



KINGS NORTON
TEAM PARISH

THE MAGAZINE
FOR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

January 2018

£1



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

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Copy for Publication

Please email items for
publication to:

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

Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the
February 2018 edition must
reach the Editor by midnight on
Friday 12th January.

Items for inclusion in the March
2018 edition must reach the
Editor by midnight on **Friday 9th
February.**



Kings Nortonians are a hardy lot. During the night of 9th-10th December, as our cover photo records, Birmingham was blanketed in enough snow to deter all but the most foolhardy from venturing outside. Those who had to go anywhere did so on foot, wrapped in their warmest outdoor gear, along roads empty of traffic.

As those of us leading the morning service at St Nicolas' that Sunday shook the snow from our boots in the church porch, we wondered quite how small our congregation would be. This was the morning of the annual Patronal Festival, our celebration of St Nicolas of Myra. It's a major date in the diary in these parts, not least for hundreds of local families who, were it not for the generosity of St Nicolas' parishioners, face the probability of a Christmas without presents for the children. In past years, our Toy Service has brought in donations of hundreds of gifts. Would this be the year when winter defeated us?

We needn't have worried. As the church filled with boot-stomping, umbrella-shaking, runny-nosed worshippers, a congregation of 5 quickly grew to 60 or more. And when the time came for those presents to be brought to the foot of the Christmas tree, we were caught up in another Kings Norton tradition, that of having to sing the same hymn over and over again until the mountain of gifts was complete.

On behalf of all those children who received a Christmas present they would not otherwise have had, thank you; and a very happy New Year!

The Editor

FROM THE RECTOR

1918 : A Year To Remember

2018 marks the culmination of four years of centennial commemorations marking the beginning and ending of the First World War. The many moving tributes, services, art displays and other events have recalled for a new generation the sacrifice of so many in the first ever global war conducted on an industrial scale. It was called the “War to end all wars” from the title of a collection of essays published in 1918 by H.G. Wells: an ideal which, sadly, failed to materialise.

Occasionally, I have listened to episodes of one of the BBC Radio 4 contributions commemorating the 1914-18 conflict, *Home Front*. This series of 15 minute dramas charts the lives of ordinary people in Britain trying to maintain family and community life back home while the war raged across The Channel. The series is a timely reminder of the social, political and economic upheavals taking place alongside the war. So, while we will continue rightly and solemnly to commemorate the final year and the Armistice of 1918, we should also recall other events of that year which were helping to form modern Britain.

On the 6th February 1918, The



Representation of the People Act gave women the vote provided they were over 30 and were (or were married to) a local government elector. It also removed most property qualifications, giving all adult (over-21) male resident householders the vote, and required elections to be restricted to a single day. Many conscientious objectors were barred from voting until 5 years after the end of the war.

These changes were radical at the time and came from the concerted efforts of people like the Suffragettes and other reformers, who believed democracy should progressively include all citizens in the choice of government to lead Britain. While still not providing universal suffrage, it was a major step forward for women in particular.

On 1 April 1918, The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service were merged to form the Royal Air Force. The Women's Royal Air Force was also founded to provide mechanics. Once again, women were being given opportunities their mothers would not recognise. A hundred years on, women in the RAF and other branches of the armed services, are an integral part of our nation's defences.

The Education Act of 1918 raised the school leaving age in England and Wales to fourteen. Incidents of child labour fell and as a nation we began to take seriously the education, emotional and spiritual needs of adolescents. But it would not be until the 1944 Education Act that all children were promised an education between the ages of 5-16.

The year also saw the devastating outbreak of the so-called Spanish Flu pandemic across the world which killed an estimated 50 million people. Many died in Birmingham and there are graves at Brandwood End cemetery of some of its victims.

The Armistice to end the war came in November. Germany signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railway carriage outside Compiègne in France. On that same day George Edwin Ellison becomes the last British soldier to be killed in the war, at 9.30am on 11th November while on patrol near Mons in Belgium. The total number of military and civilian casualties in World War I was around 40 million. In total there were 20 million deaths and 21 million wounded in the First World War. George Ellis was one of the last of 9.7 million military personnel killed. Civilian casualties are estimated to have been 10 million. Back on the Home Front, democratic representation advanced further when on 21st November the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918 received Royal Assent, giving women over 21 the right to stand as a Member of Parliament.

Christmas 1918 and New Year 1919 must have had a special poignancy for millions across the globe. The war was over but nations were shattered, families and livelihoods decimated. Society in Britain would never be the same and this included the churches.

It was on Christmas Eve December 1918 that the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at King's College, Cambridge. It would become one of the most popular church services in the world, broadcast to

millions. This mixture of readings from the Old and New Testament interspersed with favourite carols and music captured the hope of that post-war generation. While the world was devastated by war, something about the readings which told the story of God's dealings with the world and the promise of a Saviour who would inaugurate a new vision for humankind spoke to the hearts of many who were reeling in the aftermath of so much bloodshed.

As people of faith, we still see war and destruction around us and yet we gather week by week to proclaim a new kingdom of peace. We are seen as deluded by some, but we go on

praying and working for that better world and there are times when we see glimpses of what the world could be like as we witness the slow and halting progress of peoples and nations towards a more humane and just existence. None of us reading this article will live to see 2118, but I predict that faith, in one form or another, will be part of life and that churches, small and great, will still be playing their part.

From all at Kings Norton Team Ministry we wish you and your loved ones well for 2018!

Revd Larry Wright



Harry L Marks



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WEMBLEY WIZARD TO WEDDING CLERK

Dinah's Story

It's perhaps hard to believe that the softly-spoken, unassuming lady who books couples in for weddings at St Nicolas' Church, and quietly dispenses advice on the processes of the church ceremony, once helped England to a dramatic victory against West Germany at Wembley. But that indeed is Dinah O'Flaherty's story.

Everyone knows that England beat West Germany at Wembley in June 1966. But actually, it was the second time it had happened in a matter of weeks, because in March that year England Ladies' Hockey team had also defeated their German rivals at the famous stadium. Indeed, it was Dinah who made a result-changing intervention to ensure the victory; in the words of the report in the *Observer* newspaper "She flung herself at the ball almost on the line to save a seemingly certain goal." And she wasn't even the goalkeeper!

It wasn't Dinah's debut for England, but it was the first time she had experienced the ear-splitting occasion that was the England Ladies team's annual match at Wembley. These days, ladies' hockey has become one of those sports where the authorities spot and nurture talented players from a very young age, putting them through training camps, tactical talks and even psychological profiling. It is a relatively high profile sport, and international ladies' teams regularly play in front of sizeable crowds.



