

# KINGS NORTON

## Parish Magazine



### Sovereignty & Service

The centuries-old relationship between religion and royalty

### Happy and Welcoming

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy gets a glowing report from the inspectors

### Lent Begins

“Growing Good”, the parish Lent course for 2022



## **Larry Wright** 4

### **Sovereignty & Service**

*The Biblical roots of our concept of monarchy*

## **Acuto & Hill** 8

### **Parklets & traffic-free zones**

*How Covid is transforming cities worldwide*

## **Adam the Gardener** 12

### **...brings you what's new**

*What to plant as Spring approaches*

## **Angela Brady** 15

### **Churches Need Funding**

*A seasoned fundraiser shares her experience*

## **Michael Kennedy** 18

### **Druids Heath : An Update**

*The work of Pauline Wells on the Druids Heath Estate*

## **Choe & Bailey** 24

### **A Pilgrimage**

*What if your next holiday were to be a pilgrimage?*

## **Pauline Weaver** 28

### **County Lines**

*Some disturbing truths about young people caught up in drug crime*

## **Claire Lindow** 30

### **Fermenting, a beginner's journey**

*From elderflower champagne to sauerkraut*

## **Thelma Mitchell** 32

### **Rebirth, Hope, Joy & Daffodils**

*The beauty of creation, and of the daffodil in particular*

## **Christine Adams** 37

### **Praying with you**

*An introduction to prayer ministry at St Nicolas' Church*

## **Eddie Matthews** 36

### **Lots of cake**

*Not a mariner's tale this month but a professional cook's cake recipe to make your mouth water*

## **Hawkesley School article** 7

## **Lent course details** 21

**Editor & Advertising Manager**

David Ash

editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

**Subscriptions**

Alison Blumer

subs@kingsnorton.org.uk

**Registered Address**

Kings Norton Parish Office

Saint Nicolas' Place

81 The Green, Kings Norton

Birmingham B38 8RU

0121 458 3289

**Copy for Publication**

copy@kingsnorton.org.uk

Text & images for publication should be emailed as file attachments or entrusted to the Parish Office, sealed and marked for the attention of the Editor.

**Submission Deadlines**

Items for inclusion in the April 2022 edition must reach the Editor by midnight on **Friday 11th March**.

Items for inclusion in the May 2022 edition must reach the Editor by midnight on **Friday 8th April**.

# Welcome

**EDITORIAL**

As I read through the contributions to this month's magazine, one phrase leapt off the page. Hawkesley Church Primary Academy is close to the hearts of many in this parish. Its headteacher, Sam Smith, reporting on the outcome of his school's recent, successful Ofsted inspection, wrote "We have worked hard to expose the children to the best of what has been thought and said." The openness and trust of those words are admirable. As Sam's article makes clear (p.7), Hawkesley School's educational values are built foursquare on the Christian understanding of what life is about; but it also appears unafraid to invite children to find wisdom in other places. "We enable children to grow in, and reflect on, their own faith, no matter what that may be, and to respect the beliefs, opinions and lifestyles of others." The recognition that truth speaks to us in many voices, the humility which enables us to find God in unexpected places, are marks of maturity. That such attitudes are being taught to children growing up in a multi-faith society should give us hope for the future. Perhaps those of us who are more set in our ways than the children whom Jesus invited us to imitate have something to learn here.

How are you going to observe Lent this year? The annual forty-day period of penitence and preparation for Easter, observed by the church since at least the 4th century, begins this month. Learning and Lent often go hand in hand, as the popularity of church Lent courses has demonstrated over many years. If you fancy giving those little grey cells some exercise, why not take part in "Growing Good", our course for 2022, details of which you will find on page 21?

*David Ash*

# Sovereignty & Service

*Larry Wright looks back to the Old Testament for insights into the British understanding of monarchy.*

This year of celebrations for the platinum anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne provides opportunities to reflect upon the social, scientific and cultural changes of the past 70 years, something the Queen acknowledged in her 2021 Christmas address. An important aspect of the celebrations will be her strong Christian faith and what it meant to her over the years. She concluded her Christmas message with these words, "The teachings of Jesus as handed down from generation to generation have been the bedrock of my faith."

Royalty and religion have a long history. It's only with the demise of royal dynasties and empires in the past 200 years or so we've experienced a profound shift towards more

secular expressions of governments and rulers. Communism has no place for religion, fascism turned it into an extension of its self-serving propaganda, and democracies prefer it to be relegated to the private lives of its citizens and away from public debates.

Religion is not so easily tamed. It's arguable that while state sanctioned religion may have declined in the West, the rise of political Islam and nationalistic Hinduism and Buddhism are evident across the globe. The demise of the Russian communist empire in 1991 heralded a renaissance of Eastern Orthodox Christianity in the Russian Federation and Eastern European states.

The defeat of European fascism in 1945 heralded an era of soul searching among European churches and a period of cooperation ensued leading to the modern ecumenical movement. The World Council of Churches was inaugurated in 1948, three years after the founding of the United Nations.

For Christians and Jews an even longer perspective on religion and royalty is found in the foundational books of the Bible's Old Testament. Tucked away in the first Book of the prophet Samuel, chapters 8 and 9, is one of the



**The Revd Larry Wright is the Rector of Kings Norton Team Parish**



most profound shifts in ancient Israel's system of government. Before this point, they were led by chosen judges (we might refer to them as magistrates). These were people whose wisdom and faith set them apart for leadership and who were believed to be under God's direction.

Thus, Israel saw itself as a theocracy, a people ruled by God. However, the people were anxious due to the increasing threats from neighbouring nations, most of whom were ruled by monarchs. The people cried out to Samuel, "We are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king will go out before us and fight our battles." (Samuel 8. 19-20). The power and prestige they saw in other kingdoms they desired to replicate in Israel.

Samuel's response is to warn the people their demand for a human king is a denial of God as their only sovereign. He also warns of the dangers of absolute power in the hands of one person. The people are unconvinced by his warnings and demand a king. Samuel prays to God and the result is a compromise. God will allow a monarch to rule Israel under three conditions. Firstly, the king must be chosen by God;



PHOTO BY JULIAN CALDER (CREATIVE COMMONS)

↑ Her Majesty  
Queen  
Elizabeth II  
in 2011

secondly, the king must be subject to the ultimate authority of God (theocracy); and thirdly, the king needs to be approved by the people: "Long live the king!" By chapter 11, Saul is anointed by the prophet and priests as the first King of Israel.

Fast forward to 1953. Princess Elizabeth is crowned Queen Elizabeth II. Part of her coronation ceremony includes an anointing with these words spoken by the then Archbishop of Canterbury:

*"Be thy head anointed with holy oil: as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed: And as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be thou anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."*

The symbolism is clear: the British monarchy stands in symbolic succession from the first monarchs of Israel.

Compelling though this symbolism is, in reality the kings of Israel and the kings and queens of Britain are a mixture of the wonderful, the wanting and the woeful. The woeful included monarchs who were self-serving, avaricious and blood thirsty, and even plain mad! They abandoned any notion of being under God's justice and ruled with cruelty, injustice and oppressively.

In contrast, the wonderful achieved progress, equity and security for their people. They built grand cities and places of worship and remained faithful to God's authority over them. In ancient Israel the prophets continued to be voices of conscience to any kings who abandoned their allegiance to God.

↓ The earliest known portrayal (ca. 1200) of the murder of Thomas Beckett in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170

In the history of the British monarchy, the church has played a similar role, sometimes at a great price, such as the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury cathedral by emissaries of King Henry II of England.

