



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

MAY 2026 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the June issue to me by 20th May 2026 please.

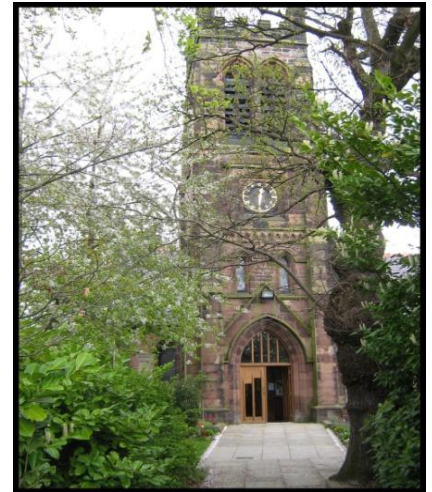
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



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

Email address above.

Margaret



Prayer for Pentecost 2026

Loving Father and giver of all gifts,
This month we thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit which You promise to all who call on Your name, turn away from self-centred living and put their trust in Jesus.
Help us to do that, Lord.

Then, when events in the world and the circumstances of our own lives are difficult to understand, we have Your Holy Spirit who brings life and power.
He is faithful and constant. He will lead us into all truth and give us the words and thoughts we need to experience Your peace in the midst of turmoil.

At this time when we remember the birth of Your church, may we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit afresh and move into each new day confident that we are yours and that in You is our true security.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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**St Nicholas and St Mary's Ecumenical Team Ministry
PARISH OFFICE**

Administrator: Jessica Forrester - Mon to Fri 9 am to 1 pm

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Friday is my normal day off

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

Come and Be Filled

Isaiah 55:1–5, Matthew 14:13–21

The Invitation of God

Many people today live with a quiet hunger. We hunger for meaning, for peace, for hope. Yet much of life teaches us that everything must be earned. Success, security, even rest can seem to depend on what we achieve. Into that world Isaiah speaks a startling invitation: *‘Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters... come, buy wine and milk without money and without price’* (Isaiah 55:1).

God’s welcome begins not with our effort but with God’s generosity. The thirsty are invited. The hungry are called. Those who feel they have nothing to offer are precisely the ones God welcomes. Worship begins in the same way. Before we sing, pray, or listen, God has already invited us. The movement of worship always begins with grace.

The Compassion of Christ

Matthew’s Gospel shows this grace in action. Jesus has just received devastating news about the death of John the Baptist. Seeking solitude, he withdraws to a quiet place. Yet the crowds follow him.

At that moment Jesus might have turned them away and who could blame him? But instead, Matthew tells us something remarkable: *‘He had compassion on them.’* Compassion lies at the heart of Christ’s ministry. Jesus sees people not as interruptions but as beloved. He sees their hurts, their habits, and their hangups. And he responds with mercy.

Worship grows out of this same compassion. We gather not because we have everything together but because Christ sees our need and welcomes us.

The Little We Bring

As evening draws in the disciples begin to worry. The crowd is huge, the place is remote, and food is scarce. Their practical solution seems sensible: *‘Send the crowds away.’* But Jesus responds differently: *‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’* The disciples protest. All they have are five loaves and two fish. In the face of such need it feels absurdly small. Yet Jesus says simply, *‘Bring them here to me.’*

This moment reveals something important about worship. We often come with little to offer. Our prayers feel small. Our faith feels fragile. Our resources seem inadequate. Yet Christ invites us to bring what we have. In worship we place our small offerings into his hands.

The Pattern of Worship

Matthew carefully describes what happens next. Jesus takes the bread, looks up to heaven, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the disciples. In these actions we glimpse the pattern that later shapes the Church’s Eucharistic worship. The feeding of the five thousand is more than a miracle of provision. It reveals something about the way God works in worship. What we offer to Christ is taken into his hands, blessed, and shared. The little we bring becomes part of something far greater.

The God of Abundance

What begins with anxiety ends with abundance. The crowd eats and is satisfied. And when the meal is finished twelve baskets of leftovers remain. God does not simply meet the need. God overflows it.

This abundance echoes Isaiah’s promise that those who come to God will *‘delight in rich food’*. The God who invites the thirsty also provides more than enough. In worship we are reminded again of this truth. The world often tells us there is never enough: not enough time, not enough security, not enough hope. Yet the kingdom of God operates differently.

In Christ there is always more grace than our failures, more mercy than our fears, and more hope than our circumstances.

Coming to the Table

Each time we gather for worship we come as hungry people. We bring our worries, our questions, and our small offerings of faith.

Yet Christ still speaks the same words to us: *'Bring them here to me.'*

When we place what we have in his hands, something remarkable happens. Our small gifts become part of God's generous work in the world. Our hunger is met with Christ's presence. In Christ, our small offerings are met with generous grace.

The God who invites us is also the God who feeds us.

And in his presence, all are satisfied.

James HF

14th May – 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Thank you Parish Pump!

