

# Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

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## Let's get quizzical



**POINTS MAKE PRIZES:** participants having a discussion, and organisers Liz and Richard doing the marking

After a break of more than three years because of the Covid pandemic, during which we only had a single online quiz, our popular quiz evenings at local venues have finally made a welcome return.

Teams battled it out on Friday 3 February at the New Hope Centre for the £50 cash prize. Refreshments and tasty soup were provided during the half time break to keep everyone going.

Subjects covered by organisers and question masters Richard and Liz included the usual history, geography and more general knowledge and trivia.

In a close competition the local Anglo-American team narrowly won the prize. The author's team was left regretting their choice of double points 'joker' round early in the quiz and came second.

Many thanks to Liz and Richard for organising and setting a great quiz, Sandie for help with catering, Jonathan for serving the refreshments and New Hope for providing an excellent venue.

We hope to continue to hold our quiz evenings more regularly now, with the next one likely to be in the autumn.

*David Neale*

## News in brief

- We have spoken to councillors about a permanent road closure through the Printworks estate. As we understand it there will be bollards installed by Bellway in Printers Road, after which we expect to lobby the council to move the bollards in Milford Road to give both ends of Printers Road access via the residential area.

- We hope to organise a treasure hunt in the spring, date to be determined. Look out for flyers.

- The provisional date for this year's Newport Road street party is Saturday 3 June. However, we have heard that the council may only allow free road closures for the coronation weekend (6-8 May) this year – we are pressing for alternative dates but there is a chance that we'll have to hold the party earlier than usual this year. Stay tuned for details.

- New Hope will be holding an event called Messy Church on Thursday 30 March. This is an informal church during the week for all ages. The event will be from 3.45 to 5.30pm, with food, craft and a short story from the bible with some songs.



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# Rev David Nyirongo: from Basra to Bell Tower



**MAN WITH A MISSION:**  
Rev David Nyirongo at New Hope.

The Rev David Nyirongo's path to becoming community missionary at New Hope should have been a direct one, given that his father was a clergyman, but he took the scenic route.

"God has a funny sense of humour," he said.

David is originally from Kabwe, a mining town 87 miles north of the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

He arrived in the UK in 2000 to work as a volunteer for CSV, founded by Lord Levy, now called Volunteering Matters. The programme involved young people from both at home and abroad helping people with disabilities and mental health problems. He did that for a year, but afterwards was unsure what he wanted to do with his life when he was introduced to a Ghanaian who was serving in the British Army. It came as a shock to him that a Ghanaian was serving in the UK armed forces, but after talking to him, he signed up.

## Military route to priesthood

During his four and a half years in Royal Logistics Corps, the army saw where David's talents lay. They told him he was more of a priest than a soldier, and during a stint in Basra in Iraq he was asked by a chaplain to

help out as a Eucharistic assistant. While to outsiders this may seem unusual, the army's assessment came as no surprise to David.

"Even within me I had this calling, but I was running from it. I didn't want to be a priest because I saw all the burdens my father had to carry," he said.

On his return to England, David began the laborious process of applying to become a Church of England vicar, which included eight months of interviews. He has now been ordained for 11 years.

## Community Missioner

After a series of posts as an interim vicar, he applied for the post of community missionary at New Hope as part of the team of clergy at Greyfriars. He originally turned down an interview because he did not feel he would have much of a chance at a big church such as Greyfriars. He was offered a posting in Coventry, which he said did not feel right for him so he went back to Greyfriars to say he would come for an interview if they had not yet filled the post.

Asked what a community missionary does, David explained that a vicar is a priest with a parish, which is why he reports to the vicar of Greyfriars. The role of community missionary is to be a presence in the community by making the space at New Hope available to the community. As part of this community rôle, David said, the church is supporting Ukrainian refugees and is continuing to look for ways to help them get back on their feet.

*Interview: Jonathan Dart*

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# Launchpad

Preventing Homelessness  
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To be followed by the Bell Tower  
Community Association's  
Annual General Meeting

**WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH**  
**7.30 PM AT THE NEW**  
**HOPE CENTRE**

**ALL WELCOME**

Light refreshments will be  
provided.

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