It wasn't like that in Dinah's heyday as a player. It was the most genteel, low profile of sports, in which, if you had talent and ambition, it was almost entirely up to you to fulfil them. Equally, even at a reasonably high

level, you often played in front of a 'crowd' smaller than the number of players.

But there was one exception every year: the Wembley match. Only once a year did England Ladies play at Wembley and it was the greatest day of the year for hockey players and the girls and ladies who followed the sport. It was a national occasion, partly because BBC TV chose to broadcast it. Its significance was helped by the magic of Wembley, then truly only used for very special occasions.

The excitement was also down to the crowd. By common consent, the noise made by some 60,000 over-excited females was even more deafening than that made by the FA Cup Final crowds. It was ear-splitting even when you watched the game on television. When you were there, you could barely function for the din!

Dinah, even then a calm, quiet individual, does admit to mind-jarring nerves as she and her fellow players waited in the Wembley tunnel to come out onto the pitch. "You could hear the noise even down there," she says: "And of course it was even more overwhelming when you emerged into the daylight. But once the formalities were over and you started to knock the ball around with your team-mates, you had to regard it as just another hockey match."



She never really had any doubts that she would reach the top. She started very young indeed, her interest in hockey developing when her mother, a successful player at County level, used to take her around to matches. There's a charming picture of Dinah wielding a hockey stick at the age of three (above): indeed, in a profile of her in *Hockey Field* magazine as she started her England career, the reporter says "*The photograph of so small a child showing the essential basic power movements for hitting a ball is surely remarkable.*"

Her earliest memories of wielding the



stick are of doing so in her back garden in Warboys, the Huntingdonshire (now Cambridgeshire) village where she was born. "I got fed up of keeping the ball on the ground dribbling it around the plant pots, so on occasions I would try to play a lifting shot, to the detriment of the dining-room windows," she remembers. Her talent was great enough for her to be playing with the Warboys Ladies' team at the age of just nine!

At her secondary school, Ramsey Abbey, she developed her skills to the extent that by the age of 15 she was playing at county level. After school, Dinah went to Bedford College of

Physical Education, where she played at a much faster pace and in a much more competitive environment. Her first teaching job was at a girls' grammar school in Ipswich: shortly after she started there she was selected to play right back for the East region. She was first selected for England at the age of 21 in 1964, becoming a permanent fixture in the team for several years, not only playing in internationals at home, but in tournaments abroad, making 16 appearances in all.

Having married her husband David in 1967, she had her first child Caroline in 1969. That happy experience naturally restricted her hockey-playing options

at the topmost level, though she did play for the England B team subsequently.

In 1971 there was a development that finally brought her England career to a close, though it was very positive and exciting development. Husband David, by then a marketing executive with the Cadbury empire, was invited to become the company's regional manager in Africa, so the family moved to Nigeria. In a completely new life there, she and David had two further children, but hockey still remained in her thoughts. She couldn't resist an invitation to play for the Nigerian state side, in which she stood out not just because of her talent, but because of her fair looks and blonde hair!

The family came back to England in 1977 when David took up a position at the Cadbury headquarters in Bournville and the family settled in Kings Norton: they live in the same house today. She resumed hockey with Moseley Ladies and then played for Bournville Ladies until she reached the age of 65. She still dabbles on occasions, playing what's called 'walking hockey'. For many years she and David, also a hockey player, have always played an informal match with other locals on Boxing Day on Kings Norton Playing Fields.

Soon after coming to Kings Norton from Africa, she also resumed her



career in education, teaching at Hawkesley Infant School initially as a supply teacher and then full-time. She spent 17 years there, (some of her pupils were amongst those who came in to St Nicolas' for wedding advice). After classroom teaching became a bit too demanding, she went to Birmingham City University, where she mentored students who were preparing for careers in teaching. Her abiding joy now is her grandchildren.

The quality of Dinah's advice on weddings recently had the best of testimonies. She and David celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a few months ago!

Dinah never regrets coming to Kings Norton, or staying here. "It's a good place, full of friendly, sociable people. It's also a delight to be at St Nicolas', helping people with their first steps into marriage."

Michael Kennedy

Hopeful New Year?

The Thoughts of a Lay Minister

January is a time of year that is all about endings and new beginnings. We look back over the past year, the highs and the lows and we look forward to the new year with plans, hopes and dreams perhaps even the thought of a fresh start.

Which all sounds good. But sadly, the coming of a new year isn't always like that. Introspection can lead to feelings of failure and the future may seem bleak.

Recently, I was at a meeting and we were talking about young people in the area and how to help them move onto university, find work or access further training. One of the speakers was from an organisation which helps young people to realise their potential and to help them get a place at university. He said that, for many of the young people he was dealing with, there was "a lack of aspiration and hope". I found that really difficult to hear, that young people in our community have no hope. That is a real challenge to each and every one of us

He went on to explain that for many there was no vision of a "life beyond

the postcode". Many had never left the area or saw any future

beyond it. He added that some also lacked what he termed the "cultural capital", that is, the extra life skills and experiences that help us to open doors to new opportunities. Things like having visited new places or having had new experiences that enable us to answer questions in an interview or during conversation. It may be that some of the life skills which we often take for granted are missing.

But the new year isn't just challenging for these young people. New Year and winter can be difficult times for the lonely, the bereaved and the ill. It can be a dark time, what my mother used to call the "dull and dreary days" after Christmas. But it is a time when we can all help: a card through the door, the offer of a cup of coffee and a chat or a lift to church can all help to bring a little light into the darkness.



Our challenge, and part of my planning for the year ahead, is two fold. Firstly, to find a way to encourage these young people to see that they are valued, are important and have a future. How can we, as churches at the heart of our local communities, help to give these young people a sense of purpose and a sense of hope?

Secondly, for all of us to extend that

hand of friendship and the light that even the simplest action can give by reaching out to those around us who really need to know that hope exists, that we care and that the future can be bright.

Wishing you all a very bright New Year.

Pauline Weaver

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It's easy and inexpensive. Prices start at £10 for a quarter-page advert for one month and a discount is available if you pay for a year in advance. You can even pay online. You'll find all the details on the parish website at www.kingsnorton.org.uk/magazine or contact the Editor for more information.

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No Let-up in the Fundraising Effort

A number of events during the Christmas season contributed a significant amount in the effort to raise £90,000 to repair part of the roof of St Nicolas' Church and enable the creation of a much-needed Toy Library for local families.

