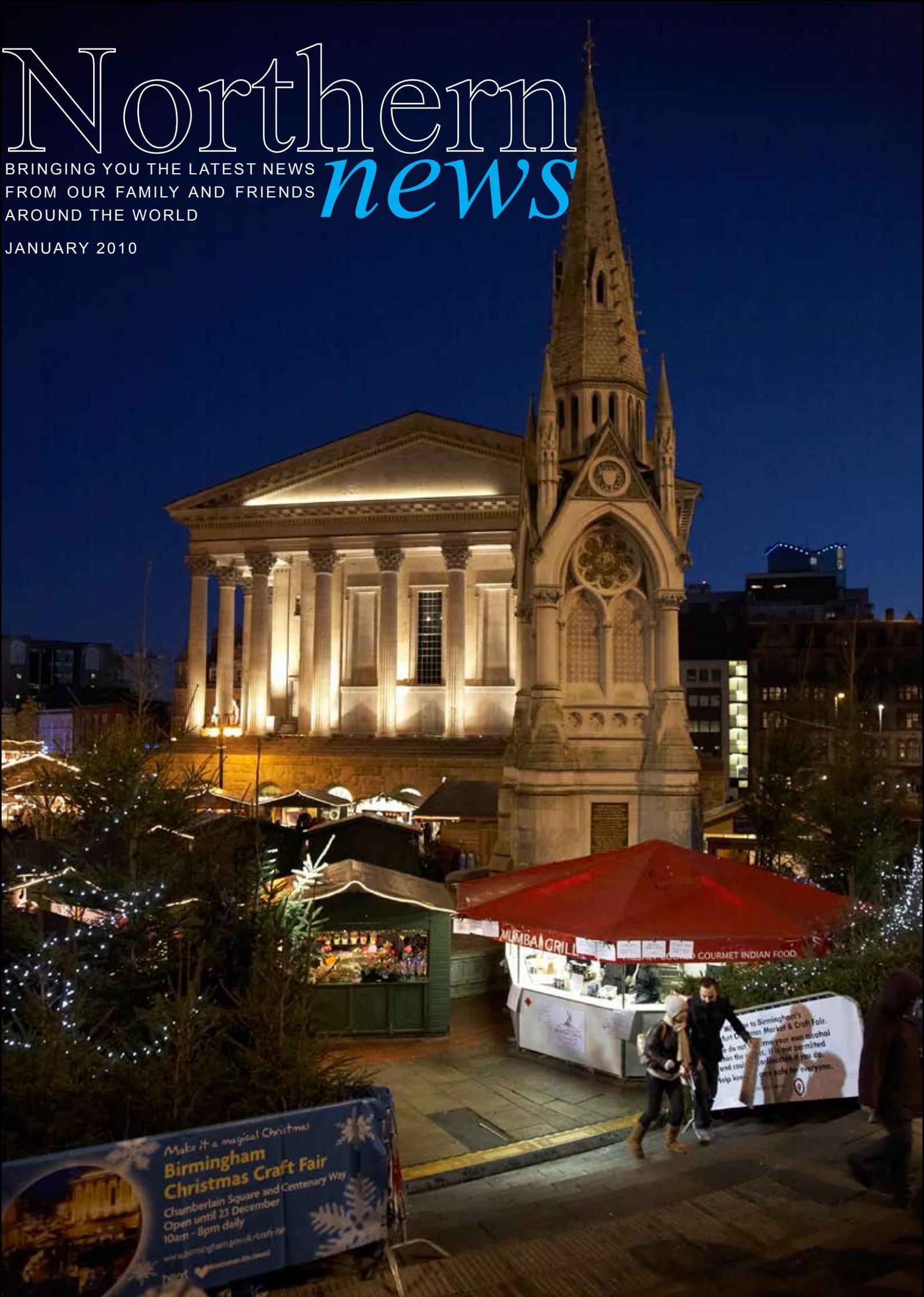


# Northern news

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS  
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
AROUND THE WORLD

JANUARY 2010



Make it a magical Christmas  
**Birmingham  
Christmas Craft Fair**  
Chamberlain Square and Centenary Way  
Open until 23 December  
10am - 8pm daily  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/craft-fair](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/craft-fair)

...to Birmingham's  
...Market & Craft Fair.  
...do not  
...your own alcohol  
...it is not permitted  
...consumed if you do.  
...help keep everyone safe for everyone.

# *Editorial Ramblings*



Grace and I would like to wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2010. This month seems to have flown past as we've been so busy. Much time has been spent looking at cars for both of us. Before Christmas I'd chosen a bright red Ford Fiesta for Grace as her combined birthday and Christmas present, but the dealer (a main Ford dealer) couldn't stop it pulling to the left, despite three attempts to do so; so poor Grace never got her present - until this week, when we had delivered another Ford Fiesta - this time in dark blue. It's a few years old but drives well and, unlike the red car, drives in a straight line. I've also spent a lot of time looking at big vehicles that would be useful as tow cars, as well as carrying the family around, but have only seen a load of junk so far - regardless of price! We hope to buy a caravan this year so a big vehicle is essential. Grace is much happier driving her new car than the old Astra which is still serving a useful role in getting me to work every day.

This month has also seen another big change for Little Lad who started yet another new school (his third school since we moved to Wolverhampton). We hope he does much better in this new school than he has in his previous schools. The photograph on the next page depicts him in his new school uniform.

