation of the whole of Igboland through the Anglican Church.

My gratitude goes first to the Church Missionary Society which, after it was

formed in 1799 for the purpose of spreading the Gospel message overseas, did not relent but has continued with that mission to the present day.

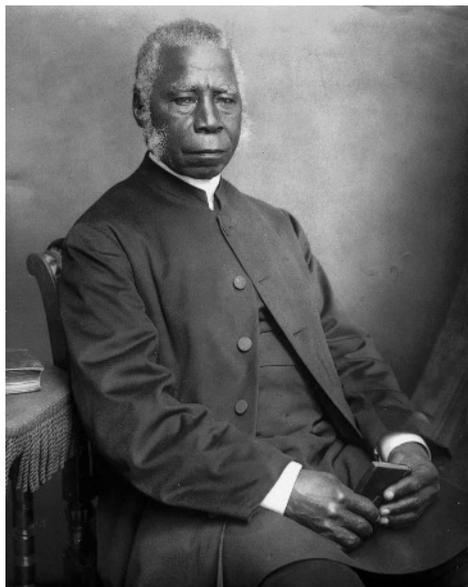
Secondly, I give thanks to God for Henry Venn, who was the CMS General Secretary at the time when the Society moved into Nigeria with the dual mission of wiping out the slave trade and bringing civilization to Africa. This Society brought together in Great Britain those who were interested in Africa and it acted as a pressure group on the British Government. The result of that pressure was the 1841 expedition in which three ships were sent to the Niger area. Among the members of the Niger Expedition were the Reverend J.F. Scion, a German CMS missionary; a young catechist, the freed slave, Samuel Ajayi Crowther and many others. I am grateful to these missionaries for, as soon as they arrived, they introduced trade, model farming and Christianity. Today, the Christian Faith is not only deeply rooted in Igboland, it is the predominant religion of the entire Eastern and South Eastern parts of Nigeria.

More interestingly, that CMS mission to Igboland not only changed the belief system of the people but their food culture as well. In their bid to stop slave trading and cannibalism, the missionaries travelled to different parts of the world in search of food

items suited to the West African climate and they encouraged trade. That search yielded positive results, to the extent that nearly all the staple food items of our people today were brought into our country by CMS. Some of the food items and their countries of origin are as follows:

The **yam**, from the West Indies. **Maize** from the USA, the West Indies, India & China. **Cassava** from South America & the Amazon. **Plantain** or **bananas** from India, Cameroun & Germany. **Pepper & pineapple** from India. **Coconut** from Honolulu. **Guava** from Cameroon & Germany. **Sheep & goats** from Australia, Tasmania, Argentina & New Zealand. **Rice** from America, Japan, China, & Ceylon. **Beans** from Egypt, Sudan & the Americas.

The missionary activity of CMS spread through major cities in Eastern Nigeria and reached my village in 1911. Local history and records reveal that one of my great grandparents of the Nwachukwu family, from where my father got his name Ikechukwu, was one of the able-bodied young men detailed to transport the new white missionary who visited our village by bearing him on their shoulders, bringing him to our village square to preach and pray for the people. Little wonder then, that, a few generations later, I am here in England to reciprocate the gesture extended by the Church of England to my country in



general and to my Igbo tribe in particular.

You may be interested to learn that my own missionary journey has led me through African countries such as Cameroon, Ghana and South Africa and is now taking me to Bolivia in South America courtesy of CMS and the Diocese of Birmingham. I will, with others from our diocese, be returning the visit paid to Birmingham by representatives of the Anglican Church of Bolivia in October 2016, which you may have read about in this magazine and in which you may even have taken part. The outcome of our mission trip will form a major part of the next episode of my story about Mission, People and Places.

*The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu*

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Hello! Dexter here! I've been looking around inside the church on The Green this week. There's so much to see! Have you been inside? The windows are amazing and I really want to go back and hear someone play the organ. I bet it makes a big noise.

Did you enjoy the wordsearch and the craft last month? Write in and tell me about it; and tell me what else you have been doing over the summer. I know some of you have been hunting rocks and have even been on a giraffe hunt! I'd love to see some pictures of that!