We are fortunate to have a Queen whose Christian faith is evident and central to her seventy-year reign. May that faith continue to sustain her in the final years of this long and distinguished sovereignty.



# Hawkesley School

## “Good” (Ofsted)

We are delighted to report that Hawkesley Church Primary Academy has been awarded a "Good" judgement in all areas in the school's latest Ofsted inspection.

*Ofsted found that "this is a happy and welcoming school. The Christian ethos underpins the climate within the school. Adults and pupils show a deep level of respect and care for one another. Everyone is highly valued. The headteacher has transformed the school. Pupils are at the heart of every decision made. There is a clear sense of direction and all staff are committed to ensuring that pupils achieve well."*

Our staff team have been working extremely hard to improve all aspects of Hawkesley Academy and we are absolutely delighted that Ofsted were able to recognise our transformation against the backdrop of the pandemic.

We strive to ensure that our curriculum is broad and interesting. We have worked hard to expose the children to the best of what has been thought and said. Ofsted found that we are successful in achieving this and that teachers have planned and sequenced the curriculum effectively. As a result, they found that children at Hawkesley

know and remember more across all areas of the National Curriculum.

We believe that every child is made in the image of God and is unique. We work to help our children find their gifts and the confidence to let their light shine (Matthew 5:16) so that they can become the best version of themselves. We enable children to grow in, and reflect on, their own faith, no matter what that may be, and to respect the beliefs, opinions and lifestyles of others.

As a school community, we are delighted that the hard work of our children, staff and community has been reflected in our glowing inspection report. We also look forward to continuing to develop Hawkesley Church Primary Academy to ensure that we provide the very highest standards of education and care.

If you would like to find out more, the best way is to visit us during a normal school day, when you can observe some lessons and talk to the staff and pupils. We are happy for prospective parents to visit us at any time. Please call 0121 459 6467 to book an appointment.

*Sam Smith, Headteacher*

# Parklets, traffic-free zones and outdoor eating

## How Covid is transforming our cities

The pandemic, as the United Nations secretary general, António Guterres, acknowledged in July 2020, is a deeply urban crisis. COVID has flourished due to the things that are a city's strengths: population density and diversity, concentrations of logistics and mobility networks, fluid population bases.

It has also flourished due to the deep, structural flaws in many of our cities: poor air quality, food inequalities, crowded or unaffordable housing, poor provision of public space, often unhealthy populations. Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have exacerbated the impact of the pandemic on city residents, disproportionately affecting racial and ethnic minority groups.

When the coronavirus first hit, people speculated that it might even bring about the end of the city. Evidence from around the world, however, suggests that cities are simply adapting, as they have always done.

In response to the crisis, city governments have altered the urban environment rapidly and effectively. A 2020 review of city-based COVID-19 innovations by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows how councils have tinkered, trialled and retrofitted in ways that were unthinkable before the pandemic hit.

### **Tactical responses**

Both cities and citizens have often shown that they can adapt rapidly under crisis conditions. A two-day transport



**MICHELE  
ACUTO,  
UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE**



**DAN HILL,  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE,  
LONDON**



strike in London in 2014 prompted approximately 250,000 commuters to reconsider their regular routes, changing their mobility habits permanently.

Centuries earlier, the rebuilding of London after the great fire of 1666 ended up being more improvised than planned. But it also resulted in English physicist-architect Robert Hooke helping to develop the city's first meaningful building codes.

More broadly, responses to infectious diseases have influenced the way the urban environment has evolved. The British surgeon apothecary John Snow is known for his experiments on a Soho water pump in 1854. He identified cholera as a water-borne disease, which led to systemic transformations in the urban water supply.

During COVID, street usage in cities around the world has shifted, partially, and at least temporarily, towards walking, cycling, outdoor eating, greenery and the local economy. Small parks, sometimes called parklets, have sprung out of reconfigured car parks or taken over on-road parking

▼ LOW-TRAFFIC  
NEIGHBOURHOODS  
HAVE SPRUNG UP  
ALL OVER THE  
COUNTRY IN  
RESPONSE TO THE  
PANDEMIC





spaces. Diners have eaten out on temporarily rethought pavements.

Embracing such al fresco possibilities has of course been a health necessity, precipitated by the pandemic. It has also emphasised the essential value of convivial places with cultural activity, local engagement and fresh air.

New York offers an example of how cities might capture data and learn from these tactical, reactive solutions, which can be thought of as prototypes, to improve people's lives in the long term. With its Open Restaurants program, the city has focused on expanding outdoor seating options for thousands of food establishments, documenting

everything via a publicly accessible platform.

At the same time, many of these changes have simply been about projecting some tangible sense of normality. They have often only served a relatively small number of residents.

### **From fix to fixture**

More broadly, the Covid Mobility Works website has collated examples of fixes, from more than 245 cities, that have sought to aid equity and accessibility, the transport of goods and people, public engagement and health and safety, among other categories. In Berlin, some new bike lanes were designed and approved within ten days, rather than the months it had previously

taken. Pop-up bike lanes have appeared everywhere elsewhere too, from Budapest and Bogotá to Mexico City and Dublin. The city of Mumbai has appointed cycle councillors to all 24 of its civic wards.

In England, the quieter, safer and sometimes modified streets meant the number of cycling trips made by women rose by 50% in 2020. London fast-tracked its low-traffic neighbourhoods by some years, even if the rush to implement them meant engagement and planning was sometimes lacking. Similar schemes in New Zealand's cities and Vancouver to create healthy, sustainable neighbourhoods have been comparatively well considered.

These aren't exactly new endeavours. Urban development experts have been working on such concepts for years. These include Barcelona's superblock car-free zones (photo, left) and the 15-minute city concept, which aims to have residents live, work and shop all within a 15-minute radius, that has been implemented in Paris.

In Sweden, meanwhile, the hyperlocal one-minute city model involves planning focused at single-street level: residents have a say in how much space is given over to cars. And in Seattle, the local government is opening up 45 miles of neighbourhood greenways, not only as a COVID-19 fix, but a step

towards making the city liveable in the long term.

The impact of increased shopping and working online also predates the pandemic, yet a diverse array of urban lockdowns has pulled focus on these awkward questions too. Only a handful of cities are coherently addressing all of these linked challenges systemically.

The pandemic can be seen as having instituted a period of forced experimentation and forward thinking. But beyond the immediate tactical responses by local governments and the visceral experiences of residents, cities face deeper strategic challenges.

If we can see the links between these patterns associated with COVID-19 and other, deeper crises – the climate crisis, mass migration, social justice – there may be much to gain from the apparently mundane COVID-induced changes to our urban environments. Cities thrive not simply as economic powerhouses but also as inclusive, diverse communities and regenerative places.

*Michele Acuto is Professor of Global Urban Politics and Director, Connected Cities Lab, The University of Melbourne and Dan Hill is Visiting Professor of Practice, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, UCL.*

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license.



# Adam the Gardener brings you what's new

There is always something new in the garden catalogues and some of them are more curious than beautiful.

There is a range of striped Petunias and the yellow and brown one is, to my mind, pretty awful. Double versions of old favourites can look good in the catalogues but in reality they are small and simply look congested. Sadly, they do not die gracefully but cling on whilst turning brown and unattractive. The positive side of all this is that new cultivars can be vigorous, of great beauty and virus free. Hurrah for the plant breeders!