More than £300 was raised during a Bake Sale at the Craft Festival in November, with cakes contributed by several local amateur bakers. On Saturday 2nd December around 50 people attended a concert by the Wolverhampton Brass Band, a thoroughly enjoyable event, with superb playing accompanied by several touches of humour. The Band had recently starred in *Brassed Off* at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The event and an interval raffle raised a further £400 for the Roof Fund.

On Saturday 16th December it was the turn of the Bournville Young Singers, who presented a delightful evening of seasonal music with some talented young singers.

As this magazine was published, the much-anticipated 'Sponsor a Carol' event was due to take place in the

Church on Friday 5th January, with participants paying a minimum of £3 to hear their favourite carol or hymn.

These events followed the delivery during November of the four-page leaflet that has been designed to communicate the significance of the roof repair and the proposed Toy Library. All residences within a half-mile radius of the church received a copy.

If you'd like to donate to the Appeal directly, specific Pledge Cards are available from the Church Roof Appeal display that is located immediately inside the church. There are also collection buckets, which are becoming a familiar sight as the Appeal progresses. Donations can also be made through our page on the 'Just Giving' website on www.justgiving.com/knpcc. You can also donate by text, by texting **STNR17 £10 to 70070**.

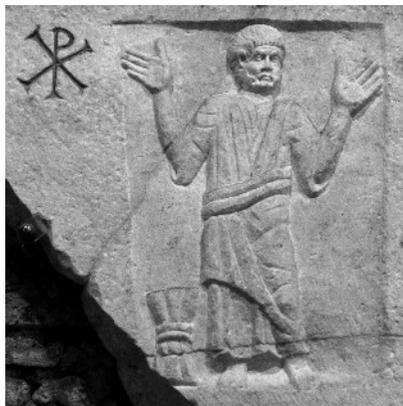
If you'd like to play a more active role in the fundraising effort, or have any ideas for events, please don't hesitate to contact Julie Hill at the Parish Office on 0121 458 3289.

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1ST - 4TH NOVEMBER 2018

Kings Norton Team Ministry invites you to a meeting on **Sunday 21st January 2018** at **12.30 pm** in the Lady Chapel of **St. Nicolas' Church** on Kings Norton Green to hear more about the Parish Pilgrimage to Rome at All Saints' tide next year. This pilgrimage will be an exciting, packed, spiritual 4 days exploring both the well known, and more hidden, parts of this amazing city, from which Christianity spread across Europe. Fifteen places will be available.



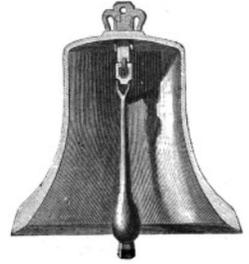
More details will be available soon. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, speak to the Reverend Larry Wright or to Thelma Mitchell.



NEWS OF GAIL ROGERS

The Right Reverend Anne Hollinghurst, the Bishop of Aston, has announced that our Ordinand, Gail Rogers, will be serving her Curacy in the Parish of St Francis, Bournville. Her Ordination will take place at Birmingham's St Philip's Cathedral on 24th June 2018. Gail's last Sunday in this parish will be on Sunday 13th May. Please pray for Gail, Karl, Matthew, Oliver and Jacob as they prepare for their new home and ministry in Bournville.

The View From The Bell Tower



It has been a busy year up the tower, maintaining our ten bells in good condition. As the winter draws in, the atmospheric conditions change and this has an effect on both ropes and general fittings. With help from Taylors Bell Founders, a useful afternoon was recently spent in the bell chamber re-adjusting the clappers. We cleared a cupboard of fifty years' worth of old ropes and ancient DIY equipment.

This year we lost our former steeple



keeper of forty years, Jim Dunn, aged 93. A member of our Sunday Service band since 1970, he rang with us until last September and is sorely missed. His contribution until such an age demonstrates that ringing our tower bells is less a matter of physical strength than of skill and, in Jim's instance, years of experience too. Fortunately, Brian Wevill, with his background in the building trade, now provides professional advice on our installation. The latest job has been fitting muffles to the clappers to ring half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday. This was the first time our bells had been heard half-muffled since ringing out the old year in 2010.

As a Sunday Service band we are consolidating our skills, and have welcomed new comers into our ranks in the last twelve months. We enjoyed ringing on Christmas Day and look forward to the challenges of ringing our fine ring of ten bells in the year ahead.

Catherine Taylor, Tower Captain



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Marriage and baptism enquiries are welcomed at St Nicolas' Church on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8pm.



FOODBANK QUIZ

How much do you think you know about Foodbanks? Here's a New Year quiz to test your knowledge. You'll find the answers on page 54.

1. When did foodbanks first open in the UK?
 - A) A couple of years ago
 - B) About 5 years ago
 - C) Over 10 years ago
2. How do clients access the foodbank?
 - A) Referred by a professional (e.g. a social worker)
 - B) Just walk in
 - C) Phone up and book
3. How often can clients come to the foodbank?
 - A) Once a week
 - B) Once a month
 - C) Once in two months
 - D) Whenever they are in need
4. How much food does a client get?
 - A) One day's worth
 - B) Three day's worth
 - C) One week's worth
 - D) Whatever they need
5. Why do most people come to the foodbank?
 - A) Benefit changes
 - B) Benefit delays
 - C) Low income
 - D) Debt
6. Where does the food come from?
 - A) Donated by supermarkets
 - B) Donated by the public
 - C) Donated by government
7. How many clients has the *B30 Foodbank* seen in the last 12 months (it's open two afternoons per week)?
 - A) About 1,000
 - B) About 3,000
 - C) About 6,000
8. Myth or fact?
 - A) "People can just turn up at the foodbank whenever they like. They can spend their money on booze and fag and then get free food"
 - B) "Foodbanks feed those people who have huge families and just go on having children."
 - C) "It's up to individuals to get out of poverty. It's their own fault."

Sylvia Fox

Fairway Day Centre Update

Our article last month about Birmingham City Council's determination to close the Fairway Day Centre, at the western end of the parish of Kings Norton, has attracted a great deal of concern and has been read by hundreds of people, in this magazine and online. So far, however, there is no sign that the Council is prepared to rethink its decision. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Readers of the Facebook page of the *Save The Fairway Centre* campaign will be aware that one of the vulnerable people whose lives will be affected for the worse by the closure has filed a legal challenge. The campaigners write, "We never wanted things to go this way but the disgraceful actions of [Councillor] Paulette Hamilton and [Council Officer] Graeme Betts have made this course of action inevitable."

