



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

January 2020

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2020 edition must reach the
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February.**



Wise Men are hard to find these days, but we managed it! Our cover photo is designed to whet your appetite for this month's photographic feast which features (pp.12-13) the annual celebration of the life of St Nicolas' and (pp.42-43) our unforgettable new departure into story telling, the production of 'To Bethlehem!', a journey of exploration through church and churchyard towards the announcement of the birth of the Baby, who was and is the Light of the World.

The story is not over, of course. This month begins with Epiphany (6th January), the Festival in which the Magi or Wise Men take centre stage. Those three shadowy figures, about whom we know very little, nevertheless model for us an attitude to life which is prepared to look for truth outside its comfort zone, to serve a bigger purpose than itself and to worship Jesus, however unexpected his appearance. As the cliché has it, 'Wise men (women and children too) still seek him'.

May I wish you a very happy New Year and much enjoyment in the reading of this issue, which combines the celebration of Kings Norton's past with the multifarious activities of its busy present and dares to hope for a brighter, more trusting future.

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

Change & Decay in All Around I See

If these words look familiar it's because they're from one of the world's best loved hymns, *Abide with Me*. The author, The Reverend Henry Lyte, wrote them while serving in two Irish parishes during the early nineteenth century. He suffered poor health most of his life and died of tuberculosis aged 54. His words express the profound sense of assurance he found in realising, despite his poor health and limited life prospects, that God's presence was a positive, abiding reality which comforted and encouraged him to make the most of all that life had to offer. It is not surprising the hymn he penned has become an enduring comfort and inspiration to countless others since first published.

Coping with change and decay challenges all of us at some point in our lives, especially when those changes are unlooked for, unwanted and unsettling. We are now familiar with the term 'climate change'. It expresses a prevailing concern for our earth as we experience the change and decay brought about by the excessive use of fossil fuels and the race we are in to



find alternative, sustainable sources of energy. Then there is the change and decay brought about in the oceans, because of global warming and of the discarding of millions of plastic bags. On the personal level, people find the process of aging to be one of change and decay as health, mobility and mental faculties succumb to the aging process. Many express concern that our nation and society are undergoing change and decay as we are gripped by uncertain-

ties about our future (the Brexit debate) and economic injustice (the gap between rich and poor, and foodbanks, to take but two examples). There are perturbing international trends (terrorism, the rise of non-democratic regimes and the cyber warfare being carried on by shadowy forces across the world). All these can make us feel that the whole world is in a state of fragility and convulsion. What are our reactions and responses to the feelings brought on by change and decay, uncertainty and insecurity?

Faith and philosophy have a lot to say about coping with change. Early Western thinkers considered the question of change and decay as a fundamental experience that we can neither halt nor escape. Rather, the challenge was to differentiate between what was unchangeable (aging, war, suffering, illness, death) and what was changeable, which is ourselves. In other words, changing our attitude to change was more beneficial than fighting against it.

For people of faith in both West and East, creation is in a constant state of change and fluctuation. The creation begun by God is a process not an end

state. We now know, thanks to scientific discoveries, that the universe is still expanding: stars are born and die, galaxies are not stable, and our place in the universe is miniscule compared to its vastness.

Christians believe that, while God's creation is a process, there is something unchanging about God. Aristotle described God as the 'Unmoved Mover'. However, our human understanding of God does change as we learn to appreciate the spiritual influence and miraculous, mysterious ways of God in relation to our lives.

'Coping with change and decay challenges all of us at some point in our lives, especially when those changes are unlooked for, unwanted and unsettling.'

Coping with change is a skill we need to develop if we are

not to be overwhelmed by the inevitable. Does this require us to accept all change meekly and never question or resist it? No. Some changes are unjust, potentially catastrophic or against the natural order and these need to be tested and measured against our shared values and beliefs. What we need to be secure in is our beliefs and our values for living.

Three reflections on change and human nature have stayed with me over the years.

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things will pass away.
God never changes;
Patience obtains all things,
Whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.

Teresa of Avila (16th Century)

Life belongs to the living, and he who
lives must be prepared for changes.
All things are only transitory. One
change always leaves the way open
for the establishment of others. If you
change the way you look at things, the
things you look at change.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (19th
Century)*

God grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change, the cour-
age to change the things I can, and the
wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr (20th Century)

Whatever changes are in store for us
all this new year, may we find the
wisdom, resilience and patience to
cope and adapt.

Rev'd Larry Wright



Harry L Marks



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The Kings Norton Youth Fellowship

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN THE 1950S

*During the 1950s, one of the most significant organisations within the parish was the Kings Norton Youth Fellowship (KNYF). Founded in 1949, it provided a focus for young people, enabling them to come together to develop their own range of activities at a time when young people had no real identity of their own. In the first of a series of articles, **Michael Kennedy** tells the story of this pioneering group.*

One of the most significant anniversaries that 2020 brings for Kings Norton is the 70th anniversary of the first full year of the Kings Norton Youth Fellowship. Amazingly, all those decades later, there are still enough members around to make it a meaningful occasion.

