



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the December issue to me by 20th November 2025 please.

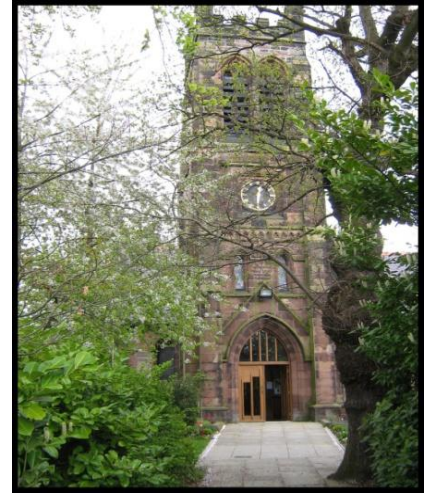
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



Please feel free to send me any articles that may be of interest to our readers.

Email address above.

Margaret



Prayer for November 2025

Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

Primary School Bangers!

Have you heard about **Primary School Bangers**? Were you at Glastonbury and took part? You read that correctly... Glastonbury highlighted just how those Primary School memories have an impact for the rest of your life!

The BBC reported this on their website:

'Primary School Bangers' set draws in Glastonbury crowds

Glastonbury Festival crowds flocked to experience some nostalgia at a 'Primary School Bangers' set on Thursday.

The sing-along with James B Partridge brought well-known hymns from people's school days to the Summer House stage, in the theatre and circles fields at Worthy Farm.

The performance was so popular, officials had to close the field to manage the crowd. Those who did secure a spot sang along to well-known hymns such as Give Me Oil in My Lamp and Lord of the Dance.

Somerset 27 June 2025

James B Partridge went from classroom teacher to viral TikToker, not by being an influencer or rapper but by bringing back the school assembly and all the nostalgia that goes alongside of it. He has been on BBC Breakfast, This Morning, The One Show, Radio **and yes... Glasto!** His online videos have been written about in The Times, The Independent, BuzzFeed and featured in a number of podcasts. Radio appearances include: BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2 on Scott Mills, Capital FM, Virgin Radio with Tom Allen, and the list goes on! In 2025, James launched a podcast called '[Notes from School](#)' which was one of the top charting music podcasts in the Spotify podcast charts.

Now who said Assemblies were obsolete?!

As a teacher, I have always realised the importance of Assembly or Collective Worship. It is the one point in the day where the whole school comes together *Collectively* and sings, reflects and learns something together.

As our school we have developed our mornings into something called **Ready, Steady Go** to begin each day. **Ready** is where every child is greeted personally. This begins with me on the school gate saying 'Good Morning' 400+ times, before all staff do the same as the child reaches their classroom. If a child hasn't had breakfast or has lost part of their uniform, this is also the time to do something about it, as we ensure **each child is physically ready** for their day. **Steady** is the next part. Children firstly decide where on their 'Ready Rainbow' they are today, 10 is feeling 'on top of the world', down to 1 where they do not feel mentally great at all. The grey cloud by the Rainbow says they need intervention. The majority of children then go to the Hall, where **Collective Worship / Assembly comes in**. Those feeling 4,3,2 or 1 on the Rainbow go to another type of Assembly in our Oasis, where they can explore their feelings and therapeutically become '**Ready** and **Steady**' for the day. The rest of school partake in our Values for Victory Assembly where they can become '**spiritually ready**' before 'Go' which is off to their first lesson (**Academically ready**). Without '**Ready, Steady, Go!**' children would enter their first lesson missing something and unprepared. It is only 25 minutes within a busy day but **they are 25 valuable** minutes.

In England, according to the Education Reform Act 1988, state-funded primary schools and Academies must hold a daily act of collective worship that is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". The law applies to all maintained schools; academies also follow this rule through their funding agreements.

Key legal requirements:

- **Daily collective worship:** All pupils in community, foundation, or voluntary schools must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they are withdrawn by their parents. This is also a condition for academies.
- **Broadly Christian character:** Acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". This is interpreted as needing to reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being specific to a single denomination, for at least 51% of the time over a school term.
- **School responsibility:** The Head Teacher is responsible for arranging collective worship.

What are your memories of Assembly? Did you have songs you loved and songs you hated? Do you now love the songs you hated because you haven't sung them in such a long time? I used to hate 'One More Step Along the World I Go' but now when I hear it, it makes me giggle! I used to love 'Autumn Days' because it had the 'smell of bacon' in it... and still do!

What is the biggest memory of Assembly? **The Benches.**

There was and is something spectacular when, as top Juniors or Year 6, you had the baton of 'the benches' passed on to you. The only question was, where in the line were you... would you get the main bit of the bench or end up sitting on the rubber nobbles at one of the ends? The same is true today as it was back in 1950 and probably before.



Are you the generation who had hymn books, or a flip chart? Were you the 80s and 90s who had the Over Head Projector (OHP)? Maybe you had the Projector and wouldn't recognise an acetate if you saw one. Come and Praise. Junior Praise. Piano, tape, CD, mp3 and now YouTube clips.

All these memories are fantastic and, as Primary School practitioner, I LOVE everything to do with them. The bigger question is can you remember what were said in your Assemblies that had an impact on your life today as an adult? Were roots set that have grown deeper and stronger as you grew taller and maturer?

