

# KINGS NORTON

Parish Magazine



## Wythall's Leaning Tower

The history of a local landmark

## The Surprise of Grace

God's unexpected generosity

## Off to Italy

A churchwarden & his wife take a road trip



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# Welcome

**EDITORIAL**

We're entering one of the busiest periods of the church's year, as our back cover will tell you. The first major event of the next two months is the Remembrance Service at St Nicolas' Church on the morning of Sunday 9 November. On page 22, Thelma Mitchell reflects on this annual ritual and on some of the symbols and traditions we associate with it.

This edition is filled with a sense of the passing of time. Mark Sandilands looks back wistfully (and not for the last time) to a sunny summer holiday spent driving across the Continent. Our gardening writers celebrate the delights of one of the most colourful autumns we have seen in several years. A new contributor with a taste for nostalgia recalls the glory days of 1950s TV comedy. And, seventy years after he first appeared in these pages, a former member of our choir revisits a quieter, simpler Kings Norton that has long since disappeared.

As I'm sure Mark would appreciate, celebrating Christmas without Advent is like reaching a destination without appreciating the journey. As we approach the end of the year, we resist the forces that would have us rush headlong into Christmas and instead pause for the four weeks of Advent to ponder the divine plan behind it.

On Sunday 30 November, and throughout the first three Sundays of December, we invite you to join us in revisiting the stories that remind us of the themes of Advent: the hope, joy, peace, and love that break into the world with the coming of Christ, as light breaks into the darkness. We may not be able to offer you a fully heated building this winter, but we can assure you of a very warm welcome.

*David Ash*

# Wythall's Leaning Tower

## *Sounds the Final Bell*

As you travel out from Kings Norton to the Beckett's Farm roundabout in Wythall on the A435, on the right as you approach the farm shop, you'll see a very distinctive open-sided tower thrusting its way more than 100 ft into the sky. It looks like a church tower and indeed once was: the tower of a church intimately connected with our own St Nicolas'.

It was the tower of the original St Mary's Church in the parish of Wythall, a church built and opened in the 1860s and then part of our parish. It's in some ways a rather tragic story, in which architectural problems led to premature closure and replacement by a new church several miles away. It's also a story which includes our region's own 'leaning tower'!

Wythall was, for hundreds of years, part of the enormous Kings Norton parish, which once extended from Moseley in the east to Rednal in the west, and from Birmingham, once barely more than a village, in

the north to Wythall in the south. St Mary's was actually a 'daughter church' of our own. It stayed in Worcestershire when we were absorbed into the Birmingham conurbation in 1911. But the relationship stayed strong and still is, because there's an element of the current edifice that was a gift from St Nicolas' as far back as 1889 and will stay there forever.

Wythall's original church was very small, formally a 'chapel of rest'; but in the 1860s the area acquired a bigger church, built by the well-known Evesham-born architect, Frederick Preedy. A tower was designed, but not constructed. The new church was embraced enthusiastically by the important local Mynors family, a family with roots in Birmingham which in 1785 had moved out to nearby Weatheroak, where the pioneering city surgeon Robert Mynors decided to build a substantial country house and call it Weatheroak Hall. It's now



MICHAEL  
WRITES  
ABOUT  
LOCAL  
HISTORY



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KENNEDY



the clubhouse of Kings Norton Golf Club. Until the advent of their new local church, the Mynors family had to trek by horse and cart every Sunday across miles of fields and tracks to services at St Nicolas'. Look around our church's walls and you will see plaques commemorating members of the Mynors family.

For the 150 years or so that the Mynors lived at Weatheroak, they led the life of well-to-do landed gentry. The final family occupants were two spinster sisters, Florence Ann and Emily. Florence died in 1917 and Emily lived on until 1935. Emily and Florence sustained an elegant lifestyle. Right up to Emily's

death, there was a staff of about 25 to look after the hall.

The Mynors family preferred to worship at their new local church and developed a strong affection for it. The sisters showed that affection in a distinctive way. They loved to travel in Northern Europe, especially France and Belgium, and were very taken by the church architecture that they saw there. Their own new church in Wythall had no tower and the ladies determined to put that right. So in 1908 they decided to endow St Mary's with its own tower, based on that architecture. It was a tower that was to make St Mary's a highly distinctive landmark in the region, with its open belfry completely alien to the English scene, uniquely housing eight tubular bells in two rows of four, controlled by a 'baton clavier and carillon type clappers'; in other words, struck by hammers from a manual keyboard, like Bournville Carillon.

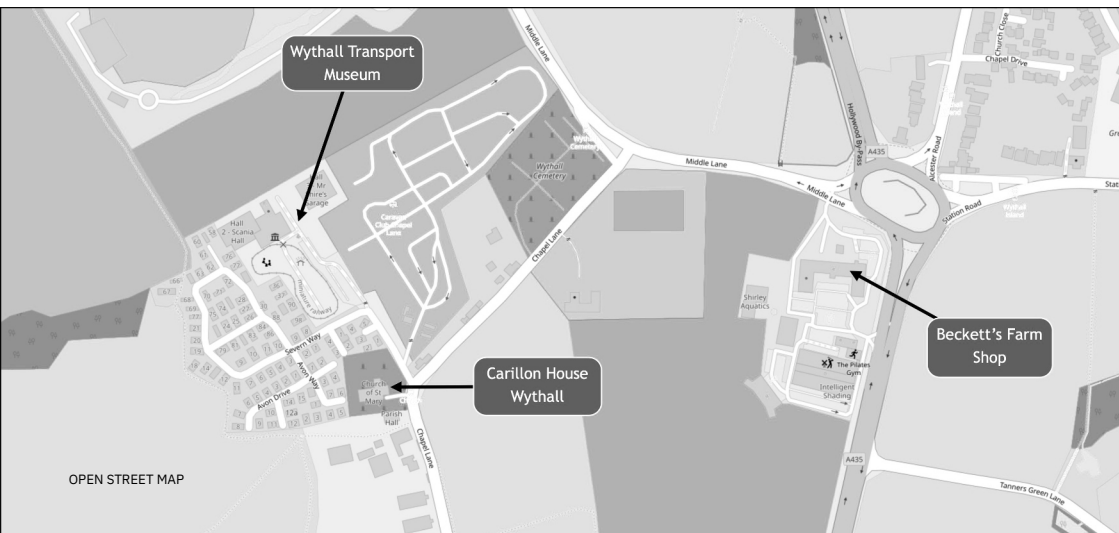
The new tower was ambitious: 25 ft square and 115 ft to the top of its 'flèche'. With that unusual bell sound and remarkable open ringing chamber, it became a celebrated sight for miles around. Even the great architectural critic Nikolaus Pevsner commented on it in one of his famous reviews of regional English church architecture.