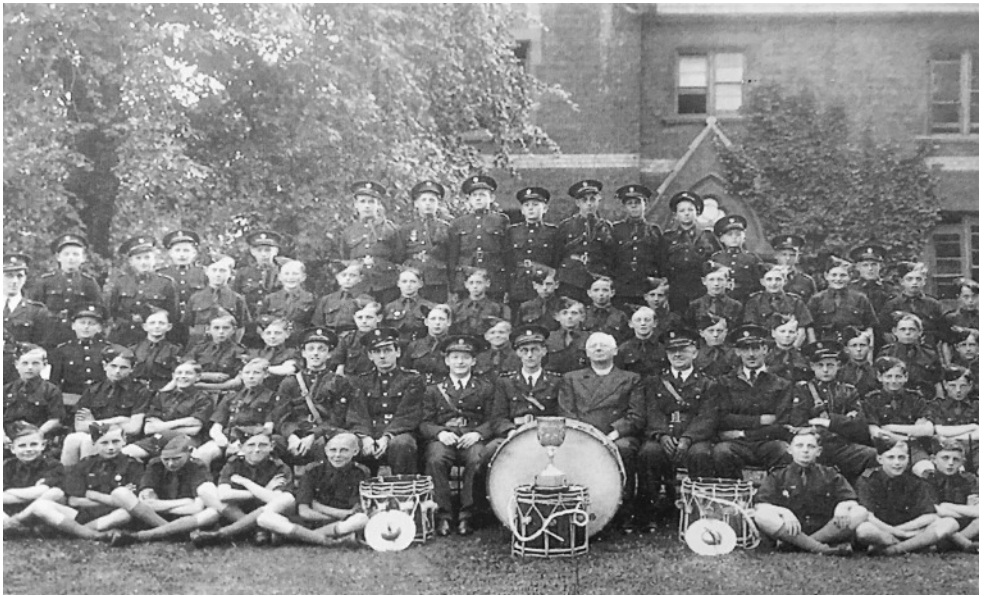
The KNYF represented a fundamental stage in the evolution of the Kings Norton community, addressing that post Second World War period when adolescents and teenagers had little to do in the way of activities that were not reliant on the initiative, or indeed the control, of adults.

In fact, the Fellowship became much more than simply pockets of teens and young people in their early 20's who 'hung around' together: it made a progressively more significant contribution to the social life of the parish as a whole, and indeed, in some

respects, to the social life of Birmingham itself.

It would have been all too easy for Kings Norton in the early 50s to lose its identity. In some respects, it was still the rural village it had been for centuries, but in others it was becoming a suburb of the big city, a process which could have obliterated that identity forever. Adults had many challenges to face in creating a comfortable life for themselves and their families, so much so that their ability to contribute to sustaining the life of the community as a whole was inevitably diluted.

It was the Youth Fellowship that not only provided a focus for youngsters in the parish, but to a very significant extent ensured the survival of a close-knit community and prevented Kings Norton from 'degenerating into a suburb without soul', as Phil Haycock puts it. Phil, whose family came to Kings



The Kings Norton Church Lads Brigade in front of the old Vicarage in 1947. Rev John Skinner is near the centre of the front row, to the left of the then Rector, Canon Dunn (behind the large drum)

Norton when he was four years old in 1934, still lives here, and is custodian and archivist of the KNYF years. He has produced, and is still producing, a remarkable and fascinating series of memoirs, with original documents and numerous photographs.

He and his partner Shirley Hamilton (née Kenyon), who was also a member of the Fellowship in its key years, devote much time to organising reunions of surviving members, in recent years at the Kings Norton Golf Club. Many of them, like Philip and Shirley, maintain remarkably sharp memories of those joyful and formative years back in the 1950s.

In a single article it's literally impossible to describe the way the KNYF

developed and was active in so many different ways, but perhaps above all it's important to understand just why it came into existence.

Kings Norton's community life for centuries before the Second World War, and in its aftermath, had been centred largely on the church. Entertainment in the post-war years, especially for young people, was almost non-existent: television was still in its infancy and not available beyond the Home Counties, and the parish's cinema on The Green was not opened until 1938. Youth activities in the parish were indeed almost completely vested in the church, in the form of the Diocesan Youth Fellowship and other organisations orientated towards

children and young people, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Sunday School, the Girls Friendly Society and the Church Lads Brigade (photo, previous page).

The individual primarily responsible for the church's role across the range of youth activities was The Reverend John Skinner, who reported to the Rector, the Reverend E.G. (Ted) Ashford. Rev Skinner was appointed curate at St Nicolas' Church in 1947 as successor to the Rev Wilbert Awdry, who gave the world 'Thomas the Tank Engine'.

Rev Skinner watched over the weekly meetings of the Diocesan Youth Fellowship with a hawk-like and rather austere eye. Membership was strictly confined to those who had been confirmed members of the Church of England, and the primary function of the DYF was to encourage further participation in church activities, such as Bible reading. But as local young people mixed with a growing number of non-churchgoers, their commitment to church affairs became diluted, and DYF membership dwindled. There was little incentive to stay because the affairs of the Fellowship stayed firmly in the grasp of church people, supported by other adults. It was not even considered that the young people might play a role in influencing its activities.

The Church Lads' Brigade did provide opportunities beyond strict church and

religious matters. It had its own band, complete with bugles, drums and uniforms. Members also played football, and its officials (adult, of course), organised an annual summer camp in such resorts as Porthcawl.