If every child in the land is required by law to hear and 'worship' every single day, with a broadly Christian character ... what a responsibility. **Teachers**, this is your privilege and responsibility. **Headteachers**, this is your privilege and responsibility ... **Vicars** and **Clergy/Ministers**, having 220 children in a one-form entry Primary or 420 in a two-form entry Primary ready to hear something from Scripture that may set something in motion for the future – this is your privilege and responsibility. Ministers can speak on a Monday – Friday to most often double or triple their congregation. As teachers, ministers and Open The Book Teams combined, we have that opportunity for 90 days every year, for 14 years, giving children and young people the opportunity to reflect on themselves, others, their place in the world and their place as a child of God ... **wow!**

I could go on but November would be over and I would miss this deadline! Why am I telling you this – well, apart from me being a massive advocate of Assembly, we have an amazing opportunity in November. **Halewood Primary School Bangers!**

Following on from success in Glastonbury, Halewood is hosting its very own Assembly Bangers at our joint service on **Sunday 30th November 2025, 10.30 am at St Mary's Church, Halewood.**

Everyone has the opportunity to vote for their top three favourite assembly hymns / songs from childhood, and we will include the top 10 in our service.

You can vote in three ways.

1. Use this link <https://forms.gle/zxbgPnrydseAUKtM6>

2. Use this QR code



3. Use a paper voting form at the back of St Nicholas' and St Mary's.

Voting closes after the service on Sunday 23rd November to provide time to write out the acetates, get Miss Hutton wheeled in on the Piano and set up the benches. If you want more information, please speak with Alison Shacklady, Gill Dover, Nicola Hutton or myself.

And, finally, before we Go to class...

Primary School children and the memories we make are fantastic (Secondary Schools aren't too bad either haha). Memories of procedures and visuals are fine but what matters is our **FAITH**. **Where is the level in your faith tank? Is there a fire within you that is feeling low or is it flaming?** Hearing the Word, accepting the Word, then living the Word is a journey we all need to travel. The great news of the Gospel is that we have the Holy Spirit who travels within each one of us, waiting for that moment when we take the next step (*along the world I go*) of FAITH. Something that begins in Reception may one day spark a flame that brings us closer to God and see Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life as a teenager or adult.

Romans 10:17: ⁷ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Proverbs 22:6: ⁶ Direct your children onto the right path and, when they are older, they will not leave it.

And one for us all:

Isaiah 41:10:

¹⁰ Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Have a great November!

Matthew

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 2nd November: ***All Saints/Fourth Sunday before Advent (2 Thess. 1.1-4, 11-12 & Luke 19.1-10)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Carol Burke & James H-F

11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Adam Grey

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

Thursday 6th November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 9th November: ***Remembrance/Third Sunday before Advent (2 Thess. 2.1-5, 13-17 & Luke 20.27-38)***

10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion/Act of Remembrance: Gareth Morgan

10.45 am St Nicholas Remembrance Service: James H-F

6.30 pm St Nicholas **NO SERVICE**

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

6.30 pm St Hilda Commemoration Service: Andy Radford

Thursday 13th November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 16th November: ***Second Sunday before Advent (2 Thess. 3.6-13, Luke 21.5-19)***

11.00 am St Mary Morning Worship/Baptism: David Goodwin

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves

6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford

Thursday 20th November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 23rd November: ***Christ the King (Psalm 46, Luke 23.33-43)***

10.30 am St Mary GMJC/Café Church: Matthew Hargreaves

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: James H-F & Carol Burke

1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: Gareth Morgan

6.30 pm St Nicholas: Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Thursday 27th November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 30th November: ***Advent Sunday (Isaiah 2.1-5)***

10.30 am Halewood Team Service/Primary School Bangers at St Mary's: Matthew Hargreaves & Nichola Hutton

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan & James H-F

Prayers - If you would like us to include someone in prayers on a Sunday morning and/or evening, there is a book at the back of each church to which you can add names. Please ask the duty warden/steward.

PARISH WALK

Today's Church Walk, Saturday 18th October, was from Hoylake to West Kirby and return via the beach.

It proved to be a lovely change, as most of our walks are more inland than this and it had the novelty of a train ride from Liverpool South Parkway to Hoylake. The weather was fine for walking, the temperature about 12C, cloudy, with a



breeze that was a bit chilly at times.

The initial stages are now set in stone; meeting at St Nicholas Centre, a short trip for refreshments, this time at Dobbies, then on to the location.

We were fifteen strong and our tickets and passes soon got us to Hoylake and, before we knew it, we were out in the country. We were first met by a friendly black Hog and then farmers baling their hay.

Soon we turned right into Gilroy Nature Park, described as a pocket-sized park consisting of a pond, a meadow, and a

small woodland, which is home to a surprisingly large variety of wildlife, including water voles, common brown bats, weasels and foxes.

Our next stop, where we had a break, was at the 18-metre-high sandstone column, known as Grange Mariners Beacon. It was built in 1841 to replace a previous mill, after it was destroyed in a storm. The millstone is still there and two of our walkers had their break whilst sitting on it. The column is engraved on the side recording



that it is a beacon for mariners frequenting the river Mersey. There is a cracking view from this location, across the Dee estuary and on to the North Wales coastline. Down a steepish path we soon arrived at the Marine Lake in West Kirby. Our walkers then trailed around the perimeter of the Lake, looking like ants from the promenade, where I was.



