

ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the October issue to me by 20th September 2025 please.

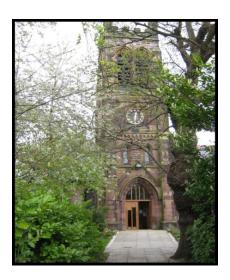
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



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

Email address above.

Margaret



Prayer for September 2025

Heavenly Father, September is the month of new starts for so many. New starts can be exciting, but they can also be daunting. We don't always know what to expect and sometimes we feel as if we are on our own in a strange new place, or situation.

Help us to know that, as your people, we are never alone. You promised, through Jesus, to be with us always and You gave us Your Holy Spirit to empower us.

In some ways every day is a new start – a new gift from You. As we unwrap the gift of each new day, this September, encourage us to receive it confidently and expectantly. Help us to know that we can do all things, through Christ Jesus, who strengthens us. We can! In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

Why pray? – an encouragement to engage with our week of prayer

From Monday 1st to Sunday 7th September, there will be prayer events across the Christ our Light Parish. Each day in different congregations, different groups will gather to seek God together. We will also take part in prayer wherever we are, in work, home or in the community. This week is a demonstration of hope and faith. Whilst we all may struggle at understanding and committing to pray, we all know God answers prayer. In particular God responds to united and passionate calls for his presence and work in our country, community, and church.

At the beginning of the year, I had a sense 2025 was going to be a good year. Not that we wouldn't experience challenge, pain and difficulty, but rather through all this God would bless us. This has been our joy as we have seen people coming to faith, others joining us, and adults getting baptised with full immersion. There have been many other answers to prayer. The Bible verse that we chose for ourselves this year is Ephesians 3 v 20 'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.'

So, as we begin September and contemplate a new academic year, we can commit all that is before us to the Lord. We will trust that He will do even more than we have experienced so far. We can anticipate in the months leading to December many opportunities for worship, and for witness, moments of encounter with Jesus and fellowship with one another.

The week of prayer is more than just another new tradition but rather an opportunity for us all to grow closer to God. We can make as much of this week as we want. Why not put aside some extra time to be still and pray this week? You may even like to find a devotional to guide you. Include in your prayers times of praise and worship, as well as Bible reading/meditation, intercession for others, and prayers for yourself. There are many resources you can use to help you. These include 24-7 prayer website, lectio 365 app, UCB Bible notes, among others.

Above all, be expectant and excited about all that is going to happen in our time of prayer. Many new people are coming to church across the country, so let's continue to seek God together and pray for more blessing upon our Team and our new Larger Single Parish.

Andy

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Thursday 4th September: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 7th September: **Proper 18 (Philemon 1-21, Luke 14.25-33)**

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Carol Burke

11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford

Thursday 11th September: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 14th September: **Proper 19 (1 Timothy 1.12-17, Luke 15.1-10)**

10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Andy Radford

11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade: Matthew Hargreaves

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship/Healing service: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Phil Saltmarsh

Thursday 18th September: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 21st September: **Proper 20 (1 Timothy 2.1-7, Luke 16.1-13)**

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship/Baptism: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Adam Grey6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

Thursday 25th September: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 28th September: **Proper 21 (1 Timothy 6.6-19, Luke 16.19-31)**

10.30 am St Mary GMJC/Café Church: Matthew Hargreaves & Gareth

Morgan

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: David Goodwin1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: Gareth Morgan & James H-F

6.30 pm St Nicholas: NO SERVICE

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy & Jen Radford

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



Our July Walk was into the city along the banks of the River Mersey, a path trodden by millions of scousers over the centuries.

We started at the Festival Gardens car park, with dark clouds looming overhead, and we made our way along the prom past all the old south end dock areas towards the Albert Dock. The tide was low resulting in very little activity in the water.

Hoods and hats came on and off a few times but the rain lost the battle and we ended up being gifted with lovely walking weather, warm with a brisk breeze.

Over three miles later, we arrived at the Pier Head, which was thronged with tourists snapping photos here and there; some of them possibly from the small cruise ship berthed there. We had our

break then joined the queue to get a photo at the Fab Four statues, which we hadn't done on previous visits. Some of us sampled the merchandise of

an ice cream van and we headed back in the direction of Garston.

It was our day for statues as Big John and Penni stopped at a lovely bronze sculpture near to the shops at the Albert Dock. It is described online as follows:-.

