



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

April 2020

£1.50



Annual Church Meeting
5th April 11.45 am

An Easter Plot?	p.4
Meet Chris Guy	p.8
People Power in Druids Heath	p.14
Spring Planting for Summer Flowering	p.18
Books or Chocolate?	p.34
Seeking a Future for Saint Nicolas' Place	p.36
Irene Lawrence Celebrates 100 Years	p.42
The Diamond Princess	p.52

A Church of England Team Parish serving all in Kings Norton and Druids Heath through the Parish Church of St Nicolas and the District Churches of Hawkesley and Immanuel
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk | www.kingsnorton.org.uk
Registered Charity 1134799v

Holy Week 2020

At St Nicolas' Church
unless indicated otherwise

5th April Palm Sunday

9.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am All Age Worship

10.30 am Morning Worship, Hawkesley

11.45 am Annual Church Meeting

9th April Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Agape Meal / Communion

10th April Good Friday

12.00 noon Outdoor service (Lych Gate)

12.30 pm All Age Worship

2.00 pm Service of words and music

12th April Easter Sunday

6.30 am Sunrise Service, Old Grammar School

9.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Easter Services (all 3 churches)

6.00 pm Holy Communion with Anointing

Editor & Advertising Manager

David Ash
editor@kingsnorton.org.uk

Subscriptions

Alison Blumer
subs@kingsnorton.org.uk

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

Copy for Publication

Please email items for
publication to:

copy@kingsnorton.org.uk

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

Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the May
2020 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 10th
April (Good Friday).**

Items for inclusion in the June
2020 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 8th
May.**



'Keep calm and...'. How many different endings to the words of this 1939 motivational poster have you seen over the years? Did you know that its existence only became public in 2000 when a copy was discovered by the owner of the former railway station which is now Barter Books in Alnwick, Northumberland? The words evoke the Victorian belief in British stoicism. Part of a series designed by the Ministry of Information, the slogan was intended to strengthen morale in the event of a wartime disaster, such as the bombing of major cities. It was never used.

How, though, do you keep calm when you're scared? Christian insights into this question go deeper than the need for a stiff upper lip. The God of the Bible doesn't just exhort us to get a grip. He tackles our fear at its roots by reassuring us that, ultimately, all will be well. There is a phrase which echoes from Genesis to Revelation and which was often on the lips of Jesus: 'Do not be afraid'. He uses it to address our self-doubt ('Do not be afraid: you are of more value than many sparrows'). He uses it to soften the shock when appearing after his resurrection. In St John's great vision, these are the words he chooses to declare our safety under his authority ('Do not be afraid. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever!'). This is what Easter is about. Not eggs and bunnies but, as the great Welsh hymn has it, the 'death of death and hell's destruction'. Easter is where hope comes from. It is why we carry on. We celebrate it this year on April 12th and you would be most welcome to join us.

The Editor

From The Rector An Easter Plot?

Those familiar with the Gospel accounts of the resurrection of Jesus understand that they contain variations in the retelling of what happened.

The key facts are present in all four Gospels: Jesus is crucified, dies on the cross and is laid in a tomb. Two days later the tomb is empty, his followers learn that he has risen and he appears to them in various places before leaving them with final instructions and is seen no more.

These elements of the accounts are widely accepted as the resurrection narrative and form the basis of Christian faith statements, or creeds, summarising this miraculous event.

However, a less well-known episode in the Easter story is tucked away in the Gospel of Matthew, where the religious leaders responsible for Jesus' arrest and execution suspect a plot by the disciples to steal Jesus' dead body. This body snatching



conspiracy theory can be found in a few scattered verses in Chapters 27 and 28.

According to these verses the religious and political leaders approach Pontius Pilate to warn him of their suspicions of a plot to steal the body from the tomb in order to claim that Jesus has 'risen from the dead.' This raises fascinating questions about the motivations of the religious

leaders and is a record of the first anti-resurrection propaganda story.

These leaders, referred to as Chief Priests in the story, are aware of Jesus' promise that he would rise from the dead. They return to Pilate, who had authorised the execution, and try to convince him of the conspiracy.

How did they get to know of such a plot? Did Judas tell them as part of his betrayal? Probably not, as he committed suicide while in a state of mental torment brought about by his treachery. Did informants hear Jesus speak about his resurrection? Jesus spoke about his rising from the dead mainly to his closest followers, but they may have innocently shared it with others as further proof of Jesus' uniqueness.

The religious authorities became increasingly suspicious, even afraid of Jesus as his popularity grew and his followers increased in number. It is probable that spies were sent to check on him, reporting back to the authorities. These spies could have overheard the promise of a resurrection after three days. However they found out, Jesus' powerful enemies are convinced the tomb must be

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38

2nd Saturday Each Month

Get
FRESH

Next Market
Sat 11th April 2020
9.00 - 2.00



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



guarded and by Roman soldiers, not their own Temple guards.

Why didn't they trust their own soldiers to guard the tomb? Did they fear a degree of sympathy towards Jesus among their own guards? Or maybe, now that it was all over (or so they thought) their own guards would be suspicious of orders which went to such lengths to guard a dead body if, as their leaders claimed, Jesus was only an ordinary man and an 'impostor Messiah?' (Matthew 27.6).

Perhaps they simply trusted Roman soldiers to be more efficient and trustworthy for the

NORTON DECOR

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

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

task. Pilate will have none of it. He sends them away. Has he had enough of this Jesus saga? He tells them to use their own guards, another 'washing of the hands?'

In such a situation, the leaders who had been denied the help of Roman soldiers would want to choose their guards very carefully, ensuring that they were from the elite of their forces.

The guards take up their positions. Then, according to Matthew, there is an 'earthquake' and the men on duty see a vision of a figure in brilliant white. They are so afraid they faint away 'like dead men.'

The tomb is then found to be empty. Later, presumably when they have recovered, we read that 'some of the guards' went to the city to report to the Chief Priests what had happened. Why only some of the guards? Was the experience so terrifying they

wanted nothing more to do with the affair? Were they afraid of being punished for failing in their duty?

When the report is given the priests and elders go into a panic and convene a special meeting to discuss what to do next. They decide on a strikingly familiar and morally dubious political solution: pay the guards to say that the disciples stole the body, presumably therefore admitting that the theft happened right under their noses. They will tell Pilate the same story so that he will be 'satisfied'.

It is a familiar story of political deception, duplicity, 'fake news' and trickery by powerful people throughout history responding to any serious threat to their authority.

Could the disciples have stolen the body as an elaborate plot to enhance Jesus' claims? The evidence of the Gospels is that, after the arrest of Jesus, the disciples 'scattered' and that, at his crucifixion, only a few were present, mostly women. In all four Gospels it is women disciples who are credited with finding either the tomb empty or seeing Jesus or angels and it is they who tell the news to the male disciples.

