



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the November issue to me by 20th October 2026 please.

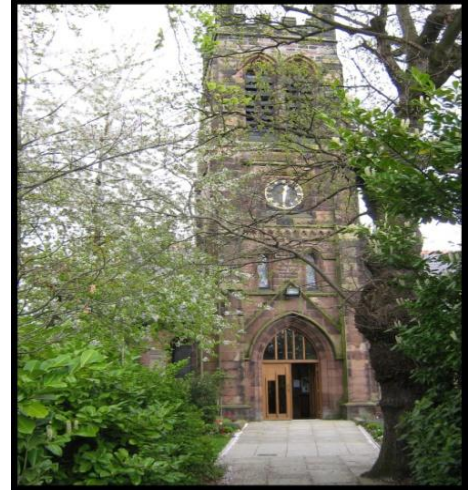
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



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

Email address above.

Margaret



Prayer for October 2026

The Word of God

(Heb 4:12, Isa 55:11, Jn16:33)

Changes, so many changes
in a world fragmenting and frightening,
where hatred and prejudice destroy
and shock even the unshockable.

Only the Word of God is constant; living, active
and powerful in proclamation.
Still able to accomplish
everything God desires.

The Word of God; everlasting lamp for our feet
and a light for our path
that darkness can never dim.

The Word of God; unchanging, unchangeable,
revealing and revealed
in Jesus, who has overcome the world.

Take heart!

By Daphne Kitching.

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**St Nicholas and St Mary's Ecumenical Team Ministry
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MINISTRY MESSAGE

“Take it and Read”

Teenage rebellion can take many forms: staying out too late, drinking, getting a tattoo. For me it was none of those things. It was God!

Becoming a Christian in my mid-teens completely bemused my family – and still does! One of the main marks of the change in me was an obsession with the Bible. I couldn't get enough of it. I had come across the Bible at school and through bits and pieces picked up at church parade, but suddenly it became something very different. It was no longer a dry, dusty book that other people read. It became a place of encounter with God.

Bible Sunday falls on 25 October this year, and it gives us a good opportunity to think about: **What part does the Bible play in my life?**

There are plenty of reasons why we can struggle with the Bible. We are not alone. It is, after all, not really one book but a collection of books, written over many centuries, in cultures very different from our own. It is sometimes difficult, messy, earthy and complex.

Yet, despite this complexity, the witness of Christians down the centuries is that the Bible has been a source of life and hope in the face of all the losses and crosses of life.

One of the Bible's most famous descriptions of itself is that Scripture is “God-breathed” (2 Tim 3:16). Despite its very human origins, we believe that God continues to speak through these ancient words. Scripture is not simply information about God; it can become a place where we encounter God.

And what we find there is ultimately not simply good advice, but good news. The Bible's story points us towards Jesus: towards the good news that, through his life, death and resurrection, God has acted to deal with sin and suffering and to open the way to forgiveness, freedom, new life and hope.

The Bible doesn't simply deliver that news to us like a postman delivering a letter. As we read it, listen to it and wrestle with it, it can read us too – showing us something of who we are and drawing us into a deeper relationship with God.

St Augustine was the original teenage rebel who became a big hitter theologian. His younger life, he tells us, was pretty wild. Yet, he had a loving, praying mother who never gave up on him. Eventually, having got himself into something of a mess, Augustine found himself sitting in a garden, his life in tatters.

He heard what seemed to be a child's voice saying, *“Take it and read; take it and read.”* He picked up a Bible, opened it and read the first passage on which his eyes fell – Romans 13:13–14, which calls us to turn away from destructive ways of living and instead “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”.

This isn't usually a great way to read the Bible, but Augustine describes what happened next in extraordinary terms, as immediately he felt something “infused in my heart something light, the light of full certainty and all the gloom of doubt vanished away.” This life changing encounter of the Bible was the beginning of his Christian journey.

His experience has been echoed by countless Christians since. Scripture has a way of getting beneath our skin and reading us! Sometimes it comforts us; sometimes it challenges us. Sometimes a passage we've read many times before suddenly speaks in a new way because of what we are going through.