Unfortunately, from the 1960s onwards, significant structural problems began to arise. Surveys over a period of some fifteen years showed that water from the church roof was seeping into the foundations and walls. Parts of the tiled area of the roof were loose: the report warned that large fragments of stone could become detached and fall through the roof, making the building unsafe for use. Vast areas of stonework and brickwork would need to be replaced or repaired.

Most dramatically of all, the tower had developed a lean! Measurements showed that it was leaning 1.25 inches in each 5 feet of height, the equivalent of a lean of 3ft in 115 ft. It doesn't sound much (the Leaning Tower of Pisa at its extreme tilted 15 ft in 180 ft) but any lean of a high, narrow structure is a risk. Worse still, the top of the tower required

major reconstruction with new channels for the rainwater to drain away and a completely new lower roof.

The St Mary's congregation was compelled to find somewhere temporary to worship as the threat to their safety was considered too great. An urgent appeal for £20,000 was started, today's equivalent of some £75,000. Perhaps it didn't sound too forbidding, but there was another problem. Over the decades, the church had turned out to be in the wrong place. For years, housing developments had been taking place away from the church. So there was no real will to stabilise the original St Mary's. Eventually, in 1989, the empty building was formally closed as a church for good. The local community eventually opened a new St Mary's several miles away after some 20 years in the wilderness.





The old church stayed neglected and unstable for years; but then there was light. In 1999, a visionary local firm of structural engineers and architects submitted a plan to turn it into their office space. After comprehensive stabilisation and major restoration, it became an exceptionally well-appointed complex, complete with two kitchens, unusual office features such as vaulted roofs and stained-glass windows, and even a snooker table. Noting its heritage, they called it Carillon House. They moved on after a few years and, since then, two or three different companies have been based there. Now it's back on the market through estate agents Siddall Jones. The tower's more stable than ever, although denuded for decades of those tubular bells.

The continuing link with Kings Norton? In the late 1880s, perhaps conscious that its daughter church had no tower and presumably no bell, St Nicolas' donated one of its own

**↑ Today's St Mary's Church, Hollywood & Wythall, a thriving parish church**

bells, cast in 1689 as part of the tower ring. St Mary's eventually found a place for it in its splendid new tower in 1908, locating it in a space underneath the carillon of tubular bells. It was returned to Kings Norton on the closure of St Mary's in 1989. Then it went back again in 2018. St Nicolas' wanted to move it on and the company which then owned the building wanted to have it on display in their office complex. A commitment was made by its new owners that it will remain in place even if the building changes hands: it is considered part of the fabric.

Seek out the building's new destiny on the internet (search for 'Carillon House Siddall Jones' or [www.siddalljones.com](http://www.siddalljones.com)). If you look carefully, you can even see our bell in the promotional video developed to promote the office complex. All that history and exceptionally stylish business space for just £1 million or a rental of £85,000 a year!

# Growing Gratuudes

As I write, it is the heart of Autumn, which is a wonderful time for reflection. The weather has calmed to our seasonal norms, albeit a warm version, as my house plants are still outside until the night time temperatures drop below 5 degrees Centigrade.

Every year seems so unique and this one in particular. With so much sun and very little rain, fruit crops in particular have been very early, a month in most cases. It was particularly noticeable with the blackberries, which were exceedingly early. In early September they seemed to be in the same condition as Michaelmass blackberries in a more typical West Midlands Autumn.

I also experienced this with our amazing crop of apricots, which our tree rather helpfully let go of when they were ready; so there was a daily check of the orange gifts under the tree!

## **Pumpkins**

With the pumpkins, it's been mixed results at different sites. They had their challenges this Summer despite the lack of the molluscs. The timings were perfect at the school garden as we germinated them on our home kitchen windowsill in March. For the home garden and the allotment we germinated them as soon as we could in the greenhouse (late April). At the school garden we had two perfect pumpkins, at a good size.

On the allotment, we had two good sized pumpkins as well, but at the home garden it was too dry and they only started forming when we had a decent amount of rain at the end of August. So we have one decent sized one and one perfectly formed miniature sized pumpkin (about the size of a tennis ball). It does look very sweet! It taught me a lot about my different growing spaces.

My home garden suffers the most in a drought, the clay soil on the allotment retained sufficient moisture below the surface and, in the school garden, which has raised beds with top soil,



Claire is a keen kitchen gardener, ably assisted by her son Charles.



the pumpkins were presumably able to get to the clay soil beneath.

### **Potatoes**

Potatoes are another crop that likes moisture and I had a smaller crop in both proportions and quantity this year given the lack of rain. However, as an optimist, I like to count the blessings. We had plenty of new potatoes and waxy second earlies for our kitchen and also enough to share with friends.

### **Butterflies**

It really has been the year of the butterfly. We've had so many visit our garden and allotment with all the fine weather. At the school there were clouds of cabbage white butterflies which the children enjoyed chasing, something that would never have appeared at the school had we not started a vegetable garden. The number of bugs and the wildlife it attracted in such a short time was astounding considering that we only started the school gardening club at the beginning of May.

### **Grapes**

We have three grape plants. They are sweet types and the advice was to plant them in a greenhouse; but I had a space in mind and I wanted to grow them outside, so I took my chances. The idea is that they will grow over our pergola and that the

grapes will hang down in the Summer, something I've seen done in the South of France.

It has taken two years for the plants to get established and this is the first year in which they have fruited. They have been small in size and have been a lovely garden gift, a bunch at a time. Perhaps they were small due to the lack of rain; however, size was not important to us, simply the joy of eating grapes off the vine has been wonderful!

## **Our harvests through the year**

**Jan/Feb/Mar:** Jerusalem artichokes, Chinese artichokes/crosne, Babbington leeks, wild garlic, oyster mushrooms, winter purslane;

**April/May:** purple-sprouting broccoli, nine star broccoli, asparagus broccoli, asparagus, rocket, lambs' lettuce, rhubarb;

**June:** peas, broadbeans, mangetout, Chinese radishes, turnips, breakfast radishes, beetroot, raspberries, green purslane, rocket;

**July:** raspberries, apricots, wild strawberries, red currants, courgettes, tromboncino, green purslane, garlic, onions, salad potatoes (first earlies, second earlies);

**August:** courgettes, tromboncino, tomatoes, french beans, grapes, blackberries, green purslane, aubergine;

**September:** apples, tomatoes, courgettes, tromboncino, green purslane, rocket, carrots, beetroot, radish, grapes, chillies, sweetcorn, raspberries, blackberries, aubergine;

**October:** pumpkins, apples, quinces, tomatoes, courgettes, tromboncino, kale, chillies, medlars;

**November:** crosne (Chinese artichokes), skirret (perennial carrot), Jerusalem artichoke, kale, chicory, salsify, sorrel;

**December:** Jerusalem artichoke, oca, crosne, Babbington leek, celeriac, salsify, chard, winter radish, parsley root.

# The Surprise of Grace

This series of articles on ‘difficult words we use in church’ has been going since July. Over the past four months, I’ve been heartened by the number of conversations I’ve had with people who have found these studies of Christian vocabulary helpful or who want to suggest a word to explore in a future edition. This month, I am going to respond to one of those proposals by inviting you to take a look at a word which is often used but rarely dissected: **grace**.