When Jesus is seen again they are afraid and confused. Are these the responses of a group of conspirators who had snatched the body? We will never know the

historic truth of these incidents. What we do know is that, after the disciples believed in the resurrection of Jesus, they found the courage and boldness to begin a movement that would eventually spread across the known world, despite further persecution and oppression, and that remains with us today.

Easter Greetings!

The Reverend Larry Wright

Bourne Harris LLP

Solicitors and Conveyancers

A Complete Service For All Legal Requirements

Probate & Wills
Divorce & Family
Litigation & Personal Injury
Conveyancing & Commercial Property

enquiries@bourneharris.co.uk
0121 451 1661
www.bourneharris.co.uk

1 Redditch Road
Kings Norton
Birmingham B38 8RN

Meet Chris Guy

Already Steeped In Kings Norton's History

There are several local residents, including some who read this magazine, who have an abiding interest in the history of Kings Norton. For some, it has even become a passion. But the common factors are that we are all in our senior years, and were either born here or have lived here for decades.

So it's very refreshing and even inspiring to meet a young man who grew up and spent his teens and twenties without even being aware of Kings Norton. Someone who, having moved here in his twenties, in a few short years has developed a real and absorbing enthusiasm for the place. So much so that he has developed a remarkable collection of artefacts, to which, with the copious help of eBay, he keeps adding on a frequent basis.

He's Chris Guy (33) who lives with his wife Emily in the Lindsworth area of the parish, where he settled just seven years ago. He was born in Mansfield,



Nottinghamshire, and lived there until his university years, when he went to Nottingham Law School. On graduating in 2008, he moved to London to follow the Legal Practice Course at the College of Law with the view to starting full-time work in London, but the economic climate persuaded him to look elsewhere. His first job was in Cheltenham as an in-house lawyer for AXA.

After looking to work closer to home, he was offered a job in Birmingham in 2011, arriving rather inauspiciously just as the August riots broke out. His first role in the city was with Berryman's Lace Mawer on Temple Row. He then moved to the Edgbaston based firm of Rubric Lois King, his current company.

He couldn't decide where to live until a colleague who lives in Beaks Hill Road recommended that he considered Kings Norton. 'It was almost a life-changing decision,' says Chris: 'I quickly and quite unexpectedly developed a consuming interest in the area's local history, because Kings Norton is such a fascinating place in so many respects.'

Chris is a solicitor, and a recent development in his career has, to

his great delight, brought him to one of the parish's most recognised locations. Rubric Lois King has recently bought out Bourne Harris, whose offices are situated at the corner of The Green and the Rednal Road, looking out over the roundabout. The building was created in 1896 when Richard Foster bought the old coal yard that was there and built a shop and house for his daughter and her husband Alborn Mortiboys. It was the birth of the much loved Mortiboys grocery and sweet shop that lasted for many decades.

Chris and his company have an ambitious vision for their new acquisition, building on the established skills and local knowledge of the existing team by adding a much wider range of services relating to family, property and business law for the



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.

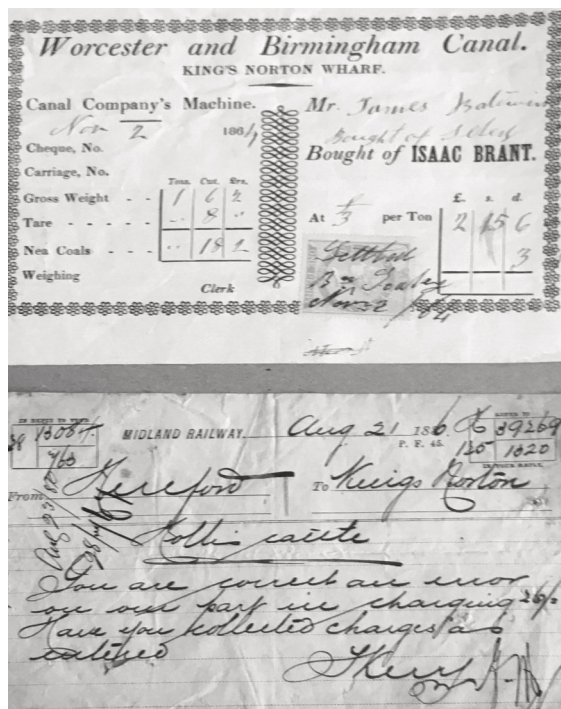


A complete building service

Freephone : 0800 0937 313





benefit of local people and companies. ‘We are aiming to offer a comprehensive service, with the personal touch that can only be provided by staff who really know the area and its people,’ he explains.

Chris is conscious that his premises have been a familiar daily sight for King Norton inhabitants for more than 120 years. ‘Every time I visit Bourne Harris I get this wonderful sense of a long tradition of local people coming in to buy their provisions,’ he adds.

For as long as he can remember, Chris has had an active interest in local history, and Kings Norton offers him dimensions that he never expected to find in a Birmingham suburb. Chris reads everything about our

history, and delights in finding local photographs going back to the earliest years of the camera. He’s aware that Kings Norton goes back at least as far as the Domesday Book and has significant connections with the English Civil War and, like everyone else, is thrilled and inspired by the beauty of St Nicolas’ Church, the Old Grammar School and Saint Nicolas’ Place, formerly the Saracen’s Head. But his main area of interest is the way in which the parish developed an increasingly significant industrial base from the 1850s onwards, facilitated by the canal network and the coming of the railways.

His collection of artefacts reflects this interest. He has developed a remarkable and fascinating collection of maps from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, showing just how rapidly the parish was transformed from a rural village with a heavy independence on agriculture, to an increasingly built-up city

suburb with a thriving and ever-increasing range of local industries in brass founding, paper manufacture, rubber, nails and other metal products, some of which had national significance. He is particularly interested in certain businesses and their sites, such as Baldwin's Paper Mill and the Kings Norton Metal Company.

Maps and books are a fairly straightforward way of learning about the history of locality, but Chris goes much further. He is continually developing an evocative collection of documents and other ephemera from this period.

For example, he has several original documents illustrating the day-to-day activities of the Worcester-to-Birmingham canal authorities, including the payments exacted by the Kings Norton Toll House on the canal junction on the far side of the playing fields. He also enthusiastically collects documents that evoke the activities of local railways in the Victorian era, particularly communications about goods received for onward shipments involving Kings Norton and the now defunct Lifford Stations. He has lots of examples of the signature of Mr Plumb, the Station

Master at Kings Norton in the late 1800s!

There are other fascinating artefacts, including coins and medals struck by the Kings Norton Metal Company. They include the nationally significant and much sought-after 'Kings Norton Penny', from the time when the Royal Mint needed extra capacity and chose the company to be an additional source of 'coins of the realm'. The Penny is readily identifiable because, just under the head of George V, immediately by the year, it's just possible to make out the letters 'KN'. Lucky Emily! One of Chris' gifts to her on their wedding day in 2013 was one of those coins.

