

Fryent Country Park: Memory and Blessing

A service to remember Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, and to bless Fryent Park.

with the Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Brent, Cllr Ernest Ezeajughi; the Bishop of Willesden, the Rt Revd Peter Broadbent; and the Revd Natasha Woodward, Vicar of Holy Innocents Kingsbury (the priest of the parish)

The commemoration will take place at the top of Gotfords Hill, at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 1st July 2020. Meet either at 12.40 pm at the Valley Drive entrance to the Park and walk up, or at 1.00 pm on the hill.

On *Facebook Live* – if mobile phone coverage allows - at <https://www.facebook.com/Holy.Innocents.Church.Kingsbury> (this is a public page, you should not need a Facebook account to watch)

Those attending the service are invited to bring a flower, and if you can, to place it in the park – but don't leave any plastic wrapping. You can read through the service at home or at a suitable distance away in the park, or follow on Facebook Live. *Please do not gather in groups greater than 6, and remember to maintain 2m distancing.*

The Bishop introduces the service.

Gathering

Today we come together to remember Bibaa and Nicole

To give thanks for them

To commend them to God

To pray for their families, all who knew them and one another
and to bless this place.

May the light of Christ

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

Tribute

The parents of 46-year-old Bibaa Henry and 27-year-old Nicole Smallman have made the following statement: "The greatest fear of any parent is that they will outlive their children. What makes our situation unique is that two adored sisters were murdered together on the same night. The grief we feel is palpable, our beautiful and talented daughters gone. Although there was a large age gap between them they shared a lot of the same interests. They were both very much interested in the Arts. Bibaa a hardworking professional was an exceptional Senior Social Worker and a passionate advocate for safeguarding vulnerable children and families. Before qualifying, and to earn some extra cash, she would transport disabled children to their activities. At her side in a car seat she would have our granddaughter who was only a couple of months old. Her passengers loved them both, she knew all their names and Bibaa would have them singing as they drove along.

"Bibaa loved her family and she was proud of her parents' gifts and talents. Bibaa's father, Herman having been a former ABA Featherweight Champion and Businessman setting up his own Building Contracting Company. As her mother, she admired my moving from office agency work to training to be a teacher and then to train later for the Priesthood. Bibaa was just barely five foot but she had the heart of a lion and a smile that would put Blackpool illuminations to shame.

"Nicole being the youngest of three sisters was a joy from the moment she entered this world. Nicole saw beauty in everything; she had a very calm and positive attitude towards most things in life. She was a strong advocate for Humanitarian causes and saving our planet. Her father Christopher and I would laugh together agreeing Nicole was a child of the 60s. She was an amazing Photographer, Actor and Singer. Her speaking voice was silky smooth. Her voice teacher at school had said she should do radio or TV presenting. Friends and family all agree she was beautiful both inside and out. Nicole was incredibly laidback and very approachable.

Bibaa and Nicole were sisters whose untimely deaths we will spend the rest of our lives trying to come to terms with. "The tributes for our girls keep flooding in; it has been comforting, heart-breaking and at times overwhelming. Faith and prayer is keeping us going. I'm not sure how we'd

get through this without it. 'The bond that links your true family is not one blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.' Richard Bach.

Commemoration

We remember Bibaa and Nicole, taken from this world through untimely violence and evil.

Merciful God,
hear the cries of our grief,
for you know the anguish of our hearts.
It is beyond our understanding
and more than we can bear.
We pray that justice may be done
and that we may treasure the memory of these two sisters
more than the manner of their deaths. **Amen.**

We keep silence in their memory.

2 minutes silence

Commendation

Into your hand, Lord,
our faithful creator and most loving redeemer
we commend your children Bibaa and Nicole
for they are yours in death as in life.
In your great mercy
fulfil in them the purpose of your love
gather them to yourself in gentleness and peace,
that rejoicing in the light and refreshment of your presence
they may enjoy that rest which you have prepared:

May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.

Reading: Psalm 139.7-11

Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

**If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.**

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'

**Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.**

Blessing of the Park

Fryent Country Park was formed in 1967 by merging Barn Hill and Kenton Lane open spaces with the land of Bush and Hillhouse farms. Most of London's parks were once farmland but usually all trace of their former life has been obliterated. Fryent is different; it has an ancient hedgerow system, farm ponds and hay meadow grasslands, as well as extensive woodland. In 1984, Brent combined its Barn Hill and Fryent Way lands, under the name Fryent Country Park. This much-loved space has been violated by the act that has taken place here. It belongs to the people of Brent and NW London. Mina Smallman, mother of the sisters, expressed the desire that we should in this act of commemoration "give the Park back to the people."

Blessed are you Lord God, creator of the universe,
for you have given us this park with its many gifts
sunshine and flowers
butterflies and trees
fresh air and sunshine
thank you for these gifts,
for those who tend this park
for all who have enjoyed good times here.

By the cleansing fire of your Holy Spirit,
purge and heal this place
of every spirit of fear and despair
that clings to it from past terrors,
transform this history
into inspiration for justice, freedom and peace.
May this park once again be a place of celebration, refreshment and love.
Amen.

Bless the people of this community
and teach us to live together in harmony.
Help us to use this Park
for our benefit and recreation. **Amen.**

*Those using this service at home may wish to listen to the song Amazing
Grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMLCkuXL-uA>*

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen.**