We passed red rocks, a nature reserve, where the rare natterjack toad resides with many wintering

There was a lovely contrast to our countryfied entrance to West Kirby as we took to the sandy beach, back towards Hoylake. Looking left we could see Hilbre Island, which looked so near and enticing, but we resisted, rather than risking being on the TV programme "Saving Lives at Sea".



birds and, after a bit of a tiptoe through some river Mersey puddles, we reached land at Hoylake, where we 'trained' it back to L24, at South Liverpool Parkway. I have got 16,388 steps and 6.2 miles recorded on my phone. It was a good day, after which we all said our thanks to our guide Penni Conlon.

Geoff

NEXT PARISH WALK

The next walk will be on Saturday 15th November.

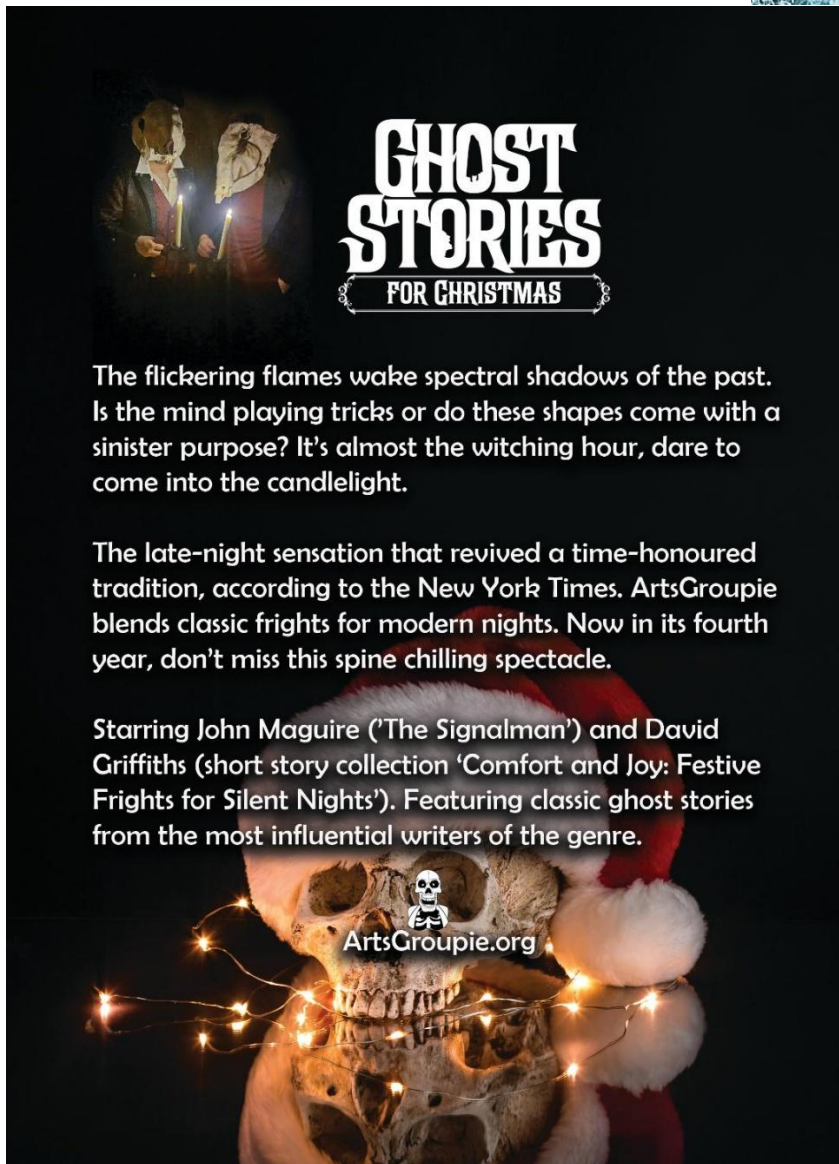
Meet at St Nicholas Centre at 10am as usual. Then Dobbies for bacon butties and drive to the Festival Gardens.

From here to Sefton Park via St Michael's and Lark Lane. A bit of a break here and a chance to have a look around the artisan market in the Palm House. Then Return trip from here.

The walk will be between 6 and 7 miles depending on our return route.

The walk is mostly flat but may be a bit muddy so good footwear needed.

Further details from Penni on 07990953334.



“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs”..... Mark chapter 10 verse 14

In her talk, at a joint service at St. Nicholas, our Reader, Carol, asked how many times we had used the word 'God' that week.

In my early vulnerable beginnings I only heard the word God used to blaspheme and, as a result, I think I must have decided not to say it.

This changed dramatically decades later; August Bank Holiday Monday 2024 in fact, when our 8 year old grandson, Toby, was rushed from Warrington hospital to Alder Hey Hospital and I heard myself with every divulgence of news say “THANK GOD” “THANK GOD” “THANK GOD”.

Previously:

On their return from holiday, Gemma said Toby had not been well. I realised at our house he hadn't been well the week before. On Bank Holiday morning I urged Gemma to ring and get advice; THANK GOD she acted immediately; THANK GOD the triage nurse at the “Walk In” recognised the seriousness and sent them to Warrington Hospital; THANK GOD Toby's symptoms were recognised in Warrington and they were whisked away in the Emergency Transfer Ambulance with specialised staff.

