



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

October 2019

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

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Kurt Frederic Kaiser was born in Chicago in 1934. A talented and distinguished composer, a graduate of the American Conservatory of Music and the holder of several honorary degrees, he is also known for his authorship of over 60 hymns. Among them is one he wrote in the 1970s which became well known to Christians of the 'baby boomer' generation. Entitled 'Pass It On', it begins with these words: *'It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it. You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.'*

There may be trouble ahead. But, as the inspirational Greta Thunberg is showing us, it only takes one, small spark of courage and determination to trigger a cascade of hope and to galvanise people into action. **Individual voices matter**, especially those raised in resolute opposition to hatred, apathy and lies. **Individual choices matter**, not least those made in response to a sense of calling or need. All it takes is the willingness to nurture the spark and to pass it on. Several of our contributors this month write as though God were real. They speak of an encounter with Someone beyond themselves which has changed the course of their lives, revealing, as Gail Rogers puts it (p.19) 'what I was born for'.

Whatever happens now, their experience and that of countless others reminds us that we are not alone, that change is always possible and that hope is always one spark away from being rekindled.

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

The Thin Blue Line

The murder of Police Constable Andrew Harper and serious assaults on two other serving constables over the summer in London and Birmingham were a reminder of the dangers confronting the women and men who form the 'thin blue line' of our nation. Most of us have little to do with the police on an everyday basis. We feel comforted when we see them patrolling our streets but are not so keen if stopped by them for a minor traffic or other infringement. If we call them in an emergency, we expect an instantaneous response and we grumble when they do not come. If we are reporting a crime, we are surprised that they often no longer visit but simply record it on a computer over the telephone. The thin blue line has got thinner in recent years.

The history of policing in Britain is a fascinating one. Unlike most comparable countries, we do not have a militarised police force. The founder of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel, insisted that police officers should be a disciplined body of men (women were not admitted until 1919 and then only in limited roles) and that they should live and work among their local



communities, carrying no weapons other than a truncheon and being familiar to their neighbours. This, he believed, was preferable to having police constables set aside in military-style barracks, carrying guns and moving around in squads. Peel's belief was that a well-trained local constabulary would know their communities, be respected as part of that community and share a similar lifestyle to that of their neighbours. Such local integration has continued to be a principle of modern policing.

Peel also believed that the public would be better disposed towards those enforcing the law if they trusted the police on the streets to be impartial and, as far as possible, incorruptible. The public's general agreement that we need a body of people tasked with keeping the peace, protecting property and dealing with criminals for the greater good of all became known as the principle of Policing by Consent. This continues to be the guiding philosophy of policing in the UK.

It is not widely known that, from their inception, police forces had Christian chaplains and that there are still Christian Police

Associations for Roman Catholic and Protestant officers. Some forces pay a full-time chaplain and others rely on a group of volunteer chaplains who visit stations and come alongside officers in the routines of their duties as well as in times of hurt, distress and major emergencies.

As with any uniformed organisation vested with power and authority, there is always the temptation to abuse or misuse their position. Police

officers who do so are called to account and face the full rigour of the law which they were expected to uphold. Though there will always be a minority who 'go wrong', it is generally agreed that British police officers are some of the best trained, supported and respected in the world. They do not routinely carry guns, are expected to act with the highest

professional standards and are impartial in administering the law.

Underpinning the notion of policing is an understanding that society must have agreed standards of behaviour, both personal and in public, which allow everyone to live

without fear of attack, with property protected and our streets safe. Policing alone cannot achieve this. Rather, we must share some notion of 'policing' ourselves as communities and should only have recourse to the uniformed men and women in blue when we don't. Our behaviour towards others must be based on conscience, cooperation, kindness and respect for, not fear of the law. The law comes in when our human relationships have broken down and

'Though there will always be a minority who 'go wrong', it is generally agreed that British police officers are some of the best trained, supported and respected in the world.'

our behaviour towards others turns bad.

One of the core messages of Jesus was to point out the limitations of law if blind obedience and compliance were the means of judging the behaviour of ourselves and others. Laws change, and while the Ten Commandments still provide the guiding principles of a well-ordered society, much has changed in the years that have elapsed between Moses and Modernity. Jesus emphasised an all-embracing ethos of love and mutuality as the goal of all our strivings, and not the law.

While there will always be a need for laws and for police and courts to enforce them, as individuals with a strong (Christian) conscience, people of faith should be among the most honest and law-abiding members of any community. However, we should also be among the first to challenge unjust laws and injustice generally. Doing so has often meant arrest and imprisonment for Christians.

We have much to give thanks for in our police and criminal justice system, but can we imagine a day when they are no longer needed?

Rev'd Larry Wright

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St Nicolas' Church is in the early stages of applying for Eco Church status under the award scheme run by 'A Rocha', a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. This is quite a lengthy process and covers all aspects of sustainability: heating, lighting,

paper goods, food and beverages, management of the church and churchyard and much more. As the accreditation is for all buildings of all ages, some of the categories and questions are not particularly suited to our heritage building nor to an active churchyard, but we can address those areas which best fit our situation and work out how to tackle the less easy ones later. You may have noticed a small two-sentence entry on each weekly newsletter. This is one of the ways in which we will ensure that you are informed about how we are achieving sustainability.

Annual Autumn Churchyard 'Keep Fit'

This year's churchyard leaf-sweeping mornings will take place on **Saturday 2nd, 16th and 30th November between 10.00 am and 12 noon**. If you're able to join us (and we hope you will) please wear strong footwear and gloves. Bring a rake if you can, but we'll try to provide one if you can't. Lunch will be served at 12.15 pm. You are also invited to join us to plant daffodil bulbs, starting at the Lych Gate on **Sat 26th Oct at 10.00 am**. Who needs gym membership when you have a churchyard?

Remembrance : Gone But Not Forgotten

On **November 10th**, we will hold our usual Remembrance Day Service at St Nicolas' Church in the morning. In the evening, the **6.00 pm service** will be our usual service of Holy Communion with anointing for wholeness and healing. At that service, there will be an opportunity to read and remember, in thanksgiving, the names of those who have died in previous years. This is not the same as our annual memorial service, when we remember those whose funerals have taken place in church over the previous 12 months. Rather, it is intended as a chance to give thanks for family members and friends who died some years ago but whom we still want to remember in the context of a service. Names of those to be remembered can be given to the Parish Office in the weeks preceding November 10th, or to any member of the Ministry Team. Please label them 'All Souls' Service'.

Real People Talking Honestly in Druid's Heath

A variety of Druid's Heath residents gathered in our wonderfully hospitable community hub, Kath's Café, for three afternoons during August. We enjoyed a tasty buffet provided by Kath and talked about how it feels to live in Druid's Heath, what's special, what changes are needed to help neighbours become more connected.