Let’s get some basic things out of the way first. This is not going to be an article about ‘saying grace’, which is the term we use for the traditional Christian practice of thanking God for food before we eat it. This use of the word in this context has its roots in the Latin *gratiarum actio*, which means ‘an act of thanksgiving’. That’s not our focus here.

Neither are we interested, for now, in the prayer which Christians refer to as **The Grace**, which is sometimes used as an alternative to a blessing if a priest is not present or at the conclusion of a meeting. The words of this prayer are borrowed from St Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup>

Letter to the Corinthians which ends with these words: ‘The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.’ (2 Cor 13:14).

What we **are** interested in here is what St Paul was referring to in that closing greeting when he wrote about ‘the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ’. It’s the same thing that the former slave trader John Newton wrote about in his famous hymn ‘Amazing Grace’. In the language of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, ‘amazing’ carried a meaning somewhere between ‘surprising’ and ‘awe-inspiring’.

So we have two questions to answer. **What is grace; and why is it surprising?**

In his best-selling book *What’s So Amazing About Grace*, author Philip Yancey calls grace, ‘the most perplexing, powerful force in the universe’ and ‘the only hope for our twisted, violent planet’.

Grace is perplexing because it takes all our assumptions about how God relates to us and turns them upside down. It is powerful for the same reason.

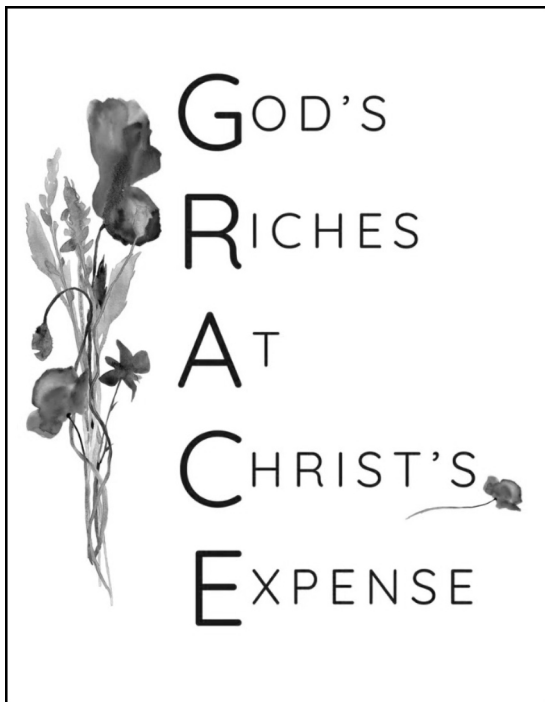


DAVID IS A LAY READER AT ST NICOLAS’ CHURCH

Many of us find it easier to give than to receive. When we are the giver, we remain in control. Being generous can make us feel good about ourselves, partly because of the way our generosity influences how others see us. How many gifts have been given to impress?

But to be on the receiving end of someone else's generosity, even though it is often an affirming experience, can be more complicated, particularly if we feel we don't deserve it. There is something within us which feels that good things ought to be earned, that we shouldn't expect to receive something for nothing. Some of us are suspicious, or even fearful, of what may feel like dependence. How many times has a gift offered with sincere generosity been met with the response 'I don't want your charity'? If we drill down into the source of such reactions, we will eventually come to the bedrock on which they rest, that most fundamental and dangerous of all the so-called 'deadly' sins: pride.

The problem with pride is that it prevents us from receiving. When St James writes that 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble' (James 4:6), one of the things he is saying is that, without humility, we cannot receive what God wants to give us.



We are getting closer to the point where we can attempt a definition of 'grace'. But first we need to ask where our pride comes from. Why are we so fiercely independent?

This is where we get into the nitty gritty of the Christian faith. We begin where the Bible begins, in the Garden of Eden. However you read that story of our origins, the truth at the centre of it is that, as a species, we have been in rebellion against our Creator since the beginning. Exactly what happened, when or where, is a mystery; but the Christian faith and the Jewish religion out of which it grew have taught for millennia that all our problems can be traced back to a deliberate choice to live without reference to God, to go our own way. Christians call that choice 'The Fall' and believe that all of us live with its consequences.

The Bible's name for the condition from which we suffer as a result, our condition of wilful

independence from God, is 'sin'. Sin is not so much something we do; it is something we have. When the Bible describes us as 'sinners', it is describing a condition that we inherited, not a label that we earned through bad behaviour. It's a problem we can do nothing about on our own.

It's true that we 'commit sins', but we do so because we are sinners and not the other way around. Even the best of us have an inherited inclination to go our own way. St Paul put it succinctly: 'For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.' (Romans 7:19).

At this point, I have to skip over a mountain of Biblical history and Christian teaching about the strategy which God adopted to put right what went wrong. Entire libraries have been written to explain how, starting from the sacrificial system which became the focal point of early Jewish religion, God prepared the ground for the central event in history through which he would address the problem of sin: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

At the heart of the Christian faith lies a simple but powerful statement which we find, once again, in St Paul's Letter to the Romans: 'While we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.' (Romans 5:6). In this profound and moving letter, St Paul explains how the death of Jesus was another deliberate choice.

In The Fall, humans had chosen independence, and therefore separation, from God. The result, for us, was a death sentence. The Bible clearly links our spiritual and physical death to The Fall (see Romans 5:12, for example). In the Crucifixion, God chose, in the person of Jesus, to sacrifice his own life in order to win our forgiveness and our freedom from death.

The death and resurrection of Jesus are the means by which God rescues us from sin. All who make the decision to place their trust in Christ's act of self-giving can experience spiritual rebirth (John 3),

a transition from spiritual deadness to a new life in which our relationship with Christ is central. In the words of St Paul, those who choose to accept God's gift of life have 'peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.' (Romans 5:1-2).

What, then, is this 'grace in which we stand'? The simplest definition goes something like this. **Grace is God's undeserved favour, kindness, and mercy towards humanity.**

The key word here is 'undeserved'. Grace is not something earned by human effort or virtue but an unmerited gift from God. Through grace we are offered forgiveness, salvation (that is, being saved from the consequences of sin), eternal life and the spiritual power to live a life which is pleasing to God. We are, in a word, rescued.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St Paul puts it like this: 'By grace you have been saved through faith. **And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,** not a result of [good] works, so that no one may boast' (Ephesians 2:8-9).