So, this Bible Sunday, perhaps the question is simply: **How might I make a little more room for the Bible in my life?**

We are very fortunate to live at a time when there are more ways to engage with Scripture than ever before. If reading isn't your thing, maybe try an audio Bible. Watch a Bible explainer on bibleproject.com. Find a Bible



reading app. Come along to a Bible study or one of the other courses across our parish. Or simply take five minutes to read a few verses and sit quietly with them.

You don't have to understand everything. You don't have to read for an hour every day. Why not simply try something new this Bible Sunday?

“Take it and read.”

Who knows where it might lead?

Adam Grey

OCTOBER SERVICES

Thursday 1st October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 4th October ***Proper 22 - Harvest (Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Matthew 21.33-46)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Adam Gray

11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

Thursday 8th October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F

Sunday 11th October: ***Proper 23 (Exodus 32.1-14, Matthew 22.1-14)***

11.00 am Service for St Nicholas and St Mary's at ***Hope University***

(car passes available from Gareth)

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Rev Clement Matarirano

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship ***Harvest***: Andy Radford

Thursday 15th October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 18th October: ***Proper 24 (Exodus 33.12-23, Matthew 22.15-22)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship & Baptism: Gareth Morgan & Helen McGuinness

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: James H-F

6.30 pm St Nicholas Youth Led Service

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford

Thursday 22nd October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F

Sunday 25th October: ***Proper 25 (Deuteronomy 34.1-12, Matthew 22.34-46)***

10.30 am St Mary GMJC: Andy Radford

11.00 am St Nicholas: Morning Worship: Carol Burke

1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: Andy Radford

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: G Pinnington

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

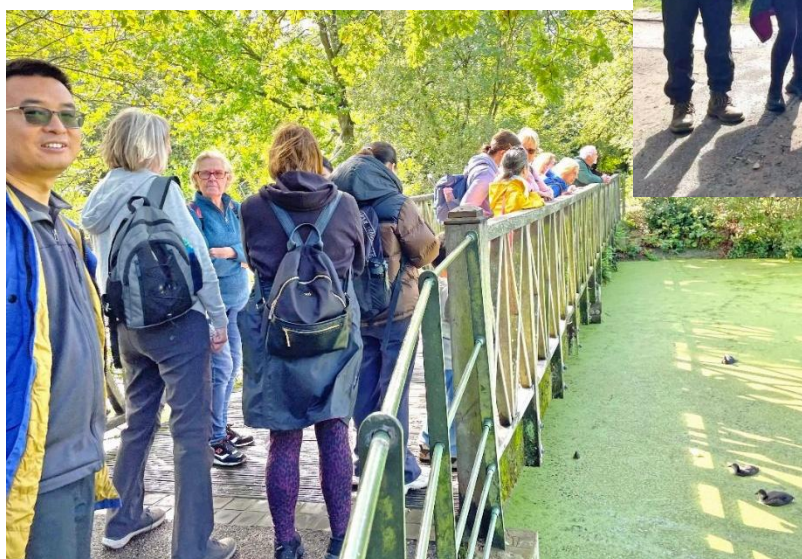
Thursday 29th October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Phil Saltmarsh

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

On a lovely late summer/early autumn day in September the Church Walking Group, referred to by one member as the toddling group, went for a walk in the park. No ordinary park, one that opened in 1847 and boasts 140 acres of historic parkland. It was Birkenhead Park, referred to in their brochure as the people's garden and the first park in the world to be developed from public funds.

Apparently, F.L. Olmsted, an American Landscape architect, visited the park in 1850 and took the ground breaking ideas back across the Atlantic, applying them in the design of New York's Central Park.



We met at our usual place, drove to Liverpool South Parkway station and most of us flashed our passes onto the train to Birkenhead Park, via Central Station.

The rain that first met us soon disappeared and we met up with the Long family at the park's Visitor Centre.

We set off and we were soon negotiating Lower Lake, with its Roman Boathouse, Swiss styled bridge and lots of wildlife. There was a lot of weed on the surface, no doubt due to the extended hot weather, but the ducks seemed to paddle through it okay.