Real People Honest Talk is a project facilitated by Near Neighbours, Birmingham, under the umbrella of Thrive Together Birmingham (www.thrivetogetherbham.org). The purpose of Near Neighbours is to bring ‘people together in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse, so that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust, and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in’ (www.near-neighbours.org.uk).

The *Real People Honest Talk* project has gathered residents together in

three different neighbourhoods of Birmingham. An experienced facilitator engages participants in open and honest conversation about how they can live together well and tackle community needs. It offers a safe space where differences and hopes can be discussed constructively and collaborative actions agreed. There's also funding available to kickstart local, grass-roots projects that encourage social cohesion.

In Druid's Heath, our group of residents ranged from 5 - 70+ years, from a range of ethnic backgrounds and with a variety of perspectives on

living on the estate. One of our first conversations centred on what it means to be a real person, which developed into discussion about belonging and barriers within community. Since over half our group were children and young people, dialogue was especially honest, open and creative!

Over the three weeks, with excellent leadership from our Near Neighbours Co-ordinator, Rabiya Latif, and facilitator, Victoria Pritchard, we came up with some great ideas about how to encourage belonging in Druid's Heath and enable residents to feel they can be more real with each other. Suggestions included a book club for young people, a community choir, an open-mike night and more arts and music in general.

For the final session, we extended our consultation (and our waistlines!) by inviting local residents to afternoon tea at Kath's Café, with an opportunity to vote for their favourites from our selection of creative, community building activities. Druid's Heath Library kindly displayed our ideas for a couple of weeks as well, giving more people the chance to give us their views.

We're now gathering the votes together and meeting with Near Neighbours to decide how best to proceed with the most popular, achievable projects. So, watch this space. We might be inviting you to an open-mike night or a community choir in Druid's Heath very soon

The Reverend Catherine Matlock



Never Quite A Star

Kings Norton's Raymond Huntley

Richard Vernon, Thorley Walters, Geoffrey Keen, Derek Francis, Alan Cuthbertson, Jack Watson, Victor Maddern, David Lodge. They might mean nothing much to you, but look their pictures up on the internet and they'll be instantly recognisable, especially if you're beyond 60.

Who are they? Well, they are what are popularly called British character actors, but were more often than not what I call 'bit-part' players. You know, those people who used to make up the numbers during the great days of British films in the 50s, 60s and 70s. They were rarely stars in their own right, but they were always on the big screen, and also often on TV in such fondly-remembered series as *The Saint*, *Danger Man*, *Robin Hood* and dozens of others. There were legions of them: never destined to play a major role, always supporting stars like Kenneth More, Dirk Bogarde, Richard Burton,

Roger Moore, Peter Sellers and other leading lights.

They often had their own niches: chirpy cockneys, tough-looking soldiers or sailors, desk-bound police sergeants, amiable old buffers, put-upon middle-class neighbours. Some of them had a degree of gravitas, so they appeared as businessmen, judges and bank managers.

And it's in that latter category that we find one who came from Kings Norton: the fondly remembered Raymond Huntley. In fact, he did achieve a form of stardom in his later years, when he played the Bellamy family's solicitor Sir Geoffrey Dillon in the pioneering and vastly popular drama series *Upstairs, Downstairs* (the original version that started in 1971, not the much less effective remake a few years ago).

He was Horace Raymond Huntley, born here on 23 April 1904. Though I cannot

find his family address, he and his family were certainly resident in Birmingham through his formative years, because he attended King Edward's School (then was located in the centre of the city), and joined Birmingham Repertory Company in 1922.

He was soon successful at the Rep, making his stage debut in April of that year in *A Woman Killed with Kindness*. He was versatile: by the age of twenty-one, he had played a septuagenarian farm labourer and was subsequently hired as a comedian by a North Country revue for a starting salary of ten pounds a week. He progressed with enough impact to earn a role on the London stage, appearing in *As Far As Thought can Reach* at the Court Theatre in February 1924.

Though still very young, he did achieve a place in the record books in 1927 when he played Count Dracula in a 1927 production, effectively the first actor to play the role. The play was the first dramatisation of Bram Stoker's story, and was such a hit that it had to transfer from London's Little Theatre to the larger capacity Duke of York's. For a short while Raymond became the definitive vampire Count, so much so that later that year he was offered the opportunity to reprise the role in a streamlined production on Broadway. But he declined, to leave the road open for his replacement Bela Lugosi to establish himself as the best remembered Dracula of all time, on

stage and in film.

Though it had brought him significant recognition, Raymond soon came to resent the impact that Dracula had on him. 'I have always considered the role of Count Dracula to have been an indiscretion of my youth,' he recalled in 1989.

Being potentially typecast as a vampire was clearly not the sort of role to which Raymond aspired. He wanted to show his versatility and, sure enough, over the next fifty years his portfolio of roles in London and on Broadway, covered a remarkable spectrum.

After *Dracula*, he made his Broadway debut at the Vanderbilt Theatre in February 1931, in *The Venetian Glass Nephew*. On returning to the UK, his early appearances included JB Priestley's *Time and the Conways* at the Duchess Theatre in 1939 and Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* at the Queen's Theatre in 1940 and the Strand Theatre in 1942. He appeared for more than fifty years in major productions on the West End stage. He also starred opposite Flora Robson in the Broadway production of *Black Chiffon* at the 48th Street Theatre in 1950.

In many of these stage productions, the talented Raymond was the star or co-star. But his parallel career in films never really took off. This was probably partly because as he moved through his thirties he took on the look that was going to characterise him for the rest of his career. He was not endowed with

film-star looks: as one commentator put it: 'Tall and austere, he had a somewhat mean, sour-faced look, accentuated whenever staring with icy disdain from behind horn-rimmed spectacles. This, and his trademark dry delivery, made Huntley such perfect casting for an extensive array of ever-so-superior, humourless civil servants, mean-spirited bank managers, supercilious bureaucrats, dullish clubroom snobs, smug business types, dour undertakers or sinister cold war spooks.' During the Second World War, he was perfect for the role of the menacing Nazi officer or the German spy, in famous films such as *Pimpernel Smith* and *Mail Train* (both 1941).

But, though never attaining long-lasting stardom, he was never short of work, appearing in dozens of films, many of which were big box-office hits. He was the greedy and cynical bank manager in the famous Ealing comedy *Passport to Pimlico*, a 'boffin' in *The Dam Busters*, the ship's captain in *Doctor at Sea* and also had roles in such landmark films as *Room at the Top* and *I'm all Right Jack*. As he grew older, his rather impatient, upper-class manner, suitably exaggerated, made him the ideal foil for comedy stars such as Terry Thomas films such as *Carlton-Browne of the FO* and in several TV series, notably *Harry Worth* and *Sykes*.