Our **tree of the month** is the Lilac. Plant one of the bigger ones and it



will live for a hundred years, with no pruning required except to remove the old flower heads. If you forget, then the wood pigeons will do it for you! New varieties are appearing all the time but the real innovation seems to be coming from the new dwarf varieties. They can be planted in containers or in a border for the smaller garden. Hardy? I'll say!

House and conservatory plant sales have gone up by about 50% during the lockdowns, we are told. You might like to be adventurous by growing Canna from seed. With a bit of care the new range of Cannova from Japan will bring you spectacular flowers with compact growth and they are more hardy than previous Cannas. They will die down in the autumn and given 15° minimum and a tiny bit of water in winter the rhizomes will send out sword-shaped leaves in spring with lots of flowers in summer. Seeds are in fairly short supply but remember the name Cannova and follow germination instructions carefully. There are many new varieties of greenhouse foliage plants available mainly differing in the amount and colour of variegation.

A lot of hanging baskets are planted up or bought in at this time of year





CANNOVA

and I think the single plant variety ones look best. New varieties of Surfinia Petunias appear each year and this is true of their cousins Calibrachoa sometimes known as Million Bells. Given regular watering and some feeding (I recommend Maxicrop), masses of self dead-heading blooms can be spectacular. Don't forget the newer varieties of pendant Begonias for season-long flowering.

We all have a perennial flower bed where old friends pop up in spring, flower, put on leaves and then die down for the rest of the year. As I write at the end of January, this is true of Pulmonaria at Winterbourne Gardens. A new variety is Spot-On with good deep purple flowers and, of course, silver-spotted leaves.

Walk along by an old wall and you will often see a small plant with trumpet-like yellow flowers and ferny pale green leaves growing out of a very unpromising crack in the stone. This not a native but is a garden escape going back to goodness knows when. Corydalis is a great hardy perennial and most of the garden varieties are a wonderful blue and flower all summer. In 2017 there appeared a new Corydalis bred by Hilliers at Chelsea. Larger flowers of an electric blue made it a big hit and it was awarded the Glass Tulip by the growers of the Netherlands as a "Best Garden Plant". Corydalis Porcelain Blue is now more readily available and the RHS lists nine different suppliers. Could be worth trying at your local garden centre.



## WALLFLOWERS

**Tip :** brand new varieties of bedding plants appear every year and some will be listed as F1 hybrids. Though you will not get many in a packet they can be bigger and more floriferous than their predecessors.

It is said that wallflowers are best grown like cabbages and then planted out where they are to flower in the Autumn for a very traditional display in the Spring of the following year. Biennial *Erysimum*, for such they are, have been given a genetic make-over and the F1 hybrid Sugar Rush series comes highly recommended. A range of clear colours is available as seed from Chiltern Seeds. There's nothing like the scent of a generously planted bed of Wallflowers on a warm Spring day.

Lastly, to populate your conservatory at minimum cost, grow the following from seed: *Torenia* (not so well known) *Coleus* and *Thunbergia*. As an alternative, some of the familiar house plants like Spider Plant and *Tradescantia* can flourish mightily in a conservatory and look good in a hanging pot. Simple!

Have a nice Summer!



# Churches Need Funding

*In late January, a notice appeared in our Sunday "In Touch" leaflets which drew attention to the need for security lights and CCTV cameras around Saint Nicolas' Church. A full-page spread in the February parish magazine repeated the request. The amount needed is £6,000.*

It is sad to think that there are people who seem to have a little care about these listed buildings: they cause damage, breaking ancient locks or precious stained glass windows to look inside for money, artefacts, shelter for a night, or they just act mindlessly.

I came to Saint Nicolas' from a rural Lincolnshire church where a homeless individual broke in shortly before one Christmas. We learned that he was hoping to be arrested and returned to prison, where he would be looked after over the festive season. It cost considerably more for repairs than the £1 coin he extracted from the box on the pillar.

Churches are always in need of funds for upkeep, for improvement projects, for running costs and for

practicalities. As I read the notices and digested the content, I thought about the sum of £6,000 and how it might be broken down. One wealthy person could pay the total amount, or two could pay half each. But then sixty could manage £100 apiece or 120 could give £50, or 600 individuals could donate £10. I like working with easy figures!

In the 1980s, I was the treasurer of a village church for a few years. It was not my own choice, but my husband, who had recently been elected churchwarden, volunteered my services when no one else would step forward. He said, "You can do it, you'll be fine, you work well with numbers." I've accepted a variety of jobs which no one else will do. I'm sure some of you will nod sympathetically.

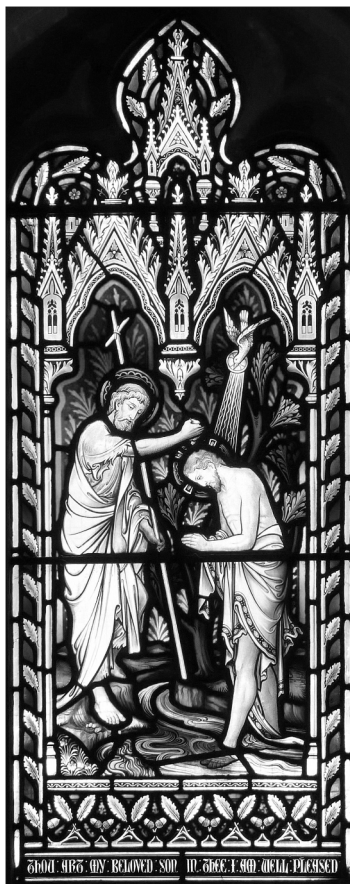
The previous treasurer announced that he would be moving away. He didn't attend our church. He just handed over an exercise book and a tin of cash plus a cheque book. This was before the days of computers and Gift Aid. So we contacted Church House Publishing to buy the appropriate accounts ledger with its spreadsheets and my husband was right: I could do the job and I quite enjoyed it.

It was an eye-opener. Money was needed but wasn't always available. People would contribute to the fabric fund but not towards general running costs or the diocesan quota. So our church group became fundraisers, putting on small events, and the cash trickled in. Coffee mornings, prize bingos, jumble sales, craft stores, flower festivals, quilting exhibitions, wedding displays, annual fêtes, open gardens and auctions have all drawn small crowds and continue to do so. Churches invite us to gather for worship, certainly, but they are also gifted at bringing us together at times of common interest.

Covid has changed things. For the past two years, some social gatherings have ceased. Even now, they are only returning slowly. But people have continued to give throughout these two years. Do you remember Sir Captain Tom helping the NHS and many more people working for good causes? Charities abound, whether they be for people, animals, the environment, research, for issues at home or abroad. And generous people are always ready to give. I write this with joy in my heart.

It is sad that there are so many pressing needs throughout our world. Security for Saint Nicolas' Church may seem insignificant in comparison but, if we think about the money we didn't spend because of Covid restrictions, then perhaps you and I are in a position to make a donation. We could help as one of 6000 or 600 or even 60 donors. I'll leave it for you to ponder. It would be good to be able to say on Easter Day, "We have reached our target, Alleluia!"

PHOTO BY DAVID ASH



THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN THE CHANCEL AT ST NICOLAS' CHURCH SHOWING THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST, SMASHED DURING A BREAK-IN, OCTOBER 2021. IT WILL COST THOUSANDS OF POUNDS TO REPAIR.