The park was designed as a safe haven that would reflect tranquility and a feeling of the countryside whilst in the middle of town, and that's exactly what it did. Because it wasn't half as busy as Sefton Park there seemed to be much more freedom too.

A few miles later we were back at the Visitor Centre eating our packed lunches, some adding ice creams to the menu.

We were soon off exploring again, engaging with a very friendly squirrel with some chasing of the Long family's youngest who fancied a bit of rock climbing. We took a photo opportunity at the Grade II listed Grand Entrance and we were soon back at the Centre, where John and Barbara relaxed whilst engaged in their artwork and the rest of us tucked into gorgeous ice cream.



We clocked about 4.5 miles, all on the flat.

Christine Hughes had told me she was doing a 10-mile hike in Grasmere today with her walking team. I couldn't help contrasting that with our walk, which was way easier, but, in its favour, a great inclusive event for all ages.

Geoff

THE NEXT WALK

The next walk is on Saturday 10th October. We will meet at St Nick's at 10.00 am. No bacon butties this time but we will drive to South Parkway and get a train to Bebington. Then we will have a walking quiz of Port Sunlight. About 3 or so miles in length and good paths. Please bring something for lunch and a drink. Further info from Penni on 07990 953334

Live Streaming 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.



Why AI is far from divine

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E. You may wish to invite your minister to comment on this one ...

I wrote an email to my local councillor – and within three minutes received back a detailed reply summarising my concerns and promising action. A stunningly quick response. I was impressed, and grateful for the speedy reaction.

But then a thought came to me. Had this helpful, swift, reply perhaps been written, not by my councillor, but by Artificial Intelligence (AI)? And, if so, did it really matter?

It's hard to say, but it flagged up to me how AI is becoming such a key part of our lives, and often in ways that we take for granted. Like the algorithms that choose what we might like to watch next on TV or read on holiday.

Churches aren't immune to AI's increasing popularity. Pope Leo has advised his priests not to use it to write their sermons. He told them, "Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not move them, they die. The brain needs to be used, so our intelligence must also be exercised a little so as not to lose capacity."

To give a true sermon, the Pope explained, "is to share faith," something AI would never be able to do. He advised preachers, "people want to see your faith, your experience of having known and loved Jesus Christ." That is so true. A sermon should be preached for that congregation, in that place, at that specific point in time, and be delivered by a preacher who has opened themselves to hear from God as they prepared their message

AI is not human. It's been designed to trick users into thinking it has a personality and maybe opinions of its own. It will never know pain, hunger, disappointment or grief, or a whole range of other human emotions. And these are the emotions God experienced, living on earth as Jesus Christ. God with us, living and dying as we do. The Almighty came to live among us as human flesh, and not as computer code. Fully God, fully man. Christ lived, and died, in frail human flesh, and rose from death, underlining the sacred value of every human being.

AI falls far short of that value, no matter how closely it can mimic human personality.

Thank you Parish Pump

Ampleforth Pilgrimage 2026

Day 1: Liverpool to Ampleforth via Haworth

As ever, we picked up from St Mary's and then St Nicholas. Gareth was there to make sure we left (and to say a prayer for us!). We had a new driver, as Adrian had moved on to another firm, so no teas or coffees available, or chilled bottles of water, and no rubbish bags to take all our sweetie wrappers. Our route took us past a few familiar locations, not least Boundary Mill and, no, we didn't stop there. We meandered through some pretty challenging roads for cars, let alone a coach, but we eventually arrived in the coach park at Haworth.

We've obviously been spoiled by Adrian as he always dropped us as near to our 'target' as possible, and the same at pick up. Haworth was going to be a challenge. Several took the sensible option of staying on the pavement and went back to the main road, but the intrepid (or foolish) chose the 'shortcut', which rapidly became the equivalent of an assault course over uneven steps, tree roots and generally very rough ground. Eventually we reached the base of the 'tourist' street, a steep cobbled route leading upward to the church. Tuesday appeared to be closing, or at least half day closing, for many shops, but persistence

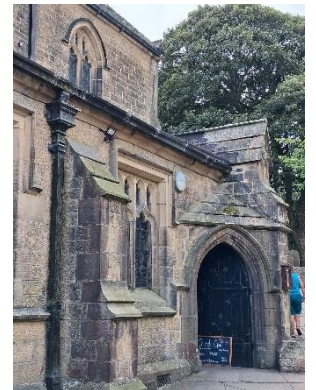


paid off and higher up there were cafes and shops that were happy to get our custom. I think most of us were very keen to have



refreshments before visiting the church. One pilgrim found a definite family link!