THANK GOD we have Alder Hey Children's Hospital available to all children. THANK GOD for the consultant who came over from Manchester and dealt so gently and professionally with them all. THANK GOD our eldest daughter and husband were able to drive immediately to stay with Toby's sister and brother overnight and bring them the next day to stay the week with us.

Our children only had one Grandfather, Toby has two. On his visit to Alder Hey with Grandmother and Aunty, Grandfather John told a naughty story and, for the first time, Toby laughed. THANK GOD for Grandfathers and Grandmothers and Aunties. and Uncles. THANK GOD for laughter.

THE PILGRIMAGE to ALDER HEY HOSPITAL: that place of goodness, of love, of care, of hope, which Gemma and Mike didn't sign up for and only recognised in their later reflections. A place where all people who go there to work at all levels contribute to the well-being of the patients; the porters, the cleaners, the maintenance staff, the cooks, the nurses, the doctors, the volunteers - and those people who designed the building and its surrounding garden where local children and hospital children were able to play together. THANK GOD for people working and living as community.

Five days later, Toby was discharged and returned home. Around the table Gemma and Mike tearfully and gratefully reflected on everything they had experienced to make their constant attendance at the bedside possible: the accommodation in Ronald McDonald House and the food, which was provided from the legacy of Sophie, (a young girl from Hampshire who died of cancer). Perhaps Toby should have the last word:

One day at his bedside in Alder Hey Hospital Gemma asked Toby “how do you feel”? (expecting perhaps “hot, cold, hungry” etc.) , he said: “I feel cared for”. Jean Critchley

Live Steaming of services on YouTube

Thanks to some grant funding from Community Foundation Merseyside, we have installed cameras in St Nicholas' to enable us to live stream services on YouTube. The YouTube channel is called St Nicholas St Mary's Halewood Team and the direct link is: <https://bit.ly/halewood-ecumenical>



We are streaming Sunday and Thursday morning services live and it is also available for you to watch later. You may wish to make use of this if you are unable to attend church in person for any reason.

If you subscribe to our YouTube Channel (It's free) it will make it easier to access in future.

BAPTISMS AT ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S – OCTOBER 2025

26th October at St Mary's - Luciano Giuseppe Di Maria

26th October at St Nicholas - Henry William Ranlston

26th October at St Nicholas - Skylar rose Allen - great granddaughter of Pat and Bob Hatchard, long-standing regular members of St Nick's.

Funerals at St Nicholas' in October 2025			
15 October	Rose Mary Newby	Age 89	Funeral
29 October	Mark Robert Ming	Age 63	Burial (RC)
31 October	Joyce Peers	Age 83	Funeral

The Cheese and Wine Evening on 3rd October in St Mary's was a huge success, and very well attended. It was lovely to meet new faces as well as catch up with old friends.

The wine was well selected and there were plenty of non-alcoholic alternatives. The cheeses were absolutely delicious, the range of biscuits provided was excellent, and there were figs, grapes, olives,





tomatoes and chutneys as well as a choice of butters. I don't think anybody could complain about the range of choices available.

Thanks have to go to Tracy and Amii, and the team of Vanessa, Jane and Amii's mum for all the preparation, support and hours of work they put in.

Linda x

Mid Wales church offers unique autumn stay for walkers

Walkers looking for a new way to explore the Welsh countryside this autumn can now book overnight stays at St Gwrhai's Church in Penstrowed, Powys — one of only two “champing” sites in Wales.

Champing, a blend of ‘church’ and ‘camping’, offers exclusive overnight access to historic churches no longer used for regular services. St Gwrhai's, built in the 1860s on a site with Christian heritage dating back to the 6th century, sits beside the River Severn and provides access to walking routes across Mid Wales.

The church accommodates up to four guests and includes a fully equipped kitchen in the adjacent hall, an indoor toilet, and secure space for bikes. Dogs are welcome. Most guests stay for one or two nights, with solo travellers, small groups, and families all booking during the first season.

Located an hour from both Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the site is well placed for exploring the Cambrian Mountains, which lie 20 minutes away and include nine Dark Sky Discovery sites. The Severn Way — a 215-mile walking route to Bristol — begins nearby, and guided walking groups operate in the area.

The initiative is run by the Bro Arwystli Ministry Area. Guests have exclusive use of the church during their stay. For more info: champing.co.uk.

Thank you Parish Pump!

Lincoln Pilgrimage 2025 – Second Day

Day 2: St Wulfram's church Grantham

Today we visited this wonderful church, a Grade I listed building it has the second tallest spire in Lincolnshire after St James' Church, Louth. The church has been on this site for over 1000 years, and the current church has stood since the 15th century. We had guides taking us round the church, after we'd had refreshments on arrival. We were greeted by a larger than life figure as we entered.

The spire

In his book England's Thousand Best Churches, Simon Jenkins begins his description of St Wulfram's: "Here is the finest steeple in England", and in 2020 an online contest run by poet Jay Hulme named it as the finest non-cathedral English church.

The spire, at 274 feet (84 m) (the church leaflet says 286ft), is the sixth highest in the country (Salisbury, Norwich and Old Coventry Cathedrals are higher), and third highest of any parish church, after the Church of St Walburge, Preston, and St James' Church, Louth. It is the second highest of any Anglican parish church in the UK after St James', and second highest in Lincolnshire after St James'. In 2013 an appeal was launched to save the spire and in 2014 major reconstruction of the upper third of the spire took place.