He was approaching his seventies when he finally broke through as a significant TV presence. Drama series

from the Victorian era such as *The Forsyte Saga* and *The Pallisers* had whetted the viewing public's appetite for upper class family sagas, and in 1971 *Upstairs, Downstairs*, set in the Edwardian era, updated the concept. It was enormously popular and took Raymond with it, his playing of the grumpy yet pragmatic Sir Geoffrey Dillon being just as integral to the plot as other more significant roles. The series lasted until 1975.

Raymond performed his final acting role in 1984. He died in Westminster Hospital, London, in June 1990 aged 86. In his obituary, the *New York Times* wrote, 'During his long career the actor played judges, bank managers, churchmen, bureaucrats and other figures of authority. He could play them straight if necessary, but in comedy his natural dryness of delivery was exaggerated to the point where the character he was playing invited mockery as a pompous humbug.'

Another of Kings Norton's contributions to the world of entertainment!

Michael Kennedy

We would have loved to print a photograph of Raymond Huntley with this article but could not find one which was not covered by copyright. Even Parish Magazines have to obey the law. A quick Google Images search may be helpful if you can't remember what he looked like. The Editor.

Farewell Julius!

In our September edition, we introduced you to Julius Anozie, a Nigerian trainee priest from Durham, who had just begun a four-week placement in Kings Norton. His departure comes all too soon. The least we can do for all he has given us of himself is to provide the space to say 'goodbye'.

Some things are not supposed to end but, alas, that is the way of this frail world. Sadly, my placement here has an end but it is a new beginning for me as I have become part of this community of believers from a distance. I have had so much joy in coming to Kings Norton Team Parish.

I wish to thank the Rector and his wife for such a beautiful welcome, for their hospitality and, especially, for the good food and the wonderful environment. I have learnt so much from you both, things the textbooks don't often mention or reflect on.

I also wish to thank all the team members for taking me along to their

various activities and for their willingness to answer all my questions.

I have had the pleasure of worshipping with St Nicolas', Hawkesley and Immanuel Churches. Each has its own peculiarities and each welcomed me in a special way. We shared tea, cakes, chats, hugs and interesting conversations. I cannot be grateful enough.

With profound humility and respect I wish to thank you all, especially for all your feedback.

Thank you and God bless.

Julius



'Greta Thunberg is such an inspiration, but when I suggested that the clergy should go on strike until local people funded their church adequately, I was met with a stony silence. Do you have a better idea?'

'Where there's a will, there's a way, Edgar. 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.

A Warm Welcome To NICK JONES

As you may be aware, the Reverend Caz Hague has taken on new responsibilities in the Birmingham Methodist Circuit, and I am now the Methodist Minister in the Hawkesley Anglican-Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership sharing ministry there alongside the Parish Team. As I begin sharing ministry in Hawkesley, I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself.

I was born in Rothwell, Northamptonshire, baptised into the Anglican Church in my Dad's village, and sent to the local Methodist Church for Sunday School. I was fortunate to become part of a wonderful youth group which sustained my faith through my teenage years. On leaving school, I worked for East Midlands Electricity but discovered that trying to sell storage heaters wasn't for me and I left home aged 21 to live and work at the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, which ran a day centre for homeless people. After three years there, I was privileged to work as a Lay Pastor at Bow Road Methodist Church and I became a candidate for the Methodist ministry. I trained at Wesley House, Cambridge and, during that time, became part of the Mental Health Chaplaincy team at Fulbourn.

On leaving college, I served in the Southend and Leigh Circuit with pastoral charge of Benfleet, Canvey and Thundersley Methodist Churches. I came to the Birmingham South-West Circuit in 2001 as Minister at Longbridge Methodist and St. Christopher's, Frankley LEP. I was the minister at Northfield Methodist for a year and I was also the Methodist Minister at the Cotteridge Church for several years. It was during that time that I first came to know this parish, preaching at Hawkesley on several occasions. When the new Birmingham Methodist Circuit came together in 2011, I continued at Cotteridge but left Longbridge and Frankley to minister at Cambridge Road, Maypole and the Hazelwell LEP. I have also been the Minister at Hall Green where I helped them journey towards becoming a Moravian-URC-Methodist



Local Ecumenical Partnership. I have served as the Methodist Ecumenical Officer for Birmingham since 2011.

Thirteen years ago, I was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to combine my interest in Mental Health Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care by becoming a part-time Chaplain at the Black Country Partnership Trust. When I was appointed as one of the Superintendents of the Birmingham Circuit in January, I could no longer continue that ministry and I now

have responsibility for Maypole and St. Andrew's, Stirchley alongside Hawkesley. I also serve as a governor of the Holly Hill School, Frankley. Earlier this year, having pursued an interest in mindfulness and spirituality throughout my Mental Health Spiritual Care ministry, I was asked to lead the District Ministers' Retreat on mindfulness, which I went on to offer as a Lent Course to my congregations.

I am married to Sarah and we have four boys, Sam, Dan, Joe and Freddie aged between 13 and 20. I am a Leicester City supporter, which I enjoy with my family, and I love most sports. I have made music virtually all my life in a variety of ways and I now occasionally sing in a Rock'n'Roll band.

I hope this gives you a little insight as I come to share ministry with you, I look forward to getting to know you better and to hearing and celebrating your stories too.

Love and peace,

The Reverend Nick Jones



Sunday 20th October, 4.00 p.m. Ecumenical Vespers to celebrate the Canonisation of **Cardinal John Henry Newman**. Archbishop Bernard Longley welcomes all to this celebration of sung Evening Prayer to join in prayer with Anglican Bishops and other Christian leaders together with civic representatives and members of other faith communities to mark this historic occasion. The choirs of St Chad's and St Philip's Anglican Cathedrals Birmingham will participate in the liturgy. **Venue:** St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham. B4 6EU.

Preparing for Autumn

Seasonal tips from a green-fingered reader



Summer is past and dahlias have done well, as have climbing roses, hydrangeas and osteospermum (about which more later). Sadly, the asters have not done as well, with fungal mildew in evidence leading to poor flowering. Another fine border annual, the zinnia may well be affected. They are great cut flowers in a good year. Some are described as compact but are often as tall as the ordinary varieties, so beware.

By the way have you seen any of the massive invasion of Painted Lady butterflies? I have. Well, I have seen three of them, all on National Trust properties.

Now is not too late to sow seeds of some hardy annuals for next year flowering. A greenhouse will help but if you do not have one available then sow them in a sheltered corner and transplant come the spring. Consult the Royal Horticultural Society website for recommendations.