PHOTO BY JOSH APPEL



# Funerals January 2022

7th Jan	Cinderella Roselda Edwards	94	SN.Bu.KN
11th Jan	Sylvia Lovell	82	SN.Bu.CY
12th Jan	Margaret Ann Taylor	74	Cr.YD
12th Jan	Michael John Johnson	76	Cr.LH
14th Jan	Shane Thompson	32	SN.Cr.LH
17th Jan	Geoffrey Davies	88	Cr.LH
17th Jan	Sheila Marion Smith	74	Cr.RD

Bu : Burial, Cr : Cremation, CY : Churchyard, In : Interment of Ashes,

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church

Cemeteries & Crematoria

KN : Kings Norton, LH : Lodge Hill, RD : Redditch. YD : Yardley

## A BUCKET FULL OF TRUTH

*The children of West Heath Primary School recently wrote poems about honesty.*

*It is our great pleasure to be able to reprint this contribution from Class 12 (Year 5), "A Bucketful of Truth", which originally appeared in the school's newsletter.*

*To be read, perhaps, alongside Eddie Matthews' cake recipe on page 38 and a refreshing reminder that the best of human nature is often to be found in the young.*

A bucket full of truth to never lie.

A handful of courage, so we are not afraid.

Three tablespoons of responsibility, so we always accept our actions.

Mix in confidence to let the truth come out.

A hint of faith to accept our strengths and weaknesses.

A dash of self-honesty to be the best that we can be.

One tablespoon of respect for everyone, including you and me.

A pinch of empathy to always consider others.

A generous sprinkle of strength to support the honesty of others too.

Finally, add a rainbow to represent our true colours and allow you to always be the best version of you!

# Druids Heath

## An Update

Many readers of this magazine will remember, some with gratitude and all with admiration, the pioneering achievements of our former colleague, the Reverend Catherine Matlock, in Druids Heath. She reported regularly in these pages about significant developments in this hitherto "forgotten estate" in South Birmingham, which has been a part of the Kings Norton parish for many years.

Catherine moved on to fresh fields in Stoke-on-Trent in the middle of last year, leaving many disappointed parishioners. That has been especially the case for those regular visitors to Kath's Café, the remarkable venue close to the Maypole island which became the hub of her efforts. Given that opportunities for face-to-face contact have continued to be limited by the restrictions to community life caused by Covid, how has the area progressed without her guiding hand?



**MICHAEL  
WRITES  
REGULARLY  
ON LOCAL  
AFFAIRS**

Catherine came to our parish in 2018 with the title of Pioneer Curate bringing the concept of connecting with new places and new people, a mission that was for her very much a vocation, personally and professionally. Though other members of the ministry team have visited Druids Heath from time to time since she left, they have not been able to do so with the dedication and the frequency that she was able to provide.

However, in certain key aspects of the initiatives Catherine has helped to foster, there has been continuing support in a voluntary sense. Perhaps the most significant of these has been the role undertaken by one of our parishioners, Pauline Wells. This has focused in particular on sustaining ongoing prayer opportunities.

Pauline lived in Yardley Wood until 2017 and was a lay reader at Christ Church. When she moved to Kings Norton, she chose to attend Hawkesley Church because she felt it

would provide the environment she needed. From time to time she attends St Nicolas' when there is no Communion service at Hawkesley.

"I first met Catherine when she started to attend services at Hawkesley," explains Pauline. "During Covid, one of the most important things she did was to develop and share weekly prayers which members of the Hawkesley congregation could use at home.

"As a result of my ongoing contact with her, I began to learn about the efforts she was making to help integrate Druids Heath into the Kings Norton church community. These were so inspiring that I gradually became directly involved in them."

As many readers will know, Catherine's efforts were very much founded on helping local people to find faith and the consolation and the inspiration of prayer. It should be remembered that as she became involved, there was a great deal of local apprehension, indeed fear, about the possible consequences of Birmingham's Druids Heath Regeneration project. This had brought the prospect of the demolition of several local residential tower blocks and the rehousing of local people in accommodation which inevitably was unfamiliar to them, and the closing of a

► PAULINE  
WELLS



PHOTO BY DAVID ASH

number of familiar local institutions.

Catherine's work also included the facilitating of several practical community-building activities, such as craft and music workshops, community engagement sessions, the coordination of challenges to the regeneration plans, the creation of a community choir and the popular gardening initiative "Planting Seeds of Hope" which continues to help many local people to find fulfilment by growing plants in their balcony boxes and to learn gardening skills generally.

Pauline has not had the time or any real opportunity to continue the process of fostering initiatives such as these. But she is helping to sustain, and even strengthen, that foundation of prayer.

During Covid, which for so many people has increased the sense of isolation, prayer-based initiatives in Druids Heath have taken on new dimensions. Prayer sessions at Kath's Café, are now twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, and have, with Pauline's guidance, been extended to other locations. There has also been an enhanced focus on prayer conducted online, through email and on WhatsApp and Zoom. "There are now more than thirty people to whom I email prayers," says Pauline: "The prayers change each week as I try to keep them as up to date and as relevant as possible. They are a combination of general prayers and prayers that are directly relevant to the local community, so that recipients can readily relate to them."

A further initiative that is currently being trialled is that of

the "Welcome Café". This involves using Kath's Café, on an occasional basis after it closes for normal business at 2 p.m., as a venue where local people can find support and advice (non-medical!) from church representatives.

Obviously, Pauline has developed many friends in Druids Heath through her visits to Kath's Café. "It's a wonderful place, which is, for many people, their only real chance to experience meaningful social contact." She also does regular walks around the area with her friend Joyce to build up her awareness of local community activities. She has contact with significant local organisations such as the Druids Heath and Monyhull Residents' Forum and the Spearhead Trust Charity, which runs a community centre at Bells Farm and provides a range of advice and support to local people.





She is reasonably optimistic for the future. “Those local people on whose lives Catherine had such positive impact were obviously shocked when she moved on,” she says. “But she has left a such significant legacy, through which I will continue to help provide the impetus for them to move

forward. Perhaps the most important element of that legacy is that of the faith she has enabled people to develop, and the understanding that, as is the case for me, faith is strongest if it is rooted in prayer.”

# Lent 2022

Our **Ash Wednesday** services on **2nd March** will be held at St Nicolas’ Church at **12.00 noon** and **7.30 pm**.

This year’s **Lent Course, Growing Good**, has been developed by the Church Urban Fund. Over five interactive, small-group meetings, participants will be invited to explore the connection between social action, discipleship and growth, reflecting on how to be faithful and fruitful in their local community. The course is based on three years of research and is grounded in the Bible. It aims to recognise and celebrate the contributions which churches are already making in their communities.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, calls it *“an effective toolkit for those churches seeking to be inspired and equipped to take action: churches who are aware of the multiple needs, yet also the wealth of gifts and skills, in their community; churches who are seeking practical ideas that can help turn their hunger for justice into concrete action, or churches looking to adapt creatively to the challenges and changes in their neighbourhood.”*

**Growing Good** sessions in Kings Norton will be held on **Wednesdays from 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 11.00 am** at St Nicolas’ Church, repeated at **7.30 pm** on Zoom. For more details, please contact the Parish Office; consult the parish website or the weekly newsletter; or visit **[growing-good.org.uk](http://growing-good.org.uk)**.