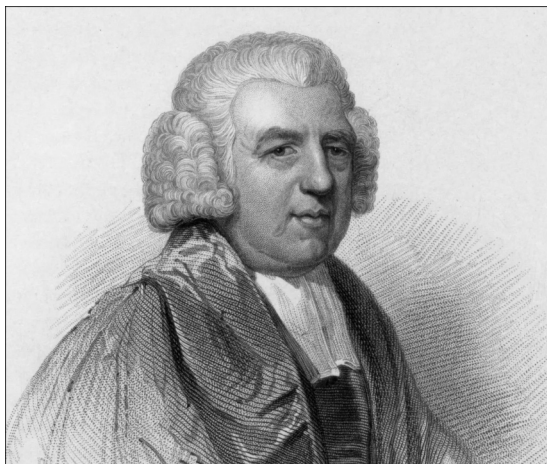
Why is grace amazing? Because it is available to everyone, not just to those who try to live a 'good life' or who might be described by others as

'religious'. It has nothing to do with our human notions of who deserves to be forgiven or who is acceptable to God. It is not limited to those who attend church regularly and it is on offer even - some might say especially - to those who have made a complete mess of their lives.

This is what astounded John Newton. He was involved in the slave trade during the mid-18th century, serving on slave ships engaged in the notorious triangular trade connecting West Africa, the Americas, and Europe. He captained multiple voyages between Africa and the West Indies until a stroke in 1754 ended his seafaring career.

Newton eventually had a conversion experience during a storm at sea in 1748. It began to change the way in which he saw himself and his fellow man. However, he continued to be involved in the slave trade for several years. It was only decades later that he openly expressed deep shame for his role and became a prominent abolitionist.

History has taught us that grace often acts slowly. Newton once wrote, 'When we are brought to the feet of Christ, the life of sin is gradually exchanged for the life of holiness.' It was not until 1772, twenty-four years after that storm, that he sat down to write the immortal lines, 'I once



was lost, but now I'm found; was blind but now I see.' It can take a long time to learn how to 'let go and let God'. But if grace could save a wretch like him, it can save anyone.

Unlike human love, which is so often conditional (*'I will love you if... I love you because...'*), the Bible shows us a God whose love for us is **unconditional** (*'I love you regardless... I love you in spite of...'*). That is the essence of grace. That is why it challenges our pride and turns our ideas about who deserves what on their heads. That is why we need humility to receive it. For it shows God to be infinitely more forgiving, patient and generous than most of us are able to imagine; and it challenges us to be similarly forgiving of each other.

Brennan Manning, author of *'The Ragamuffin Gospel'* understood grace well. He wrote, 'My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it.'

Philip Yancey, author of the classic to which I referred earlier, would agree. He deserves the last word: 'Grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us. .. All we must do is cry, "Help!"'

# Off To Italy : Part 1

Mark Sandilands,  
Church Warden  
at St Nicolas',  
begins the story  
of his 70th  
birthday road trip  
across Europe

On the 8th of May 2025 , Sue and I packed the car and set off for The Ashford Central Premier Inn. It was nothing exceptional, but it served its purpose in getting us to within easy reach of the Shuttle Terminal ready for an early start. We were booked on the 7.20am departure the following morning. The hotel was the normal Premier Inn: clean, tidy ... and cheap!

The following morning we arrived at the Le Shuttle Terminal to find that the departures were delayed because a train had broken down in the tunnel! Not very encouraging, but after a delay of two hours we were finally on our way. We were a little concerned because our plan

was to drive right across France to our overnight stop at Neuenberg just across the border in Germany a distance of 420 miles.

Fortunately, the weather was dry and bright and the toll pass pinged as we went through the toll gate (I had not been able check it was working before we left home). We had to press on, skipping our planned stop for lunch, pausing for comfort breaks, food and fuel.

Sue, my wife, was happy to do most of the driving, taking care to stick to the speed limits as in most of Europe the 'safety' cameras are definitely not painted bright yellow nor are they always in clear sight of the intended victims! I did read that in France, however, they are not very popular and are often vandalised by the local population.

I took over as driver for the final shift, coming off the main road and crossing the border with Germany into the small town of Neuenburg where we had booked a



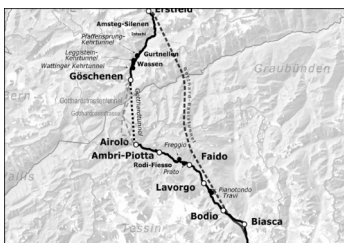
room at the Neuenburger Hof for the night.

The hotel looked surprisingly German and, as the kitchen was still open, we enjoyed an absolutely huge Pork Schnitzel and Chips washed down with a couple of excellent local lagers before settling down for the night.

In the morning, we were treated to an excellent

Continental breakfast before we set off across Switzerland to the Gotthard Tunnel. The scenery gradually became increasingly alpine and, just before the tunnel entrance, we stopped at what has to be the most spectacular service station ever. It was completely constructed in wood. We were both blown away, even happy to pay to use the facilities.

The tunnel itself was impressive and intimidating at the same time but, with care, this did not prove to be a problem. Keeping concentration with the almost hypnotic scene unfolding before us however was not easy and I could totally understand how a tired driver could have an accident.



Coming out of the tunnel, we emerged into yet more alpine scenery - a relief - and before long we had passed from Switzerland into Italy. Heading to the town of Como, we had our first taste of town driving in Italy. The roads were quite narrow and the road signs odd but sort of familiar at the same time.

Google Maps was our friend as we missed several turns and it was all quite bewildering; but eventually we found our way on the Strada Provinciale (SP) 583 to Nesso where we had booked an Airbnb apartment for the next few days.

The roads became ever narrower with frequent pinch points frequently guarded by

safety cameras. As it was a Sunday, there were many people out enjoying the lovely weather and the scenery.

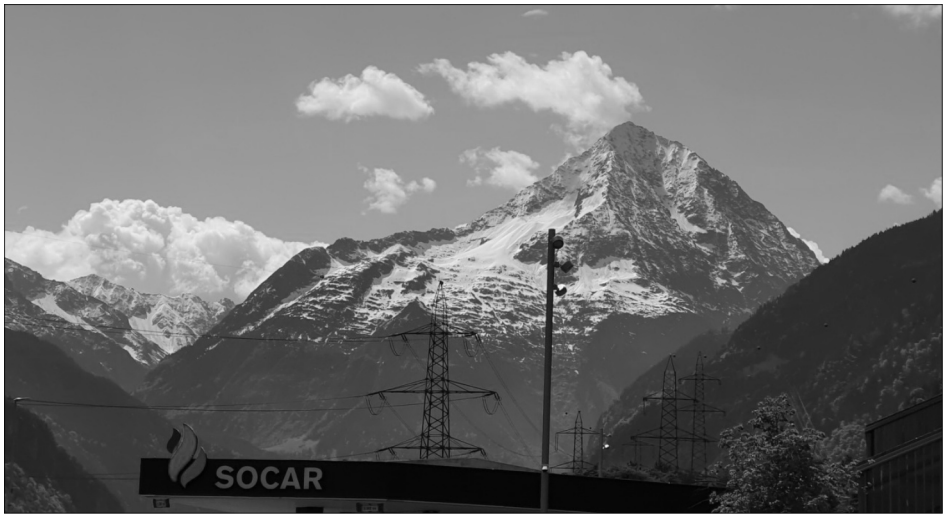
We saw the first of a surprising number of old Fiat Panda 4x4's, a favourite here because of the difficult driving during the alpine winters. There were also many bikers out enjoying their Sunday afternoon and obviously we were all too aware of them.