History

Wulfram was the son of a soldier who, instead of becoming a soldier himself, took Holy Orders and became Archbishop of Sens in 692. He resigned from Sens and became a missionary to the pagan Frisians (now northern Germany), died in 720 and was made a saint due to the many miracles credited to him. His remains were eventually buried in the church of Notre Dame in Abbeville.

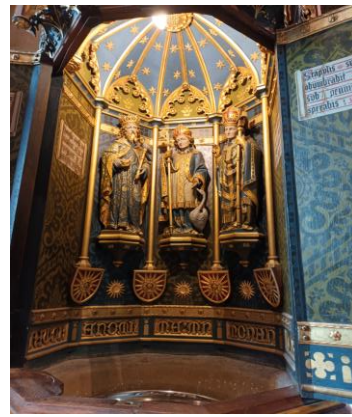
The Domesday Book 1086 describes Grantham as a Saxon settlement of over 1000 people. The stone Saxon church was dedicated to St Wulfram and had an annual income of 100 shillings. In the 1100s a Norman church was built on the Saxon church site, and some of the architectural features are still visible, such as the doorway and arch which looks incomplete! The current footprint was developed from 1280 - 1380, with St Kathryn's chapel (now the Clergy Vestry) added about 1496. The spire, 282ft 10in, was complete at this point. In 1566 it is recorded that a silver and copper shrine called the 'St Wulfram Shrine', possibly containing a relic of the saint, was sold. (Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor 1042 - 1066, may have been given some relics of Wulfram which were then deposited in the church named after him.) The sale was part of Elizabeth I's policy to establish and order the Church of England. Pre reformation there was a shrine in the crypt to St Wulfram, with the altar step worn from years of kneeling pilgrims. Only one other church in the UK is dedicated to him. Further changes took place in the 18th century using a wooden screen to divide the church into two parts. In 1863 George Gilbert Scott came and produced the plan that has influenced the appearance of the inside today. The wooden font cover on top of the 15th century stone font was made in 1899 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The three carved figures are Edward the Confessor, St Hugh of Lincoln (with his swan) and St Wulfram.

The Francis Trigge Chained Library

In 1598 the Revd. Francis Trigge arranged for a library to be provided in the church for the use of the clergy and the inhabitants of the town. He supplied books to the value of £100, or thereabouts, equivalent to about £20,000 in 2018. This was the first English library endowed under a civic authority rather than a cathedral, church, college or school. Next door is King's school; the school master was one of the four keyholders, and one of his pupils was Isaac Newton...so he may have used the books! It was probably an agent for Trigge who went to Cambridge to buy the initial 300 books, which covered divinity, medicine, animals, geography, history and some obscure legal works. As books generally were very valuable and these were accessible to the public, it was necessary to secure them, hence the chains. These were housed in a room on the upper floor of the South Porch. Access was up a narrow circular staircase, and once up there we were able to see this incredible library. There was also the opportunity to 'spy' on the activities below us through the windows in the stonework.

The building is decorated with carvings in both wood and stone, and has some fabulous stained glass windows, and heavily embroidered robes.

St Wulfram, Grantham

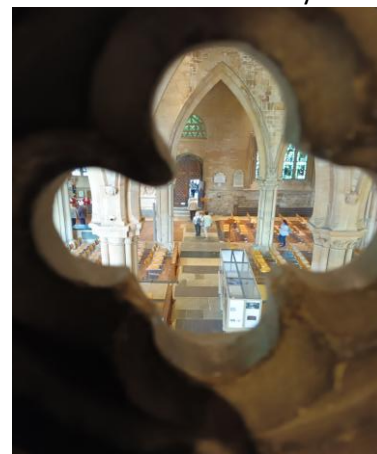


The carvings on top of the font

The Trigge library of chained books



The view from the library



An ornate chasuble c.1880



Beautiful modern stained glass



St Botolph's Boston

We arrived in Boston with free time for exploring and lunch before all meeting at the church for our guided tour.

St Botolph's Church is the Anglican parish church of Boston, Lincolnshire, England. It has been referred to as "Boston Stump" since it was constructed in the 16th century. Its tower is one of the tallest medieval towers in the country at 266 feet 9 inches (81.31 m) tall, making it the tallest parish church in England to its roof, and was long used as a landmark for the Boston fishermen; on a clear day it can be seen from Norfolk. The church is a Grade I listed building. The nickname, Boston Stump (also known as "the Stump"), is often used as a reference to the whole church building or for the parish community housed by it. The formal name is Saint Botolph's Parochial Church of Boston. The name "Boston" is thought to have evolved from "Botolph's Town".



A lot of work was being done on getting the community involved in activities so there were some interesting things to be seen such as an art exhibition, craft activities and Lego. There was also a lovely gift shop.



Earlier buildings

Early English legends say that the church was built on the site of a monastery founded by Saint Botolph in 654. As the main source of this account is the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, it is strongly disputed. Modern historians believe it much more likely that Botolph's monastery was located at Iken in Suffolk. The Boston Stump is not the first church to have been built on this site. Archaeological evidence indicates that a smaller wooden and stone Norman church had existed on the location of the south aisle of the present building.