## **YOUR PARISH CHURCH**

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 the Parish Office, which is open between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

**81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU • [parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk)  
0121 458 3289 • [www.facebook.com/kingsnortonteam](https://www.facebook.com/kingsnortonteam)**

## **THE MINISTRY TEAM**

Team Rector.....	The Revd Larry Wright
Assistant Rector.....	The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu
Parish Lay Minister .....	Pauline Weaver
Honorary Assistant Priest .....	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Methodist Minister.....	The Revd Nick Jones
Lay Readers .....	David Ash, Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Lay Preacher .....	Steve Wright
Music Minister.....	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Advisor .....	Susan Farrell
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator .....	The Revd Jayne Crooks

## **THE CHURCH WARDENS**

St. Nicolas' Church.....	Peter Hay & Julie Hill
Hawkesley Church .....	Jim Clarke
Immanuel Church .....	Sue Hartley

## **OTHER CONTACTS**

Parish Administrator & P.C.C. Secretary.....	Judy Ash
Acting Finance Officer .....	Simon Hill
Verger and Groundskeeper .....	Shane Williams
Safeguarding Coordinator .....	Annette Dickers
Regular Giving .....	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Flower Arranging (0121 486 2837).....	Alison Blumer

**W**e are a Church of England Parish serving all in Kings Norton through St Nicolas' Parish Church, and, in partnership with the Methodist Church, through Hawkesley Church, meeting in the Primary Academy.



*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 and to be equipped for work in God's world*

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month</b>	
9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am	Holy Communion (Children's activity : Muddy Church)
12.00	Baptisms
6.00 pm	Taizé Prayer

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month</b>	
9.00 am	Sung Matins (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am	Morning Praise for All Ages (Child-friendly)
6.00 pm	Holy Communion with Anointing & Prayer for Healing

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month</b>	
9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am	Holy Communion (Children's activity : Godly Play)
12.00	Baptisms
6.00 pm	Evening Worship

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month</b>	
9.00 am	Holy Communion with Choir (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am	Outdoor Service in St Nicolas' Churchyard (Child-friendly)
6.00 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month</b>	
9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am	United Service

*All services are held at St Nicolas' Church. For further details, see the weekly newsletter on the Parish Website at [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)*

You might want to consider

# A Pilgrimage

for your next holiday

**W**e have been living in a COVID-19 pandemic world for two years and almost everything about our lives has been affected. Travel and holidays in particular have been constrained through border closures and lockdowns. It's too early to say what effect this may have on overseas travel long term. But one form of travel that is forecast to grow in popularity is pilgrimage.

Often described as "a journey with a purpose or a journey with an intention", a pilgrimage is different from a plain old walk or hike as it tends to be about following a particular path with religious, spiritual or historical significance.

Pilgrimages are a way of finding spiritual solace and a chance to connect with the great outdoors. Indeed, since the pandemic began, many of us have spent more time close to mountains, rivers, waterfalls

and parks, for psychological recovery, spiritual recharge, and as a form of meaningful travel.

New and repurposed pilgrimages have also emerged in many destinations including Scotland, India, Japan, England and Italy. While some routes have historical origins, others are modern, newly developed or resigified, such as the Ancient Connections project linking St David's, Pembrokeshire, in Wales to Ferns, County Wexford, in Ireland. The project aims to revive and celebrate the medieval connections between the two Celtic lands.

**P**ilgrims walk these trails for different reasons. For some, the experience has religious significance, but for others, it's about finding some quality time to think, breathe, heal and discover oneself, during a a simple walk.



## Walking the Path

The restrictions imposed on religious sites during the earlier phase of the pandemic did little to curb pilgrims' enthusiasm. Indeed, increasing numbers of South Koreans have walked the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. Meanwhile, alternative ways of meeting pilgrims' needs have also emerged, including the virtual pilgrimage.

Fitness apps and virtual guided tours of the Camino have been popular. The Church in Wales also created an online pilgrimage route where e-pilgrims could explore some of Wales' historic churches, while Japan's Shikoku pilgrimage started offering real-time online pilgrimages for those unable to participate in a physical pilgrimage.

Some of the pilgrimage routes also provide distinctive cultural experiences such as Japanese traditional cooking and art and craft classes, or Welsh tea and cakes. The new Michinoku (the ancient name of Tohoku) coastal trail in Japan, for example, has already spurred interest from national and international travellers, and it is expected to become an iconic hiking route, while it is hoped that the new Wales-Ireland pilgrimage walking route will help to boost local economies and is forecast to attract around 5,000 people a year.

Of course, maintaining pilgrimage sites and routes is crucial for cultural heritage and protection. This also has the potential to create new livelihoods and bring much-needed tourism to rural or remote areas. In central India, for example, a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Nagarjuna is being developed as part of an effort to revitalise Buddhist heritage in the region.

In Bhutan, a sacred hiking trail that fell into disrepair because of highway construction is reopening after 60 years with trail tourism programmes packaged to support local homestays, guesthouses and hotels. In the 16th century, the trail, which follows the route along the ancient Silk Road, was the only way of getting between the east and west of the country and it served as the pilgrimage route for Buddhists in the east to travel to sacred sites in western Bhutan and Tibet.

## Where to start

As mental health issues have come to the fore during the pandemic, walking, with its proven psychological and therapeutic benefits, has been a popular activity for many as a way of coping with stress and anxiety. During pilgrimage walks, people often observe and appreciate simple things

**Jaeyeon Choe is a Researcher in Sustainable Tourism Development, at Swansea University.**

**Anne E Bailey is an Associate Member of the History Faculty at the University of Oxford**

*This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license.*

► **WALSINGHAM, NORFOLK, ONE OF ENGLAND'S MOST ANCIENT SITES OF CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE.**

more keenly, feel the spiritual connection with their surroundings and gain new, enriching life perspectives.

So if you're keen to get your walking boots on, for those based in the UK there is an array of new pilgrimage routes to explore. Many of these were established during the pandemic such as the Northern Saints Trails in the north-east of England, the Walsingham Way in East Anglia (*photo below*), St Patrick's Way in Northern Ireland, the Kentigern Way in Scotland, and the Way of St Hild in Teesside. While the Devon Pilgrim, part of the Growing the Rural Church project, which aims to connect rural churches with local communities and landscapes, launched no fewer than three new pilgrimage walks in the summer of 2021.

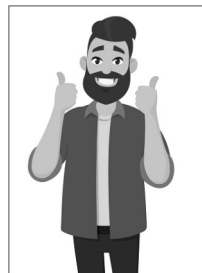
The Church of England promotes many Christian-themed pilgrimages, and information about some of these can be found on the Centre for Christian Pilgrimage website. Organisations such as the British Pilgrimage Trust and the Scottish Pilgrims Ways Forum also offer guided pilgrimages and advice on self-guided walks.

Pilgrimages, however, need not necessarily entail long hikes. Micro pilgrimages and visits to pilgrimage places are also a great way to find some time for quiet contemplation. And for those looking for a relatively stress-free experience, there is, of course, always the option of virtual pilgrimage allowing you to travel the world from the comfort of home.