I will say now that Italian drivers are not so much aggressive as, shall we say, assertive.

Eventually we arrived at Nesso where we stayed at Apartment Via Roma for the next few days.

*Next time: Como and Parma.*





## **YOUR PARISH CHURCH**

If you cannot find what you are looking for here, you will probably find it on the Parish Website ([www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)). Alternatively, please ask questions at the Parish Office, which is open between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, Monday to Thursday.

**81 The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU • [parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@kingsnorton.org.uk)  
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### **THE MINISTRY TEAM**

Parish Lay\* Minister .....Pauline Weaver  
Honorary Assistant Priest ..... The Revd Jayne Crooks  
Lay\* Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers) ..... David Ash, Cate Bennett, Fay Fearon,  
..... Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki  
Lay\* Preacher ..... Steve Wright  
Music Minister..... Sylvia Fox  
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator..... The Revd Jayne Crooks  
Pastoral Care Advisor ..... Susan Farrell

### **THE CHURCH WARDENS**

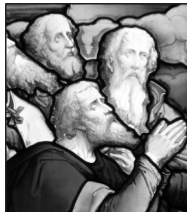
St. Nicolas' Church..... Annette Dickers, Mark Sandilands  
Hawkesley Church .....Jim Clarke

### **OTHER CONTACTS**

Parish Administrator..... Cate Bennett  
Treasurer ..... David Badger  
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Regular Giving ..... The Revd Jayne Crooks  
Flower Arranging (0121 486 2837)..... Alison Blumer

(\*Lay = not ordained as a priest)

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



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

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month	
9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - Said
10.30 am	Holy Communion with Choir
6.00 pm	Taizé Prayer

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

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month	
9.00 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - Said
10.30 am	Holy Communion with Choir
6.00 pm	Compline

4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month	
9.00 am	Sung Matins (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am	Morning Praise for All Ages
6.00 pm	Holy Communion

5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month	
9.00 am	Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer) - Said
10.30 am	Holy Communion with Hawkesley Church & Choir
6.00 pm	Celtic Worship

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

# Remembrance & *Anticipation*

When the Parish Magazine for November & December is published, Summer will have long faded and we will be in the throes of mid-Autumn, with Advent and Christmas hastening on the horizon. It was quite a Summer, with almost unprecedented high temperatures for weeks. Now the colours of the season are beginning to fade, and the nights grow longer.

October can be a beautiful month with a startlingly beautiful low sun highlighting golden red, yellow and orange-leaved trees, the turning of the year towards Winter, and a looking forward to Spring and new life. But it can also be a damp, dark month of rapidly shortening days and long evenings.

November brings a number of feasts and festivals with it. From All Saints' Day on the first, celebrating light over darkness, and All Souls' on the 2nd, Bonfire Night on the 5th, St. Cecilia's Day on the 22nd, the Feast of Christ the King on the 23rd and St. Andrew's Day on the 30th. Advent this year also begins on the 30th; but I am focusing again, to begin with, on Remembrance Day on the 11th.

Eleven years ago, in 2014, a major art installation of ceramic poppies was created in the moat of the Tower of London. It commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of World War I and consisted of exactly 888,246 ceramic red poppies. Each



**THELMA MITCHELL  
WAS FORMERLY LEAD  
CHAPLAIN AT  
BOURNVILLE  
COLLEGE.**

one signified one British or Colonial serviceman killed in the war.

The ceramic form was chosen by the artist and designer of the display, Paul Cummins because, 'Ceramics are fragile, transient, as we are.' The planting took four months and became an extended performative art, with changing audiences often clapping. Many of the planters had service backgrounds and brought their own powerful stories, such as of surviving an explosion in Afghanistan which had killed half the regiment

The installation was not without its critics; yet five million people from around the world travelled to London to see the truly amazing, awesome, inspiring installation in the moat of the Tower. It was so popular that the government of the day called for the display to be extended. However, the dismantling began the next day. The poppies were sold for £25 each and the proceeds donated to military charities.

The moat of the Tower of London had been used as a training ground for City of London workers who had enlisted to fight in the war and was thus a poignant siting for the memorial. Each six-petalled, unique poppy had been hand-rolled, cut and shaped by the creator and 300 assistants, using the same techniques that would have been used in 1914. The materials had been supplied by Johnson Tiles and Potclays Ltd of Stoke-on-Trent, who also fired half of the poppies.

This year, there is a new special display at the Tower, dedicated as a memorial to VE day on 8th May, which commemorated 80 years since the end of World War II in Europe on 8th May, and VJ day on 15th August. The display of nearly 30,000 of the original poppies which were made for the installation in 2014 returns to the Tower to mark the sacrifices made by so many during the second World War. The installation resembles a 'wound' at the heart of the Tower, which itself was bombed during the Blitz. Poppies pour out across the lawn overlooking the ancient White Tower, where blood-red flowers form a crater, with ripples flowing outwards.

Inside the walls of the Tower there are arresting images to remind the observer of the terrible loss a war brings with it, and of the sacrifice of so many. The poppies are on loan from the Imperial War Museum. The new exhibition has been



created by the original designer, Tom Piper, who worked with Paul Cummins on the display in 2014. The main exhibition is inside the walls with a small number of poppies emerging from under St. Thomas' Tower. I understand that it will close after a short moment of remembrance for Armistice Day, on 11th November.

And as Advent approaches, in a world of war, chaos and uncertainty, a world of homeless refugees fleeing the ravages of the destruction of their homeland or just desperate for a better life, I turn to the great and ancient Christian hymn which heralds the return of Jesus the Christ, O Come, O Come Emmanuel. It is based on a canticle, originally written in Latin over 1,200 years ago for use in the daily office of vespers in the monastic life on the seven evenings before Christmas Eve.

The translation which we know was made by the priest and scholar John Mason Neale in 1851 and is sung to a well-known tune, Veni Emmanuel. The words point to back to the Hebrew prophecy in the book of Isaiah, chapter 7, verse 14, and forward to the return of Jesus as Lord of all.

*O come, O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free thy own  
From Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell they people save*

And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Dispel the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the path that leads on high  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, o come, thou Lord of Might  
Who to the tribes on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times did give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

I write this on the day when the appointment of our new Archbishop of Canterbury was announced. She is the Right Reverend Sarah Mullally, currently Bishop of London. She will need all our prayers and the mighty grace of God to hold together a disparate body of believers across the continents, as well as to engage with the outside world. Here's a prayer for her and for ourselves as she begins her new ministry to us.