*Dexter G*



## Dexter & The Pointy Building

Dexter liked to wander. He thought that today his Wander would be to the big pointy building on The Green. It was called Saint Nicolas' Church. The last time Dexter was there he found an amazing place full of wonderful Visiting Stones. He met a nice man named Larry who told Dexter that he would be very welcome in the building too. So off Dexter went to explore.

He went through a big iron gate and then through some big wooden doors and found himself in a HUGE place, full of colours and benches and things, lots of things.

Dexter felt very nervous and a teeny bit scared but then a lady came over and smiled at him. She said her name was Pauline. She welcomed Dexter and then asked if he wanted to look around. Dexter did. Pauline was very happy and bouncy and this made Dexter feel less nervous.

The colours were from beautiful windows full of stained glass. Reds and blues and greens and golds. Dexter loved them all. Pauline explained that all the windows told a different story. Dexter told Pauline that he liked stories. She said she did too! Dexter also wondered why there were so many benches. He had only seen benches where people waited for buses.

Pauline told him that they were called pews and that people sat in them. There were no buses.

At one end of the church was a place with candles, their lights dancing in the corner like fireflies. Pauline explained that people came and lit candles to ask for help with something or to remember people. 'Just like the Visiting Stones outside?' Dexter asked. 'Just like that,' Pauline said.

Dexter kept noticing different things. There was a collection of pipes in one part of the church stretching up, up, up....much higher than Dexter. Pauline told him that this was an Organ, that someone played songs on it and that the people sitting in the benches listened. Dexter thought such big pipes would surely make big music!

There were tables and chairs and pictures and books and candles and flowers and toys and biscuits....so many things. Dexter thought it would take days to see everything. He told Pauline so, and she laughed and said that she still found new things to look at there all the time!

Dexter had to leave but he thanked Pauline and asked if he could come again. She said 'Of course,' and that he would be very welcome anytime.

This made Dexter happy. He really liked the way his Wanders were going and started to plan his next one.

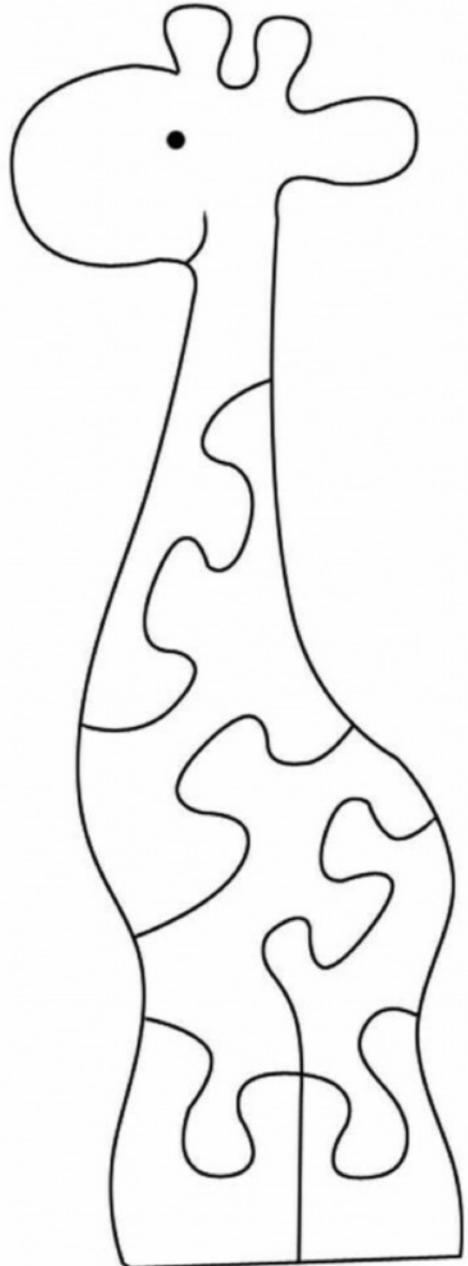


# Make A Giraffe Jigsaw

Copy this picture onto a piece of card. You might need a grown-up to help you

Colour in the picture. Use lots of colours.