Chris also loves to carry out his own research: for example he recently established that James Baldwin, the founder and owner of the very successful paper mill in the Lifford area, lived just off the Pershore Road near Breedon Cross. But there's one question he hasn't yet been able to answer. The Bourne Harris building is the first in the row on the south side of The Green, but the number on the door is Number 2. Can any reader tell him where Number 1 is?

Michael Kennedy



FOODBANK NEWS

Our 'temporary' warehouse is still partially carpeted in food, but the volunteer teams have worked extremely hard to clear it and to filter out shorter-dated items, so very little food has been wasted.

We had hoped to be out by the end of February, but it looks as if the end of March is going to be a more realistic target now. It does mean that we keep finding Christmas puddings though, so 'food swap opportunities' have been set up in St Nicolas' Church for a few weeks. You can claim a Christmas pudding in exchange for a donation of tinned spaghetti, tinned tomatoes or long-life whole milk. The pudding glut may also mean that a repeat of the *Christmas Cracker* event occurs in the summer. Look out for details.

Not only did the warehouse team nearly crack under the strain in December, the last few weeks have also been very fraught. There has now been a small but careful overhaul of the referral system, to ensure that all those who refer clients are actually assessing their needs and not just issuing a voucher in order to pass their problems on to another agency.

The fuel bank scheme has also been suspended, as it was creating more complications than it was solving.

The upshot of this is that things at distribution are quieter and each client can have a more in-depth session. He or she can also access debt and benefit support if that is what is needed.

What of the strategies for coping with Christmas 2020? We are looking at the possibility of permanent additional storage and are also moving items that are not required by our clients or are in appropriately large sized packaging.

The congregations in our parish should be proud: our wheelie bin is one of the most subscribed church bins of its kind. Each congregation is marvellous at helping to shift unwanted donations and turn them into more realistic giving.

Thank you all for your continued support over the last six or more years.

Sylvia Fox



**10-16
MAY**

Christian Aid week runs from 10th to 16th May this year. Unsurprisingly, climate change is high on the agenda and the country highlighted in the literature is Kenya.

Cash donations will be accepted in each church and congregation, and there will be guidelines for other ways to donate. We will not be able to process gift-aided donations through the churches this year, nor run house-to-house collections. Gift-aided donations will need to be sent directly to Christian Aid HQ.

On the Sunday with which Christian Aid Week closes, **17th May**, there will be an event in St Nicolas' Church. Starting at **5.00 pm**, we will host a discussion and a simple meal of soup, bread, cake, fruit and nuts, sourced locally or through fairly-

traded sources. We will finish at 7.00 pm and will celebrate Compline slightly later than usual at 7.30 pm.

The discussion will be a time to share resource- or planet-saving ideas, both successes and failures, such as the plant-based washing-up liquid that is so ineffective that items have to be washed three times!

Between us we will have a host of practical ideas to share, which we can then gather into a useful list to share more widely.

There are likely to be other events during the week too. Look out for details near the time.

Sylvia Fox

People Power in Druids Heath

Druids Heath has long been known as the Forgotten Estate. Residents have felt increasingly ignored, voiceless and powerless as their council housing, originally built in the 1960s, has lacked any refurbishment for sixty years. They have also seen the majority of their community buildings removed: Baverstock secondary school, three pubs and the British Legion.

In 2018, Birmingham City Council announced a regeneration scheme for the estate. Phase 1 included the demolition of five out of fourteen tower blocks. Evacuation of the tower blocks has started over the last twelve months.

Whilst the Council attempted an initial consultation exercise with residents regarding regeneration plans, the newly re-energised *Druids Heath and Monyhull Residents' Forum* believed it to be tokenistic, adding fuel to the fire of disempowerment. Local people worried that the Council was planning a form of social cleansing and gentrification in the area. A key concern was a lack of new social housing. Current plans are for 60% social housing

and 40% affordable housing, meaning that there wouldn't be sufficient space to house residents who want to return to Druids Heath.

Another criticism was the delay in building new housing while blocks were being demolished. Residents would have to move out of the area for several years, making their return less likely. The sixty-year-old history of the Druids Heath community was in danger of disintegrating.

In a demonstration of solidarity and inner strength by Druids Heath residents, the Forum, led by their Chair, Tamika Gill, and other committee members, began to demand communication with the Council.

There were many telephone calls and meetings with officers together with more consultation with residents about their fears and hopes for the regeneration scheme.

In response to the unwavering persistence of the Forum and through the power of community relationships, the Head of the Council, Ian Ward, agreed to attend a meeting with residents in mid-December 2019. Listening first hand to residents' unhappiness at their lack of involvement in housing decisions that affect every aspect of their lives, Councillor Ward made the landmark decision to put the

regeneration scheme on hold. He proposed that existing plans be replaced by resident-led community solutions to improve housing in Druids Heath. During a further meeting with the Residents' Forum in January, the Council suggested setting up a collaborative steering group made up of residents' representatives and relevant agencies.

There was concern from some of the estate's occupants that they had not been involved in these meetings nor in the decision to halt regeneration. In order to hear more voices, Ian Ward attended a wider community



meeting at The Oaks Primary School on February 28th. With him came a number of Council staff, the local MP, Steve McCabe, and local Councillor, Julien Pritchard.

The news to emerge from this latest gathering is that the term 'regeneration' should not have been used to describe what is planned in Druids Heath. Ian Ward announced that the Council is actually managing a £46 million home development programme on the estate. Alarm from some occupants that they would remain for longer in sub-standard tower blocks, coping with the damp and a lack of heating, means that the housing scheme is no longer on hold and residents will continue to be moved out of their flats. However, the Council has agreed that they will begin building replacement housing sooner than intended and that all further planning will be undertaken by the proposed steering group.

At the same meeting, Councillor Ward suggested that, if residents did indeed want regeneration for their estate, he would consider lobbying the Government for more money to offer a better quality of life in Druids Heath. Local people were asked for their views on how they would improve their community, including refurbishment of the remaining homes, employment and activities for young people.

The good people of Druids Heath now wait to find out if the Council will indeed work collaboratively with residents to develop community solutions within the current budget, and if they will lobby the Government for more ambitious improvements to the local area.

Whatever happens next, the voices of Druids Heath are getting louder and more powerful!

The Revd Catherine Matlock

J & D Mason
Opticians
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

Rooms for Hire

with access to a small kitchen

Large Room

About 80 sq.m.

Small Room

About 40 sq.m.

Recently refurbished, light, modern

Hawkesley Church

The Pastoral Centre, corner of Shannon Rd
& Old Portway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR

Hire both rooms for £15 per hour

Hire one room for £10 per hour

0121 459 5855

Spring planting for summer flowering



Seasonal tips from a green-fingered reader

There is a very good range of summer flowering bulbs available now in the garden centres and of course on the internet. Get moving, as they can dry out in those polythene packs! I do find that watching out for the arrival of new stock in the shops is important for success in growing-on as time spent in the hostile environment outside a shop will stress new plants and will slow up growth.