Underpinning all these different youth-related organisations, and indeed the social life of young people in general, was the fundamental principle that the sexes should be kept apart, even as they progressed well into their teenage years. Most of the groups mentioned above, says Phil Haycock, 'functioned under the auspices of the church, and without actually advertising it, the 'Elders' were really trying to keep us 'on the straight and narrow', whatever that meant.'

There was little official recognition of that fact that as they grew up, boys and girls actually wanted to be together, and might actually benefit from the process. So it was down to them to find opportunities to mix, perhaps using the tennis courts in Kings Norton Park. There were opportunities to meet at local dances, but these were always grown-up affairs, with adults, even parents, around to ensure decorum.

Overall, according to Phil Haycock, in this era 'It was ordained, even engrained, in the social order that Adults were responsible for organising and administering Youth. In turn, it was customary for young people, including teenagers, to accept this state of

affairs, albeit reluctantly.'

Even though the rock 'n' roll revolution was only a few years away, with all that it meant in terms of teenage rebellion and breaking out from the strictures imposed by grown-ups, Kings Norton in 1950 showed no signs of embarking on that journey. As Philip says 'We were nowhere near to exhibiting that truculent and reactionary attitude that was to develop in the next decade'. As it stood, it never even occurred to the grown-ups, either in the form of the church or parents, that young people should or could create and run their own organisation which would give them the freedom to follow their own

youthful instincts.

So, as the 1950s approached, nobody anticipated the revolution that was going to take place, perhaps least of all young people themselves. But there were sparks, and in Kings Norton that spark occurred when a handful of frustrated local teenagers made a bet with Rev Ashford: a bet that they could indeed create and sustain a 'youth club' of their own!

Michael Kennedy

Part Two of the KNYF story will appear in our February issue.



The 1st annual photograph of the Kings Norton Youth Fellowship taken on the steps of the (now demolished) Kings Norton cinema on The Green on 2nd July 1950.





The annual Patronal Festival and Toy Service at St Nicolas' Church, Kings Norton, on Sunday 8th December 2019. Many gifts were brought for children who would not otherwise receive a Christmas present and there was chocolate for all in memory of St Nicolas, who gave gifts to the poor.



‘The olive tree is surely the richest gift of Heaven’

Thomas Jefferson



Seasonal tips from a green-fingered reader

Breaking News! In France, Spain and Italy the olive trees are under attack from a bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. The result : total collapse.

The clearing of many acres will have a sad effect on the life of the rural Italian. The family grove is roughly equivalent to the family allotment here. The men of the family disappear at the weekends to do the routine maintenance and at harvest time the whole family will take off to the grove and work together with

a short break for lunch with some wine until the job is done. By the way I do mean the whole family, I have seen grannies with crossover pinnies up a ladder amongst the branches.

There are about 252 varieties of olive trees worldwide but all are genetically very similar. It has become popular to have a couple of trimmed olives in containers at the entrance to our houses in the UK but the official advice is not to buy any more until resistant



strains from infection-free areas can be imported. In the meantime you can be reminded of your sun-soaked Mediterranean holidays by planting the Russian Olive *Elaeagnus 'Quicksilver'*. Related to the common olive this hardier shrub or tree has flowers with an intoxicating scent followed by olive-looking fruit plus silvery leaves. The RHS lists 15 different suppliers so it shouldn't be too difficult to find.

Oh no! Whilst wandering around a local National Trust property garden section I came across a plant with lilac, daisy shaped flowers labelled *Symphyotrichum*. That's nice, I thought, just like an aster. Hang on! It is an aster. This old friend has been renamed by the DNA-gazing scientists. Sensibly, the seed suppliers have stuck to the old name.

As a little lad I would pass the butcher's shop to see the startlingly colourful pots of *Coleus* arranged artfully between the trays of pork chops and sausages in his window. Health & Safety has moved in and this easy and spectacular greenhouse foliage plant is no longer to be seen there but it has also suffered a name change and can be found labelled as *Plectranthus* or even *Solenostemon*. Again, seed and plants can be bought as *Coleus*, very sensible!

Winter is here and the garden has gone to sleep but this slumber need not be complete because a winter border facing south and with a wall or fence at



its back can be a home to plants which will shrug off the odd snowfall and, as insects are not abundant, they have fought back by being highly scented to attract the few there are. Here are a few recommendations:

Wintersweet Chimonanthus praecox 'Luteus'. Grow this sweetly scented beauty against your fence.

This Camellia starts to flower in November and to give it its full title of *Camellia sasanqua 'Norumgata'* is more resistant to frosty weather than its double cousins.

Honeysuckle in winter? Yes there's a winter flowering one with small flowers but great fragrance : *Lonicera 'Winter Beauty'* and it is very tough!

The clematis is not thought of as a winter flowerer but *Clematis cirrhosa var purpurascens 'freckles'*, despite its long name, has strongly-scented, creamy yellow flowers spotted in red throughout the coldest months.

Winter jasmine can be grown against a fence or even better planted to tumble



down a retaining wall at the front of a flower bed to brighten the short winter days. Sorry, no scent. An old favourite this and as tough as old boots.