Carefully cut along all the lines and you have a giraffe jigsaw.



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Word List

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WINDOW CHURCH GLASS GREEN PEW  
CANDLE ORGAN STORY BLUE RED

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# Making Bread

## *The Thoughts of a Lay Minister*

Bread seems to have been a real theme over the past month. It's been one in which our Bible readings have focused on Jesus' words, 'I am the Bread of Life'; and I've been involved with two services relating to these readings. Which gets you thinking. We have thought about how to become a 'feeding church' both physically and spiritually. These are thoughts which are relevant for this month as well, as we look towards the Harvest season.

Bread is a basic but wonderful food. It is cathartic to make by hand and can be made in loads of different ways with different ingredients, methods and recipes. Currently, my kitchen is full of bags of flour and other ingredients for our poor, unsuspecting congregation who don't know it yet but are going to be making 'bread in a bag' in church during the service.

To make bread you need flour. To get flour you need wheat. You need someone to grow and harvest the wheat, then someone to grind or 'mill' the wheat into flour.

Today the process is heavily commercial : combines harvest acres of wheat and milling takes place in massive factories. But it wasn't always like that. The process used to be more local and more labour intensive.

Recently I was at Houghton Mill in Cambridgeshire on the River Great Ouse. This beautiful building from the seventeenth century is now owned by the National Trust and includes tea rooms and tours. You can even get married there! The original mill was run by the Benedictine monks who weren't the best of millers or neighbours, especially when they diverted the river and flooded a local village.

Visiting the mill reminded me that my paternal grandmother's family came from a small village in Hampshire. Today, the village is known for being the home of one of the only remaining working tidal mills in the country, and for little else.

Locally, we know that there were several mills in the Kings Norton area. I have found mention of at least three, although only one was a flour mill. Sadly, nothing remains of that mill today and the others were linked to heavy industry (a walk through the Kings Norton Nature Reserve will tell you more about one of them). The recent hot weather has brought to light several local geographical features



not normally seen known as 'parch marks'. The old road from St Nicolas' Church to the river could be seen in the park and the remains of an old bridge or culvert have been seen in the river bed; possibly something linked to the mill. Who knows?

So, as we finish our weeks in church focusing on the Bread of Life and as we

approach Harvest with its traditional bread in the shape of a sheaf of wheat, let us remember all of those who are part of its journey to our plate. Let us not forget those who have nothing on their plate and remember the challenge of how we feed them.

*Pauline Weaver*

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JULY 2018

## MARRIAGES

21st July

Adam Mark Taylor & Sophie Evans

Lewis Anthony Byrne & Samantha Patricia Rosaleen Mason

28th July

Liam Philip John Maher & Chelsea Julie Lennox-Gordon



*Harry L Marks*



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# News from the Church Tower

We have had an active summer ringing for weddings and services, welcoming visiting bands, and liaising with the church regarding the tower fabric. Visitors included the Ladies' Guild of Ringers, who presented us with the rare experience of our bells being rung by an all female band (*see photo opposite*).

The Ladies' Guild has an interesting history, coinciding with the rise of women's rights. Founded in 1912, this pioneering society came into being at a time when many ringing societies barred women from membership. Women may not have rung tower bells until relatively recently due to the mistaken belief that considerable physical strength is required. It was only in the 20th century, with advances in bell hanging technology, that more ladies learned the art.

But the all-male bands of the past can also be attributed to the structure of society at the time, and to the fact that women were not given the opportunity or time outside of the home to become

ringers. Today the picture is very different across the country with, for example, women at our own church making up almost half the band.

A landmark was achieved with our local band, including one of our learners who learnt to handle a bell in less than a year, ringing the full ten bells for morning service on 5<sup>th</sup> August. With a predominantly new membership, this is the first time that this has been achieved for over twelve months. It has taken commitment and practice on everyone's part. Well done, in particular, to our new learners, Ann and Holly!