Here are some bulbs to look out for as they are all hardy and will reward you by putting up a good show for years until they are ready for dividing.

Colchicum autumnale
Gladioli nanus
Oriental Lilies
Alliums
Cyclamen hederifolium
Nerines

All these and many more will survive our milder winters and will give a good display in the late summer. The cyclamen have very attractive patterns on their leaves and no two will be quite the same.

Some years ago I was on a Noddy train on a trip around the Chicago botanical gardens and our guide asked us to admire the 'Autumn Crocus' in the English garden. They were Colchicums. Autumn Crocus do exist but they are smaller and more crocus-looking.



Double Colchicum

If you are on the look-out for something different for your garden, do visit the Rare Plant Sale at Winterbourne Gardens, 58 Edgbaston Road, B15 2RT on Sunday 17 May from 10.30 am. Normal entrance charges apply and of course there is a very fine garden to look around with its impeccable greenhouses, bookshop and tearoom.



Winter Aconite

Our flower of the month is rather small but belongs to that exclusive group that thrives in the grass under deciduous trees, grabbing the short time before the emergence of the tree leaves and the end of frosty weather. *Eranthus Hyemalis* or the Winter Aconite (above) bears yellow cup-shaped flowers like aristocratic buttercups, which is not surprising as they are closely related and curiously are not kin to the poisonous aconites. Best planted 'in-the-green', *Eranthus* will look very lonely and scattered

at first but, if they are happy, will form great golden drifts to lift your spirits in the early Spring.

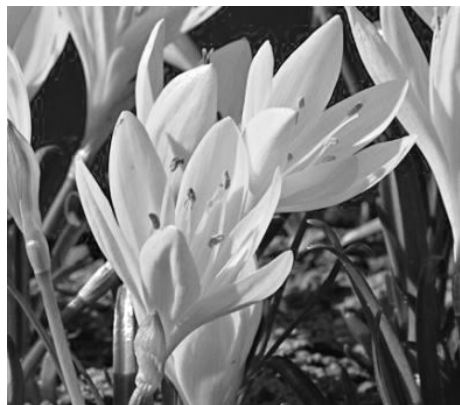
Vegans, vegetarians and indeed any one who just likes vegetables will be pleased to know that there is a whole range of perennial vegetables with a much reduced need for digging and hoeing. Many of these plants have a very long history and their names are fascinating here are a few:

Egyptian walking onion
Babbington Leek
Good King Henry (below)
Skirret
Jerusalem Artichoke
Potato Onion
Walking Stick Cabbage
Everlasting Onion
Purple Asparagus



Good King Henry

There are lots more to be discovered on the internet, together with cultivation information.

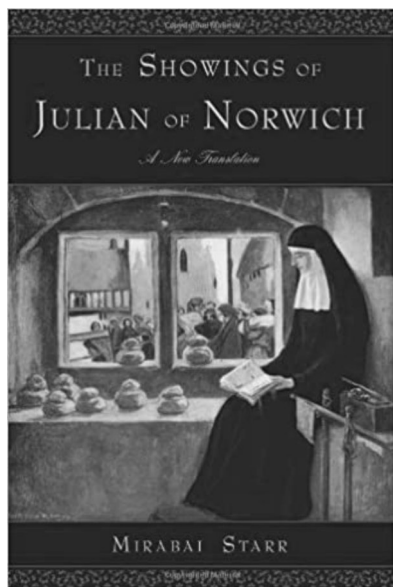


Autumn Crocus

It is on record that Skirret, a root vegetable, was a favourite of the Roman emperor Tiberius and was also popular during the Tudor period. Seed can still be had for the adventurous. Chiltern Seeds is

a good place to start looking. The secret in growing perennial vegetables is to prepare the ground thoroughly by removing all weeds and digging in plenty of leaf mould with some organic fertiliser. One tip: many of these leaf vegetables are brassicas and will be slaughtered by caterpillars unless you grow them under a cover of very fine netting possibly in a raised bed. It seems to me that a very interesting time awaits those who research, grow and eat these venerable survivors. Happy gardening!

Adam the Gardener



‘We do not know much about Julian’s life [...] By the time she entered her cell she had already witnessed three rounds of plague, had probably lost almost everyone she loved, and had nearly died herself. We also know that when she was very young she asked to bear witness to the passion of Christ. Her wish came true. The visions she had on her near-deathbed were of Christ’s crucifixion. [...] Other saints and mystics have reported similar experiences. But what is unusual about Julian’s story is that Christ’s death was not dreadful to her. That is, he certainly suffered and she hated to see her beloved in such pain, but he also radiated warmth, sweetness, and a kind of ineffable joy. And try as she might, Julian could not detect one iota of condemnation in him toward any member of the human family.’

Mirabai Starr, translator of ‘The Showings’.

WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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

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

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

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

Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

We raise funds for the restoration of the historic buildings that are known collectively as Saint Nicolas' Place (SNP), through membership subscription and events organised by the group. Members receive regular newsletters containing updates about SNP and listings of Birmingham-wide heritage events. Membership is £10.00 per annum or £7.00 for those not in full-time work. We also arrange guided tours of our heritage buildings.

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

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

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

The Trust and its volunteers meet regularly to maintain and improve the Millennium Green. 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 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 *Sally Saunders 0121 458 6019.*

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. The Kings Norton group meets every third Tuesday of the month from 2 pm to 4pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Watford Road, Cotteridge.

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 *Jan Sims janettesims@yahoo.co.uk*

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 70 years ago. A flourishing Guild, it covers parishes within a five mile radius and several current members come from Kings Norton. The group meets on most Mondays 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 0121 459 2700 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.

Kings Norton Society *Annette Dickers 0121 459 2700 ardickers@outlook.com*

We are a group of very sociable people of all ages (not a youth club), now in our 59th year. We meet once a month at Kings Norton Tennis Club, usually on the last Friday of the month. Attendance normally averages 40 people or more. We have supper and a varied programme of events.

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

U3A (University of the Third Age) www.u3a.org.uk, knu3a.membership@gmail.com

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.

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, normally at a member's home: please check for the location on 07891 214907.

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice

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

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

Kings Heath Horticultural Society bron.salway@blueyonder.co.uk

Kings Heath Horticultural Society is the local horticultural society for Kings Norton residents. It usually meets at Manningford Hall on Bells Lane, B14 5TJ. We have a wide range of speakers on gardening-related topics. We also hold two informal shows, spring and summer, where members display and then vote for their favourites. We meet from March to December, usually on the first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Membership costs £6 annually plus £2 members' entrance fee per meeting or £3 for visitors. For more information, please email Bron Salway.

Mentor Link www.mentorlink.org.uk, Elaine Southall 0805 937347, elaine.southall@mentorlink.org.uk

Mentor Link is a children's charity supporting vulnerable and distressed children and young people. It works with schools across much of the West Midlands, including Kings Norton. It is seeking locally-based volunteers to help its work for one or two hours a week. Full training is provided.