At the end of last month's article, we offered both Councillors the opportunity to explain their point of view in this magazine. At the time of going to print, we have not heard from any representative of Birmingham City Council; but the offer still stands.

Meanwhile, correspondence between the Council's new Head of Services, Ms Mais-Rose, and the campaign group can be read on the "Save Fairway Day Centre From Closure" page on

Facebook. The latest exchange of letters between Ms Mais-Rose and Wendy Collymore, the Chair of the campaign, makes it very clear that each side holds a starkly different view of how the current situation has been reached.

The Fairway Day Centre has played a vital role in the life of this parish for the past 40 years. For this reason, we will continue to keep this issue in the public eye until some kind of resolution has been reached.

The Editor

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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, knhs@lagonda.org.uk

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 a monthly walk. 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 £7.50 per annum or £5.00 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 for the benefit of the community. 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 Society John Bowen (Chairman) 0121 458 3747

Our origins go back to Kings Norton Youth Fellowship. We still have a few who remember those days but most are much younger. We normally meet at Kings Norton Tennis Club on the fourth Friday of the month for a bite to eat, a chat and general socialising. We have the occasional walk, quiz or speaker or best of all, we organise our own entertainment. If you know a member tell them you would like to come, or call the number above.

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.

Women's Institute (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, 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.

SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUPS

U3A (University of the Third Age) *www.u3a.org.uk, knu3a.membership@gmail.com, John Taylor 0121 458 6397*

Kings Norton's local U3A was successfully established in the first few months of this year. 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, 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, Alan Spencer 0121 459 7650*

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 from Thursday March 16th 2017.

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 Birmingham St. Mary's Hospice

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

We are a local group of volunteers who raise money to care for people living with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers in Birmingham and Sandwell. We organise 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. If you can spare a few hours to help, please contact us. We meet on the second Monday of each month at Kings Norton Bowling Club.

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 Bowling Club, 129 Wychall Lane, Birmingham B38 8AH, 0121 458 1570

We are long-established sports and social club, providing members with friendly company, a bowling green and a range of indoor activities.

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.

Multi-Sports Extra Gemma 07 737 415 737

A locally-based company that develops and manages a range of sporting activities to help bring people together and enhance their quality of life. Following the completion of its free weekly Learn to Skate activity in Kings Norton Park, further events are being planned and will be announced in due course.

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

A wide range of books, CDs and materials for all ages including community information and local history. There is also a meeting room for hire and internet access. The Library organises a range of regular events including activities for children, reading and writing groups and our regular coffee mornings. A number of other organisations hold events at the Library.

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 Roadhouse Wharfedale Leisure Complex, Lifford Lane, B30 3DZ,
www.theroadhousebirmingham.com, 0121 246 2273

We are a successful live music venue, set up by local volunteers in 1999 after the closure of the Breedon Bar. With a capacity of 250 people and a relaxed and friendly environment, covering nearly every night of the week we host a wide range of musical genres, from acoustic to rock, from bluegrass to reggae. Please see our website for listings.

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
	4 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

Open Church

Visit, pray, light a candle or share conversation over coffee.

We open St 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. We welcome volunteers to share in our offering of welcome, refreshment and care through St Nicolas,' Hawkesley and Immanuel, to steward at St Nicolas' during Open Church and to care for our churchyard, flowers and brasses.

Wednesday	10.00 am – 12.00 noon, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm : Candlelit Church with informal learning together at 8.00 pm. Quiet spaces, candles, conversation, creativity & music. Come and go as you like.
Thursday	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm for all Marriage and Baptism enquiries
Saturday	10.00 am – 12 noon for coffee, "Knit & Natter" & prayer.

For Young Children

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 in term time at 9.00 am in St Nicolas' Church

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 more than £800 each 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.

Baptisms and Marriages

Please visit St Nicolas' on Thursdays between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm to ask any questions and arrange bookings with our clerks. One of the clergy is also present to help if there is a question over whether your service can be held in this parish.

More details at www.kingsnorton.org.uk

Events Diary January 2018

Tuesday 2 January

- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)

Wednesday 3 January

- Kings Norton Library re-opens after holiday
- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club, Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Bingo
- Kings Norton Local History Group, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-4.00 pm
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00pm-10.00 pm: Club competition
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 4 January

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

Friday 5 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am
- Church Roof Appeal 'Sponsor a Carol' event, St Nicolas' Church, 2.00 pm-4.00 pm
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 6 January

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Book Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 am-11.30 am

Monday 8 January

- Kings Norton Fundraising Group for St Mary's Hospice, Kings Norton Bowling Club, 6.30 pm-7.30pm

Tuesday 9 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)

- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- U3A (University of the Third Age) Monthly General Meeting, St Joseph's & St Helen's Church Hall, Station Road, Cotteridge. Doors open 2.10 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 10 January

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

Thursday 11 January

- Kings Norton Women's Fellowship, Saint Nicolas' Place 2.00-3.00 pm: Gail Rogers
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South 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 12 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 13 January

- Farmers' Market, The Green, 9.00 am-2.00 pm
- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am. Meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- 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
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 15 January

- Kings Norton Women's Institute (evening group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 7.00 pm:

Tuesday 16 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)

- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Kings Norton Women's Institute (afternoon group), Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge, 2.00-4.00pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 17 January

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club , Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: Bring & Buy Sale
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00pm-10pm: My Year in Four Photos
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 18 January

- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends' Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 19 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 20 January

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Children's Book Club, Kings Norton Library, 10.30am-11.30 am

Tuesday 23 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 - 3.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm

Wednesday 24 January

- Coffee morning, Kings Norton Library, 10.30-11.30 am
- Kings Norton Seniors' Club , Saint Nicolas' Place, 1.00-3.00 pm: The Ifakara Bakery Project
- Kings Norton Photographic Society, Kings Norton Tennis Club, 8.00pm-10pm

- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Thursday 25 January

- Kings Norton Seniors' Club; Pantomime at the Hippodrome
- Councillors' Surgery, Kings Norton Library, 4.30 pm
- Black Adder Clog Morris, Selly Oak Friends' Meeting House, 930 Bristol Road South, 8.00-10.00pm
- Kings Norton Motorcycle Club, Woodbourne Social Club, Earlswood, 8.00 pm
- Crossroads Blues Club, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Friday 26 January