If you are interested in finding out what bell ringing is all about please contact us using the details in this magazine.

As we gain in experience, we hope that our listeners enjoy the results of this fine ring of ten bells being rung on a more regular basis.

*Catherine Taylor*



The Ladies' Guild of Ringers in the tower of Saint Nicolas' Church. If you would like to hear what the bells sound like when being rung by a full team, type the following link into the address bar of your internet browser : [bit.ly/knbells](http://bit.ly/knbells)

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# Making Churches Safer Places

*Until July 2017, when he retired, Peter Hay was the Director of Birmingham City Council's Adults & Children's services. He had joined the authority 14 years previously and became Strategic Director for People in 2013. In 2012, he was awarded the CBE for services to social care and health and he has also served as president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care. He is currently the Chair of The Social Worker of the Year Awards and a member of the National Executive of the New NHS Alliance. He has recently been appointed the independent Chairman of the Diocese of Oxford's Safeguarding Panel and, as worshippers at St Nicolas' Church will know, also finds time to serve as one of our Churchwardens and to sing in the church choir.*

*In a recent Sunday morning service, The Revd Larry Wright asked him for his views on safeguarding and the church. Here is a summary of that interview.*

## **Peter, what's behind your new role in Oxford?**

In recent years, the Church of England has had to look at its past and present responses to keeping people safe and to the way in which it responds to them properly when concerns arise, a process known as safeguarding. The work of each diocese in safeguarding people is overseen by a board with an independent chair. I had been doing some work with survivors of abuse within the church when I saw the Oxford role advertised. As well as the fact that Oxford has an approach which includes the voice of survivors, I was attracted to the work there because I feel strongly that the church should be the best it can be at safeguarding. Although my role in Oxford is to be independent of the diocese, the issues are part of what I bring to being a churchwarden at St Nicolas'.

## **What are your early thoughts on the role?**

The ongoing Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has shown that there is a lot that the church has got to learn from its past, and its current use of independent oversight is part of new ways of working. The church has also got to address the needs of today. That includes the needs of growing numbers of older people and the complexities of ministry which this can bring. I'd like to see the church thinking through how it makes sure that we are all safe when we encounter it at points of vulnerability in our lives. That is an awesome responsibility to get right. The church also faces the challenge that its ministry needs to include everyone, both people who have been harmed and abused and those who have harmed others.



### **How does power fit into this?**

In my experience, abuse in its many forms is linked to power and this is an even greater dynamic when organisations are involved. The church historically has failed to hear people whom it has harmed. It has created further damage to people by closing ranks when accusations have been made. The church can sometimes have a culture of deference to authority and a readiness to see the good in people to the exclusion of all else. We need to be prepared to see the whole person, to accept that we are made with flaws and to face up to the fact that some people can be a risk to others and/or themselves.

Organisations often get caught up in a whirl of activity very far removed from a focus upon children or the voiceless. It's always worth pausing for a moment to think about the issues from the perspective of the powerless.

**Isn't this all just bureaucracy generated by the safeguarding lobby?**

I dislike unnecessary bureaucracy. It can get in the way of good intentions too! We need to keep talking about how we meet these challenges in the best way and the church certainly hasn't got it all right just yet. However, I think we should be aiming for the church to be the best and safest place for all people, capable of being sure footed in the way we respond to things when they go wrong. (As the church is peopled by human beings, it is going to happen!) If we create a church that is confident and focused in its desire to create safe environments for all, we move on from what feels like tick-box exercises.

### **So we need to talk about this stuff...**

Absolutely! As churchwarden at St Nicolas', it's been good to watch the way we are starting to move from reporting about safeguarding (the necessary specialist stuff) to asking, talking and listening so that safeguarding is part of everything we do. It has been woven into sermons, notices, talks and even the Parish Magazine [*see, for example, Claire Wesley's article in the February 2017 edition. Ed*]. The new culture of the church that is needed is one that is open and transparent and it takes constant communication and attention to make that happen. It saddens me that the harm done in the past (for some people it is current too) reflects upon the whole church. Hopefully, most of us will have nothing but positive experiences of our church, but a new culture is everyone's responsibility and all of us can be active participants in making it a reality.