Lastly, two small trees spring to mind, yellow witch hazels (photo on previous page - I don't like the orange ones) and another scented beauty *Prunus mume* 'Beni-chidori'. Almond-scented, rich pink flowers on a small tree, perfect!

Erica carneas (photo above) planted at the front of your winter border will complete the picture but don't forget a gentle trim after flowering (about May).

Vegetable gardeners will have a large compost heap at this time of year showing little sign of rotting down. As you add layers of green and brown waste, sprinkle with a little herbicide

free lawn fertilizer (Wilko's do one cheap) to provide a nitrogen boost and it may just keep warm during the winter. Covering with an old carpet may help too.

Garden tree of the month is the rowan (photo below). As it provides food berries for the birds in winter, it is highly recommended.

Check your garden tools for rust and sharpen them up if necessary. A quick spray with WD40 is a good idea. And,



lastly, check your wellies for wear on the soles. Frosted ground can be very unforgiving to the faller.

Best wishes for the New Year

Adam the Gardener



'To be frank, we're struggling, Mrs Peerybingle. If we have a spare penny, we pay it into the new private medical insurance. We couldn't afford the doctor for my poor wife otherwise. There must be some other way I can help my local church.'

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

It's never too late to be generous. Talk to one of the clergy about remembering Kings Norton Team Parish in your will, or enquire at the Parish Office.

Becoming An Eco Church

St Nicolas' is linked with *EcoChurch*, part of the *A Rocha* family of Christian conservation organisations. *A Rocha* describes itself as a 'Christian Charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world'. The name *A Rocha* means 'The Rock' in Portuguese.

The *A Rocha* story began in 1983 with the establishment of a field study centre in Portugal, in response to the biblical mandate to us all, of caring for the planet, God's creation. *A Rocha* has grown

into a large global family over the intervening 35 years, working in partnership with many other like-minded groups. Funding is from individual and church donation, as well as support from other charitable trusts.

Over the next few months, we will explore and develop our *EcoChurch* membership, so that it becomes more parish-wide in nature, and inclusive of each congregation. By the time you read this, we may have achieved our Bronze standard accreditation at St Nicolas'.

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NOVEMBER 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 November	Donald Robert Bird	87	SN.Bu.KN
1st November	John Patrick Quinn	56	Cr.LH
6th November	Mavis Margaret Crawford	89	In.CY
8th November	Mason Ronald Hewitt	Stillborn	SN.Bu.CY
21st November	William Coleman Power	80	Bu.CY
22nd November	Barrie Williamson Greenhill	91	SN.Cr.LH
25th November	Christopher John Watson	79	Cr.RD.In.CY

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



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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 Jan 2020

Thursday 2 January

- Kings Norton Library, re-opens
- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, St Nicolas' Place, 2.00-3.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 3 January

- Kings Norton Library, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's, (please note new time)

Saturday 4 January

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

Sunday 5 January

- Fields Millennium Green Trust '12 days of Christmas' musical walk, 2 pm. Meet in car park on Longdales Road. Hot drinks and mince pies: all welcome.

Monday 6 January

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

Tuesday 7 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10.00 am- 3.00 pm. For location, please call 07 891 214 907
- 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

Wednesday 8 January

- 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: Hippodrome Panto, Snow White

- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 9 January

- 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 10 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 11 January

- 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 for 8-11 year olds, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am

Monday 13 January

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

Tuesday 14 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10.00 am- 3.00 pm. For location, please call 07 891 214 907
- 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 15 January

- 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 16 January

- 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 17 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)
- Kings Norton Library, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's

Saturday 18 January

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

Monday 20 January

- Bournville Townswomen's Guild, Friends' Meeting House, Bournville, 2 - 4 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm

Tuesday 21 January

- 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: Games Afternoon
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 22 January

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

Thursday 23 January

- Councillors Advice Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- 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 24 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am (all walkers, especially new participants, please check with Sally on 0121 458 6019)

- Kings Norton Library, 10.15-10.45 am: Crafty Tales for the Under 5's
- Friends of Historic Kings Norton: talk by a leading Micro-Engraver, St Nicolas' Place, 7.00 pm.

Saturday 25 January

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

Monday 27 January

- 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 Baxter 'Old Buildings of Birmingham City Centre', illustrated by post cards

Tuesday 28 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork & Quilting Group, 10.00 am- 3.00 pm. For location, please call 07 891 214 907
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am -12.30 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
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Supper Club, Kings Norton Golf Club, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Wednesday 29 January

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Singalong with Norma & Olly
- 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 30 January

- 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 31 January

- 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)

Sustainability 8

I promised I would keep you updated on travelling by electric vehicle.

Local travel with home charging remains excellent. I heard a quotation a few days ago, on one of the online platforms for electric vehicle owners, that it costs only 2p per mile to run an electric car! My own calculations are not that precise, but I know it comes to about one fifth of the regular fuel costs when you are home-charging. That rises to about one third of the cost if you need to use roadside or motorway service station charging units. I haven't bought any petrol for about 3 months now, which means a considerable saving, both for the planet and for me.