- Health Exchange local walk, Kings Norton Park car park, 10.30 am
- Storytime for under-5s, Kings Norton Library, 2.15-2.45 pm

Saturday 27 January

- Friends of Kings Norton Park Beginners' Running (for absolute beginners up to 5km ability) and Social Group Running (for those who run regularly). Both groups 9.30-10.30 am, meet in car park at Kings Norton Park
- Push Bikes, Rowheath Pavilion, 9.45 am for 10.00 am start
- Fields Millennium Green Trust volunteer working party, Fields Millennium Green, 10.30 am

Monday 29 January

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

Tuesday 30 January

- Kings Norton Patchwork and Quilting Group, Friends' Meeting House, Cotteridge 10.00 am-3.00 pm
- Funday Tuesday for babies & under 5s, Kings Norton Library, 10.30 -11.30 am
- Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve conservation workout, 10.30 am -1.00 pm (for venue see website)
- Creative Writing Group, Kings Norton Library, 1.00 -3.30 pm
- Greenlands Chess Club, 7.00 pm
- Kings Norton Photographic Society: Societies Competition at Bromsgrove

Wednesday 31 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 and Bingo
- Spoken Trend 'open mic' spoken word and poetry event, Bulls Head, The Green: performers report 7.00 pm, event begins at 7.30 pm
- Rea River Roots, Tower of Song, 8.30 pm

Saint Nicolas' Place Weekly Diary

Monday

Rainbows 5.30 pm

Guides 7.00 pm

Zumba 7.00 pm (Verity 07 966 690 476)

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

Brownies 6.00 pm- 7.30 pm

Wednesday

Extend Exercise Class 9.30 – 11.00 am

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

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

Deeley's Dragon Martial Arts 6.30-7.30 pm (enquiries@beechees martialarts.co.uk)

Thursday

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

Brownies 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

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

Friday

Illumination Youth Theatre 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm (ages 5-10); 5.30 pm- 7.00 pm (ages 11-18) (Melanie 07 766 724 834)

Saturday

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

Kings Norton Farmers' Market

The Green, Kings Norton,
Birmingham B38

2nd Saturday Each Month

Get
FRESH

Next market

Sat 13th January

2018

9.00 - 2.00



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2005. The first Community
Interest Farmers' Market
in Britain



NOVEMBER 2017 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	Maureen Patricia Weston	76	SN.Bu.CY
2nd November	Dora Olive Mortimer	88	SN.Bu.BE
3rd November	Elsie Brenda Fox	83	SN.Bu.KN
9th November	Graham Langdon Davies	69	Cr.LH
10th November	Vera Box	92	SN.Bu.KN
10th November	Raymond Stanley Gardner	84	Bu.CY
17th November	Dorothy May Melia	95	SN.Bu.BE
20th November	Dillon Junior Rich	20 weeks*	Cr.LH
22nd November	Karen Anne Hartopp	57	Cr.LH
24th November	Heather Iris Grosvenor		In.CY
27th November	Phyllis Joan Mendham	75	In.CY
29th November	Barry Clifford Miles		In.CY

SN : Service at St Nicolas' Church, **Cr** : Cremation, **Bu** : Burial,
In : Ashes interred, **BE** : Brandwood End, **CY** : Churchyard,
KN : Kings Norton Cemetery, **LH** : Lodge Hill, **PB** : Perry Barr, **QN** : Quinton,
RH : Robin Hood, **RD** : Redditch, **SC** : Sutton Coldfield, **WI** : Witton,
WM : Widney Manor, **WP** : Westall Park, **YD** : Yardley

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A Scripture Cake

Local resident and parish magazine reader Claire Simpson found the following amongst some of her late mother's recipes. She thought that the magazine would be the perfect place for it to be published.

- 4½ cups of Leviticus II v2 (flour)
- 2 cups of Jeremiah VI v20 (sugar)
- 1½ cups of Isaiah VII v15 (butter)
- 1 cup of Jeremiah I v11 (almonds)
- 2 cups of 1 Chronicles XII v40 (raisins)
- 2 cups of Jeremiah XXIV v2 (figs)
- ½ cup of Solomon IV v11 (milk)
- 2 tbsps of Samuel XIV v29 (honey)
- 2 tsps of Galatians V v9 (leaven or baking powder)
- 6 Job XXXIX v14 (eggs)
- Pinch of Matthew V v13 (salt)
- Season with Solomon IV v14 (cinnamon)

Claire says “Unfortunately the instructions for making it were not included; however if you Google it you will find a number of recipes”. We’ve found one!

Cream Isaiah VII, Jeremiah VI, and Samuel XIV. Beat in the Job XXXIXs, one at a time. Add Chronicles XII, Jeremiah XXIV and Jeremiah I and beat again. Sift together Leviticus II, Solomon IV v 14, Matthew V and Galatians V. Add to first mixture. Lastly, add Solomon IV v 11. Bake at 325F for 1 and 1/2 hours, or until done.

The origin of the Scripture or Bible Cake Recipe is difficult to pin down, but food journalist Rick McDaniel, who publishes the blog “Hushpuppy Nation”, claims that the earliest such recipes are to be found in cookery books published in England during the late 1700s. He notes that they were particularly popular in the latter part of the 19th century, especially in the southern Appalachian mountains of America. They were meant to be a way of teaching young girls baking and Bible verses at the same time. The Editor.

George Smithson Remembered

As reported in our December issue, Kings Norton's new permanent Christmas Tree was planted on The Green at a ceremony on Remembrance Day in November.

The Farmers' Market Committee has pointed out that in addition to being dedicated to those who gave their lives in defence of the country, the ceremony also remembered one of the Committee's directors, George Smithson, who died recently.

The Committee says: "George had a great love for our market and enjoyed its prosperity. It was therefore suggested that the tree be called 'George's Tree', and this was greeted with enthusiasm. Accordingly, we thank all Committee members, stallholders, helpers and supporters for their work and commitment to this project. Our Farmers' Market has survived for some 400 years and we look forward to the future with optimism. It is said that the tree could grow to a height of 15 or 20 metres!"