The parish church of Haworth is St Michael and All Angels' Church. Most of the structure, which is the third church building on the site, was built between 1879 and 1881. Parts of the original medieval church building, notably the tower, survive.



The church is best known for its historic association with the three Brontë sisters; their father, Patrick Brontë, served as perpetual curate of the parish between 1820 and 1861.



A chapel has existed on the site since 1488, though records held at the Archbishop's office in York show that in 1317 the rector of Bradford and the people of Haworth were commanded to pay the curate officiating in the chapel. John Wesley was known to have preached in the church many times in the 18th century.

As the church was not staffed, instead of lighting candles we were encouraged to 'take one of the glass beads in your hand. Hold it tight as you hold a prayer in your heart – a prayer of thanks, sadness, hope, or "help!" When you are ready let the bead drop into the water. As you watch the ripples, be assured that our loving God has heard you and is with you.'

The church was rebuilt in the 18th century in coarse dressed millstone with Westmorland slate on the roof. The tower from this period is still in existence as part of the rebuilding works that took place between 1879 and 1881.



This period of rebuilding caused outcry at the time as the church, parsonage and Haworth had become a big attraction due to the notoriety and adoration of the Brontë family, particularly the literature of Anne, Charlotte and Emily.

The Brontë Family vault is located to the right of the



altar and stained glass window.

The church is an active place of

Christian worship for the local community within the United

Benefice of Haworth and Cross Roads. The church underwent £750,000 worth of much needed

repairs to the roof and tower in 2016. This meant that the parishioners shared worship with the Methodist congregation at West Lane in Haworth whilst the renovations were undertaken.

At the back of the church were banners identifying the Apostles shown in the window, along with their attributes.



Name of Saint	Patron Saint of these Attributes
Phillip	Hatters and pastry cooks
Andrew	Patron Saint of Scotland, fishermen, fishmongers, ropemakers, golfers and performers
Peter	Includes among many, locksmiths, cobblers and netmakers
John	Authors, publishers, editors and painters
James the Greater	Veterinarians, equestrians, farriers, tanners and pharmacists
Bartholomew	Bookbinders, butchers, leatherworkers and tanners
Matthew	Accountants
Simon the Zealot	Sawyers
Jude	Lost causes, desperate situations and hospitals
James the Less	Apothecaries, druggists, fullers and milliners
Thomas	Architects and builders
Matthias	Alcoholism, carpenters, smallpox and tailors

We felt Matthias had the short straw in the distribution!

Brontë connection

Patrick Brontë came to Haworth with his wife Maria and children in 1820 from Thornton. He had been offered the perpetual curacy of the church at Haworth by the vicar of Bradford in 1819. He was the minister at St Michael and All Angels for 41 years and was assisted by his later son-in-law, Arthur Bell Nicholls.

The church is well visited by tourists eager to see the Brontë Memorial Chapel in the church and the Brontë remains of all members of the Brontë

of Anne, are interred. The tomb is marked by a simple plaque placed there in 1882 originally at the behest of Arthur Bell Nicholls, but eventually organised by a barrister called Biddell. The memorial chapel was built in 1963 after Sir Tresham Lever, son of Arthur Lever, donated funds to enable its construction.



family tomb where the mortal family, with the exception

Adjacent to the church is the historic graveyard, church school buildings and the Georgian era Church Parsonage where the Brontë family lived and wrote many of their renowned novels, short stories and poems.