SPORTS & EXERCISE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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

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

South Birmingham Ramblers www.sbramblers.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY CENTRES & VENUES

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

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

Druids Heath Library,, 1 Idmiston Croft, Birmingham B14 5NU, druids.heath.Library,@birmingham.gov.uk, 0121 303 7171

The libraries provide a wide range of books, CDs and material for all ages including community information and local history. There are also meeting rooms for hire and internet access. The Libraries organise a range of regular events including activities for children and other specific interest groups.

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC VENUES

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

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

The Church in the Parish

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

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

St Nicolas' Parish Church

on The Green, Kings Norton, B38 8RU

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

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

Mon & Weds	9 am	Morning Prayer
-----------------------	-------------	----------------

Hawkesley Church (Anglican & Methodist)

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

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

Immanuel Church

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

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

During the Week

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

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

Children's Activities

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

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

Growing in Faith

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

Help us to keep our Parish Church open

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

Christening (Baptism) and Weddings

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

**More details at www.kingsnorton.org.uk
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk 0121 458 3289**

Events Diary April 2020

Wednesday 1 April

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

Thursday 2 April

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00pm
- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge 2 pm: Competitions for Stamps & Postal History
- Colour Club (family session), Kings Norton Library, 3.30-4.30 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8-10 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 3 April

- Adult Craft, Kings Norton Library, 9.45-11.30 am
- Friends of Kings Norton Park conservation activities: meet in Westhill Road car park 10.15
- 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, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 4 April

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am

Monday 6 April

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Heath Horticultural Society, Manningford Hall, Bells Lane 7 pm for 7.30 pm: Society Spring Show & Mel Matthews 'Keukenhof Gardens and Tulip Fields'
- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Lane B30 2PR 7pm

Tuesday 7 April

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10 am- 3 pm. For location, please call 07891 214907

- 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 Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Wednesday 8 April

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 9 April

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8-10 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 10 April (Good Friday)

- Kings Norton Library closed for Easter: re-opens Wednesday 15 April

Saturday 11 April

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am

Tuesday 14 April

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10 am- 3 pm. For location, please call 07891 214907
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 15 April

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 16 April

- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2 pm: Lawrence Kimpton display : 'South Pacific Islands'
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8-10 pm

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

Friday 17 April

- Adult Craft, Kings Norton Library, 9.45-11.30 am
- 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, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 18 April

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

Monday 20 April

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm

Tuesday 21 April

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10 am- 3 pm. For location, please call 07891 214907
- 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
- Kings Norton Women's Institute, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00 pm: AGM
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 22 April

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

Thursday 23 April

- Colour Club (family session), Kings Norton Library, 3.30-4.30 pm
- Councillors' Advice Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8-10 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 24 April

- Adult Craft, Kings Norton Library, 9.45-11.30 am
- 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, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 25 April

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Children's Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 11.30 am-12.30 pm

Sunday 26 April

- Kings Norton Tennis Club, Grange Hill Road: Spring Meal, 12.30 pm for 1 pm. Four-course meal with wine and soft drinks, all welcome. £20 pp for members and £25 pp for non-members. Booking essential. Please contact Lorraine on 0121 459 0944.

Monday 27 April

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7 pm for 7.30 pm: short talks by local researchers

Tuesday 28 April

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10 am- 3 pm. For location, please call 07891 214907
- 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 29 April

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

Thursday 30 April

- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2 pm: Alan Godfrey display & talk 'To the Ends of the Earth: Polar Exploration'
- Colour Club (family session), Kings Norton Library 3.30-4.30 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8-10 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Books or Chocolate?

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

As I write this, it is World Book Day and children across the country are dressing up as characters from their favourite books. Others are going to school in their pyjamas for story time.

I have heard of one local school where they decorate a potato to look like a book character. Who would you dress up as? Would you pick a character that you like or want to be or would you go for a costume that you could achieve? It's always a dilemma for parents!

I wonder, what your favourite book is? Like *Desert Island Discs* you can't pick the Bible or the complete works of Shakespeare, or in fact any complete works or sets of books. Just one book. So that means I can't choose the *Chronicles of Narnia* or the *Harry Potter* series.

Would you pick something you have read recently or a childhood favourite? Is it even possible to pick just one book or is that just too difficult? I know I would struggle!

Perhaps listing your top ten is easier. I know a lot of people who love lists and who would find this an attractive option. But then, my top ten would always change too because I like to discover new genres and authors and I also like to re-read books and often go back to books, especially if it is a series, and to



read them through back-to-back.

Books and reading are so important. I'm lucky I've always loved reading and have full bookshelves all over the house. Personally, I still prefer a physical book to a Kindle, although I can see the advantages of a device, I prefer holding a real book in my hand.

Reading, though, can transport us to different worlds, enlighten us, or make us laugh and cry. Escaping into a book at the end of the day is still a real pleasure. I don't know about giving up screen time during Lent.

Giving up books would be a real challenge!

At *Tiny Tots* our children receive the gift of a book at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the summer term and it is great to see their excitement. Perhaps, in your family, you could give a book as a gift this Easter instead of a chocolate egg (or perhaps a smaller egg and a book). There is a huge selection of Easter books featuring eggs, chicks, bunnies and of course the Easter story.

The Easter Bunny (originally a hare), by the way, is actually a very

old symbol associated with Spring, fertility and new life. There is all sorts of folklore about it (and there I was thinking it was just some new idea). But I digress.

I hope that this Easter you can indulge in reading, that you can find a new book to enjoy or rediscover an old one, perhaps while munching contentedly on a chocolate egg.

Happy Easter!

Pauline Weaver



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

Seeking A Future For SAINT NICOLAS' PLACE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the way in which the church in any English parish takes decisions. Our most recent meeting in February continued to work through the very serious financial challenges that are now facing St Nicolas' Church.

As is well known, the church's balance sheet this year will show a loss of about £100,000. The majority of this is accounted for by the cost of running Saint Nicolas' Place (SNP). Last September, after over ten years of subsidising the work of the building, the PCC reached a point where it could no longer afford to pay staff after the end of March 2020. It therefore decided to put Saint Nicolas' Place on the market. At the time of going to press, we are able to report that the property company assisting the PCC to find new owners is pleased with the initial level of interest and that

meetings have already taken place with three potential buyers. Further discussions are planned.

Meanwhile, at our February meeting, we reviewed, for the last time, the decision to put the building up for sale. Sadly, as there had been no change in our financial position, we confirmed that, from 31st March 2020, weekly activities at Saint Nicolas' Place would be further reduced and that the last of our hard-working and loyal staff would leave. No bookings will be taken after this point.

Meanwhile, the church's staff will ensure that the building continues

It is a cause of great regret that this position has been reached, but the financial support which the church has had to give over a ten year period to keep Saint Nicolas' Place open amounts to over half a million pounds.



to be available to its commercial clients. A plan to allow some community users to continue their activities for a limited period is also being finalised.