Where can you find ... up-to-the-minute parish news; tickets for local events (bookable online); the churches' weekly newsletter; past editions of this magazine; details of Sunday services; contact details for the Parish Office; a Who's Who of the Ministry Team; information about booking a wedding; advice on planning a funeral; a parish map... **24 hours a day? ***



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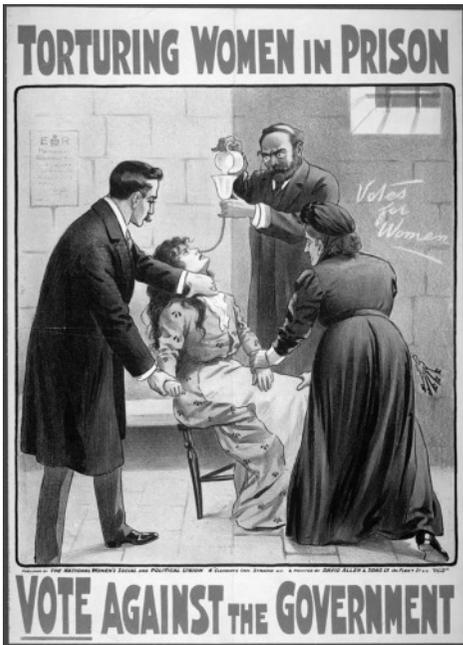
Suffragette



Suffragette is a 2015 British historical period drama about women's suffrage in the United Kingdom, directed by Sarah Gavron and written by Abi Morgan. The film stars Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff, Ben Whishaw, and Meryl Streep.

Nearly 100 years after smashing shop windows and blowing up letterboxes, the British suffragettes finally get a film they deserve. Writer Abi Morgan and director Sarah Gavron give us a tough, bleak-

looking film which makes the suffragettes' dilemma feel immediate and real. You feel the danger of women risking everything: sacked from their jobs, locked up in prison, force fed, separated from their children. But if not, then, then who?



Carey Mulligan plays Maud, an East London laundry worker in 1912 who's always done as she's told. Maud is 24 but her face is exhausted and lined from years of sweating over dirty clothes. She's married to decent but conservative Sonny (Ben Whishaw) who keeps his head down and salutes a portrait of the King every morning. The couple have a young son. What difference would fighting for the vote mean to Maud? She's not Emmeline Pankhurst. She'll never be written about in the history books. Why take the risk?



Over the next hour or so, we see exactly why. Maud is radicalised by the system, because she's poor and because she's a woman. In the laundry, it's a dirty open secret that the boss is a serial sex offender; he's moved on from Maud to a younger girl. Everyone knows what he's up to, but shockingly, it's Maud who is now less 'respectable' for having been his victim (modern resonances here).

Cary Mulligan plays her role with determination and sensitivity. You see the emotion flicker in her face as Maud wakes up and finds her voice. The rest of the cast is excellent too, including Anne-Marie Duff as a suffragette working in the laundry and Helena Bonham Carter as a pharmacist cooking up homemade

bombs. Meryl Streep makes a brief but forceful cameo appearance as Emmeline Pankhurst, wanted by the police but popping up to rally the troops from a London balcony.

On the side-lines, there are male suffragettes and women-hating men: "The police are bringing these bitches to their knees," snarls one, sounding every bit like a Twitter troll. And the film has a point too about the people-pleasing impulse still drummed into little girls a century later: don't make trouble, avoid attention, be a good girl. But as Mrs Pankhurst says in her balcony speech: better to be a rebel than a slave.

M.G.M.

Wheels are in motion for Thomas the Tank Engine!

Several local people think that there should be some sort of recognition of the fact that the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine, the Reverend Wilbert Awdry, developed the first of his stories while Curate at St Nicolas' Church during the Second World War. Now, if you'll forgive the pun, a head of steam is building up.

Local councillor Simon Jevon (right) is determined to see tangible recognition of the role of Kings Norton as the birthplace of the Thomas saga. He wasn't fully aware of the story until he addressed the Kings Norton Supper Club in November and was lobbied on the subject. Now he's driving the issue forward. "Although there is some professional graffiti on the railway bridge at Kings Norton Station, it's not particularly prominent," he explains: "Thomas now has worldwide popularity and it's well beyond time that a more tangible form of recognition is created."

Simon, whose first memory of Thomas is the TV series that was narrated by Ringo Starr, has contacted the Birmingham Civic Society to find out if the idea can be followed through. "The obvious method would be some form of blue plaque, but there may be alternatives," he says. The Civic Society has confirmed that the idea will be considered by its committee.

The story of Thomas is indeed a fascinating and in some ways a rather poignant one. When he arrived in his church house at the lower end of Westhill Road in 1940, international fame was the last thing on Wilbert Awdry's mind. But



when he left six years later, almost reluctantly he was on his way to becoming one of the world's best-loved writers, a position that he retains even now, twenty years after he died.

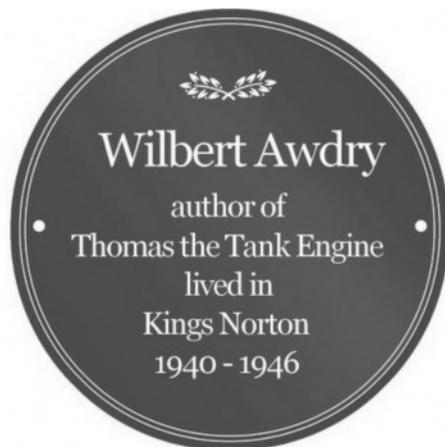
It was in that very house that Wilbert, a quiet, almost unobtrusive man to his parishioners, started to write the books that would become immensely popular around the world, spawning several TV series, toys and, of course, hundreds of thousands of books.

Born in Hampshire as the son of an

Anglican vicar, Wilbert had been well educated, achieving a diploma in theology at Oxford University at the age of 22 in 1933. His ordination as a priest in Hampshire in 1936 looked to be the start of a promising career, but things stalled at the outbreak of the Second World War when he declared himself to be a pacifist (his brother had died in the First World War) and his bishop instructed him to find a priesthood away from his native county.

That's why he became a curate at our very own St Nicolas' Church, where Canon Thomas Dunn was his vicar and mentor. The older man had a profound influence on the young curate. In the prayers which Wilbert wrote in thanksgiving for the 50th anniversary of his ministry in 1987, he spoke of "Thomas Dunn at Kings Norton, with whom I served as curate for six years and to whom I owe more than can ever be told."

But how did Thomas and his friends take shape? Of course, living just a hundred yards or so from the railway tracks through Kings Norton, it's easy to think that the sounds of locomotive steaming past were his inspiration. But in fact it started much earlier, when as a young boy he had also lived by the railway, near



the famous Box Tunnel in Wiltshire. Trains, sometimes working together up a long gradient, often ran at night and the young Wilbert could hear them from his bed: "There was no doubt in my mind that steam engines all had definite personalities," he explained later: "I would hear them snorting up the grade and little imagination was needed to hear in the puffings and pantings of the engines the conversation they were having with one another: 'I can't do it! I can't do it! I can't do it!' 'Yes, you can! Yes, you can! Yes, you can!'"