*'Heavenly Father, we bring before you today Sarah Mullally at the dawn of a new day, a new chapter, a new season in her life. Give her joy as she grasps new opportunities, fresh ideas and renewed strength. Grant her the wisdom to discern the path forward and the courage to take bold steps into the future which you have planned for her. Fill her with your Spirit, that she may be mindful of your presence in every encounter and decision, to make positive changes and to embrace this new, momentous role in life. Renew her heart, strength and spirit with confidence, and enable her to trust in God's plan for a blessed future. We pray this through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.'*



# A Festive Mystery

## Worth Solving

This Advent season, the Birmingham Repertory Theatre invites us into a Victorian world of candlelight, carols, and curious clues with *Sherlock Holmes and The Twelve Days of Christmas*, a new theatrical production which blends festive cheer with classic detective storytelling.

Written by Humphrey Ker and David Reed (of the 'Penny Dreadfuls' fame), this original play offers a light-hearted mystery set in the heart of London's theatre district.

When a series of strange on-stage mishaps begin to mirror the verses of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', Holmes and Watson are called on to investigate. What begins as a seasonal oddity soon reveals a deeper puzzle, one that must be solved before Christmas Day.

The production features a talented cast, including Humphrey Ker as Holmes and David Reed as Watson, with

Helena Wilson as rival sleuth Athena Faversham and Margaret Cabourn-Smith as the ever-resourceful Mrs Hudson. There's even a cameo from Queen Victoria herself, played by Deborah Tracey, adding a regal touch to the holiday intrigue.

Directed by Phillip Breen and Becky Hope-Palmer, the show is beautifully staged with period costumes, atmospheric lighting, and a touch of theatrical magic. Original songs by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber bring musical warmth to the story, offering moments of reflection and joy amid the mystery.

While the play is full of clever twists and comic moments, it also gently explores themes of loyalty, justice, and the importance of community, values that resonate deeply during the Christmas season. Holmes may be solving a case, but he's also reminding us that truth, compassion, and perseverance are gifts worth sharing.



**"MGM" writes on cinema, theatre and the arts.**



This production is suitable for families, groups, and anyone looking for a festive outing that combines entertainment with thoughtful storytelling. Whether you're a Holmes fan or simply seeking a seasonal performance with heart, *Sherlock Holmes and The Twelve Days of Christmas* offers a memorable experience in the lead-up to Christmas.

Tickets are available through the Birmingham Rep's website and box office. Early booking is recommended, especially for December dates.

May your Advent be filled with light, laughter, and a little mystery.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5*

HOLMES &  
WATSON AT  
THE REP



Few partnerships in fiction have stood the test of time like Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson. But did you know that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle based the brilliant detective partly on one of his university professors, Dr. Joseph Bell, whose keen observation skills inspired Holmes's deductive genius?

Or that the famous address, 221B Baker Street, didn't actually exist in Victorian London?

Sherlock Holmes was one of the first fictional characters to use a magnifying glass as a detective tool, popularizing its association with crime solving. And while Holmes is famous for his pipe, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself was reportedly not a smoker.

# Approaching Advent

It is a wet, cold and windy day as I write this and I'm taking a break from putting together our Christmas publicity to write for the November & December edition of the magazine. I haven't quite found the routine yet of writing for two months in advance so deciding what to write about has been interesting.

Today is also the day on which the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally has been announced as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, a momentous occasion, one that many thought may never happen. A female Archbishop of Canterbury. I'm sure that there will be those who disapprove and that there will be many challenges ahead. Personally, I embrace the change and all that it signifies.

It is also the day after Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year which saw horrific events unfold at a synagogue in Manchester.

During November, the traditional time of Remembrance, we reflect on the world around us and the threat of war and conflict, of hatred and division. This year has seen significant anniversaries: 80 years since VE and VJ Day, 85 since the Battle of Britain.

As years pass, there are fewer and fewer veterans to tell their stories, so we need to keep telling them, remembering the sacrifices but also the stories of love and friendship. We need to focus on the peace we have enjoyed for so many years and play our part in maintaining that peace.

The Archbishop Designate said in her speech today that 'hatred and racism of any kind cannot be allowed to tear us apart'. God calls us to put those words into action. As we enter Advent, the season of waiting and preparing for the birth of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace, we need to reflect on peace, on love and friendship.



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

At our Harvest Festival this year we had a 'harvest of blessings' and, as I took people's 'blessings' off the tree after the service, I noted that most were giving thanks for friends and family, for health and companionship.

This Advent, our prayers and our actions can take those blessings and share them, to share all that this season means including peace, tolerance, reconciliation and compassion along with comfort and joy to all those who are our neighbours.

I was thinking about Brian, whom some of you may remember. He was a regular fixture in our churchyard, often with a can in hand and who used to speak in a strange, raspy voice. Brian was a pagan (although his faith changed later) so, at Christmas, I would wish him a Happy Christmas and he would wish me a Happy Solstice. We would embrace our differences, not be offended by them.

This Advent, our Posada figures will once again be travelling around the parish as a reminder of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem as well as of their flight to Egypt.

As you welcome them into your home, remember all those who are strangers in this land, those who have fled their homes, those who feel lonely, isolated

and abandoned. What could you do to welcome them this Christmas?

Oh, and even though it's only November, Merry Christmas!



# Adam Fills The Gap

Some years ago, I was walking round a garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll and surrounding a fine house designed by Edward Lutyens: quite the combination! The month was September, and the two full-time gardeners had cleared the fine, elegant, Victorian terracotta vases and replanted them with double annual Asters in red, white and blue, to flower into October and November. They looked wonderful.

I remembered this when I was seeking a stop-gap plant between the annuals and the really late chrysanthemums. Aster seeds were duly sown in April, and germination was very good. It was followed by the usual pricking out process in two full-sized trays, ready to plant out when the annuals had grown leggy, and, despite dead heading, had ceased to flower. Late August is a good time.

I chose a double variety which has now flowered constantly, until I replaced them with chrysanthemums. These were quietly grown in a sheltered spot and kept watered. In addition, they were given two

feeds with a liquid fertilizer which have mini-nutrients included. There is a slow-acting granular version which I am going to rake into the top surface of the 12-inch diameter pots before I use them for a second year. No other fertilizer will be required.