You may also obtain more information about the osteospermum, which is our **Flower of the Month**. The Cape Daisy has done very well here this year which is very good considering that it is often recommended for growing at the

seaside! They are not reliably winter hardy but three of the hardiest varieties are *Osteospermum jucundum* "Merriments Joy" (pink/purple), *Osteospermum* "Tresco Purple" and lastly "Snow Pixie". The Pixie bears masses of pure white daisies above its pungent, dark green foliage. Growth is rapid during a good summer and you can take softwood cuttings at this time. The illustration bears closer inspection for tips of the month. Note that the use of a square pot (below) ensures more





purple one turns a nice green). Grow outside on supports and inside a greenhouse in a grow bag for a massive crop.

Christmas will soon be upon us and *notonthehighstreet.com* are offering a rather natty growing calendar complete with twelve packets of wild flower seeds for your special gardening friend at £25. You can print out other gardening calendars absolutely free. Just search for 'growing calendar' and they will pop up (Wyevalle Garden Centres have a good one.)

compost for the same space and the pots are slower to dry out. Inserting the cuttings two to a side and down the side will enable more oxygen to penetrate to the cut ends, preventing rot and encouraging lots of new roots. For gardening satisfaction, be a propagator!

Vegetable of the Month is the climbing French Bean with lots of stringless pods and even a purple variety to grace your dinner table after lightly cooking (the

Next month, I will start recommending garden trees because they are an asset if carefully chosen and I believe that Bournville residents are obliged to have at least two in their front garden. Watch this space!

Wishing you all a season of mellow fruitfulness this autumn.

Adam the Gardener



Mike Baker



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What's Your Calling?

Gail Rogers needs no introduction to regular readers of this magazine. She and her family have had close links with Kings Norton Team Parish for many years. If you look back to our June 2016 edition, you'll find a reference to her having been accepted for training for ordination from September 2016. Almost exactly two years later, she was ordained in Birmingham Cathedral and is currently serving her curacy in the neighbouring parish of St Francis, Bournville, whose vicar, the Reverend Peter Babington, is pictured with her on the opposite page.

The following article recently appeared on the Church of England's national website and has been reprinted here by kind permission of the author.

I grew up on a council estate on the other side of Birmingham. Bournville was a place that we drove through. There were highs and lows on the estate. There was a solid community and I learned what it meant to help people. We looked out for each other. But the estate was poor, deprived and run down. My dad was married with two children aged 17. He was a brick layer. He broke his back in his 20s. It was really tough. My parents went without so we could eat.

Church wasn't part of the picture, but we went once for a few weeks and I had an encounter in those weeks. I can remember it like it was yesterday.

I left school after my GCSEs and worked with people with dementia. When we had our second child, I realised I couldn't do that anymore. My sister was a manager at

KFC and she said, 'Come and do a couple of hours for me'. I signed up for six hours a week.

There was an armed robbery. He fired the gun at me. It didn't go off. In that moment, I thought I was going to die, but I felt a deep peace that everything was going to be OK.

I was so ill for the next two years. I had PTSD. I had counselling. I never went anywhere on my own.

We decided we wanted to get married in church. We rang up the local church to book a wedding. We went along to hear our banns read. We went up for communion. When the vicar put the bread in my hand, I felt my hand was going to burn off. It became part of me. I felt that same peace. I didn't understand it. I knew



I had to ask some questions.

I've been at St Francis for a year and have been ordained Priest for two weeks. Without other people encouraging me, I would be in a different place. I realise that this is what I was born for. Everything that has happened is so amazing.

For me, meeting God in Jesus has transformed my life. It's transformed everything. There's a sense of completion.

I have to convince myself that I'm a priest! That was always something that other people did, people who didn't sound like me, not someone from an estate. I

thought God didn't call people like me.

If God calls me, then God calls all the people and that validates them, doesn't it? People nurtured me. We do what's done to us, don't we? I have had so many people look out for me and that's all that I have tried to do here at St Francis.

I really believe that God calls every single one of us. God calls us all to ministry. I want to see every single one of the people here be encouraged. I want to grow disciples who can share their story and share their faith.

The Reverend Gail Rogers

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WHAT'S ON IN KINGS NORTON?

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

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

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

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

Societies, Clubs & Venues

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

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

An informal pressure group to lobby for environmental improvements in and about the reserve. We organise a weekly working party on site (the Tuesday Workout from 10.30 to 1.00 pm, open to all) to manage the Reserve, to increase biodiversity and habitats and to enhance its value for both people and wildlife. We also organise 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 the Saint Nicolas' Place Heritage Buildings.

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

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

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

The Trust and its volunteers meet regularly to maintain and improve the Millennium Green. 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

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

Women's Institute (Afternoon group) *Sally Saunders 0121 458 6019*. Meets every third Tuesday of the month from 2pm till 4pm; (Evening group) *Marion Atkin 0121 441 5817*. Meets every third Monday of the month 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kings Norton Supper Club *Annette Dickers 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.

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

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

Kings Norton Photography Society www.kingsnortonphotographicsociety.com

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

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

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

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

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

Greenlands Chess Club www.chess.com/club/greenlands, 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
suebarkerdavis@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
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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 Oct 2019

Tuesday 1 October

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly 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 pm for 7.30 pm: Kath Ryan 'Cakes for Casualties'

Wednesday 2 October

- 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: Armchair Exercise
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 3 October

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

Friday 4 October

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

Saturday 5 October

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Book Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Code Club for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am (re-starts today: please contact the library for details)
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 7 October

- Kings Heath Horticultural Society, Manningford Hall, Bells Lane, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm: Roger Umpelby 'Bredon Hill through the Year- a nature lover's view'

Tuesday 8 October

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 9 October

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

Thursday 10 October

- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm: One Board Displays K, J & L
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8.00 - 10.00 pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 11 October

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7.00 pm onwards: entertainment by The Second City Ukelele Band. Tickets (£7 for members and £8 for non-members, with discounts of £2 per ticket if booked before 4th October) from Helen Tierney on 0121 458 5660 or by email at kntcbookings@g.mail.com

Saturday 12 October

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton charity book sale, St Nicolas' Place, 10.00 am- 1.00 pm
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve Guided Walk, 10.30 am: Meet at junction of Meadow Hill Road and Wychall Lane with sensible waterproof footwear

Monday 14 October

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Stirchley United Social Club, 41 Hazelwell Lane, B30 2PR, 7.00 pm

Tuesday 15 October

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 10.00 am-3.00 pm

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00 pm: Barbara Evans Craft Workshop
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 16 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club: Outing to Crich Tramway Village
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 17 October

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8.00 - 10.00 pm (including free workshop for beginners)
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 18 October

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

Saturday 19 October

- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Code Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 21 October

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 7.00 pm: Manuel Quiroz 'Overland from Alaska to Argentina'