Peter Hay

# Post Office Query Solved

Several readers responded to the debate on the location of the Post Office on the Green in 1960, which featured in the article 'Shopping Down Memory Lane' in our August issue. It seems certain that it was located on the south side of The Green, probably where the hospice shop is now, or perhaps close by. The issue is now resolved, and we thank all those who contributed comments, including reader Shirley Bates, who wrote,

*'The article by Michael Kennedy in the August magazine prompted many memories. The query about the Post Office on The Green : it was definitely situated where the hospice shop is now. It was run by Mr Bob Grogan and his wife, who lived in Westhill Road. They eventually retired to live in Spain.'*

We also have Shirley to thank for the advertisements from the 1935 edition of the Parish Magazine which appear



on p.22, as well as for the photograph, shown here, of the front page of the Magazine as it appeared in the same year.

The logo for South Birmingham Radio features the words 'SOUTH BIRMINGHAM' in a bold, blocky font at the top, and 'RADIO' in a similar font at the bottom. In the center, there is a stylized radio tower with signal waves emanating from it, flanked by two pairs of headphones.	<p>HEART 'N SOUL</p> <p>6.00 - 8.00 pm each Wednesday</p> <p><b><a href="http://southbirminghamradio.uk">southbirminghamradio.uk</a></b></p> <p>Christian comment, music and stories, presented by the Reverend Simon Gudger, Debra Mayo (Collins) and Roger Jones</p>
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# THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



*The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical initiative celebrated in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. It started in the USA in 1887.*

Friday 2nd March this year saw WWDP services happening all over the UK ... or not, in some places, due to the very deep snow. The hardy women of Kings Norton met for shared worship and fellowship at St Joseph's and St Helen's Church Hall in Cotteridge. The service had been prepared by the women of Suriname on South America's northern coast and took the theme of Creation.

This year, the services will be held at **St Nicolas' Church on Friday 1st March** and have been prepared by the women of Slovenia.

As well as shared worship and fellowship between Christians of different denominations, the other main focus of WWDP is on the grants given to various charities. Some are very specific in nurturing women's projects; all are closely involved with building up the individual, the family and the community.

One such is "Sixty-One", a charity based in Bristol which supports those leaving prison, both before and after release. Agricultural projects, supporting small-scale, sustainable farming for south Sudanese refugees and also in Bangladesh have both received grants. There have also been more traditional grants to charities such as the Bible Reading Fellowship, Toybox, L'Arche, The Leprosy Mission and many others.



Saint Nicolas' Place  
81 The Green  
B38 8RU

Café : Mon-Sat 9.00 - 4.00  
Shop : Mon-Sat 10.00 - 3.00  
Tours : Fri-Sat 11.00 & 2.00

Weddings, functions, corporate  
& community events.

[www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk](http://www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk)  
0121 458 1223

# Shopping in a Lifeboat



It is October 1981 and I am serving on a P&O cargo ship, the *M.V. Strathbrora*. We are moored in Dubai, our first port of call in the Persian Gulf. There is cargo on board for the other Emirates ports, concluding (hopefully) with a consignment for Iraq.

I say “hopefully” as, at this time, Iran and Iraq are at war and there is much speculation as to whether the ship will be able to reach Basra, Iraq’s only port, which is located some way up the Shatt al-Arab waterway. This tidal river is the border between Iran and Iraq. In Dubai, across the new docks, can be seen

hundreds of new cars, all off-loaded because of the war. So matters do not look favourable at all.

Eventually, our ship anchored in the large bay at the top of the Persian Gulf. There were many others in the anchorage waiting to find out if the war would end, allowing them to deliver their cargo to Iraq. We spent almost two weeks at anchor, but to no avail. In the end, the London office ordered us to return home. Some of the ships there had been stuck for a month or more.