PHOTO BY DAVID ASH

# Men's 2022 Group



For visits out we will endeavour to share transport where possible

Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Refreshments	Note
<b>Sat 12 Mar</b>	1.30pm	Birmingham Brewery, Stirchley	Brewery Tour & Talk	Available at venue	Limited places
<b>Thu 28 Apr</b>	7.30pm	Church	Kings Norton Nature Reserve	Finger buffet	
<b>Tue 17 May</b>	7.30pm	Church	My Life with Motorbikes	Samosas & snacks	
<b>Sat 18 Jun</b>	9.30am	Lickey Hills	Breakfast & walk	Breakfast	
<b>Tue 19 Jul</b>	7.30pm	Church	"A Sporting Chance" : Thoughts of a sports chaplain	Finger buffet	Date TBC
<b>August</b>	No Meeting				
<b>Wed 14 Sep</b>	7.30pm	Church	"Back to School" : It's a teacher's life.	Pizza and snacks	
<b>Sat 15 Oct</b>	9.30am	Gaydon Motor Museum	Tour of Museum	Available at venue	Booking required
<b>Wed 30 Nov</b>	7.30pm	TBC	Mystery Event and plans for 2023	Yes	

# County Lines

I have written before (September 2021) about how hard it can be to keep up with the latest language. New words and meanings seem to pop up all the time. This was highlighted again recently when I attended a police briefing about County Lines. You may have heard of County Lines as it has been in the news again and there have been arrests in the local area. I knew very little about it except that it was something to do with drugs and young people, so attending the briefing was a real eye opener.

County Lines is a type of child criminal exploitation which involves moving Class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin) from one area to another using young people, often as young as nine but typically around the age of fifteen. County Lines is a national policing priority and there are no real figures showing how many young people are affected, but it is estimated that around 46,000 children are involved across the country.

This is drug trafficking that is highly organised and structured. It keeps gang leaders away from dealing in drugs directly by getting others to do it for them. County Lines uses intimidation, violence and weapons to exploit young people by pressurising them into undertaking these activities. They will be coerced into selling, carrying or storing drugs, money or weapons.

Children will often be targeted near schools, parks and fast food shops and may even be asked outright to sell drugs. Children are used as they are not known to the police and are easier to groom and control. They are also seen as more disposable as they are easily replaced by others. Anyone can become involved. Ethnicity and socio-economic background are not factors.

County Lines comes with its own language and, once again, it is easy not to know what is being talked about; so here is a quick update on



PAULINE IS  
THE LAY  
MINISTER AT  
ST NICOLAS'  
CHURCH,  
KINGS  
NORTON





PHOTO BY MART PRODUCTION

some of the words and phrases used.

**Going country/conch/OT** - travelling to another place to deliver drugs or money

**Trapping/shotting** - dealing in or selling drugs

**Washing whites** - preparing drugs

**Cuckooing** - Drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person and use it as a base for selling/manufacturing drugs.

**Trap house** - a building used as a base from where drugs are sold (or sometimes manufactured). Some young people are forced to stay in trap houses.

**Trap line** - a mobile phone used specifically for the running and selling of drugs.

**Clean skin** - someone not known to the police.

What can we do? This is something that is happening all around us and could affect young people we know. We can help by raising awareness and talking about the issue, listening to our children and young people and knowing the signs to look out for, which may include having unexplained amounts of money or gifts, unexplained injuries or dishevelled appearance, changes in behaviour or unexplained absences. Young people may become disruptive, hostile or aggressive and may have multiple mobile phones.

The situation is not all negative. There are things that can be done and there are ways out for those youngsters who do become involved. If you are concerned about a young person whom you know, do talk to one of the St Nicolas' Church Ministry Team or to your local police.

# THE HUNGRY GARDENER

## *Fermenting, a beginner's journey*



Claire is a keen kitchen gardener, ably assisted by her 6-year-old son Charles.

I wonder if you've been sowing new seeds and if you've got some sprouting seeds on the go in a jam jar? If you didn't get round to it, there's still plenty of time. The weeds are only just starting to grow and the wild garlic is emerging. Now is an wonderful time for a walk in the nature reserve near the river to find this wonderful-tasting first sign of spring. Just make sure you give it a rinse before you use it. Alys Fowler goes foraging with her dog and avoids any that her dog goes to sniff!

Lately I've been experimenting with fermentation. I've tried it before. The elderflower champagne was a success, the sauerkraut on the other hand was another matter. I found it complicated and gave up at the first sight of kahn yeast, more of that in a minute. Fermented pickling is much easier than sauerkraut and my mind is brewing with the possibilities.

I was delighted by the big crop of Jerusalem artichokes. I've tried them in roasted vegetable mixes and they are delicious. I read that

it is even easier to digest these delicious tubers by fermenting them. They seem easy to ferment and they taste absolutely delicious, a bit like a fizzy apple. The process was so easy that I think fermentation books should start with this style of fermenting before sauerkraut! Here is the method I used:

*Brine: 500 milliliters water with 1 tablespoon of salt*

*Chopped Jerusalem artichokes (or other vegetable of your choosing)*

*3 roughly chopped garlic*

*Fennel seed (swap with dill if you prefer)*

*Mustard seeds*

*Winter savory*

*Coriander seed (lightly squashed)*

*Peppercorns*

### Method

Chuck it all in a jar (herbs, garlic and spices first to stop them from floating) chopped vegetables and brine over the top covering everything. Place a cabbage leaf on top to keep everything submerged underneath and a

weight on top. Everything should be under the brine. Put it in a dark cupboard. After a few days it should start making bubbles and you might see white froth on the top. This is a healthy sign. You might also see a white film on the surface. This is also fine and completely harmless. This is what the cabbage leaf is for, apart from stopping anything from floating, the white film (Kahm yeast) will be removed on the cabbage leaf, wash the weight, discard the cabbage leaf and taste the ferment to see if it's ready. I taste once a week. Add a new cabbage leaf to the top and place the washed weight over the top. It is done when you find it delicious in acidity level and flavour, then store it in the fridge and enjoy it with your meals. You can eat raw or experiment and add to your favourite dishes when cooking.

My windowsills are starting to fill with the lush green of baby seedlings growing away. I am trying to take it a bit more slowly this year and not rush to get everything going straight away as I want this to be a pleasure and to keep it joyful for Charles. We'll now start with the cabbage family members that need a really long growing season like Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli, anything that takes 6 - 12 months to develop. I have lots of success with sprouting broccoli and perennial white nine star broccoli but calabrese broccoli (Charles' favourite) is stumping me, so this is on the list for a March sowing.

We are in the perfect time for getting salad going and also for starting tomatoes. There is such a wide range of seeds that can be sown now that the weeds are germinating. Mother nature always shows us when.

You may be tempted to buy seed-sowing equipment. Have a look in your household waste. Plastic fruit trays are great, especially ones with holes. They can be filled with soil to start seedlings in or you can use them to go over the top of germinating seeds to keep them warm. Mushroom trays are amazing, perfect for toilet rolls. Fill the toilet rolls with soil. The mushroom tray keeps the toilet rolls in place and when the seedlings are ready, plant the whole toilet roll in the ground without disturbing roots. So go on, get the old food containers out of the bin and ask your children to use their imagination with what you find!



PHOTO BY JONATHAN KEMPER

# REBIRTH, HOPE, JOY and daffodils

***'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'*** : an old British weather proverb which is a pretty accurate description of the month of March in these isles. We joyfully celebrate longer days and lighter nights, signs of spring everywhere, and hosts of golden daffodils in parks and gardens.

Each month of the year brings its challenges, and each month brings its hope, and sometimes joys. It is two years since the dreaded word was uttered: lockdown. Lockdown rules were harsh, even draconian, but most of us followed them faithfully, even though it felt like being under house arrest for a crime we hadn't committed. Perhaps it was just as well that we didn't know how long it was going to last. We took small pleasures in short, permitted daily walks for those able to, watching and enjoying the gardens and parks spring to life as the months dragged on.