The weather has been so bad that photography has been very limited. Just getting to work has been a bit of a chore as we too have had enough snow to make things difficult. Until the very end of the month we hadn't really got much to put in this newsletter. However, 30 January was bright and sunny - albeit very cold - so off we went to see the City of Worcester.

We would value your prayers for the 'Head' family (part of our family who live in the East Grinstead area). You may remember we visited them a few months ago and put some photographs of our visit in our little magazine. We've had news that Hilda (aged 93) has had a fall and although not seriously injured, received a bang on the head and has been rather shaken-up by this experience. Her daughter, Diane, has recently suffered the loss of her son, Christopher, who has passed away at the age of 52. Our sympathies and thoughts are with this lovely family at this time of sorrow.



**Photograph above:**

A Red Fox in our garden.

**Front Cover photographs:**

The Town Hall in Birmingham behind the memorial to Joseph Chamberlain.



# *Worcester Cathedral*



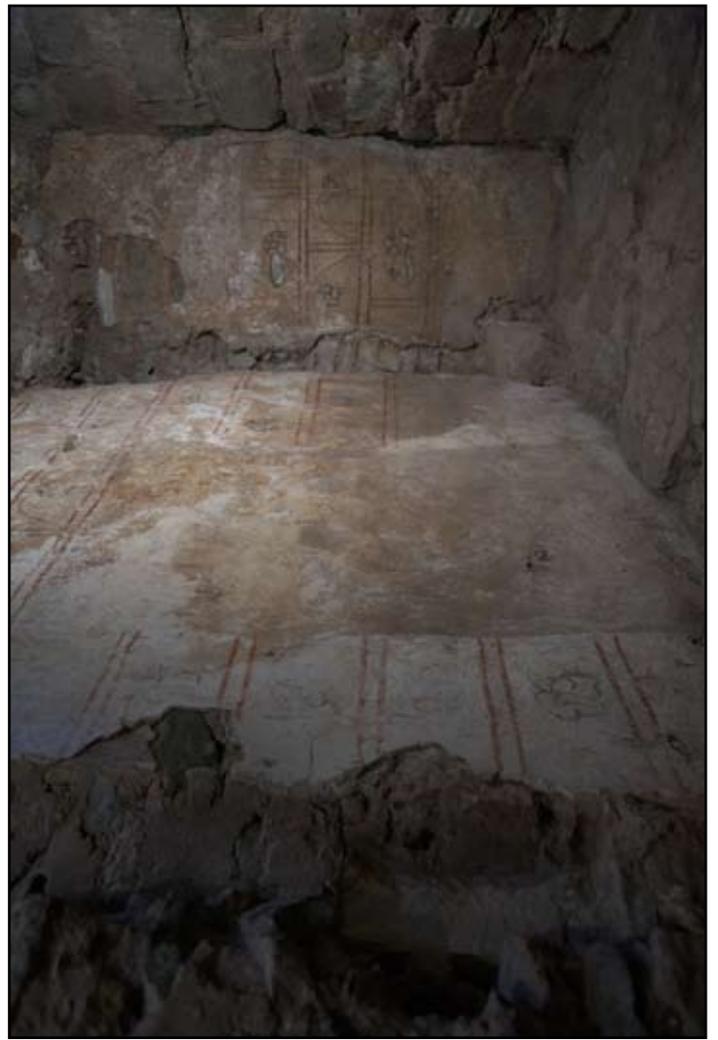


One of the privileges that living in England brings is the huge variety of historical buildings that are kept so well preserved. Of these, the most magnificent are our spectacular cathedrals. One could spend many years visiting and photographing these wonderful tributes to God that were built, in most cases, many hundreds of years ago. On 30 January 2010, we visited one of the most interesting cathedrals in England; that in the City of Worcester. In 672, a council of the English Church was held, Worcester became the centre of five new dioceses formed. In the ninth century invasions from the Danes brought fighting to England, but Worcester being on the edge of the conflict escaped without much damage. In 983, Oswald founded a monastery at Worcester under the Benedictine rule, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. Wulfstan, in 1040 became a monk at Worcester and made such an impression, he became Bishop of Worcester in 1062. Wulfstan was the only Anglo-Saxon bishop to remain at his post after the Norman Conquest of 1066. In 1084, Wulfstan began rebuilding Worcester Cathedral, starting with the crypt, some of which still survives. He was canonised in 1203. Building work continued for some time, including rebuilding the two western bays of the nave in 1170 and around 1202 the central tower collapsed and there was a serious fire. In 1216, King John was buried at Worcester and he seems to have a devotion to St. Wulfstan. In 1224, Bishop William de Blois built the Lady Chapel, where he was buried when he died in 1236. In the fourteenth century the nave was completely rebuilt apart from the western bays. The central tower and the cloisters were completed built by 1374 (some text courtesy of <http://www.btinternet.com/~timeref/hpl281.htm>).





Grace admiring the splendours of the cathedral



*Photographs above:* Original wall paintings in the crypt dating from about 1084 - almost 1000 years old.

*Photograph on next page:* View through the choir with the tomb of King John, who died in 1216, in the foreground.

*Photograph below:* In memory of John Peel, D.D. Dean of this cathedral from AD1840 to 1874 who erected this reredos in affectionate remembrance of Augusta, his wife. This cross was inscribed by the Dean & Canons & other friends.