As we listened to the chatter over the radio, it became apparent that shortages were beginning to affect the waiting vessels. There were no supplies available, so requests started to be broadcast over the radio: could anybody spare a sack of flour, some potatoes or some onions? Did anyone have any spare beer?

Our Chief Officer had our motorised lifeboat cleaned up and provided with a red ensign to fly from the stern. There was no shortage of lads willing to man the boat, especially when it became known that, if you visited another ship, the hospitality tended to be generous.

So, on several occasions, I found myself in the lifeboat doing some shopping! There was no cash involved, just an exchange of items: for example, two cans of soft drinks for two of beer. On one occasion, a sack of onions offered to a Romanian ship was snapped up in exchange for three bottles of peach brandy, the closest thing to liquid dynamite I have ever encountered.

Our helmsman and navigator on these trips was our deck cadet. Alas, he got a bit squiffy because each ship we visited insisted on being very hospitable. But we had lots of chat and laughs with other seafarers for, to coin a phrase, we were all in the same boat!

Eddie Matthews



"I had considered offering to train the choir, but I've been tone deaf since childhood. 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.*

[kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk/weddings](http://kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk/weddings)



Perfect  
Wedding Receptions

# 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
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

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

## OTHER CONTACTS

Parish Administrator & P.C.C. Secretary	Judy Ash
Finance Officer	Catherine Dehghani
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'*

Alan Haynes (Group Scout Leader) 07 534 615 489

198thscouts@gmail.com

*Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall,  
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS*

Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm

Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm

Scouts (10½-14): 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



## The Kings Norton Parish Ministry Team

**Back row :** David Ash, Mandy Butler, Revd Larry Wright, Revd Fliakim Ikechukwu, Revd Catherine Matlock, Parisa Pordelkaki.

**Front row :** Ruth Howman, Fay Fearon, Revd Caz Hague, Sylvia Fox, Pauline Weaver, Revd Jayne Crooks

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## Immanuel Church Invites You To A Concert

Immanuel Church invites you to a friends and family concert on **Saturday 29th September** at St.Nicolas Place, for an afternoon of entertainment. The concert will begin at **4pm** with acts such as: music, poetry, dance and comedy, followed by afternoon tea, finishing at 6pm. Raffle tickets will also be available.

Tickets are £2 per adult and 50p per child. They can be bought from Immanuel Church, St.Nicolas' Church and the Parish Office.

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Historic  
KINGS NORTON

F.H.K.N.

**Friends of Historic Kings Norton**

**Saturday 7th October 7.30.pm**

# *Quiz Night*

Bring your own drinks, we'll provide the glasses. Free tea and coffee.  
Let us know your coming, leave your name at Reception

or email [fhkn@btinternet.com](mailto:fhkn@btinternet.com)

Historic  
KINGS NORTON

**Friends of Historic Kings Norton**

# **Big Book Sale,**

**Saturday 8th September 10.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**



**ANYONE FOR  
TENNIS**

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

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1924**



# JOIN TODAY

To join please complete the application form on our website and we will be in touch to complete your membership: [www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk](http://www.kingsnortontennis.co.uk)

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Entitlement to 1 FREE group coaching session
- Discounts on term fees for group coaching
- Social tennis nights - just mix in
- Access to clubhouse with changing rooms, facilities & bar
- Automatic social membership to events throughout the year
- Summer camp available for children
- Discount on clubhouse room hire
- A chance to be entered into the draw for Wimbledon tickets
- Opportunity to join mens and mixed doubles teams.

## ROOM HIRE

Our airy lounge accommodates up to 70 people (50 seated). It has a balcony with sliding doors overlooking the courts, a fully fitted kitchen and well stocked bar. Our bar can be Staffed for any function and catering can be provided by agreement.

If you are interested in viewing or booking our Club House please contact Jackie on 0121 459 9827, who will be happy to help. To Check availability and costs, please complete the form online & email to [info@kingsnortontennis.co.uk](mailto:info@kingsnortontennis.co.uk)



**KINGS NORTON TENNIS CLUB | GRANGE HILL ROAD | KINGS NORTON | BIRMINGHAM B38 8RE**