Graveyard

The graveyard is estimated to contain between 40,000 and 42,000 bodies. Some graves contain entire families. Because of the overcrowding the graveyard closed in 1883 with a new cemetery opening in 1893 just off the road to Stanbury. Patrick Brontë campaigned for the graveyard adjacent to the church to be cleaned up and have the headstones placed vertically as the drainage was poor and was not helping decomposition.



This was at the bottom of the road leading up to the church and gave details of places to visit.

The nearest was the museum and church, claiming to be just 200yards away, and I doubt if any of our group believed that was anywhere near accurate! We don't know

if this was ever located somewhere else though.



The furthest locations were Colne, at 9miles, and Stone Gappe, Gateshead Hall, at 10 miles, a bit far away for a pleasant stroll.





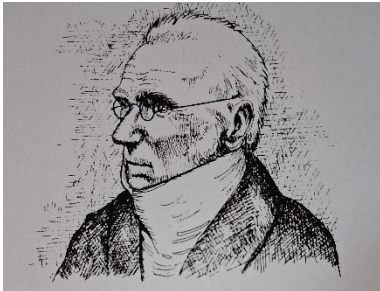
Haworth Old Post Office was up by the church.



The view down the street says it all.



The Brontë Family



Patrick Brontë 1777-1861

Patrick Brontë was born on St Patrick's Day, 17th March 1777, in County Down, Northern Ireland. His father was a poor peasant farmer and a Protestant, with the surname Brunty. His mother Alice was a Catholic.

Patrick taught himself to read and he taught in local schools by the time he was sixteen. He went to St John's College, Cambridge and his name went through several versions before becoming Brontë. He took his degree in 1806 and was then ordained. He held various curacies before arriving in Yorkshire in 1809, and in 1811 became a minister at Hartshead near Brighouse.

He became an examiner in theology for the pupils in a school near Bradford and it was here he met Maria Branwell, from Penzance, who was staying with the school's principals. They married at Guiseley Parish Church in December 1812 and, after a time in Thornton, they moved to Haworth in 1820 with their children. Sadly, just a year later, Maria died of cancer. Patrick had limited success as a writer, unlike his children. He outlived them all, dying on 7th June 1861.



Charlotte Brontë 1816-1855

Charlotte was born on 21st April 1816, the third of five girls, and outlived them all. She was 4 years old when the family moved to Haworth. She spent one year at Cowan Bridge school, leaving shortly after her elder sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, died of Tuberculosis. In 1831, aged 15, she went to Roe Head school in Mirfield where she made good progress. She left in 1832, but returned a few years later as a teacher. She had a couple of short stays at a school in Brussels before returning home to Haworth

where, in 1846, she started work on 'Jane Eyre'. On publication the following year the book was an instant success.

On 29th June 1854 Charlotte married Arthur Bell Nicholls, a curate, in Haworth Church. She became pregnant, but suffered with sickness and died on 31st March 1855, at the age of 39.



Branwell Brontë 1817-1848

Branwell is possibly the least well known of the family, and would qualify as the 'black sheep'. He was born in Thornton on 24th June 1817. He preferred art to literature and, after some lessons in Leeds, he went to London to join the Royal Academy in 1836 but got no further than a pub in Holborne. He returned home penniless. For the next couple of years he played the church organ and taught in the Sunday School.

In 1840 he obtained a position as tutor to a family in Broughton in Furness, but was dismissed for being frequently drunk, and the same year became a clerk at Sowerby Station, later transferring to Luddenden Foot. In 1842 he was sacked for discrepancies in his bookkeeping due to carelessness. In 1843 he was again a tutor, this time based in York, to the Reverend Robinson's son. He was dismissed in 1845 having declared his love for Mrs Robinson. He started to drink more heavily and use opium. He died of consumption on 24th September 1848. He was only 31 years old.



Emily was born at Thornton Vicarage on 30th July 1818. At 5ft 3in she was the tallest of the sisters with a reserved and resolute character, unlike her sisters. In 1837, after leaving school, she became a governess at a girls' boarding school near Halifax. In February 1842, Emily and Charlotte became boarders at a school in Brussels. They had to return home on the death of Aunt Branwell, and then Emily stayed at home to look after her father.