Drought was again a problem this year. I have found the best shrubs to be Helianthemum and Cistus. Both can be grown from seed with patience. This year, the petunias have done well, bought as plug plants and grown on before planting. Begonias have been very successfully grown from tubers and planted in full sun in 12-inch pots. Tubers can be expensive. This year I spotted a new, large variety, 'Non-stop Mocha' was available from seed. I bought some coated seeds – they are tiny! – and set off on a voyage of discovery. Germination was slow and the seedlings very small and slow growing. The compost was kept just moist. Eventually each tiny plant was given its own pot to grow in, until they were planted in a 12-inch pot, 3 at a time. I ended up with six plants. This is not many, but each one would

cost about £5 to buy. The colour range was beautiful, set against the bronze, mocha-coloured leaves. I am going to try again in 2026. Begonias are fine plants. The tubers can be dry stored in a cool place, ready for another season. Two annual storages are about the limit. Mine were still flowering in October and I've just ordered the tulip and daffodil bulbs, together with winter flowering pansies, to plant round the outer edge of the pots, to prevent that 'bare soil' look. They are very hardy. They will continue to flower during the winter, with final big displays come the Spring, at the same time as the tulips are in full bloom. A great combination!

When buying bulbs at the garden centre, do be wary if they are on open display because they sometimes get mixed up! If you are buying over the Internet a 'mixture' means that you will receive a single bag containing an assortment of the type you have ordered. On the other hand, if you order a 'collection', you will receive a number of bags, each containing just one colour variety, thus making it easier to plant a whole potful of each type, all flowering at the same time for more impact. This year I am going for lily-flowered tulips. These do not do well when replanted in a border, but daffodils can be planted in a mixed border, preferably in groups of the same variety. After flowering, do not cut off the foliage. Allow the leaves to go brown and then remove them to the compost heap. That way you will have your daffodils for many years to come.

I'm off to clear the display pots and leave everything tidy for next year. May 2026 be a good year in your garden.

There will be more hot tips in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.



## Funerals Aug-Sep 2025

1 Aug	John Moore	67	In.CY
13 Aug	Cloe Bernadette Douglas	32	SN.Bu.CY
29 Aug	Patricia Margaret O'Dea	90	In.CY
12 Sep	Ray Mervyn Taylor	82	In.CY
22 Sep	Jean Margaret Dewey		Cr.LH

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church, Bu : Burial, In : Interment of Ashes  
 KN : St Nicolas' Churchyard, LH : Lodge Hill

# Looking Back 7

## *November 1950*



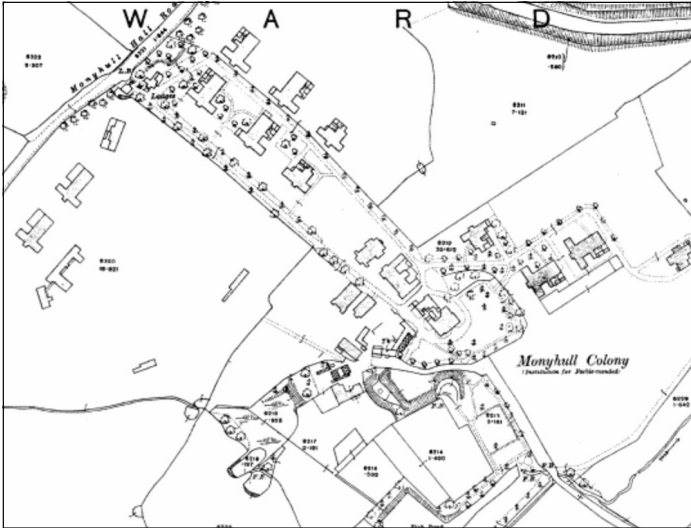
▲ ALF  
ROGERS.  
FROM A  
CHOIR PHOTO  
TAKEN IN  
1944.

*In our April 2025 edition we printed the first in a series of articles entitled 'Looking Back : By An Old Chorister', originally published in these pages in the 1950s.*

*In the seventh of these monthly reminiscences, Alf Rogers continues to sketch out the geography of Kings Norton, populating it with lost farms and houses, and with the names of villagers he remembers from his boyhood.*

The Monyhull Hall estate was purchased by the Birmingham, Aston and Kings Norton Joint Committee in 1905 from the Millward family, for the purpose of building and creating homes for 'the epileptics and the feeble-minded'. This estate consisting of a large dwelling house, lodge, cottage, stabling, outbuildings, garden, grounds, etc, covered 128 acres, and when it was also decided to purchase the adjoining 'Kingswood' estate and a valuable piece of building land fronting Monyhull Hall Road, this brought the total area to nearly 185 acres.

Mr. R. J. Curtis, who was clerk to the committee at that time, was really responsible for the creation of this new scheme, and his idea was to purchase this land and build detached houses or 'homes' (as they are now called) on this excellent estate with its beautiful surroundings. The buildings were to be set out and varied in design, some single storey and others in two storey form. This was a marked improvement on the old style institution buildings, which in former years had been in one huge block only.



After the first six homes were completed and opened on 11th April 1908, accommodation was found for 216 patients. 36 to each home. Before these homes were erected, the old Hall was used to accommodate the small staff and the first few patients, but today it is the chief administrative centre, housing the clerical staff on the upper floors and separate offices for the Medical Superintendent and Matron on the ground floor. The large dining room, containing some of the old furniture which remained in the Hall when it was purchased, is used mainly for committee meetings, etc.

A few years ago, an old advertisement poster was found relating to a previous sale of the estate by auction at the Hen and Chickens Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, dated September 1825. The title heading of the poster reads, 'Moneyhull Hall Estate', so that the name spelling has changed slightly since that period.

Miss M. J. Carse, formerly a Sister at Selly Oak Hospital, was the first Matron to be appointed, and her assistant was Miss Bodley, who later became Matron at Selly Oak Hospital. Miss Watton came as Housekeeper, and after a few nurses were engaged and a few patients admitted, the Hall became the 'foundation' of this noble institution or 'colony'.

As the place grew, extra staff were employed and amongst the first of these, was George Smith, who was engaged as a

THE RISE &  
FALL OF  
MONYHULL



► ONE OF THE  
'INMATES'  
HOMES AT  
MONYHULL IN  
1908



coachman and served in this capacity for many years, also his sister Frances (now Mrs. Williams, late of the School House) who came as a cook to the staff.

Several of the early staff are still living in retirement, but Mr. Hipkiss, one of the male charge nurses, died a short time ago, after a very short period of retirement and Mr. Albert Jones, who lived for many years in Baldwin Road, and was a regular worshipper at our Parish Church, died just before he was due to retire. Mr. Bert Heskey, retired foreman carpenter, came to live in Masshouse Lane and joined the Village Senior Club.

There was no resident Medical Officer in the early period at Monyhull, but Dr. Bert Jordan (late of Middleton Hall Road) was appointed as a non-resident Medical Officer, and later on Miss D. Udale joined the staff as a dispenser of medicines.

After the first few homes were erected, a laundry, general kitchen block, and a house to accommodate the Head Attendant were also built. The latter house was erected by the main entrance gates and opposite the old Lodge, and a weighbridge was added to the side of this house for the purpose of checking the weight of goods delivered to the colony.