Tuesday 22 October

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 23 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Armchair Exercise & Bingo

- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 24 October

- Birmingham Philatelic Society, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00 pm: AGM
- Councillors' Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, 8.00 - 10.00 pm (including free workshop for beginners)
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 25 October

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45pm: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- Kings Norton Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 7.00 pm

Saturday 26 October

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

Monday 28 October

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2.00-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton History Society, St Nicolas' Place, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm: Mike Hodder 'The Archaeology of Churches in the West Midlands Diocese'

Tuesday 29 October

- 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 30 October

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Talk on Concertinas by Sharon
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, The Bull's Head, The Green: performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 31 October

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

Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

Monday

Pilates with Julia 11.00 - 12.00

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

Shapes & Adders Toddler Maths 9.45 - 10.45 am

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

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

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm

(enquiries@beeches-martialarts.co.uk)

Pilates 7.15 - 8.15 pm

Thursday

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

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

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

Yoga Really Works Pregnancy Class 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Friday

Illumination Youth Theatre 4.00 – 5.30 pm (ages 5-10); 5.30 - 7.00 pm (ages 11-18)

(Melanie 07 766 724 834)

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

Saturday

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

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38

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FOODBANK NEWS

The annual Dedication Service for the Foodbank will take place on October 6th at 6.30 pm at Cotteridge Church. It will focus on the style of 'no strings attached' hospitality which our donors exhibit. They give without knowing the

recipient nor what the outcome of their donation will be, except for the immediate relief of their food crisis.

Sylvia Fox

AUGUST 2019

MARRIAGES & WEDDING BLESSINGS

2nd August	Christopher Jonathan Tyndall & Natalie Timmis
3rd August	Alan Anthony Paul Crisp & Joanna Louise Heath
3rd August	Mark & Soraya Caldicott
17th August	Steven Gary Player & Katerie Carol Louise Wright
17th August	Roy James Cresswell & Samantha Michelle Hector
23rd August	Scott Spencer Evans & Jessica Sharon Nicol
24th August	Christopher Michael Lincoln & Samantha Jane McKnight

'You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once, but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have. Because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own'. *Michelle Obama*.

AUGUST 2019

BAPTISMS

4 th Aug	Denver Violet Sedgwick Daisy May Robson
18 th Aug	Evelyn Isobel Katie Allen Roo Field-Taylor Samuel Elwin Gauntlett

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

The Baptism Service, Common Worship

Homecoming

In 2012, when my family and I arrived in Kings Norton after emigrating from the United States, our first outing was to attend a worship service at St Nicolas' Church.

I recall trudging through a torrential downpour, bracing against a howling gale and blowing into church slightly dishevelled but relieved to have arrived in a place filled with friendly faces. My husband Richard and I had met the clergy some six weeks ahead of our move as we made a whirlwind tour of south Birmingham and I was bowled over that they recalled us straight away and welcomed us by name!

Fast forward nearly eight years and I am overjoyed to be returning to St Nicolas' as an ordinand (trainee priest) studying at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, in Oxfordshire.

Raised a Baptist in rural Southern Oregon, I have been blessed to have had faith as a foundation from the very early

years of my life. Through my teenage years, I was involved with my church community as an assistant in Sunday school and singing in the church choir. In my post-secondary school years, I moved away from the Baptist tradition and spent some time considering my received beliefs and exploring the richness of other faith traditions.

I believe it was that freedom to discover other forms of thought and faith that prepared me to discover Jesus all over again shortly after the birth of my two children; not as an authoritarian watching my every move and keeping a count of my indiscretions but as a profoundly loving Saviour who desired a relationship with me, who promised to lead me to the place where I could be

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authentically myself, serve his kingdom and receive his perfect, divine love.

In 2006, after fifteen years working in the healthcare field, I made the decision to listen to the stirring in my heart and mind which was leading me to work for the Reformed Church of America congregation whose Director of Christian Education I had been. I had no experience but a passion to learn. The leadership team that saw something blossoming within me that they were willing to cultivate.

My primary role was to resource the children's ministry but that soon grew to include facilitating Bible studies for adults and taking up additional roles for the church synod (council), youth advocacy for the Reformed Church in the North-Eastern United States, and programme planning for a multi-church supported outdoor camp in upstate New York. It was in those years that I began to sense God

calling me to ordained ministry. What I hadn't counted on was that God had another tradition in mind for me and a huge move that would put me in the place he had prepared.

In late 2011, my husband received the news that the firm he had been working for would be forced to close because of the economic recession that had begun in 2008. It was the second such redundancy we'd had to navigate and we felt that our backs were against a wall. Something had to change, and our options felt limited until a chance email arrived inviting him to consider applying for a position in facilities management in Kings Norton. That's how I came to be worshiping in St Nicolas' Church in early 2012!

Over the last seven years, I have enjoyed co-ordinating the work with children and young people in the benefice of St Anne's and St Mary's churches, Moseley, and participating in the discernment process for consideration for ordained ministry. Last October, I attended the Bishop's Advisory Panel and was recommended to train. I will set off on the part-time pathway at Cuddesdon on 17th September.

I look forward to learning and serving alongside your clergy and lay ministry team and getting to know the folks that make up the three churches in Kings Norton Team Parish over the next two years. I am grateful to the Reverend Larry Wright for inviting me to make St Nicolas' my church during training. It feels like coming home.

Tammy Tearoe

The Cotteridge Church at 30

During the weekend of 28th and 29th September 2019, the Cotteridge Church celebrated its 30th birthday. There were displays about the organisations and activities that operate within the church buildings and the service on Sunday 29th focused on the vision for the future.

During the weekend of 28th and 29th September The Cotteridge Church celebrated its 30th birthday. Over the weekend, there were displays about the organisations and activities that operate within the church buildings and the service on Sunday 29th was based on the vision for the future.

It may be that, although many are familiar with the spire that dominates the Cotta Ridge, there are some who will be unaware of the history of the church which stands there.

On February 10th 1980, the elders of Kings Norton United Reformed Church in Watford Road invited the councils of neighbouring churches, Kings Norton Methodist Church and St Agnes' Church of England (pictured on the opposite page) to undertake a joint review of their work and witness. They came to the conclusion that the right way forward was together. They met, talked and prayed and decided on the Cotteridge Local Ecumenical Project to use resources of people, money and buildings together as efficiently as possible in the service of God and the community.

After a year of intense legal, organisational and practical problems,



the decision was made to develop on the Methodist Church site (above). Final services were held in all three churches and, in March 1985, the combined congregation met in a slightly modified Methodist Church each week.