The Legacy sculpture can be seen overlooking the River Mersey, outside the Piermaster's House in the Royal Albert Dock.

This statue of a young family commemorates migration from Liverpool to the new world. It was given to the people of Liverpool by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a tribute to the many families from all over Europe who embarked on a brave and pioneering voyage from Liverpool to start a new life in America.

It is estimated that in total approximately nine million



people emigrated through the port.

The sculpture by Mark DeGraffenried is cast in bronze. The child stepping forward at the front symbolises migration to the unknown world whilst the child playing with a crab at the back indicates a deep association with the sea.

There were some weary legs arriving back at the Festival Garden car park, having covered more than we normally do, seven miles plus on Penni Conlon's phone. We eagerly await her next adventure.

Geoff

PARISH WALK - August 9th 2025

A group of sixteen, eager walkers met at St Nick's on a beautiful summery morning.

From there we drove to Hunts Cross Station.

After the usual pre walk refreshments at the Metro cafe we caught a train to Birkenhead Park. Several people in the group had not visited before, in fact Norma, one of the ladies, had requested the

trip.

First stop was the small visitor centre situated in the cafe building. Here there was a display of old photographs of the park as well as information boards telling the history of it.

Birkenhead Park is the world's first publicly funded park. Designed by Joseph Paxton, it opened on April 5th 1847. A local act of Parliament allowed an improvement commission to use public money to buy 226 acres of marshy grazing land on the edge of Birkenhead.

Plots of land on the edge of the proposed park were sold off in order to fund its construction. Some of these grand houses still remain. However, due to the Long Depression in the latter part of the 19th century, many of the plots remained undeveloped until well into the early 20th century.

The park plan was designed by Joseph Paxton and the building was supervised by Edward Kemp ~ both of whom had worked on the redesigning of the gardens at Chatsworth House. Entrances, gateways and lodges were designed by

Lewis Hornblower and John Robertson. These are still in existence today and we enjoyed seeing the beautiful Grand Entrance as well as the attractively maintained lodges.





American landscape architect, F. L. Olmsted, visited the park in 1850. The ideas that Birkenhead Park embodied were so ground-breaking that he took them back across the Atlantic and applied them in his design for New York's Central Park and then

for many other parks across the U.S.

It took five years to build and an estimated 10,000 people attended the opening. Thankfully, it was much quieter on our visit.

We did a full circuit of the park, taking in the Upper, Lower and Figure of Eight Lake as well as the Swiss Bridge and Roman Boathouse. The Roman boathouse has an intricate mosaic floor made of pebbles. The park is divided by Ashville Road which we crossed on our walk before returning to the picnic benches by the Visitor Centre. After a sustaining snack we left the park via the Grand Entrance.

John Rowlandson, one of our members, suggested that we go back via Conway Park Station and, after checking Google Maps, we realised that we were roughly equidistant between that and Birkenhead Park. As it happened, we walked a little further as a new plaza is being built outside the station at the moment and the pedestrian route was not as the crow flies!

Conway Park also has 99 steps from street level to the platform but at least we were going down! We had a comfortable journey back to Hunts Cross on the new Merseyrail trains although from Central it was busy with crowds of young people on their way to the music festival in Otterspool. We decided not to join them, however, and alighted at Hunts Cross tired but satisfied with our day out. Lovely weather, great company and an interesting place to visit too. What more could you want?

Penni

NEXT PARISH WALK

Saturday 13th September - meet at St Nicholas' Centre at 10.00 am. Walk around Sefton, Greenbank and Wavertree Playground. Also visiting Wavertree Congregational Church in Hunters Lane where there is a wedding dress display as part of the nationwide heritage weekends.

The walk is about 6 miles in length and mainly flat.

More details from Penni on 07990953334.



Rectory Garden Party

Our Vicar, Gareth, and his wife, Elizabeth, warmly invited all to their gorgeous garden yesterday, Saturday 16th Aug 2025. Amazingly, this was two years to the day since the first working

party on Gareth's massive and then very unkempt garden.

The good news is that the Rectory Garden is now a beautiful green place and a lovely party venue, the bad news is that it is so big that it took Gareth six hours to just mow the grass in

preparation.

The scene had been set, with food and drink, bouncy castle, swings, and a healthy scattering of tables and chairs. All it needed was people to turn up and so they did in large numbers and across an age range of 1 to 90+ years of age.

What a joyful, harmonious, day it turned out to be, no doubt enhanced



by perfect weather and wonderful, generous, hospitality.