At the same time, the decision has been taken to dissolve the Community Interest Company, which has been overseeing the use of Saint Nicolas' Place in recent years, and to return the legal responsibility for its management to the PCC. As the owner of the building, the PCC will continue to work with local groups who want to continue to use SNP for community purposes.

It is a cause of great regret that this position has been reached, but the financial support which the church has had to give over a ten year period to keep Saint Nicolas' Place open amounts to over half a million pounds. Despite the creativity and the best efforts of everyone involved, since winning the *BBC Restoration* television competition in 2004, this much-loved building has been unable to generate enough income to cover its running costs.

The decisions which the PCC has recently had to make have helped to reduce St Nicolas' Church's

The Parish will hold its Annual Parochial Church Meeting or APCM (the church's equivalent of an AGM) at 11.45 am on Sunday 5th April at St Nicolas' Church. All are welcome to contribute and to oversee what we are doing. You are, of course, also welcome to think about joining the PCC yourself.

losses. Unfortunately, though, they are not going to be enough on their own.

In common with every other parish in the country, Kings Norton is expected to make an annual contribution towards the cost of running the Diocese and of paying clergy salaries. In our case, it would usually be a six-figure sum. The Church of England calls this the Common Fund and, in recent years, our parish has not been in a financial position to meet all of its obligations towards it, partly for the reasons explained above. That now needs to change.

We have therefore agreed with the Archdeacon, who represents the Diocese, financial plans for next year and for the medium term. The Archdeacon came to listen to the PCC and others at a meeting at the end of February. That meeting raised important questions about the way in which St Nicolas' Church will operate in future. There are far-reaching decisions to be made about how we use clergy, lay ministry and volunteers to achieve our mission. We have begun to explore options, but this is just the beginning of an important conversation between us all.

Finally, St Nicolas' Church itself is in need of immediate attention.

We have completed essential urgent repairs to the steeple and the electrics, and are now able to undertake a further phase of important, high priority repairs. We hope in this phase to make good the baptistry roof, which is currently kept dry by scaffolding which costs the church £1,000 a month, a further drain on our shrinking resources. You may also have noticed that some pews have become unsafe. The PCC has therefore decided to apply for permission to remove them.

We will need a major grant for the complete repair and restoration of St Nicolas' Church. Obviously, if we can reach a better budgetary position we will improve our chances of obtaining the support we need.

We look forward to welcoming to our APCM on 5th April new people of good will with fresh ideas to offer. These are important issues which affect the whole Kings Norton community. That community deserves to be widely represented as we seek the way ahead.

The Rector & Churchwardens

Highlights

from the Standing Committee Report to the PCC on 17th February 2020 regarding the parish's budget and buildings.

The full text of this report is available on the Parish Website and copies are available at the back of St Nicolas' Church.

'The financial position facing the Diocese of Birmingham is challenging and it has welcomed that the PCC has set out how it could meet its future share of Common Fund in a sustainable way.'

'The Diocese has accepted that we have unique liabilities and costs linked to our historic buildings. It sees that we now have a clear plan which we are committed to implementing that takes us towards being a financially sustainable parish. The Diocese has therefore proposed that our Common Fund be reduced by the costs of our subsidy to SNP for 2020/21.'

'We therefore began discussion with the Diocese around the outline of a medium term financial plan. This would include elements such as the parish taking on the costs of children's work, which is the position of all other such posts in

parishes across the Diocese, and a review by the Diocese of the Team Ministry structure.'

'The urgent action agreed by the PCC was implemented to reduce the financial losses coming from SNP.'

'The actions of the PCC were not related to a desire for a capital receipt. The value for the PCC from any sale [of SNP] remains impossible to quantify given the interests of the Heritage Lottery Fund in any sale during the 25 years of the contract terms with SNP.'

'The PCC will be aware that a community group has formed to protect SNP as a community facility, ideally through being able to run the building. They are currently holding a range of engagement events, and last week the church hosted over 250 people at their second public event.'

'The group initially asked that Standing Committee/PCC delay the implementation of its decisions on SNP. We declined on the grounds that it would contradict the duties upon charities that are at severe financial risk, which the PCC had adhered to. To have agreed to defer would expose PCC members to unacceptable risks as individuals arising from a breach of charity law and governance.'

'The group have applied to list St. Nicolas' Place on a register of Assets of Community Value that local councils are obliged to maintain. If registration does take place this would have the effect of freezing any sale/lease for six months to allow a consideration of community use.'

'Standing Committee have taken legal advice. Our position is to allow the registration to take its course. The PCC has been the steward of SNP for many years and clearly values the community benefits from it that PCC would like to secure for the future.'

'We are not, however, trying to "oppose" this group, indeed it is helpful to have an emerging potential community group that is not based around the church. We have sought to build a relationship with the group and to ensure there



Positive Group
(MIDLANDS) LTD

DESIGN | PRINT | WEB | EXECUTIVE CHAMPAGNE

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

Full Design & Print Service

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

0121 459 3454

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

The Answer's Yes!

is a dialogue. This was clearly modelled to people by the Rector's offer of the church for the public meeting. We will continue discussions to support any emergent new offer in the community and, with Bruton Knowles [property agents], are meeting this group shortly.'

'Further work to the steeple. This has been scoped as part of the current work at £40,000 for replacing or removing some stone work, the lightening conductor, removing loose material on the interior and exterior and repointing.'

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

IRENE LAWRENCE

100 years!

Over 100 people came together to celebrate Irene Lawrence's 100th birthday at a party at Hawkesley, including many from Kings Norton's 'Knit'n'Natter' group and Hawkesley Church.

The Reverend Larry Wright gave a speech and The Reverends Eliakim and Nick was there too along with former Hawkesley ministers Donald Samson and Rebecca Clarke.

Irene Lawrence turned 100 on 8th February 2020 and was surprised to see the Lord Mayor of Birmingham at her party! He told all the guests what a wonderful and inspirational woman my mum is. She is a perfect role model for the community as she is generous, positive, always smiling and always interested in other people.

Mum has spent many years volunteering in the local community. The most important thing for her was that she had all her family with her. Some had travelled from America, Estonia and Germany.



As well as receiving cards from The Queen and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Irene was personally congratulated by Chancellor Angela Merkel from Germany.

Irene told her guests that it was their presence rather than their presents that was important to her but if anyone wanted to donate to her chosen charity they were welcome to do so.

On Wednesday 19th February Irene went to visit the Midlands Air Ambulance (photo, right) and handed them over £500.

Irene Lawrence (daughter)



Save The Date!

Friday 8th May at 4.00 p.m.

1940s Tea Dance with afternoon tea and cabaret

Saturday 9th May at 6.00 p.m.

1940s Family Flicks at St Nick's with a picnic tea

Sunday 10th May at 10.30 a.m.

VE Day 75 Church Parade

All at St Nicolas' Church, Kings Norton. Full details to follow.