The house later became the residence of the Chief Engineer, Mr. Kennerley, and his family, and the two boys, John and Jim, joined the Parish Church choir at the time when I was one of the top boys. As an alto singer now, John is still a faithful and regular member of our choir to this day.

# Bilko Lives On!

...in Coventry

*Nostalgia is a very powerful force, whether it creates happy or sad memories. It usually helps if there are people on hand with whom it can be shared.*

*This is the first in a series of articles that focuses on nostalgia which can actually be shared, and even relived, through people whose personal dedication has prompted them to create tangible places where those memories can be indulged.*



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

One of my own great joys in the late '50s was watching the American TV comedies based around the lives of Sergeant Ernie Bilko and his military motor platoon based at Fort Baxter. It was a series that ran for 143 programmes, spread

over three series on BBC TV from 1955 to 1959, and which has been repeated frequently ever since.

Bilko was an irresistible force of nature, a fast-talking, wise-cracking 'fixer' always up to some sort of scheme to make money or to dodge work, usually with the enthusiastic if bewildered cooperation of the motley but vastly amusing set of corporals and privates over whom he ruled. Fender, Barbella, Henshaw, Zimmermann, Mess Sergeant Ritzik, the lovable, puppy-like and definitely useless Doberman, the ineffectual but determined Colonel Hall, always aware that Bilko was trying a new stunt but powerless to stop him in the face of his sheer charm and irresistible persuasiveness.

Bilko was played by one of the great names in American showbusiness, Phil Silvers, always recognisable by his bald head and the distinctive pair of glasses which became the Bilko trademark. Before Bilko, Silvers had had a significant series of successes in Broadway shows, beginning in burlesque and vaudeville, and had earned the title 'King Of Chutzpah'. He gradually built a significant career on the silver screen and was also one of the few Americans to star in the long-running series of British 'Carry On' films. He died at the age of 74 in November 1985.

I fell under the Bilko spell from the age of about 10. Like most other British viewers, I'd never seen anything like him, an utterly memorable and empathetic character even though I knew nothing about American army life. I was always happy to stumble upon one of those repeats but, until recently, Bilko had become just one part of my bank of cherished memories.

I'm not quite sure why, but a few months ago I did a web search on Bilko, for no particular reason. Within a few minutes, it emerged that there was only one Bilko/Phil Silvers museum in the world, and that it wasn't in California, New

York or Chicago, but in our very own Coventry. It's a small but thrilling section of a shop selling TV ephemera in FarGo village, an area of the city with establishments linked by an entertainment theme.

Why Coventry, of all places? The story became even more interesting when I visited the museum with another fan, my brother, to find out that the man who started it off was too young to recall the great days of Bilko and had only developed an awareness of him through those TV repeats in the early 1980s. He's Steve Everitt, a charming man who's usually there when the museum is open, and he enhances the experience enormously. Several British comedians, including Harry Hill, are Bilko fans and have visited the museum.

As Steve and a friend Mick Clews became obsessed with Bilko, they tried to find any organisations that might commemorate the series, or Phil Silvers, in the United States. They were astonished when they could find no evidence of any lasting memorials. Both the character and the actor had been effectively forgotten in America. They embarked on a mission to rectify the situation.

It was almost too late for them to have a talk with the great man himself. Having developed contact with one of his five daughters, they were alerted to

the fact that, in October 1985, the BBC was planning to run a short feature about Bilko on a magazine programme. They were invited to attend the screening, during which the presenter was to interview Phil Silvers on a transatlantic telephone line. When the presenter told Silvers that his British admirers were in the studio, Phil said 'Give them a wave for me.' A great thrill, but that was it, because not much more than a month later, Phil died.

Since then, the two men have explored the legend in admirable depth, meeting some of the dwindling number of actors who were in the series, including Alan Melvin, who played Corporal Henshaw, one of Bilko's long-suffering sidekicks. They also made contact with others, including Micky Freeman who played Private Zimmerman and who sent some original Bilko scripts for display in the Coventry museum.

Their most pleasing achievement was made at the request of Bilko's daughter Tracey. They learned in 1999 that despite the family's consistent efforts to persuade the appropriate authorities, astonishingly their father had no star on the celebrated Walk of Fame, the pavement in Hollywood which commemorates all the greatest American stars of

SERGEANT  
BILKO'S  
VINTAGE  
EMPORIUM,  
COVENTRY



entertainment. Steve and Mick quickly put together, of behalf of the Silvers family, a comprehensive submission with the almost immediate result that, in 2000, the issue was put right. Steve and Mick were invited to attend the unveiling of the Phil Silvers star, along with many grateful members of his family.

If you have a similar affinity for the Bilko legend, a visit to the Coventry Museum and shop ([sgtbilkosvintageemporium.com](http://sgtbilkosvintageemporium.com)) will be very rewarding. It's open five days a week, and it's a truly extensive, fascinating and moving selection of mementos of Bilko and Phil Silvers: books full of screenshots, clothes worn by Phil Silvers personally and in some of his films, posters and a vast range of ephemera including a watch presented to Silvers by his close friend, the great American comedian Jack Benny. It's all in quite a confined space but with the company of Steve, we were in there for some four hours and still didn't see it all! And of course there are souvenirs: my Bilko and Doberman T shirt is now one of my

most cherished garments, though I'm not quite sure where to wear it!

One or two tips if you do go: the train is probably the best way, unless you know Coventry well enough to drive around it. If you do go by train, pick up a taxi from the rank just outside the station: it's only about £6, but remember to take the driver's number because you'll need to call him for your return journey.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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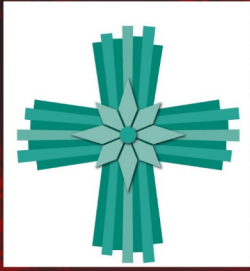
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**tearfund**



# Christmas in St Nicolas Church

**Toy Service** **7 December 10.30am**

*Gifts of new toys welcomed for Toys4Birmingham*

**To Bethlehem** **13 December 10am-1pm**

*A nativity journey for all ages*

**Carols by Candlelight** **14 December 4pm**

**Bells for Christmas** **15 December 2pm**

*Carols & Christmas music with Kings Norton Handbells*

**Come & Join in Nativity** **20 December 2pm**

*Nativity, games and more! (small charge)*

**Blue Christmas** **21 December 4pm**

*A quiet and contemplative service*

**Crib Service** **Christmas Eve 5pm**

**Midnight Communion** **Christmas Eve 11.30pm**

**Christmas Communion** **Christmas Day 10am**

**Stargazers** **10 January 2026**

*A musical in a day*

Parish office: 81 The Green, Kings Norton B38 8RU  
0121 458 3289 [www.kingsnorton.org.uk](http://www.kingsnorton.org.uk)  
Charity Number 1134799

*Please note all events are subject to change  
Details correct at time of going to press*