The Bible encourages us to celebrate creation. It sings with verses about the creative glory of God to be found in the beauty of nature. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1) "How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all ... living things both large and small." (Psalm 104:24). Just two examples to fill our hearts and raise our spirits. This

month, I'm thinking about another flower, a symbol of rebirth, hope and joy, the daffodil. Cicely Barker, in her charming children's book of poems, "Flower Fairies" calls the daffodil "everyone's darling, the blackbird and starling are shouting about me ... the Lent Lily, the Daffy-down-dilly ... the orchards are singing with voices a-ringing in praise of my petticoat, in praise of my gown ... the Daffy-down-dilly is come up to town!"



THELMA MITCHELL IS LEAD  
CHAPLAIN AT BOURNVILLE  
COLLEGE



I suspect that most of us grew up reading William Wordsworth's poem, "Daffodils" at some stage in our school life. It was a particular favourite of my father, who loved to sit and read it with me.

*"I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high, o'er vales  
and hills,*

*When all at once I saw a  
crowd, a host of golden  
daffodils;*

*Beside the lake, beneath the  
trees,*

*Fluttering and dancing in the  
breeze"*

The lonely author, viewing the beauty and charm of nature, is filled with happiness as he remembers swathes of these beautiful harbingers of spring, with summer not far behind.

Wordsworth has been much lauded over the past two centuries for these inspiring and accessible poetic images. The poem was first published in 1807 and has remained a firm favourite. But did he actually claim the credit for what were his sister's writings? He certainly never acknowledged how much Dorothy Wordsworth's words had informed his poetry.

As they grew up, Dorothy and William became inseparable companions. They were born in Cockermouth, in what was then Cumberland, William in 1770 and Dorothy in 1771. Their mother died in 1776 in their very early childhood. After being sent away from each other and their three brothers following the death of their father in 1783, they were reunited in 1787. They stayed together from then on, even when William married Mary Hutchinson. Dorothy then became housekeeper for the three of them.

Throughout her life, Dorothy kept a journal daily. She wrote fluently, poetically and from the heart, and her entries are a delight to read. On a trip to the Lake District with William on 15th April 1802 she wrote, "It was a threatening misty morning, but mild ... A few primroses by the wayside – wood sorrel flower, the anemone, scentless violets and that starry yellow flower known locally as pile wort (celandine). When we were in the woods beyond Gowbarrow Park we saw a few daffodils close to the waterside ... as we went along there were more and a belt of them along the Grasmere Lake shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road. I never saw daffodils so beautiful. They grew among the mossy stones about and above them; some rested their heads upon these stones, as on a pillow, for weariness; and the rest tossed and reeled and danced and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind, that blew them over the lake; they looked so gay, ever glancing, ever changing."

There are definitely some striking similarities in this passage to William's poem. In 1813, the Wordsworths moved to Rydal Mount, in the small village of Rydal, near Ambleside. Rydal Mount has glorious views of Lake Windermere and Rydal Water, where William continued to live until his death in 1850. Dora's Field, which Wordsworth bought in 1826 lies adjacent to St.

Mary's Church, Rydal. When his beloved daughter Dora died in 1847, he and his wife planted hundreds of daffodils in her memory. The sight of this small field in full, swaying bloom of golden daffodils is truly beautiful. However, catching it at the right time can be a problem, depending on the weather. A mild winter and they are flowering in March, a hard winter and it might be late April. We've seen them covered in snow, another year in glorious sunshine!

(If you are interested in learning more about Wordsworth and other Lakeland poets there is a series currently on Sky Arts on Wednesdays at 9pm, "Wordsworth and Coleridge Road Trip", which aims to explore their lives and poetry in more detail).

The pandemic is by no means over yet. It is fair to say that we will not return to life as it was but a variation of it. What have we learned during this time, and from all that people have been through that might be useful for the future? Is it the discovery of the wisdom of both life's good times and bad times? We can carry that wisdom forward from knowledge acquired over the past two years into the future. It can become the key to making things better, to being more flexible, and not letting our fears overwhelm us.

Life will not be exactly the same but let's pray it will be filled with care and mutual respect, and some laughter and joy, even though we mourn for who and what we have lost. In the closing verse of Wordsworth's poem, we can rejoice with him in his

memories of the sight of the daffodils;

*"For oft, when on my couch I lie in vacant or in pensive mood,*

*They flash upon the inner eye, which is the bliss of solitude;*

*and then my heart with pleasure fills, and dances with the daffodils."*

As I finish, I am reminded that March is the month of Saints David and Patrick. I close with Saint Patrick's prayer to encourage and sustain all of us.

*"May the strength of God pilot us.*

*May the power of God preserve us.*

*May the Wisdom of God instruct us.*

*May the Hand of God protect us.*

*May the Way of God direct us.*

*May the Shield of God defend us.*

*May the Host of God guard us against the snares of the evil ones, against the temptations of the world.*

*May Christ be with us!*

*May Christ be before us!*

*May Christ be in us, Christ over all!*

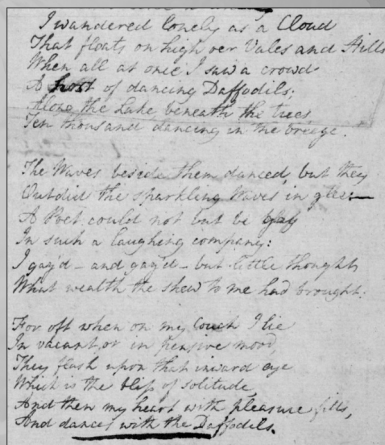
*May Thy Salvation, Lord, always be ours, this day, O Lord, and forever more. Amen"*

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.



THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, NOW IN  
THE BRITISH LIBRARY



WILLIAM WORDSWORTH IN 1798  
"DAFFODILS" WAS WRITTEN IN 1807

# The World Day Of Prayer

www.wwdp.org.uk



SYLVIA FOX IS  
THE MUSIC  
MINISTER AT  
ST NICOLAS'  
CHURCH AND  
A RETIRED  
PHYSIO-  
THERAPIST

This year's *W.D.P.* service has been written by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This rather unusual grouping of our family of nations is historical. Scotland took up the idea of the *Women's World Day of Prayer* (the original name) before its more southerly sisters and has remained independent. Ireland is also independent.

The *World Day of Prayer* is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas, concerns and hopes of the writing country and to put them into the context of a service of worship with pointers for prayer and action. Each year, the women of a country or family of countries prepares the outline of a service, which is then distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background information and activities for children and teenagers.

This year's day of worship and prayer will begin in Samoa and will travel on through Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Africa and Europe, finally reaching the Americas and ending in American Samoa. It takes place, once again, on the first Friday of March (**4th March 2022**). Our local services will be at the Cotteridge Church at 1.30 pm and St Nicolas' Church at 8.00 pm. Please do join us at one or the other.

We hope to be able to livestream the evening service from St Nicolas'. Parking for Cotteridge is available at St Joseph's and St Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Cotteridge (Northfield Road, B30 1JG). Many buses have stops at Cotteridge too.

A "Messy Church" is also planned at St Anne's Church, West Heath (Lilly Lane, B31 3JK) after school on the afternoon of 4th March.



# Praying With You

The prayer ministry started at St Nicolas' Church a few months ago, but I wonder if you know what this is or how it can help you. You may have noticed some chairs around a table with a cross on it in the Lady Chapel (South Aisle). It is here that you can come after the 10.30 a.m. Sunday service to meet two members of the team. It may be that life is difficult at the moment. If so, you have the option to ask for specific prayers for people in your life or for problems that are worrying you. You do not have to give details unless you feel you want to share names or situations.