On a recent trip to Somerset I encountered no difficulties with charging on either the outward or homeward journeys and one of the boons of the M5 is that there are many service stations, very equally spaced. I am additionally fortunate that my half-way point is nicely covered by Gloucester Services, the one with the farm shop and local produce eatery. The Ecotricity chargers at all the M5 service areas are powered by wind and sun, so it is about as sustainable as motorway driving can be. I needed the extra places to charge, as having the

heater or fan on does use up power quite quickly. So does driving at 65 or 70 mph. Switching off the fan or heater and keeping to a speed of 55 mph is much more economical. It rather reminded me of driving 35 years ago in a small mini estate car with a very inadequate heater. To that you have to add the fact that an electric car produces no engine heat, so there is no warmth to share with the interior of the car. I have rediscovered thick jumpers! There is the added complication that a hot battery, warmed by driving, takes up charge less well than a cold one, so charging stops may become more frequent on a longer journey.

The complicated thing has been trying to get the vehicle serviced and arranging for the repair of a small but annoying warning light. The most local Nissan specialist, large enough to be covering electric vehicles as well as diesel and petrol engines, didn't want the work; so I returned to the garage where I bought it, which is 120 miles to the south-west. I made a holiday out of it, but such a state of affairs really doesn't help the regular driver, who doesn't have the luxury of being able to take a couple of days off to get a routine car service done.

The whole thing definitely has the feeling of being part of an interesting experiment. There is a lot left to sort out before electric travel can become a reality for the majority. I spent some time chatting to fellow drivers at the garage and at the charging points, and we were all having similar thoughts: for local driving, if you have the funds to buy an electric vehicle, new or second hand, and also have off-road parking, it really is an excellent idea. In a two-car household, it is also an excellent choice for one of the vehicles. For longer distance travel, there is much more to consider. For many, the vast savings on fuel might be the driving force behind

their choice. For others it will be sustainability. For most, it will be a mixture of the two.

I am very blessed to have the backup of the camper van if I need it. I will be using it to go to Lee Abbey in January, as there is too much non-motorway and rural driving (not to mention the need of heater) to risk getting stuck with no charge. My next big challenge will to travel to the Isle of Man in February by electric vehicle. I will report back. Assuming, that is, I manage to get back!

Sylvia Fox

Independence for Adults of All Ages

I am writing with the background of a lengthy period of professional experience working with older and more vulnerable adults, as well as family experience.

All of our home electricity supplies come from the company Western Power Distribution (WPD). Whoever our chosen energy provider is, they get the actual electricity supply from WPD. (www.westernpower.co.uk).

If you, or someone you know, relies on electricity for medical equipment, or has a communication need, is very ill or is disabled, you or they may need extra support during a power cut. You can register yourself or the person you know on Western Power's Priority Services Register (PSR) by simply calling 0800 096 3080 or by visiting www.westernpower.co.uk/PSR

Sylvia Fox

Climate Crisis

Six steps towards making fossil fuels history

In shouting ‘system change not climate change’, young people understand that the 3-4° warmer world we’re headed for would be far more painful, costly and disruptive than any short-term costs or inconvenience we face from taking rapid, bold action. But the who, what, when, where and how of systems change can seem overwhelming. How do we transform a society whose fossil fuel habits have been entrenched for decades?

The next step is to get smarter in telling governments precisely what we want. System change doesn’t need to be daunting, or politically difficult. We just need to focus on the pinch points that will allow us to rapidly replace fossil fuel technologies. Here are six steps to decarbonising the system for good.

Stop wasting energy

We could power the planet two times over with the energy we waste burning fossil fuels each and every day. Even our most modern gas-fired power stations still waste around 40% of the gas they burn.

The poor design of our transport systems, buildings, and appliances also waste vast amounts of energy.

It is possible to dramatically reduce this wastage, and therefore our global energy consumption, within

decades. Roughly 70% of global energy consumption is not subject to mandatory efficiency standards. There’s huge untapped potential in merely regulating energy efficiency more effectively.

Shifting away from thermal power to renewables eliminates the vast quantities of gas that ends up as thermal waste heat. We can also design and retrofit buildings to capture and conserve energy, shift to public transport, and invest in energy efficient circular economies.

These two elements are interlinked. The more we reduce our energy consumption, the faster our renewable energy systems will be able to replace fossil fuels. This will help the one billion people who still don't have access to mains electricity and the nearly three billion that still cook on open stoves with wood and cattle dung, as well as the additional two billion people who will be joining the human population by 2050.

Tax greenhouse gases

We waste energy because it's far too cheap. Prices are key to changing behaviour and investment decisions. We need to raise the price of fossil fuels so that polluters pay. Governments could introduce a US\$100 per ton CO₂ tax now, rising as necessary to limit global heating below dangerous levels.

Such taxes, combined with the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, could raise trillions of dollars for governments to put to great use. We could spend this money on accelerating climate action, improving energy efficiency, scaling renewable energy, and restoring natural habitats.

Make local public transport free

Our private car culture has devastating impacts on society and the planet, even if they're electric. We can change the travel patterns of every generation to come. As well as massive investment in safe walking and cycling routes, we should campaign to make local public transport free.

We also need to reduce how much we fly. A business class round trip from London to New York can cause as much global heating as a year's worth of a flexitarian diet. We should learn to fly only as last resort, and invest the money we save to connect with people and places in other ways.

Of course, many people are already doing this. Roughly 1% of people in England take 20% of overseas flights, so we should pressure governments to introduce a frequent flyer levy that makes sure that those who pollute the most pay the most.