Events may be subject to change.

CONTACTS

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

81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU
parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk 0121 458 3289 www.facebook.com/KingsNortonTeam

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 Nick Jones
Readers	David Ash, Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Lay Preacher	Steve Wright
Music Ministry	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Chris Gadd

THE CHURCH WARDENS

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

OTHER CONTACTS

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

MUSIC

Church music, the choir and handbells are overseen by Sylvia Fox (contact via the Parish Office). Choir practices are on Fridays: Juniors 5.00 - 6.00 pm; secondary pupils, college students & adults 7.00 - 8.15 pm. Handbell practices take place on most Mondays 3.00- 4.00 pm and ring from number notation. Please phone before joining us for the first time to check that we are meeting.

BELL RINGING

Catherine Taylor

Bells are rung for the Sunday service at St Nicolas' Church from 10.00 - 10.30 am. 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 via the Parish Office 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

www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

Headteacher: Vicky Sumner

Small Change

Big Difference

Biscuits, illegal logging and palm oil

Who doesn't love a biscuit mid-morning with a coffee or mid-afternoon with a cuppa? Who'd have thought of the cost in blighted lives some biscuits might cause?

I spent 3 months with my friend Gwyneth in Medan, on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, in 2004 and 2005. She had lived and worked for 34 years with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Indonesia, in Jakarta and then in Medan. With her I was teaching English to pre-degree students at the Servant of the Word theological college, 11 kilometres north-west of the city of Medan, on the main highway to Banda Aceh.

Her bungalow was in a little village on a road which ran parallel to the arterial highway. It is a place of mixed housing, some of middle class commuters, some of smallholders



and workers, perhaps a hairdresser or car mechanic working from a house garage, corner shops, gardens and storm drains flanked the road. Because of the volcanic nature of the island and high humidity, bananas, rambutans and other fruits and crops grow like weeds. We were surrounded by hibiscus, bougainvillea and tall, tropical trees. Each day, small children walked to the main road to go school, the girls in white cotton veils and mid-length

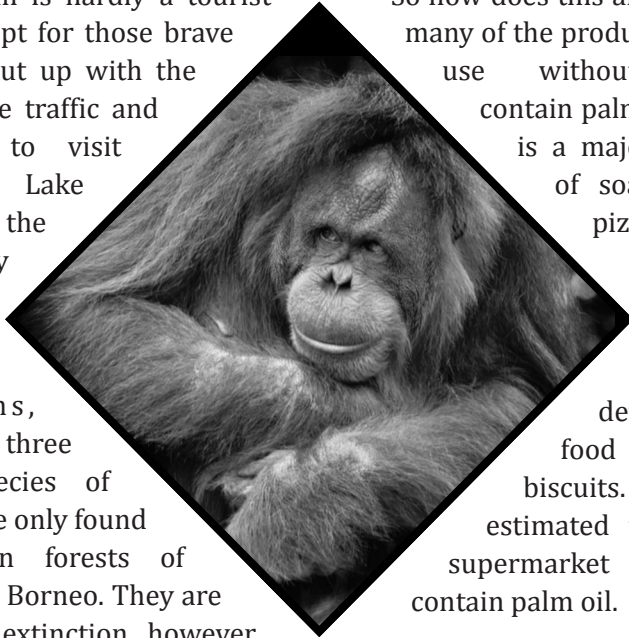
dresses, the boys in white shirts and shorts.

The city of Medan is not the most prepossessing city, with its heavy industries and its busy port, which ships goods and people across the Straits of Malacca, one of the most important shipping routes in the world. Medan is hardly a tourist hotspot except for those brave enough to put up with the pollution, the traffic and the noise to visit wonderful Lake Toba and the nearby Orangutan sanctuary.

Orangutans, one of three existing species of great ape, are only found in the rain forests of Sumatra and Borneo. They are heading for extinction, however, because of illegal logging across Sumatra and the subsequent planting of quick growing, lucrative palm oil trees.

Meanwhile, the lives of our neighbours in the village were blighted by lorries ploughing up and down the narrow access road and on to the local palm oil plantation.

The dust, the noise and the danger were ever-present. The Orangutan sanctuary has been almost wiped out by extremes of flooding caused by the logging, the tsunami and earthquakes of 2004 and a lack of resources. Illegal loggers don't pay taxes!



So how does this affect us? Well, many of the products which we use without realising contain palm oil. Palm oil is a major ingredient of soap, make-up, pizza, bread, noodles, sweets, shampoo, ice cream, detergent, pet food and most biscuits. It is estimated that 50% of supermarket products contain palm oil.

Palm oil of itself is a good product. When it is produced in a responsible manner that respects the environment, and the communities where it is commonly grown it provides income and life improvements for many. It is the illegal logging and land grabbing which is so very bad.



There are many brands we can buy which use only responsibly sourced palm oil (RSPO). Waitrose and Marks and Spencer use only RSPO-certified products, including in their biscuits, as do Traidcraft, Doves Farm, Walkers, Fox's where palm oil is used. ('All Butter' biscuits are usually palm oil free.) Iceland own brand products are palm oil free.

Under EU law, which may not be applicable soon, palm oil content must be declared and labelled as such but it is often declared under another name. According to the Ethical Consumer website some of the products named which do NOT use ethically sourced palm oil include Cadbury, Nestlé, Kerry Gold,

Weetabix, Greggs, Prêt-à-Manger, Walmart (Asda) and, surprisingly, Green and Black.

Oh dear! It's a minefield! But we can still enjoy that biscuit, and other products, if we are aware of those whose makers use responsibly resourced palm oil. The website [www. ethicalconsumer.org/palmoil](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/palmoil) has a wealth of well-researched information on palm oil products.

If we are able to change even in a small way in our small corner we are helping to make a big difference, contributing to an improved world for all of us.

Thelma Mitchell

St Nicolas' Church is currently looking at ways of providing biscuits with its refreshments which are either free from palm oil or which contains ingredients from sustainable and environmentally responsible sources.

‘AND HIS BANNER OVER ME IS LOVE’

A Quotation from The Song of Solomon

The making and displaying of banners in church became fashionable again in the 1980's, revitalised by the charismatic movement of the 60's and 70's. It has never really gone out of fashion in churches since.

We're talking about temporary hangings of cloth, paper and card, updated for seasons and festivals. Some are fine works of art, others more reflective of the enthusiasm of the makers, but always made with love. They are displayed to remind us of, and to inspire in us the Christian message of love, forgiveness and redemption, of a mighty God who loves all creation.

Banner making is a church activity open to all, including the children. We have had a bit of a revival in banner making recently here at St. Nicolas' Church. A group met in February and March 2020 to prepare some banners for Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy

Thursday and Easter. The interior scaffolding currently makes a super frame from which to hang Lent banners!