But it was in Kings Norton that he began to turn these images into stories. In fact, he might never have done so if his two year old son Christopher hadn't caught measles, and been forced to stay in a darkened bedroom. His father would tell him stories to cheer him up, sometimes in question and answer form, with Christopher asking the questions; and the first of these soon took shape as *Edward's Day Out*, the story of an old engine who is allowed out of his shed for the day. Another story about Edward followed,

which this time also featured a character called Gordon the Big Engine, named after a child living on Westhill Road whom Christopher considered rather bossy. A third story introduced the popular characters Henry the Green Engine and the Fat Director, later to be retitled the Fat Controller.

His most famous creation developed in a slightly different way. Christmas in 1942 was extra special for Christopher, because his father built for him a toy tank engine out of an old broomstick and scraps of wood and called it Thomas. It was quite possibly modelled on the tank engine that was then actually based at Kings Norton, which at that time had an important network of sidings for trucks and wagons.

The quiet, unassuming curate would probably have been happy to keep his stories in the family, but his wife Margaret looked further. Encouraged by her, Wilbert submitted the three stories to publishers Edmund Ward in 1943, and the rest, as they say, is history. These first stories were published in 1945, the first Thomas stories appearing in 1946.

The success that followed was all a bit of a surprise to Wilbert's parishioners. "He

was such a gentle, quiet presence, much less forceful than some of his colleagues," says Phil Haycock, a choirboy at St Nicolas' during Wilbert's time: "He never spoke about his stories: in fact it wasn't until just after he moved on that they really became famous."

Wilbert moved away from Kings Norton in 1946 to become a Rector in Cambridgeshire. He continued to write his stories, and to develop new characters, until he stopped in 1972. He was awarded an OBE in the 1996 New Year's Honours List and died peacefully in Stroud, Gloucestershire, on 21 March 1997, at the age of 85. His ashes are interred with those of Margaret, his beloved wife, in the graveyard of St Mary Magdalene Church in Rodborough near Stroud, where the couple lived from the mid-1960s onwards.

What do readers think about some form of blue plaque? Let us know by writing to the Editor, and let Simon Jevon know your feelings by emailing Simon.Jevon@Conservatives.com.

(With grateful thanks to Veronica Chambers, née Awdry, for some of the more personal insights into her father's life.)



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THE MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector	The Revd Larry Wright
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Jayne Crooks
Hon Assistant Priest	The Revd Jane Platt
Methodist Minister	The Revd Caz Hague
Parish Lay Minister	Pauline Weaver
Readers:	David Ash, Mandy Butler, Fay Fearon, Ruth Howman, Parisa Pordelkhaki
Music Ministry	Sylvia Fox
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Chris Gadd
<i>Place of Welcome</i> Coordinator	Anne Hughes

THE CHURCH WARDENS

St. Nicolas' Church	Phil Burton & 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
Churchyard Care	Anne Hughes
Flower Arranging (0121 486 2837)	Alison Blumer
Oasis (Sunday School) Tiny Tots & GPS	Pauline Weaver
Oasis (Sunday School) Immanuel	Nicky Moorcroft

MUSIC

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

BELL RINGING

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

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

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Scouts and Cubs

198th Birmingham St Nicolas'

Alan Haynes (Group Scout Leader) 07 534 615 489
onenineeight@btinternet.com

*Tuesdays at Oddingley Hall,
Oddingley Road, B31 3BS
www.myscouts.co.uk*

Beavers (6-8yrs): 5-6 pm
Cubs (8-10½): 6.15-7.45pm
Scouts (10½-15½): 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

Hawkesley Church Primary Academy

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

Headteacher: Mr Derek Higgins

Meet Kings Norton's New ASSISTANT RECTOR



The Revd Eliakim Ikechukwu is an Anglican Priest from Nigeria. We hope that he will be able to join the Ministry Team here by February or March 2018.

Eliakim has been active in pastoral ministry since 1985 and, for the past two years (July 2015 - September 2017) has served in the parishes of St

George's Church, Newtown and St Paul & St Silas, Lozells.

In both Newtown and Lozells, as a Voluntary Honorary Priest with the Bishop of Birmingham's permission to officiate, he assisted with pastoral duties under the supervision of the Reverend Larry Wright, the former incumbent. He remained there

with other team members for the duration of the interregnum.

Eliakim's deep-seated interests are in communicating the love of God through leading worship, preaching, creative teaching and pastoral care. His youthful disposition, passionate exposition of Biblical truth and delivery of thought-provoking sermons with humility and simplicity of expression endears him to his

audience no matter what their circumstances.

Prior to his relocation to the U.K., Eliakim was involved in ministering to inmates in state prisons and all manner of patients in general and private hospitals as a Prison & Hospital Chaplain in the Diocese of Calabar Anglican Communion, Calabar, Nigeria.

He holds a post graduate Diploma (Dip.Th) in Pastoral Theology from Trinity Theological College, Umuahia, Nigeria, and two Master's Degrees in Human Resource Management (MA HRM) and Research (MRes) in Human Sciences respectively, from the University of Wolverhampton.

Eliakim lives with his wife Favour, who is a General Practitioner, and their five children aged 11 to 20 in Wolverhampton. His appointment is subject to his being able to secure an appropriate visa from the immigration authorities.



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Please donate

There are many fundraising events planned during the year so look out for the notices and please try and support where you can. These will be great opportunities for our Church family and the community to get together to support the appeal. Look out for the collection buckets and the pledge cards and ask the team about other ways to donate.

“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have” 2 Corinthians 8:12

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FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA

Eddie Matthews' colourful, dynamic stories of a life on the ocean waves (p.52) are always a delight to read. As he recalls the interesting highlights there are also suggestions of the sheer hard work and often tedium of a life spent at sea for much of the year. He also hints at the changes to working conditions for merchant seamen which crept in from the 1980's.

When I was a child living near the Mersey river, William Whiting's great Victorian hymn, 'Eternal Father, strong the save' was one of my favourites. Two of my great uncles had been in the Royal Navy and had perished during World War 2 while on active service. My mother was able to join the élite WRNS because of her uncles' service.

So the sea was a part of our heritage as my brother and I were growing up, tales told of shipwrecks and enemy action sinkings, and of many local families who had lost loved ones to the mighty deep.