Money was raised from the sale of the other two sites for projects to develop the Cotteridge community. The United Reformed Church site was sold to build Cherry Tree Court, sheltered housing for older people in the area. St Agnes' site

was initially sold to Kwiksave to provide a much-needed supermarket in the area. Over the years this has changed hands and is currently the site of the Co-op.

Architects were appointed and plans produced for extended and modernised premises on the Methodist site and arrangements were made to move out while the building works took place. In January 1988, the congregation went into a year long 'wilderness' period where services took place each Sunday in Cotteridge School. This period was significant in getting people to gel together and to look at the services in the future. Originally, there were two morning services, an Anglican service from 9.30 to 10.30 followed by a Free Church service between 11.00 and 12.00. Once the new premises were opened, this pattern changed to a morning service for all at 10.30 that rotated through the 3 denominational practices, with a Communion service also at 9.00 am and a selection of different services at 6.00 pm.

The Cotteridge Church held its inaugural service on 4th February 1989 and the building was dedicated by the leaders of the three denominations: The Bishop of Aston, the Right Reverend Colin Buchanan; The Chairman of the Birmingham Methodist District, the Reverend Donald Edie; and the Moderator of the West Midlands Province of the United Reformed Church, the Reverend John Waller.

The new church was designed as a multi purpose building to house not only church activities and organisations but also a health authority day centre and a



café. The Boys' Brigades from the Methodist Church and The United Reformed Church united as the 7th Birmingham Company and the Girls' Brigade from The Methodist Church met alongside them.

Despite a massive fundraising programme throughout the process there was a shortfall at the time of the opening, so fund raising continued for some time after. Changes have occurred over the last 30 years but the church continues to offer a wide range of activities in order to reach out into the local community.

If you are passing through Cotteridge, pop in and see what is happening there. I am sure you would be made most welcome.

Christine Adams



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The Kings Norton & District U3A continues to flourish. Its chairman Allan Walmsley reports on the extensive range of workshops, activities and interest groups available to members and to those who decide to join.

Over the past two years, our U3A has developed a very broad range of Interest Groups from Architecture to Woodworking, or Climate Control to Keyboard Playing. There is always something new to discover whether it's Bird Watching, French or German Conversation or through the two Book Clubs or the Play Reading Group. For our active members, we have two Walking Groups, Table Tennis, and Barn Dancing, and if it's knowledge you are seeking then why not try Art or Music Appreciation, Exploring World Faiths, History or even Philosophy?

If you want to bring out your creative self, why not try Creative Crafts, Photography, Creative Writing, Flower Arranging, Art and Painting or even Sewing/Textiles and Knitting/Crochet? Alternatively, get out and about with the Travel Group, Museum and Garden Visits, and the Theatre and

Cinema Group. If you are competitive why not try the Chess or Bridge Groups?

You can even learn how to get the best out of your phone with the Mobile Phonery Group. Alternatively, if you want to develop your social life there's always the Lunch Group, Quizzical, and even a Real Ale Group!

We also have an arrangement with Moseley and Kings Heath U3A to join with their Circle Dancing Group. Do you enjoy singing? Then you are also very welcome to join their Choir under our reciprocal arrangements. They meet on Wednesday afternoons at St Columba's Church in Moseley.

We have also brought back our popular Saturday Workshops for the autumn. The aim of the Saturday Workshops is to provide members

with free access to information that might help them manage their lives better. Workshops are held every few weeks on Saturday mornings and they are intended to be interactive, in the sense that everyone is encouraged not only to sit and listen but take part and contribute. Expert speakers are brought in for some workshops, and for others we will be relying on our own members, who have specialist knowledge.

The workshops usually run from 10.00 am until 12 noon at St Joseph's Hall in Cotteridge. Our first one this season was on Scam Awareness, in September. Others in the pipeline include: Driving on modern roads - road signs, car accessories, safety systems, Satnavs and so on; Healthy

bodies - fitness, exercise, diet, smoking, drugs and more; Home security - alarm systems, neighbourhood watch, keyless entry and other aspects and Using the Internet - Search engines, IS Providers, security, risks, bookmarks, passwords and emails.

Our membership has reached more than 300 since we began a couple of years ago. Our members benefit not only by learning new activities and subjects in a relaxed environment, but also by enjoying the company of other like-minded people. There's always room for more: if you're interested in joining, there's much more information, including the people you should contact, on our website (www.u3asites.org.uk/kingsnorton) and our Facebook page.



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FLICKS AT SAINT NICK'S

Historical note

We've all heard of Netflix, but have you ever paused to think about the origin of its name? Why do we sometimes refer to films as 'flicks'?

The answer takes us back to the early days of moving pictures ('movies' for short). Cinema projectionists in 'the old days' had a more difficult job than they do now. They had to tend their machines as you might shield a candle in the wind. The light source in early projectors was an early type of arc lamp, a form of lighting which goes back to the 1880s. In its most primitive form, it involved passing a current through carbon rods, the tips of which would vaporise in the heat. As the electricity passed through the vapour it would give off a bright but unsteady light. In short, the light which was created to project the image from the celluloid film onto the screen would **flicker**, hence the nickname. Believe it or not, manufacturers didn't stop producing carbon arc lamps until the 1980s.

But now, on to the important bit.

Irene's Ghost

"A thoughtful, sensitive and ultimately uplifting study of grief, love and the ties that continue to bind us all, long after we're gone." - Screen

Iain Cunningham's mother, Irene, died before he had any real memory of her. As Iain grew up he heard nothing spoken about her. It was as if she'd never existed.

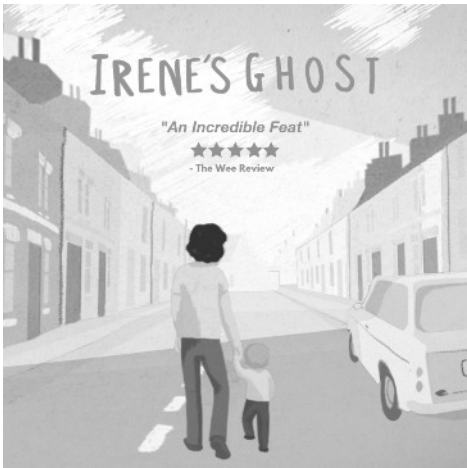
Decades after Irene's death, and inspired by the birth of his own daughter, Iain set out to discover who Irene was, leading him down a winding path of long-lost

relatives and contradictory tales. Through the stories told by Irene’s old friends he carefully pieced together fragments of the past to movingly rebuild a lost life.

The culmination of his search led him to discover that Irene suffered from postpartum psychosis, a severe form of mental illness that occurs after having a baby. What began as a meditation on memory and identity became a study of family, female friendship, and the importance of the connections we make and keep.

Irene’s Ghost is the result of the journey and we are thrilled to be showing it in St Nicolas' Church.