8th September – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In both eastern and western Churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour. Thomas Aquinas believed she was due *hyperdulia*, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or *latria*, due to God alone.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or *Magnificat,* appears in Luke 1:46 - 55.

The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching.

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century, she was called *Theotokos*, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2nd February), the Annunciation (25th March), the Assumption (15th August) and her Nativity (8th September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her. During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed. The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church.

Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico).

How to have a 'more healthy' heart

Gratitude may help you recover more quickly from a heart attack. So says a study by the University of California, who examined gratitude as part of an outlook that involves appreciating the positive aspects of life, and often goes hand in hand with spirituality.

It was found that people who have a life attitude of being grateful are also likely to have a better mood, better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. Researchers said they were surprised to find that gratitude

accounted for such beneficial effects. As one scientist put it, "It seems that a more grateful heart is indeed a more healthy heart."

How can you express gratitude in an easy-to-remember and daily way? Why not bring back the habit of pausing to say a simple grace of thanks before each meal? And why not take a few minutes to say your prayers before bed each night?

Thank you Parish Pump

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 – JULY 2025

St Nicholas 27th July Harry Van Den Boss

Vienna Blossom Minett Kohen Oakley Minett Rosabella Hilda Higgs

Funerals at St Nicholas' in July and August 2025			
8 July	Jean Rogers	Age 86	Funeral
24 July	Harry Threlfall	Age 91	Burial of ashes
18 August	Sylvia Pettit	Age 89	Funeral
Wedding at St Mary's in August 2025			
2 August	Andrew Michael Duncalf	Grace Elizabeth Moffitt	

Men's Group - BBQ

Our latest Men's Group event took place in early July at the rear of St Mary's Church, Halewood.

Around 20 men from our local churches attended in gorgeous weather, perfect for an outside barbeque.

It was quite a classy event, an event shelter, two large barbeques, Daren Murrall playing on his saxophone as guests arrived, and Celebrity Chef, Dave Critchley, helping Mark Harrison with the cooking.

Guests ate, drank and talked into the night, until the thought of the morning alarm clock took precedence over the good time they were having.

Geoff





NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Triangle of Hope Round up

This summer, young people from the Diocese of Liverpool undertook a powerful and deeply moving journey as part of the Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrimage – a long-standing partnership between the dioceses of Liverpool, Virginia (United States), and Kumasi (Ghana). The programme invites young people to explore the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade through prayer, education, and the shared work of reconciliation.



We sat down with The Revd Canon Malcolm Rogers MBE to hear more about this great experience young people from across our diocese got to experience and even hear from some of those who took part in 2025's pilgrimage and hear first hand about their fantastic journey.

You can read the full round up story on the Diocesan website.



September's Directions Course Now Open

This 6-week course is designed to help you explore your Christian calling in community with others from across the Diocese of Liverpool.

Together, you'll look at who God calls, how to discern His voice, and what it means to serve as a disciple of Christ today.

With space for prayer, group discussion, Biblical reflection and 1-to-1 time with a Vocational Coach, Directions is here to help you discover where God may be leading you next.

Whether you're exploring something new or deepening your current ministry, there's no set outcome – just space to grow.

You can read the full round up story on the Diocesan website.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – Thursday 18th September 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

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 OTY.

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.parish@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 OTH.

Limited car parking available.

For further information and to confirm your attendance please contact

Ria - 07707620544 (9.00 am - 4.00 pm)

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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 jeilian.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 – <u>lauraburkeO9@hotmail.co.uk</u> or Emma Rooney <u>emma.creasy@btinternet.com</u>

For St Nicholas' creche contact Catherine Williams <u>catherine12725@gmail.com</u>
For St Nicholas' junior church contact Hayley McShane <u>hayleymcshane84@gmail.com</u>
For after school clubs at St Mary's: Jam/Boss/Next Level contact Mike Sutcliffe <u>mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com</u>

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

<u>pam.boffey@hotmail.com</u> or Dave Crerar <u>d.r.crerar@btinternet.com</u>

Day trip?

A north country choirmaster was rehearsing the hymns for Sunday, telling the choir the hymns they were to sing, and the tunes to which they were to sing them. He concluded the list and said, "Now then, 'Come ye that love the Lord', to Southport!"

A moment later a voice called out, "Where are you tekking t'rest of us then?"

Parish Pump

Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

Thanks Parish Pump



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