Quit trading cheap stuff

Much of the stuff we buy isn't fit for purpose. Many clothes are made with fabric so thin that they only last a few months, while electronics are often designed to fail after a few years.

These poor quality products waste energy and carbon, and pollute our environment when we inevitably throw them away. We need strong new regulations based on life cycle analysis that prevent companies from selling substandard stuff in search of profit.

We also don't need half the things we're encouraged to buy in the first place. While it's governments that are responsible for implementing system change, and corporations that pollute the most, people still have power, even beyond voting or marching. As well as ensuring that governments strongly regulate advertising, we can choose to stop contributing to a consumer culture.

Planetary diet, rewilded grasslands

The livestock industry currently accounts for about 15% of global emissions. It's also an inefficient use of land: meat, aquaculture, eggs, and dairy use 83% of the world's farmland, despite providing only 37% of our protein and 18% of our calories.

To redress this balance and cut emissions, we can shift to a diet rich in vegetables and grains,

where sustainable meat is an occasional treat. Carbon taxes could also cover meat and dairy production, with funds used to help farmers to make the transition as the global grazing stock falls.

For example, we could subsidise farmers to rewild newly freed up grasslands. This would create new, valuable carbon sinks, and help threatened wildlife recover.

Keep shouting for a new political economy

We need to give our political leaders the courage to make bold decisions. Above all we must ask specific things of our political leaders and direct our energies towards those that will make the biggest difference. We must be clear in our demands for a new low-carbon political economy that makes fossil fuels history and renewable energy the future.

Stephen Peake, Senior Lecturer,
The Open University

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The General Election

The dramatic outcome of the recent General Election deserves comment, even though the Parish Magazine maintains a policy of strict political neutrality.

The parish of Kings Norton is overlapped by three parliamentary constituencies: Birmingham Selly Oak, Birmingham Northfield and Bromsgrove. Until recently, the two Birmingham seats were held by Labour, while Bromsgrove was represented by the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid.

On the night of 12th December, Steve McCabe held on to Selly Oak with a majority of 12,414, but in Northfield, the part of the parish which includes the historic centre, Richard Burden lost to Conservative newcomer Gary Sambrook by 1,640 votes. Sajid Javid, meanwhile, held Bromsgrove with a majority of 23,106.

It is not just maps that overlap. Priorities, too, can be shared. Through many decades of

social and economic change, Kings Norton has become a parish with a strong sense of its responsibility to the most vulnerable within its boundaries, of whom there are many thousands. The roots of that understanding go deep into the Christian Scriptures which we study in church each week. Here we find insistent reminders of God's bias for the poor, the marginalised, the oppressed and the foreigner; of his anger at injustice; and of his unconditional love for those who feel themselves to be unlovable or unwanted. To be a follower of Christ is to share these perspectives.

These are the priorities which lie at the heart of our church's life. Our readers, I am sure, would love to hear more about how they overlap with those of our local political representatives and their supporters. Local stories are always welcome in these pages, especially stories of hope. If you have one to tell, please contact us.

The Editor



Saint Nicolas' Place
81 The Green
B38 8RU

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

Weddings, functions, corporate
& community events.

www.saintnicolasplace.co.uk
0121 458 1223

The World Day of Prayer



This is the name by which we are learning to call the former *Women's World Day of Prayer* and the name by which almost all other countries call the movement.

The strap line tells much. The funds raised by the movement, mostly in the collections at the annual church services, are directed to many charities which support women and families. Here are a few examples:

USPG, India: Projects to reduce poverty and debt slavery in Dalit and Adivasi communities.

Emmanuel International, Uganda: providing education in menstrual hygiene and thus enabling 4200 girls to attend school.

Christian Blind Mission: treating women in Tanzania affected by obstetric fistula.

Embrace the Middle East: workshops for marginalised women in the Middle East.

Hope UK: training a volunteer to help equip young people to make drug-free choices.

It is much more than the annual service, which is held on the first Friday of March each year, and charitable giving, though. It is a 24/7 prayer movement. The steering group who lead the local services (our area includes Kings Norton, Cotteridge, Stirchley, West Heath and Longbridge) are hoping to pray specifically for the WDP movement on the first Friday of each month.

We don't meet at a specific time or place but connect mainly by email and, occasionally, good old-fashioned letters. We pray at whatever time or place is best for each of us. Please do join us if you would like to. The list of charities above will make a very good prayer focus, together with various aspects of the country of Zimbabwe, the country whose Christian women have written the 2020 service.

Do also add the services into your diary for 2020: March 6th. We will be at the Church of the Ascension in Stirchley at 1.30 pm, and at St Nicolas' Church in Kings Norton at 8.00 pm. There will also be a morning Bible study at St Nicolas' that day.

In addition, there is a three-day Prayer Conference organised by WDP (Saturday evening meal to Sunday lunch). In 2020 it takes place at King's Park in Northampton (King's Park Road, NN3 6LL) and the conference's

name is Y-Pray. The first two years of Y-Pray had an age limit (18-40), but in 2019 that limit was removed. This meant that I was able to attend and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It usually takes place at the very beginning of May (1st-3rd May 2020) and offers times of quiet, talks, creative activity and much sharing and fellowship. The best way to find out more is to visit the website (www.wwdp.org.uk), to phone 01892 541411 or to email the office at office@wwdp.org.uk. The cost will be about £150 per person.