You may have seen in the last magazine Pauline’s reference to



‘Flicks at St Nick’s’. ***Irene’s Ghost* will be the inaugural ‘flick’ and will be screened on Thursday 24th October at 7.45pm.** Tickets are priced at £5 and can be obtained from the Parish Office or at any of our three churches.

AUGUST 2019 FUNERALS

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (*John ch.3 v.16*)

1st August	Thomas Ford	72	SN.Bu.KN
7th August	Maureen Lilian Brindley	83	SN.Bu.BE
9th August	Peter Lewis Smith	71	Cr.LH
9th August	Joseph Michael McMahon	55	SN. Bu.CY
28th August	Sheila May Harris	85	SN.Bu.BE

SN : Service at St Nicolas’ Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,
In : Ashes interred, **BE** : Brandwood End, **KN** : Kings Norton, **LH** : Lodge Hill

Season of Change

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

Autumn may be the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' according to Keats (if I remember my school English lessons rightly) but, for a lot of people, it can be a very challenging time, especially for the young. Late summer brings with it exam results, which may or may not have been what were expected, hoped for or worked for. Today, there is a huge focus on achievement and attainment at the highest level. I think that, back in the day, we were just relieved to pass! As a consequence, plans may have had to change or have come to fruition. Some young people will be changing schools or facing the prospect of resits. Others will be moving away from home to start at university. Others may have to rethink their future plans completely.

Whichever way things turn out, it can be a very stressful time. If anyone doubts this, take a walk around Ikea in the wake of a harassed parent trying to purchase the necessary kitchen equipment for university accommo-

modation. It will be all the confirmation you need!

Change can be hard. It can be just as hard for the adults too. Parents have to deal with the highs and lows of results, with decision making and often with children's departure from home.

For older people, the change in the weather and the darker evenings shrink the world to one which has fewer opportunities for contact with others. It

can feel more lonely and isolating than the brighter, lighter months. Knowing that winter is coming can make things worse.

This year, the autumn has brought the added stress of a country in political turmoil and the possibility of huge change ... and we don't really know what that change will be like. Alongside the 'Will Brexit happen or won't it?' questions are the 'When



'Should we start stockpiling tinned tomatoes? Will we run out of petrol?'

will it happen?' and 'What will happen?' questions. Should we start stockpiling tinned tomatoes? Will we run out of petrol? Will there be blackouts like there were in the 1970s? The answer, of course, is that we just don't know and that can make it very hard to deal with. Change is hard enough but uncertain change ... well, we just don't know what to make of it and either bury our heads in the sand or start filling the kitchen cupboards with tinned delicacies that will last until 2022.

I often recall friends of my father's who, when I was a child, stockpiled tinned fruit in their pantry and filled their freezer (a new thing back then)

with butter because they were convinced that there would be another war. I wonder what happened to all of it when war didn't come.

Autumn is the season of change. Summer is already fading, the leaves are falling and the temperatures dropping. But with autumn and all its changes, even though winter is ahead, we know that spring will come with all its promises of renewal and rebirth. Parents and children will find a way through the maze of decision making, angst and buying up half of Ikea. They will adapt to change, and we will too.

Pauline Weaver

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Sustainability 5

In the 5th article in this series, Kings Norton's answer to Greta Thunberg shares her latest thoughts on the trials and tribulations of trying to live sustainably in a world of shrinking resources.

By the time you read this, I will have completely wrecked my sustainability credentials by flying to and from Germany for a one night concert and recording session with CBSO and then flying to India! So perhaps I'd best try to redeem myself a little by reviewing 'driving by electric' from the summer.

The basic reality is that the non-domestic infrastructure is not yet in place to support a proper shift to fully electric vehicles. If the government are serious about us all driving them, then there needs to be much more investment in charging points at the road side, in fuel stations and in public car parks as well as other incentives to encourage people to buy and run the vehicles.

For drivers doing shortish daily journeys and having a property where on-site charging is possible each night, these vehicles are an excellent investment. Where journeys are longer or charging is not possible at home it becomes much more complicated and expensive, sometimes even

impossible. Trying to charge in Gloucester at the Three Choirs' Festival was nothing short of a nightmare (not helped by monsoon-standard rainfall). With chargers at both the shopping centre car park and the hotel out of order, I ended up relying on Gloucester Services on the M5. Only by good fortune is Gloucester close enough to the M5 to make this relatively practical, but it did mean using up electric 'mpg' to get there and back each time.

I have also recently received an email from Ecotricity, the energy company that runs the charging point on the M5, as well as many other locations, so that you can drive 'using the power of wind and sun'. They have had to put up their charges, from 30 pence per kWh to 39 pence (there's a reduced rate for Ecotricity customers). And here is the important piece of information from them. *'Even at this new rate the Electric Highway will continue to be loss making. This is fundamentally due to the lack of electric vehicles on the road relative to the costs of running a network (and this is on an operational costs basis only,*

excluding or writing off the capital cost of equipment). This new rate will however allow us to make further investments to keep pace with the needs of EV drivers and maintain the push to widespread EV adoption. There is no government support available for this unfortunately.'

So those of us who own an EV at this stage in the development process are definitely subsidising the infrastructure. It is not government supported as it is in other countries, particularly our Scandinavian neighbours. I'm not giving up the

challenge, but I am very glad I still own my elderly camper van too.

I think I have solved the textile recycling challenge I set. Cotteridge Church friends suggested that I try Birmingham City Mission. Alongside their Clothing Bank, they send any rejects to the rag trade, getting a small sum of money for them. They can't cope with tonnes of textile waste, but can manage small amounts. The local St Mary's Hospice Shop will also take small bags of 'rags', marked thus. I will report my success or otherwise.

Sylvia Fox

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Rome and Assisi: Date Change

Recent editions of the magazine have complete information about our pilgrimage next year. However, there is one major change. The date. We will now be setting off from Birmingham Airport early on **Monday 9th November 2020**, returning on the evening of **Sunday 15th November**.

More details can be found in the July, August and September 2019 editions of this magazine, which is available, as always, on the parish website.

If you'd like to join us, you would be welcome to come to the get-together

with those who will be travelling with us from St. Francis of Assisi on **Tuesday 8th October** in the North Hall of Saint Nicolas' Place from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. It would be helpful if you could let me know that you are planning to come and if you could bring a contribution of food.

If you want to know more or would like to sign up, speak to me or leave your contact details with Judy Ash at the Parish Office.

Thelma Mitchell

Ride On, Cowboy!

In which Eddie meets a horse with a mind of its own.



As a child, I had a fascination with horses, but opportunities to ride were few as it was too costly for my Mum and Dad. I had to make do with petting the horses who pulled the milk floats. But in later life, my interest was kindled once more when I was working at sea. When I served on the container fleets, we would occasionally carry horses in a stable-like open container on deck. A groom would travel with them

throughout the voyage to Australia.