Foundation and architecture

The existing church was begun in 1309 at the east end, as was customary. With the chancel built, work reached the south aisle and moved on through the nave until its completion around 1390. Foundation trouble, because of proximity to the river, delayed progress while the chancel was extended to prop the building up and create a greater level of structural stability. The nave piers had been leaning dangerously to the east. This work was successful to the extent that today the tower leans by less than half a centimetre, despite its great height. The tower was not begun until 1450, by excavation of a deep, wide hole. Indicating the architectural skill employed by the builders at the time, the tower remains structurally solid and has not required any restoration work to realign it despite The Haven being only 33 feet (10 m) away and the original foundations built under water level. It was completed between 1510 and 1520 in the Perpendicular style that had become popular during much of the 15th century. A walkway at roughly two thirds of the height of the tower encircles the edges, giving great views from the Wash in the east toward Lincoln in the west. Reached by 209 steps, the walkway also provides access to the tower level with the bells. The tower is topped with a highly decorated octagonal lantern ringed with pinnacles, one of fewer than half a dozen medieval examples surviving in England. The nave is 242 feet (74 m) long and 104 feet (32 m) wide, making the internal space of the building impressive by its sheer size. It terminates in the vaulted chancel containing the high altar at the extreme eastern end of the church. The church was vaulted in wood in the 18th century, but the nave vaults were removed in the 20th century. The relatively short period of construction for such a large church is fairly unusual in England, and an indication of the wealth of Boston. Most similarly sized churches, largely cathedrals, took hundreds of years to build due to constant fund shortages, giving them a variety of different styles as exhibited by other East Anglian churches, such as Ely or Peterborough. The Stump was built in less than 150 years, giving it a rare sense of architectural coherence and unity.

Misericords

St Botolph's has an array of sixty-two misericords dating from 1390. Subject matter includes mythology, heraldry, and some everyday scenes, for instance "Master seated birching a boy who is trying to protect himself with a book, three other boys are looking on," and "Two jesters, each squeezing a cat under its arm and biting its tail". Really...an everyday scene?

Dimensions and statistics

St Botolph's Church is the widest parish church in England, the tallest to roof, and also one of the largest by floor area. The very largest by floor area is Holy Trinity Church in Hull, now known as Hull Minster.

- The tower is 266 feet 6 inches (81.23 m) high.
- The walls of the tower are 40 feet (12.2 m)
- Ground level interior height of the tower is 137 feet (41.8 m).
- Views from the top of the tower reach 32 miles (51.5 km).
- Interior space is 20,070 square feet (1,865 m²)
- Nave length is 242 feet (74 m).
- Nave width is 104 feet (32 m).

There are many dimensions of the church that correspond with dates in the calendar. The roof is supported by 12 pillars (months), the church has 52 windows (weeks), and 7 doors (days of the week). There are a total of 365 steps to the tip of the tower (days of the year). There are 24 steps to the library (hours) and 60 steps to the roof (minutes and seconds).

Significance of the tower

The tower was used as a marker for travellers on The Fens and in The Wash. It is commonly believed that it was once lit from inside the tower in order to serve this purpose at night as well as during the day. George Jebb's *Guide to the Church of St Botolph, with Notes on the History of Boston*, mentions rings in the tower from which lights could be hung, pointing out that it was a popular practice. The tower became important again in World War II, when Lincolnshire was known as "Bomber County" for its proliferation of air bases. British and American pilots would use The Stump as a signpost to guide

them back to base. It also appears that the German Luftwaffe used the tower as a marker, but the town of Boston suffered few bombings.

When floodlighting was recently fitted at The Stump, a great deal of research was done. The yellow lighting of the octagonal lantern was specially put in place to represent the historic use as a marker to guide travellers on land and sea.

How the Name came about

The first theory is that the tower took so long to build it resembled a stump during the construction phase. Seventy years was not, however, a particularly long time for a tower of such height to be built. Many similarly tall structures would be built a level at a time over hundreds of years.

Secondly, it was intended to be completed with a spire. This seems unlikely, as there has not been a single recorded lantern tower in England that has been topped with a spire. It is possible that a spire was originally intended to rest on the first phase of the tower. It would have looked rather like St James' Church, Louth.

The third explanation is that it is named after the dramatic appearance it creates rising from the flat fenlands that surround it for miles. Other churches, including Ely Cathedral, also derive nicknames from their appearance when viewed from the Fens.

Library

As a centre of learning, St Botolph's has a library that is located above the porch. The height of this above ground level is perhaps to protect the precious books contained within from flooding, an event that was frequent when the church was originally built.

The library was re-founded in 1634. The books from that period were mostly donated, with donors' names recorded on the fly leaf. A later 17th-century vicar left his books to the library, about doubling its size. The bookshelves date from 1766. Indications from the book bindings show the library was not chained, although some books have been held in chained libraries. Catalogues were produced before the Archdeacon got rid of numerous books in 1819. By 1950 this collection had more than 1,500 volumes. The majority of books (about 1,200) date to the 17th century, but about 150 books were printed before 1600, and there are a small number of incunabula dating from 1501 or earlier. Many of these books are believed to be a gift of Anthony Tuckney (1599–1670), who was vicar when the library was first established.





Launch date is on Friday, 28th November 2025 at St Mary's Church from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. The next Group session will be on the 19th December, the last working Friday in December 2025.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE



Bishop Ruth Welcomes the Appointment of the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally as the next Archbishop of Canterbury

His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the next Archbishop of

Canterbury, Downing Street has announced.