Today's merchant seamen face additional hardship. Stephen Plant in this magazine last month wrote about his work as a chaplain to Portree harbour on Skye, to the harbour staff, lifeboat crew, fishermen, sightseeing trip boat crews and all whose livelihoods there depend on going out to sea. He works often with the **Mission to Seafarers**, a Christian welfare charity serving merchant crews round the world.



The Mission to Seafarers works through a global network of chaplains, staff and volunteers to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support through ship visits, drop-in centres and a range of welfare and emergency support services. The teams offer prayer and pastoral support. They will take on board newspapers, top-up phone and Internet cards, provide Christian literature and offer a free transport

service to the nearest town. They are friendly faces in a foreign city.

Seafarers bring in a whopping 95% of the goods we need every day, such as coffee, tea, chocolate, clothes, cars and pocket technology. We need them in landlocked Birmingham as much as in our big ports! The problem now is with modern super-efficient loading and unloading practices. Container ships can be turned around so quickly that they may be in port for less than 12 hours. So crew may not step on dry land for 4 or 5 months: no time even to buy toothpaste or snacks to sustain them for the next part of the voyage. If a shipping company goes bankrupt while the ship is at sea seafarers may face months stuck in port with no pay or prospect of returning home.

The World Health Organization suggests that seafarers are the second profession worldwide most at risk of suicide. It is a lonely, isolating life with a daily risk of abandonment and even shipwreck. It is emotionally, physically and psychologically stressful and often leads to long term health issues. It is hard to imagine what it must be like to live on a car carrier, for example, for nine months of the year. It is especially hard on the crew from the poorest countries, who can find no other work. Long separation from



their families is also a major problem for crew.

The words of ‘*Eternal Father, strong to save*’ were inspired by the dangers of the sea described in Psalm 107, especially verses 23-30. In the Bible both Jonah and Paul were shipwrecked, with life-changing results. Jesus stills the storm, his arm *binding the restless waves*, and was calm *amid the raging deep*. He walks on the *foaming deep*.

Our Christian scriptures reflect the writers’ awe and fear of the sea, as well as its inspiration. Our seafarers worldwide still face these perils and dangers and this hymn is as pertinent today as when it was written. May we, as we enjoy our consumer goods, remember at what cost they are brought, the hard lives of those who bring them and let us pray to God to **hear us when we cry to Thee, for those in peril on the sea.**

Thelma Mitchell

You can find out more about the Mission to Seafarers on their website: www.missiontoseafarers.org. The Editor.

Lamb in the Oven

This month, Kings Norton's best-loved maritime raconteur is up an Italian creek without a paddle while dinner time looms...

I am going to recall an incident which occurred when I was serving as Chief Cook on a container ship. We were homeward bound from Australia and our first port of call was Genoa in Italy. Unfortunately we could not enter the port on arrival because of damage to the container crane; so the ship anchored in the bay to await entry. In the end, we had to wait for several days.

As the sea was very calm, and to keep us entertained, the Captain decided to launch one of the lifeboats to take those of us who were interested on a brief sightseeing trip. I thought this was a good idea and volunteered to join the party.

Our departure was planned for 1.00



p.m. and, although the weather was chilly, it was a fine day. My Second Cook and Baker decided to come, as did the Galley Boy.



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The coast in that part of north-west Italy is very scenic with deep-water bays and small towns to admire, such as Portofino, famous for its picturesque harbour (above). We could see bars and cafés where we could have tied the boat up and sampled the local fare but, as our ship had not yet been cleared by the port officials, this was not possible, for we would not be allowed to set foot on Italian soil until the formalities had been completed. It was a shame.

We had been at sea for a little over an hour when the lifeboat's engine suddenly spluttered to a halt. Luckily, one of our engineers was on board and, after tinkering with the engine for an hour or so, he got it working again. By this time, we were quite a long way down the coast. What were we to do? I had to get the evening meal prepared for the crew of the ship but I was never going to be able to get back on time.

The deck cadet was the Coxwain and, fortunately, he had brought a radio handset with him. So I told him to call the ship and to get the Officer on

Watch to contact the Catering Officer. He said, "I can't do that." He was then advised that the toe of my boot would be in contact with his nether regions if he did not comply. I also told him that he would have no grub for dinner.

So the call was made and the Catering Officer was asked if he wouldn't mind putting the lambs' legs and a big tray of potatoes into the galley ovens. This he willingly did and, against all the odds, the evening meal was ready on time when we eventually got back on board.

There is one small footnote. We later discovered that the cadet had contacted the ship on Channel 16, which is the marine distress channel reserved for Maydays. What the port officials thought when they heard, on an emergency frequency, our discussion about putting the lamb in the oven can only be guessed at.

A very happy New Year to you all!

Eddie Matthews



FOODBANK QUIZ ANSWERS

Here are the answers to our quiz on page 19. How did you do?

1: C

2: A

3: C (actually 3 times in 6 months, but if the cause of their food-poverty has not ended, then the referrer can contact us to explain the continued need).

4: B

5: B

6: B

7: C (actually 6,652)

8: All are myths. Here are three facts.

Fact 1: 65% of clients only come to the Foodbank once

Fact 2: 46% of clients are single people.

Fact 3: Current studies show that poverty has the biggest influence on the chances that poor children have in life (*National Children's Bureau*).

The Church of England now reaches 1 million people each month through social media. Videos, podcasts, blogs & prayers are reaching an online audience of 1.2 million through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, according to the statistics from the Church of England's digital project. William Nye, Secretary General to the General Synod (the church's parliament) said, "At the heart of the mission of the Church of England is a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel afresh in each generation. Our challenge is to join up that growing online church life to the physical community [...] of the Body of Christ."

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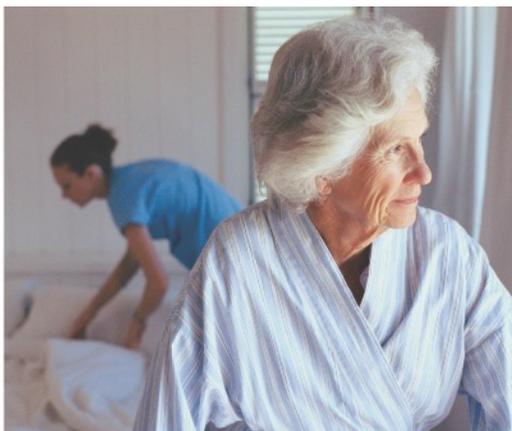


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