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NOVEMBER 2019 BAPTISMS

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 Deon Christian Ronnie Reid
 Rebecca Anna Vicky Jane Phillips

"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. "

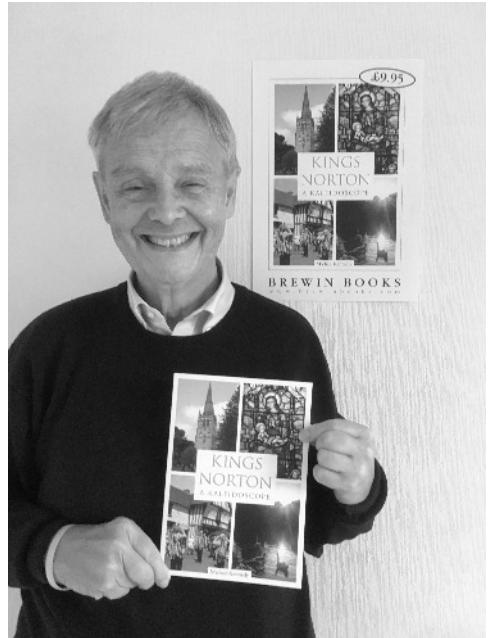
The Baptism Service, Common Worship

New Kings Norton book flies off the shelves

Only six weeks after its launch in mid-October, the first allocation of Michael Kennedy's new book 'Kings Norton: A Kaleidoscope' was a sell-out!

A total of 250 copies had been sold by the end of November, by the author himself and the shop managed by the Friends of Historic Kings Norton (FHKN) in St Nicolas' Place, where one helper commented 'It has created a real buzz, and in the first few weeks it was flying off the shelves.' Arrangements had to be made with the publisher, Brewin Books, to make more copies available to meet demand for Christmas.

'Local people have shown just how much they are keen to learn about the parish's remarkable heritage,' said Michael Kennedy. 'The rapid rate of sales has far exceeded my expectations, and my thanks are due not only to all



those who have bought copies, but to the Church and the FHKN for their support ... and to the Editor of the parish magazine, in which the book has been extensively promoted.'

All the author's profits from the book will go to the St Nicolas' Church Restoration Fund.

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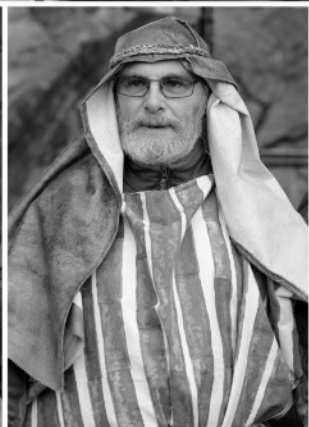
The Answer's Yes!

kingsnortongolfclub.co.uk/weddings





To Bethlehem! The Christmas story as told in four performances by the people of Kings Norton in and around St Nicolas' Church on 14th December 2019.





Cock-a-doodle-gone

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

The eagle-eyed among you (or should I say cockerel-, or even rooster-eyed?) will have noticed something missing from the top of our spire. Our cockerel weathervane and the orb it stands on have been removed during the work on our tower and spire. The weathervane and spire are local landmarks that can be seen from all over Kings Norton. A constant reminder that links us to church, parish and our community. I always know I'm home when I see it if I've been away.

Our tower and spire are sadly in a poor condition and as a result have had to undergo emergency repairs to make them safe until further work can be undertaken to ensure the restoration of this iconic structure. The cockerel itself also needs restoration and re-gilding before it is returned to its usual position.

We know very little about the

history of the cockerel.

Cockerels have been used as weathervanes on churches for centuries. This is probably because of the story from Luke's Gospel in which Jesus said to Peter, one of the disciples, 'I tell you, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me.' As long ago as the 9th century, Pope Nicholas 1st ordered the figure to be

placed on every church steeple. Another theory is that the cockerel represents the vigilance of the clergy as they call the people to prayer.

We don't know when ours first appeared at St Nicolas' Church. The earliest reference we have found so far is a line drawing of the church dating from 1807 which



'Our tower and spire are sadly in a poor condition and as a result have had to undergo emergency repairs'

shows the cockerel clearly. That would make it over two hundred years old! We don't know if it has been replaced since then, but we do know it was taken down briefly during the 1950s and again in the early 1980s. Perhaps you know more of its story and can fill us in. Do get in touch if you can.

The spire does look very odd without its weather vane, but then often we don't really notice things until they change, move or disappear. Don't get me started, for instance, on the mysterious case of the disappearing Kings Norton litter bins; but that is a story for another day.

We've had lots of interest in the story of the cockerel, as people have been wondering what has happened to it. Somebody even thought it had been removed to make way for a telephone mast!



Sadly, it won't be returned for some time. Money needs to be raised to complete the work on the tower. We need to undertake that work and restore the weather vane before it returns. So, for a while, we will be missing our local landmark. But it will return, more splendid than ever. You can help by joining in our fundraising events or by donating, if you are able. Please go to **www.justgiving.com/knpcc** to donate online.