The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597, Bishop Sarah will be the first woman to hold the office.

She will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026.

After hearing the news that the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, will be the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Ruth said "I am absolutely delighted by this fantastic news! Bishop Sarah has the wisdom and courage to lead us as a Church. May she know God's grace as she takes up the task!"

Sarah Mullally has been the Bishop of London since 2018, the first woman to hold that role, and previously served as the Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Prior to her ordination in 2001, she was the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England – the youngest person ever to be appointed to that role at the age of 37 – having previously specialised as a cancer nurse. Bishop Sarah has described nursing as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God".

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for Canterbury nominated Bishop Sarah following a process of public consultation and prayerful discernment that began in February this year. The Canterbury CNC was made up of representatives from across the Church of England, global Anglican Communion and the Diocese of Canterbury.

Please pray for Bishop Sarah as the Church of England embarks on a new chapter of faith and mission.

[You can read more about this story on the Church of England's Website.](#)

The Door: Fragments of the Love of God by Paul Bayes

Paul Bayes, a retired Anglican bishop who served as Bishop of Liverpool for eight years, offers this image of the door as a valuable way of adjusting to landscapes familiar and unfamiliar in our passage through life. It proved helpful for him as his own path turned in an unexpected and traumatic direction following retirement in 2022. His wife Kate developed a serious illness and died two years after their move to a new home; Paul rediscovered himself in a new environment – spiritually and theologically, emotionally and physically – and a need to adjust to a thinner, more testing air.

The Door is a book to help each of us navigate challenging landscapes without and within. It is comprised of fragments – of wisdom and reflection, of questions and wonder, and of the deep mysteries of God which can be found both in the desert and the public place. 'The ideas and values implicit in this book have nourished me, and I still hope for a world in which they may nourish others,' Paul writes. 'So I offer the pieces here in the belief that they might reflect, in splintered fashion, aspects of the love of God.'

He continues: 'Perhaps ... we need to find some fragments that fit our building or our picture, rather than reading about a well-proportioned picture or a building that someone else has thought up.'

'The door swings, and the journey continues, into rooms and on to paths. For me the journey within is to a small, unvarnished, empty room, with a presence intermittently felt, if always trusted. The road out is into anonymity, into the struggle for justice alongside human beings with no necessary Christian labels.'

Get your copy [on](#) the Diocesan website.

Armistice Day at Liverpool Cathedral

On Tuesday 11 November, Liverpool Cathedral will hold two short Acts of Remembrance at 11.00 am. One will take place inside the Cathedral, led from the Ambo, and the other outside the main West Doors beside the military graves and memorials.



We will gather from 10.55 am, with the commemoration concluding by around 11.05 am. All are welcome to pause with us to remember those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom in two World Wars and many other conflicts, as well as those who continue to bear the scars of war.

As we look back in remembrance, we will also pray for those who risk their lives today to bring peace, stability and humanitarian aid to war-torn parts of our world.

Find out more [on](#) the Diocesan website.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – Thursday 20th November 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas Centre.

Our email address for weddings is. halewoodparishweddings@gmail.com

Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries -

Our Baptism Secretary's email address is halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com

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Sunday 9 November 2.30pm
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Sunday 16 November 2.30pm
All Hallows Church
Greenhill Rd L18 6JJ

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ticketsource.co.uk/bentley-operatic-society
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INVITE ONLY



Christmas Quiz - 6th December

Fundraising event at the **St. Nicholas Centre** - Bring your own refreshments.

Tickets: See Gill or Tom Beesley, or email the Parish Office at hailewoodparish@btconnect.com

Please check the details of the groups and volunteers below and let me know if any of them have changed. Thank you, Margaret.

*Run by Halewood Town Council, **Women`s Wellness Group, Self Care for You!***

Relaxation exercises, creative writing, fun quizzes, group discussions, and more!

£ 7.00 per session with refreshments included, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm at Hollies Hall, Hollies Road, Halewood. Please contact begertoncoaching@gmail.com to book a place.

Halewood Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union meets on the first Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.00 pm at the St Nicholas' Centre. Sadly numbers in the group are dwindling and they would love to welcome some new members. The group has a programme of guest speakers and other events throughout the year.

You don't have to be a mother to be a member and men (known as Muscle men) are also welcome. For more information, please speak to Georgina McQueen.

Knowsley Older People's Fun Olympics (K.O.P.F.O.)

Are you aged 50 or over, looking to take part in an activity, and meet new friends? Why not come and join us at our weekly activity sessions held at the Halewood Leisure Centre, Baileys Lane, Halewood, L26 0TY.

We meet every Thursday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Amongst the activities we play are:

- *Badminton*
- *Boccia (a game like bowls but played sitting down with soft leather balls)*
- *Indoor Bowls*
- *Curling*
- *Table Tennis*
- *Dominoes*
- *Draughts*
- *Scrabble*

The sessions are aimed at encouraging you to be active, socialise and having fun at the same time, so please come along where you will be made very welcome and quickly become one of the group. Cost is 90 pence per week. For further information, please ring Sue, a member of the team, on 0151 487 0974.

Bible Study

Wednesday evenings, 7.30 pm at Mark and Vanessa Harrison's house.

All are welcome to come and study God's Word, learning together in an informal setting.