On such journeys, I would take carrots and Polo mints to my equine friends each day. It was most enjoyable and amusing. The Polos were consumed with lip-smacking relish. The chance to do some riding eventually arrived when I was in Sydney, in the suburb of Flemington, not at a refined place, but at a stable where horses could be hired by the hour, including a saddle and the rest of the tack. It was not costly at all. I think that their animals must have been mainly stock horses, as there was a big cattle yard nearby.

So, together with a few shipmates, a trip to the stable became a regular fixture each time we docked at Sydney. Sometimes there would also be a few novices in our group, too. For these, basic instruction would be given and, to

start with, they seemed to enjoy themselves. But alas, enthusiasm would wane the next day when they awoke, stiff and saddle-sore.

On one trip to Oz, my shipmates and I found ourselves at the stables on a Sunday afternoon. The groom said that he had three horses available but he wanted me to ride one particular animal. 'He's a bit cobby, mate,' he said. He explained that the horse had been in the stable all day and that, given the fact that it was now 4.30 pm, he would have assumed, probably with relief, that he would not be ridden that day. The horse was led out and, true enough, he did not look pleased at all. I mounted up and, at a slow pace, reached a rough track about half a mile distant, where I broke into a bit of a gallop.

Suddenly, the horse stopped dead. I sailed over his head and landed in

front of him. I wasn't hurt, but I was winded and a little embarrassed. As I was staggering back to my feet, I saw him cross the main road at the gallop. He was lucky to get safely across. Meanwhile, I had to walk back to the stable where he was waiting for me, held by the groom. A lovely-looking animal he was, very large, a gelding but, as I had discovered, not particularly friendly by nature.

Never mind. I saw the funny side and had a chuckle with the stable hand. And I have to admit that I gave the horse a none-too-gentle slap on the nose before I left!

(Horses have been loyal servants to us humans for thousands of years, and good companions too. Sent from above, perhaps?)

Eddie Matthews



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Please Don't Feed The Horses!

Kings Norton Nature Reserve, the idyllic, carefully nurtured haven around Merecroft Pool and adjacent areas, is perfect for people seeking a quiet stroll away from the noise and hubbub of daily life. The atmosphere it creates is often enhanced by the charming sight of horses grazing in its meadows.

But there's a problem, about which The Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve have issued a plea on behalf of the owners of the horses.

The problem is that these fields are grazing meadows, and the grass, together with the food provided by the owners, is all the horses need. But, despite a warning notice asking visitors not to feed the horses, people are still offering them food, much of it potentially harmful or even dangerous.

The owner says, 'It is great to have horses grazing at Kings Norton Nature Reserve on the meadows near Merecroft Pool, and we welcome people coming to look at them. But there has been trouble recently with people feeding the horses, often with things that could make them seriously ill and could even be fatal. There are signs around the fields asking people please not to feed the horses. However people repeatedly ignore these, and recently the grazier found a woman and children feeding the horses bread! She has also found people climbing into the fields!'

'Please admire the horses, but bear this simple message in mind: **please don't feed them**, and please don't climb into their fields.'

Potentially Harmful Foods Include...

Caffeine, chocolate, garlic, onions, tomatoes, fruit seeds, dog and cat food, potatoes, fruit in large quantities, lawn clippings, meat, broccoli, kale, brussels sprouts and other vegetables related to cabbage, mouldy hay. We're not sure about Polo mints.

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TRY MORRIS & CLOG DANCING

Black Adder Clog Morris are an enthusiastic group of local people who love clog dancing. They meet each week to practise, and perform in a wide range of locations in the Midlands and beyond. Their dances are mostly original and based on the North West tradition, using short sticks, long sticks, or no sticks at all.

They are always keen to recruit new members. For that reason, they are offering two free workshops in October to enable people who have an interest in the activity and have always wanted to try it out.

The events will be held on Thursday 17th and Thursday 24th October and will run from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm at the Selly Oak Friends' Meeting House at 930 Bristol Road South. Beginners don't need to be natural dancers, but do need lots of enthusiasm and an ability to have fun!

If you're a potential 'coggie' and would like to go along, or simply want more information about the event and where to meet, please contact the group by email at **blackaddersecretary@gmail.com**. There are also some details in the 'Societies, Clubs and Venues' section of this magazine.

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

BELL RINGING

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

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

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Scouts and Cubs

198th Birmingham St Nicolas'

Alan Haynes (Group Scout Leader) 07 534 615 489

198thscouts@gmail.com

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

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

Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm

Scouts (10½-14): 8 pm

Guides and Brownies

Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 - 6.30 pm

Brownies (188th Birmingham): Tuesdays 6.00-7.30 pm

Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm

Guides (247th Birmingham):Mondays 7.15-9.00 pm

Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm

Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm

Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

Headteacher: Vicky Sumner



Come and join The Big Quiz Night at St Nicolas' Place on **Saturday 16th November** and be part of a nationwide event, raising money for Tearfund, a Christian charity, providing support where the need is greatest in more than 50 of the poorest countries in the world.

Tearfund is one of the charities this parish supports. Its aim is to help communities overcome the worst effects of poverty and disasters, believing that the same people who face these issues also have the best understanding of how to overcome them. Working alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations it has, over the course of its 50-year history, enabled millions of lives to be restored and released from poverty. On this occasion, we are joining with many other churches across the country to raise money and awareness. It will be a fun quiz night, so find a team or gather one together (maximum of 6) and help us to make this a great fundraising event for some of the most deprived people in the world.

Venue: St Nicolas' Place. **Time:** 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. **Cost:** £3 per person . **Food & drink:** Tea and coffee provided, but feel free to bring your own supplements. We are hoping to have a raffle. Donations are welcome. Please bring them to the Parish Office.

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WINES FOR CHRISTMAS

FRIDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER
6:30PM

Friends of
Historic Kings Norton
with Majestic Wines, would
like to invite you to join us
at Saint Nicolas Place for an
evening of wine tasting.

Taste 7 wines beginning with
a glass of fizz, and enjoy food
to complement each wine.

Entry by ticket only. £15 per head.

Numbers are limited so please get your ticket at the Saint Nicolas Place reception.
You can call 0121 458 1223 or email bookings@saintnicolasplace.co.uk to reserve
a ticket ready for you to collect.

Wines will be available to order at discount prices.
New clients of Majestic wine will receive a voucher!

Friends
of

Historic Kings Norton

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


SAINT NICOLAS' PLACE
KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

Here for you in Kings Norton

Our Funeral Directors are
available 24 hours a day,
365 days of the year.

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service

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arrangements

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0121 667 7554

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