Pauline Weaver

Enough Winter Blues!

Aware that there is much to be gloomy about at this time of year, Eddie offers a few cheerful memories from his extensive supply.



I always find January and February to be rather dismal months. The festivities are over and a New Year is upon us. Perhaps you agree?

As I have just turned 80, it is time to indulge myself and to recall some of the seasonal moments I experienced while at sea. They always bring a smile to my face. Maybe they will make you smile too.

While serving on the *Canberra*, I spent almost two years working in

the Main Bar. This was virtually the head office for all the other bars on the ship. We did not deal with passengers at all and we administered many aspects of the ship, including the store rooms containing all the stocks of alcoholic beverages. We also looked after their bar accounts and book keeping.

One Christmas Eve, when we were *en route* to Australia, the Head Barman came out of the office and said, 'I think we might enjoy a bottle of champagne.' His suggestion led to an impromptu party as people started dropping in from all over the ship. I ended up in the telephone exchange replacing Thelma, who was on duty that night. She had got wind of the party and asked if she could come for a drink.

Some years previously, when working as a 'bell boy', I had learned how to operate the switchboard, which is why I volunteered. A few passengers rang down for tea and

toast, or was it cocoa and biscuits? I think Mr & Mrs Brown in Cabin B30 didn't get quite what was ordered from the night watchman service on that occasion. Champagne can cause some confused moments at times!

I eventually got back to the party, which was now in full swing. Suddenly, there was a knock at the door and there stood 'Penny', the social hostess. 'I am the Christmas Fairy,' she announced. She needn't have told us. Her costume said it all. Unfortunately, the fairy tripped over the step and fell flat on her face in a cloud of sequins and skirts. 'Oh dear,' she said as she struggled to her feet with the help of a few bystanders, 'I've broken my wand!'. Not surprisingly, hilarious laughter ensued.

I managed to keep tabs on all the bottles of champagne that were consumed that night as guests kept insisting on buying more. I recollect that the merrymakers got through fifteen. Such fun!

Christmas is celebrated worldwide, even in countries like Japan, which is not a Christian society, but rather the home of Shinto and Buddhism. Nevertheless, a coffee bar I used to frequent in Kobe had a snow scene on the front window complete with a Santa. A sign in large, white letters

read, 'Fresh Soft Christmas Bums'. *(Not a printing error! Editor).*

I have fond memories of Christmas spent with dear friends in Melbourne, Australia, including a drive into the outback to see a charity trip for children and a hay ride on a trailer full of hay ricks pulled by a tractor. Though the temperature was 40°C or more (that's 104° in old money), Father Christmas appeared with gifts for all the kids. It all seemed a bit bizarre.

One last, amazing episode occurred when I was serving on a container ship. We decided to have a fancy dress party. There were five crew wives on board and they really made a great effort with the costumes, as did the rest of the ship's company. The Leading Steward and I dressed up as Salvation Army Girls complete with bonnets, raincoats, stockings and flat shoes. We carried a banner which read 'Buy a War Cry or get done!' and we managed to collect £12 pounds for a seamen's charity by selling pages we had cut out of a newspaper!

So, dear readers, I hope I have made you smile and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Eddie Matthews

CONTACTS

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

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

THE MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector	The Revd Larry Wright
Assistant Rector	The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu
Parish Lay Minister	Pauline Weaver
Curate (Pioneer)	The Revd Catherine Matlock
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Methodist Minister	The Revd Nick Jones
Readers	David Ash, Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Lay Preacher	Steve Wright
Music Ministry	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Chris Gadd

THE CHURCH WARDENS

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

OTHER CONTACTS

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

MUSIC

Church music, the choir and handbells are overseen by Sylvia Fox, who can be contacted via the Parish Office. Choir practices are on Fridays: juniors 6.30 - 7.45 pm, adults 8.00 - 9.00 pm. Handbell practices take place on most Mondays 3.00-4.00 pm and ring from number notation. Please phone the Office before joining us for the first time to check that we are meeting.

BELL RINGING

Catherine Taylor

Bells are rung for the Sunday service at St Nicolas' Church from 10.00 - 10.30 am. Ringers of all abilities are welcome. Newcomers are particularly encouraged. If you are interested in finding out what bell ringing is all about, please contact us in advance via the Parish Office so that we can arrange your welcome.

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Scouts and Cubs

198th Birmingham St Nicolas'

Alan Haynes (Group Scout Leader) 07 534 615 489

198thscouts@gmail.com

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

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

Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm

Scouts (10½-14): 8 pm

Guides and Brownies

Rainbows: Mondays 5.30 - 6.30 pm

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

Brownies: Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm

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

Guides and Brownies

at Hawkesley Church Centre

Rainbows (1st Kings Norton): Mondays 5.30 pm

Brownies (259th Birmingham): Wednesdays 6.30 pm

Guides (141st Birmingham): Thursdays 7.00 pm

www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

Headteacher: Vicky Sumner

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Winter Dreams



Tchaikovsky:
Romeo and Juliet
Symphony No 1

Berlioz:
Les Nuits d'Été

Eroica Camerata
Miriam Ridgway, soprano
Peter Marks, conductor

Saturday 18th January 2020 at 7.30pm
St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton
www.eroica.org.uk