If you would like more details please contact us on ness.harrison@gmail.com

Community Connect (Formerly Warm Hub)

Join us every Thursday at 10.00 am in St Nicholas' Church for tea, coffee, juice and toast! You will receive a warm welcome!

Volunteers always needed! Please speak to James.

Elevate - New Youth Club for should Years 5 - 8

Elevate is a new youth club for those in Years 5 - 8 on a Sunday night from 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm in St Nic's Parish Centre. There'll be games and activities, real talk & faith discussions and a space to belong. For more information contact James on jameshf.pariah@gmail.com or just turn up this Sunday night. Parents will still need to attend the evening service to obtain a scan-in for schools' applications.

We'll Care Community Tea Dance

The Tea Dance is held on the last Thursday of every month 12 midday to 3.00 pm.

Entrance is FREE and tea, coffee and soft drinks are provided.

Our Tea dance is held at: Hollies Hall, Hollies Road, Halewood, L26 0TH.

Limited car parking available.

For further information and to confirm your attendance please contact

Ria - 07707620544 (9.00 am – 4.00 pm)

HALEWOOD ART CLUB - EXPERT GUIDANCE AND TUITION FROM LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ARTIST, ANTHONY SMITH. BEGINNERS WELCOME!

WEDNESDAYS 1.00 – 3.00 pm, Environment Centre, Okell Drive - BOOKING ESSENTIAL - £5

PLEASE CONTACT RANGER TONY on 07717301355 or 0151 488 6151

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Both of our churches rely on the generosity of members of our congregation in giving up their time to volunteer in all kinds of ways. At St Nicholas and St Mary's we are very blessed with the number of volunteers we do have but there is always room for more.

Below is a list of some of the volunteering opportunities you might like to consider, a rough idea of what the time commitment might be and, where possible, details of whom to contact for further information. The list is not exhaustive and doesn't include roles which might require some specialist knowledge, such as finance skills, HR skills etc.

Reading and leading Prayers at services in both churches – on a rota, approximately once or twice a quarter. *Speak to Gill Dover at St Mary's and Alison Shacklady at St Nicholas.*

Baby Bank St Mary's Halewood - Volunteers needed

Every Saturday Morning at St Mary's, the Shining Light's Baby Bank is open from 10 am - 12 midday providing pre loved baby items (clothes, toys, baby equipment etc) to families with babies and young children, all free of charge.

However, Jen Hargreaves and Gillian Dover, who are currently staffing this, urgently need some additional help to sort and organise donations as they come in and to help families find what they need. If you are able to spare the occasional Saturday morning to help out with this or know anyone else who might be able to help, please contact Jen on jen@mattharg.co.uk or Gill on gillian.dover@gmail.com.

Message from Micheal Sutcliffe

I need a volunteer, who has an enhanced DBS check, to help at Jam Club (which meets every Wednesday, between 15:45 and 16:45) and this is for children in years 1, 2 and 3 at school.

I also need a volunteer with the same level of safer recruitment to help out at Next Level, which is for secondary school children on Thursdays between 19:30 and 20:30.

Please contact Mike, our circuit children's worker: mike.circuitchildren@gmail.co.uk or 07867 489463.

Sidespersons at both churches – on a rota, approximately once or twice a quarter: meeting and greeting people, giving out and collecting in service sheets, taking the collection, tidying up after the services. *Speak to Wardens/Steward.*

Communion Stewards - to help set up Communion and assist with administering Communion (2nd Sunday) - on a rota once a quarter.

Baptism Sponsors – at the moment just at St Nicholas – approximately three or four times a year: supporting families during baptism services (12.15 pm and 1.00 pm on second Sundays). (But we would welcome a couple of volunteers for this role at St Mary's for the occasional baptism services which happen there.) *Contact Sally Moore, Baptism Secretary on halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com.*

Tea and coffee before and after morning services – on a rota, approximately two or three times a quarter. *Speak to Wardens/Steward.*

Church cleaning – St Nicholas on Friday mornings between 10.15 and 11.00 am. *Speak to Graham Elliott.* St Mary's – date and time can be arranged to suit – but Saturday morning when the building is open for Foodbank might be a good day - once a month. *Speak to Gill Dover or Jen Hargreaves.*

Work with children – all roles need a DBS check and safeguarding training.

Creche and Junior Church at St Mary's and St Nicholas operate three Sundays a month during term times. Help required on a rota basis.

For St Mary's contact Laura Fisher – lauraburke09@hotmail.co.uk or Emma Rooney emma.creasy@btinternet.com

For St Nicholas' creche contact Catherine Williams catherine12725@gmail.com

For St Nicholas' junior church contact Hayley McShane hayleymcshane84@gmail.com

For after school clubs at St Mary's: Jam/Boss/Next Level contact Mike Sutcliffe

mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com

Volunteers are also often needed to help out with uniformed organisations (Rainbows/Brownies/Guides) – contact via <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Gardening/Churchyard clearance – occasional gardening working parties at both churches.

For St Nicholas contact Geoff Bullen geoffbullen@btinternet.com

For St Mary's contact Pam Boffey

pam.boffey@hotmail.com or Dave Crerar d.r.crerar@btinternet.com

Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

Bible knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant.

"It's easy, Daddy," the boy replied. "It means: 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Thank you Parish Pump!

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.



The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they are proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.

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