It may be that you would like a prayer for someone who is unwell or experiencing problems in their life or you may want to ask for a prayer for more global issues. We can listen, say a prayer together or sit quietly for a short time. We have prayer cards and prayer beads for you to take away if you think this would be useful. It may be also that you would like to celebrate and share some good news or be thankful for situations where you feel that you have had your prayers answered. We can join you in that too. We will also be praying for those people and situations recorded by visitors in the prayer book which is kept in the Lady Chapel. If you are unable to join us after the service on a Sunday, you can write your prayers down there and we will include them in ours.

This is a new venture and the team would welcome suggestions on how to make this more accessible to the congregation. We have already been able to find a place for the prayer team members to stand after outdoor services so that every Sunday is covered, even those held outside.



**CHRISTINE  
ADAMS IS A  
RETIRED  
PHYSIO AND  
HEALTH  
SERVICE  
MANAGER  
IN MENTAL  
HEALTH**

# Lots of Cake!

Cakes can be quite traditional. Here are some examples. There is the wedding cake, which is pretty universal. In Germany you will find *stollen*, in Italy, *panacotta*, in Austria, chocolate *torte*. In the United States, for Thanksgiving, a pumpkin pie is often baked. In China, rice cakes are served for special occasions. All are popular in their home countries, as an iced Christmas cake or birthday cake is here. Whatever the variety, cakes bring people together to share a special moment.

Before the appearance of Covid, I would make a cake to be served with refreshments after the Sunday morning service. Once again, this brought people together to share a social occasion. Just as the Holy Communion service brings us together in church around the bread and wine, cake strengthens the bonds between us. Which is why, this month, I would like to offer you a recipe. Are you ready to get into baking mode?



**For the bakers amongst us, Eddie shares a favourite recipe.**

## **The Ingredients**

- 5 oz of soft margarine
- 5 oz of caster sugar
- 2-3 eggs
- 8 oz of self-raising flour
- 8 oz of dried fruit (currants, sultanas)
- 2 oz of glacé cherries
- 1 teaspoon of mixed spice
- 4 oz of candied peel
- 2 oz of chopped almonds

## The Method

Cream the margarine and sugar in a large mixing bowl until soft. Gradually add the well-beaten eggs, stirring all the time. Fold in the flour and all the other ingredients. Pour the mixture into a 7-inch cake tin which has been greased. A tin with a removable bottom plate is preferable and the plate should be covered with greased tin foil.

Bake at 170° (reg. 3-4) for about an hour. Reduce the heat to 140° (reg. 1) for the last

30 minutes. You may need less time with a fan oven. Test the cake by inserting a thin skewer or knife. If it is not cooked all the way through, raw cake mixture will stick to the skewer.

## Footnote

I like to add a dash of vanilla essence. Don't forget to pre-heat your oven prior to baking.

I shall resume baking once Covid is over and will be happy to make cake again for all.



PHOTO BY BRETT JORDAN



*Harry L Marks*



**MONUMENTAL MASONS**

**Quality Manufacturing Since 1898**

**To Deliver Your Requirements**

**Kings Norton's Nearest Manufacturing Mason**

Unique Materials- Individual Designs- Extensive Displays

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

"See Our Craftsmen At Work"

**0121 444 1840**

**"The Sculptor"**

Visit Our Showroom & Workshop at

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

Birmingham, B14 6EH

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

**RLK**

**SOLICITORS**

Probate & Wills

Divorce & Family

Litigation & Bankruptcy

Business Interruption Insurance

Conveyancing & Commercial Property

A Complete Service For All Legal Requirements

[knenquiries@rlksolicitors.com](mailto:knenquiries@rlksolicitors.com)

0121 451 1661

[www.rlksolicitors.com](http://www.rlksolicitors.com)

1 Redditch Road

Kings Norton

Birmingham B38 8RN



**Mike Baker**



**Quality Property Maintenance**

**From small works to**

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



**A complete building service**

Freephone : 0800 0937 313



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



## MATHS & ENGLISH ONLINE

4.00 - 4.30 YEAR 3/4

4.30 - 5.00 YEAR 5/6

5.00 - 5.30 YEAR 7/8

FOR MORE INFO CALL US ON:

**01926 942140**

OR EMAIL US:

**INFO@TUTORINABOX.CO.UK**



**Tutor In A Box**

A brighter future in a box



The Kings Norton Parish Magazine is edited in Affinity Publisher and printed by L.G.Davis (Stationers) Ltd, 46 Warstock Rd, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 4TS. Tel: 0121 430 9000 [www.lgdsolutions.com](http://www.lgdsolutions.com)  
Email: [sales@lgdsolutions.com](mailto:sales@lgdsolutions.com)



# Advertising in the Parish Magazine

Prices start at £10 per month for an advert of this size or only £9 if you pay for 12 months in advance. Full page advertisements like the one opposite cost £29 per issue. All adverts subsidise our printing costs.

If you'd like to know more, contact the Editor.

## J & D Mason Opticians

Providing quality eye care  
for 40 years

WIDE  
RANGE  
OF FRAMES  
INCLUDING  
DESIGNER

2 The Green  
Kings Norton  
B38 8SD  
0121 451 3485

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

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE

The contents of this magazine are copyright © Kings Norton Team Parish 2022 and may not be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Editor. The views, opinions and comments expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the editorial team of the Kings Norton Parish Magazine, the Kings Norton Parish Ministry Team or its staff. Material submitted for publication must be accompanied by the name and contact details of the provider including an email address if available. When possible, submissions will be produced in full, but the Editor reserves the right to make changes. If content submitted for publication contains quotations from other sources, the written permission of the copyright holder to reprint it must be supplied.



**Design and Print • Office Supplies  
Workwear • Promotional Products**  
• Stock and Distribution  
• Facilities Management



Contact:

**Call:** 0121 430 9000  
**Web:** [www.lgdsolutions.com](http://www.lgdsolutions.com)

**E-mail:** [sales@lgdsolutions.com](mailto:sales@lgdsolutions.com)  
**Address:** 46 Warstock Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 4TS

**REAL SOLUTIONS BY REAL PEOPLE**

# S. GASCOIGNE & SONS LTD

INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS



*Independent  
Funeral Directors  
& Monumental  
Masons*

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

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

- PRIVATE CHAPEL
- PRE-PAYMENT PLANS

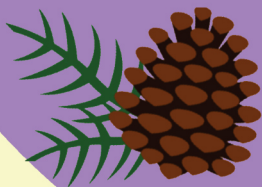
277-279 Pershore Road South  
(next to St. Nicolas Church on the Green)  
Kings Norton,  
Birmingham B30 3EX



**24hr Personal Service**  
*ALL AREAS OF BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT*



**0121 458 5859**



# WESTHILL HOUSE DAY NURSERY

2014/2015

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Early years provider

**Open 07.30 – 18.00  
Monday – Friday**



**All year round spaces available from birth to 5 years**



**Free funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds**



**Before and after school club**



**Holiday club for over 5s during school holidays**



**Fresh and healthy food cooked on site**



**Qualified, dedicated and experienced staff**



**Large garden and playground**

0121 458 2308  
info@westhillhousedaynursery.co.uk  
Westhillhousedaynursery.co.uk  
36 Rednal Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8DR