Wuthering Heights was published under her pseudonym, Ellis Bell, in December 1847, but at the time was not successful. While she was attending Branwell's funeral she caught a cold which developed into consumption. She refused to see a doctor and continued running the household. She died 19th December 1848. It is thought that disappointment regarding the reception of her novel, and grief over Branwell's death contributed to the rapid decline in her health.



Anne was the youngest sister, born on 17th January 1820. She also attended Roe Head school in Mirfield. In April 1839 she became governess to the Ingham family in Mirfield as she loved children. In 1840 she took up a similar position with the Robinson family in York (before Branwell became tutor!)

Her novel 'Agnes Grey' was published in December 1847 under the name Acton Bell. It was about the difficulties of being a governess and was initially a failure. Her second novel 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' was published in 1848. Anne caught consumption shortly after her sister Emily's death from the disease. In late Spring 1849 Charlotte took Anne to Scarborough, which was Anne's long time ambition, but she died just 3 days later on 28th May 1849, and is buried in St Mary's churchyard, close to Scarborough Castle.

Sources: Wiki and postcards in Haworth Church

We arrived at Ampleforth a little later than we expected but we were soon in our allocated rooms. I'm not sure that we all had the same facilities but I've never had such a large room before, complete with a double bed and a bathroom that was very spacious. Colin had a ground floor accessible room with patio doors and a view.



There was a large kitchen on the ground floor where we could make hot drinks and stuff ourselves with the cakes

that had been provided. As it was quite close to dinner we did tend to restrain ourselves. The dining room was a short walk away. There was no real alternative, unless you had booked vegetarian or vegan, but the Beef Bourguignonne was very tasty, and was followed by fruit salad.



After dinner we assembled for Compline and discussed the day in our lounge area.



After Compline quite a few made their way over to the room we were using for card making. The bonus was the football table for the boys to play on. Then back to our rooms for a good night's sleep.



On 17th September, Mothers' Union celebrated 150 years of support, guidance, good deeds and help to women throughout the world. Here at St Nicholas Church, Halewood, we held our own celebration with colleagues from within our South District. It was well attended and everyone had an enjoyable time.

New members are welcome – we meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at St Nicholas Church.

St Marys and St Nicholas Halewood Mothers Union



BAPTISMS – SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday 27th September, St Nicholas

Peggy-Rae Briercliffe
Marcie McGuffie
Sienna Catherine Coventry

WEDDINGS/FUNERALS FOR SEPTEMBER WILL BE ADVISED NEXT MONTH.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – 15th October 2026 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas Centre.

Our email address for weddings is. hailewoodparishweddings@gmail.com
Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries -

Our Baptism Secretary's email address is hailewood.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.

Bible Study

Bible study meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at the home of Mark and Vanessa Harrison. The study runs weekly and is on the Old Testament book of Daniel, a book that will equally challenge and encourage.

All are welcome to come and see what God has to teach us through the reading of his word. For details please contact Mark and Vanessa personally or via the parish office email :

(Hailewoodparish@btconnect.com)

Community Connect (formerly Warm Hub)

Join us every Thursday at 10.00 am in St Nicholas' Church for tea, coffee, juice and toast!
And every Monday 1.00 – 3.00 pm at St Mary's Church.

You will receive a warm welcome! Volunteers always needed! Please speak to James.

Elevate - Youth Club for school Years 5 - 8

Elevate is a 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 are games and activities, real talk and faith discussions and a space to belong. For more information contact James on jameshf.parish@gmail.com or just turn up on a Sunday night. Parents will still need to attend the evening service to obtain a scan-in for schools' applications.

THRIVE — youth group for school years 9 - 13

We have a youth group for **Years 9 - 13** called **Thrive**. It's a place to hang out, have fun, and explore life and faith together. We have been running the **Youth Alpha Course** — real talk, good vibes, and plenty of snacks!

 **Sundays, 7:30 - 9:00pm**  **St Nicks Centre, Halewood**

Please pray for this exciting group — and spread the word to any teens who might want to come along!

Contact: James - jameshf.parish@gmail.com | 07954 857 058

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

*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. We 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 - Both Churches

On a rota, approximately once or twice a quarter.