So, armed with scissors and with paper templates taken from our trusty guide book to church banner making, acres of material gleaned from various corners, an iron, sewing machine, glue and a small group of enthusiasts around lots of tables, we joined the *Knit'n'Natter* group in church on two Farmers' Market Saturdays. The results for Lent are currently hanging from the scaffolding. Look out for more soon as the Lent season progresses into the church's great festival and celebration of Easter.

We plan more for later in the year and would welcome anyone who would like to join in. Speak to Sylvia Fox or Thelma Mitchell, who will then let you know the dates when we are meeting again.

Hawkesley Church

invite you to a

QUIZ NIGHT

with fish & chip supper



SATURDAY 25TH APRIL AT 7.30 PM

At the Pastoral Centre, Corner of Shannon Road and
Old Portway, Kings Norton, B38 9TR.

Entrance: £6 including supper, £4 quiz only.

For tickets, please contact David Smith on
0121 453 9931 or 07 484 642 473

Bumps & Babies

Bumps and Babies started a few years ago. I remember it well. It was at the suggestion of a fellow mum at a time when two mummies from the church congregation and I gave birth to babies within two weeks of each other. As a result, my second baby and I were founding members of the group! In the first few weeks, a mummy friend came along and taught us *Baa Baa* and *Twinkle Twinkle* in British Sign Language, which became a weekly feature.

I have very happy memories of the quiet times my youngest and I spent together on a Monday from 1.00-2.30 each week. We would drop his older brother at nursery and could enjoy a bit of time together in my favourite safe space.

My second baby was a persistent screamer. He seemed to cry a lot. I really valued being able to come to church where Pauline Weaver, The Reverend Jayne Crooks or Ruth Howman would take one look at me and say 'Need a cuppa? I'll take Dylan. You have a sit down.' He'd fall asleep in their arms and I'd watch, relieved of my duties, calm and happy with my cup of tea.

As he grew and we weaned him, I started to give him a packed lunch there. He'd eat his berries, bread sticks, rice cakes and cheese and finish it all. He's then try to help himself to anyone else's food, if he could find it! Most regularly, he'd pick on Sophie's lunch until she grew wise to it and learned to defend it and protest loudly!

With a few other parents we'd swap tips and encouragement. As a second-time mum, I occasionally had a nugget or two of useful advice that had worked at some time with my first child, if not with my second. The calm atmosphere of the church and of the volunteers was so important in those first couple of years of my life, for him and for me. As a result, my little boy is still really relaxed and happy in the church building and with those adults who have continued to be so important in his little life through playdates, *Tiny Tots*, Sunday services and the annual parish camping trip. He's not usually that keen on adults he's not familiar with, but he is happy here.

Now he's at school, it has been my privilege to return to *Bumps and Babies* alongside Isla, who's been welcoming parents for a few years. Isla and I have welcomed mums and dads, aunties, babies and toddlers. I've enjoyed snuggles and cuddles. We've helped crying babies go to sleep and let mums enjoy their cups of tea. We've enjoyed giggles and gazes. And we're still singing *Baa Baa* and *Twinkle Twinkle* with the same British Sign Language ... but now I am able to teach it in Spanish too!

If you know anyone nearby who is pregnant or who has a baby, let them know there is a welcome space for them on Mondays at St Nicolas' Church, between one o'clock and two thirty.

Gemma Harris

The Diamond Princess

There have been stories in the news recently about the fate of passengers trapped on ships where the Coronavirus has started to circulate. Eddie has first hand experience.



Japanese, and 1,045 crew. Dozens, possibly hundreds, were infected and a major evacuation plan had to be devised involving the embassies and medical staff of several countries.

With our years of experience of life on cruise liners, my friend and I both agree that the Japanese have made terrible mistakes with the methods they have used to combat the spread of the Coronavirus on board this ship. When the outbreak first occurred, we both realised that it would spread swiftly. Passenger liners are really vulnerable to infection, as I twice experienced at sea.

Years ago, the Asian 'Flu spread through the liner 'Stratheden'. Passengers and crew alike were infected and were, as the expression has it, dropping like flies. I was lucky and did not catch the virus, but I ended up doing extra duties as many of the catering staff fell ill.

At the time of writing, in late February, I have been sharing opinions and experience gained at sea with an ex-shipmate who lives in Spain following the news that the ship 'Diamond Princess' has been quarantined by the Japanese authorities and its cruise cancelled after the Coronavirus was detected on board. There were originally 2,666 passengers, roughly half of them

In later years, an outbreak of the Norovirus or 'winter vomiting bug' spread very quickly on another cruise liner. My friend from Spain was also on board at the time and described it as a 'nightmare'.

So my thoughts turn to the crew of the 'Diamond Princess'. Many are from the Philippines, particularly the catering staff, including cooks and stewards and some deck crew. It's obvious that many will catch the virus. I cannot imagine that their government in Manila will arrange flights for them, nor that a developing country such as the Philippines will have the facilities to provide adequate quarantine coverage. Hopefully, the ship's owners will help their crew.

And then there are the costs and logistics. Berthing fees will be several thousand pounds per day whilst the 'Diamond Princess' is tied up alongside and there will, in addition,

be the cost of fuel to keep the generators turning. The revenue lost as people cancel future cruises could run into millions.

Just keeping people fed on board ship can cost a fortune. I once had to purchase supplies for a ship which was due to be dry docked in Kobe for 6 weeks. I had previously ensured that expensive items like meat and fish were loaded before we arrived in Japan but, of course, we also needed salad and vegetables, and the cost of these was double what we would have paid in Europe.

The news today is that passengers from the 'Diamond Princess' who are free of the virus will be flown home, over 300 of them. I hope none of them develop the infection after they leave. Let us hope and pray for an end to this terrible epidemic.

Eddie Matthews



'To be frank, Mrs Peerybingle, I'm flummoxed. I offered to buy St Nicolas' Place with a promise to make it available for community use. You should have heard the language! There must be some other way I can help my local church.'

'Where there's a will, there's a way, Mr Chivery. 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.

FEBRUARY 2020

BAPTISMS

2nd February

George Robert Bloomfield

Madisson May Powell

Rachel Haynes

"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)

FEBRUARY 2020

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)

11th February

Florence May Bonner

99

SN.Cr.LH

17th February

Betty Latham

89

In.CY

27th February

Violet Rose Brown

83

Cr.RH

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,
CY : Churchyard, **In** : Ashes interred, **LH** : Lodge Hill, **RH** : Robin Hood

'Faint not nor fear, His arms are near. He changeth not and thou art dear. Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.'

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875) : 'Fight the Good Fight'.

Copyright & Disclaimer

The contents of this magazine are © Kings Norton Team Parish 2020 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.

Flicks at St Nick's



Tues 5th May

'The Guernsey
Literary & Potato
Peel Pie Society'

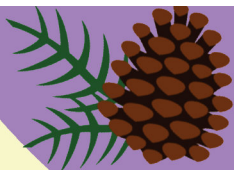
Sat 9 May

'Valiant'

Sat 11th April

7.00 p.m.

APOLLO 13



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