Speak to Gill Dover at St Mary's or Alison Shacklady at St Nicholas' .

Sidespersons - Both Churches

Meeting and greeting people, giving out and collecting in service sheets, taking collection, tidying up after services. On a rota approximately once or twice a quarter.

Speak to wardens/steward.

Communion Stewards (St Mary's)

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' (but we would welcome a couple of volunteers for this role at St Mary's for the occasional baptism services which happen there). Support families during Baptism services (1.00 pm on fourth Sunday of the month). Approximately 3 or 4 times a year. Contact Sally Moore, Baptism Secretary on halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com

Tea and Coffee before morning services at St Nicholas' and after morning services at St Mary's

On a rota, approximately two or three times a quarter.

Speak to wardens/steward.

Church Cleaning

St Nicholas' Friday mornings approx. 10.15 - 11.00 am.

Speak to Graham Elliott.

St Mary's - date and time can be arranged to suit.

Speak to Gill Dover.

Work with Children and Young People - All roles need a DBS check and Safeguarding training

Creche and Junior Church at St Mary's and St Nicholas' operate three Sundays per month during term times.

Help required on a rota basis.

For St Mary's contact Laura Fisher- laura_burke_09@hotmail.co.uk or Emma Rooney emma.creasy@btinternet.com

For St Nicholas Junior Church contact Hayley McShane hayleymcshane84@gmail.com

After School Clubs at St Mary's contact Mike Sutcliffe mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com

Sunday evening children's and youth groups, Elevate/Thrive contact James Hutchinson Feguson jameshf.parish@gmail.com

Volunteers are also often needed to help with Uniformed Organisations (Rainbows/Brownies/Guides).

Contact via <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

Gardening/Churchyard clearance

Occasional gardening working parties at both churches.

St Nicholas' contact Geoff Bullen geoffbullen@btinternet.com

St Mary's contact Pam Boffey pam.boffey@hotmail.com or Dave Crerar d.r.crerar@btinternet.com

Community Connect

St Mary's Church Monday afternoons 12.30 - 2.30 pm on a rota basis approx. once a month.

St Nicholas' Church Thursday mornings 10.00 am - 12 midday on a rota basis approx. once a month

Serving tea/coffee and toast and chatting to visitors.

Speak to James Hutchinson Feguson jameshf.parish@gmail.com

Baby Bank

Every Saturday Morning at St Mary's Church, the Shining Lights Baby Bank is open from 10.00 am - 12 noon providing pre-loved baby items (clothes, toys, baby equipment etc) to families with babies and young children, all free of charge. Nicola Lamb who is currently staffing this, urgently needs some additional help to sort and organise donations as they come in.

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 Gill Dover on gillian.dover@gmail.com.

Please note that all volunteers must follow the Church's Safeguarding Procedures.

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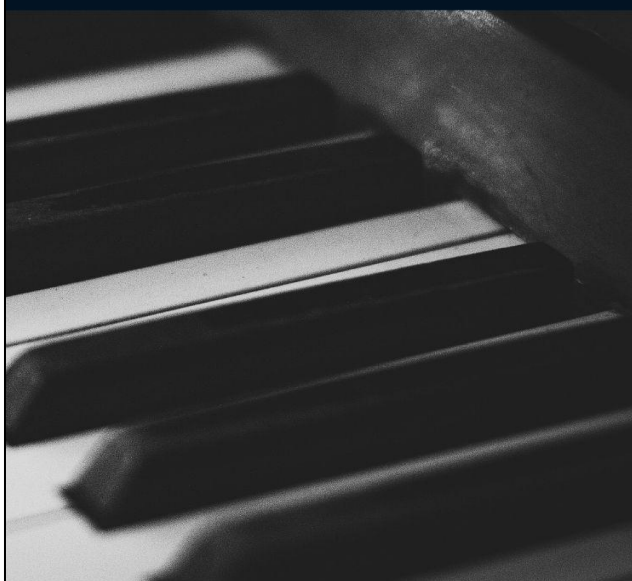
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