MAY SERVICES

Sunday 3rd May:

Easter 5 (1 Peter 2.2-10, John 14.1-14)

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Carol Burke

11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan & James H-F

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship:

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

Thursday 7th May:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 10th May:

Easter 6 (1 Peter 3.13-22, John 14.15-20)

10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Andy & Jen Radford

11.00 am St Nicholas GJMC/Parade:

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Rev Clement Matarirano

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan

Thursday 14th May:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 17th May:

Easter 7 (1 Peter 4.12-14, John 17.1-11)

11.00 am **St Nicholas & St Mary APCM** at St Nicholas

6.30 pm ***Christ our Light service at All Souls Springwood***
(No service at St Nicholas)

11.00 am **St Hilda APCM**: Andy Radford

Thursday 21st May:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 24th May:

Pentecost (1 Corinthians 12.3b-13, Acts 2.1-21)

10.30 am St Mary GMJC Café Church:

6.30 pm St Mary Immersion Baptism

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan & Helen McGuinness

1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: Gareth Morgan

6.30 pm St Nicholas – ***None – see above***

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Thursday 28th May:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Phil Saltmarsh

Sunday 31st May:

Trinity (Matthew 28.16-20, 2 Corinthians 13.11-13)

11.00 am Joint Morning Worship at St Mary's: David Goodwin

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: James H-F

APCM POSTPONED

Our APCM is on Sunday 17th May, when we will gather at St Nicholas' only for the APCM at 11am (10.15am for refreshments). The APCM is your opportunity to find out what has been going on in the parish during 2025 so please do attend if you can. Everyone is welcome, although only people on the parish electoral/membership roll can vote. We do need a certain number of people to attend to make the meeting valid, so do attend if you can.

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.

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.

Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy." His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?" "It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Morning prayer

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," And there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Thank you Parish Pump!

PARISH WALK -

On Saturday 28th March 2026, we embarked on our latest church walk starting at Allerton Hall Farm, AKA The Pub in the Park.

The weather forecast had it as a typical spring day, a strong wind and changeable weather, with a potential for showers. A group of 15 met at The Centre, refreshed at Dobbies and then re-grouped at The Pub in the Park, Springwood Avenue.



Off we went at a good pace, past the Hall, through the grounds and then across Woolton Road and into the Allerton Towers Park. Very soon we were alongside a notable and mature monkey puzzle tree, which is enormous and believed to be part of the former 19th century estate gardens, representing the Victorian-era of the site.

Our next landmark was the Orangery, also once part of the grand estate, and then we left Allerton Towers to enter the Allerton Manor Golf Course. The golf course has been under severe refurbishment on previous walks but it has now developed into a lovely green oasis. However, we did encounter great big muddy puddles along their paths, which we had to encounter quite gingerly.

Without any danger from flying golf balls, we left the golf course and headed towards the beautiful Calderstones Park. Thankfully, the changeable forecast proved to be fake news and we ended up walking in lovely spring sunshine.



Once into the park we walked past the lake and kept on going through to the Harthill Road entrance, known as the Four Seasons Gates. The gateposts are supported by



Giant Atlas figures and up on the wall are symbolic female statues, representing the four seasons. Penni directed us under the lovely spring statue depicting a lady sowing seed and a passer-by kindly volunteered to take the group photo. Unusually, we are all in it.

The statues were originally on the roof of the Brown's Building, next to Liverpool Town Hall and they were designed by Sir James Allanson Picton. They were acquired by Liverpool Corporation in 1928 after the building was demolished and re-located at the park.



Eventually we took up camp on the wall outside the Calderstones Park Mansion House, which was our next refreshment stop. Some 20/30 minutes later inactivity meant we were starting to chill, consequently, we were soon heading past their 500-year-old oak tree on our return route.

On our way back we had an intentional detour into a nice new, very posh, estate, just off Woolton Road. However, our sat navs had a problem and we left onto Woolton Road, more by accident than design. One of our regular walkers is Maria who hails from Malta

and she was delighted to come out near to Maltese Cross Close. After a quick photo, to send back to her relatives, we crossed the road and we were soon back at our car park.

At the car park we formed our usual circle and John Rowlandson, from Springwood church, read out to us a poem he had written after attending the funeral of our walking group member Margaret Harwood.

Margaret at Springwood

Blessed by freshly polished Spring sunshine.
Daffodils gleamed, March smiled on the people.

Gathered beneath frothy, white pink cherry blossom.

Stripped of overcoats, the Winter warmed away the day.

The walkers, in their Sunday-best, itched for the hills.

She would have revelled in such a glorious day.

See her soul in the distance, heading into the purple haze of the horizon.



A lovely end to the walk and a very fitting tribute, which resulted in a very emotional response and some dabbing of eyes.

NEXT PARISH WALK

Saturday 30th May. Details of where we're going will be posted on the weekly newsletter or *please contact Penni on 07990953334 for further details.*

COINCIDENCE OR WHAT?

Through the period of Lent, I read ***The Greatest Story Ever Told*** by Bear Grylls. It tells the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus vividly from the perspective of the first eye witnesses. Bear wanted to be authentic to the original setting and to avoid anglicised names. Aramaic was the language in use in Galilee; hence Jesus' name is given as Yeshua. Other names were suitably altered as well.

Most of my reading was done late in the day before bedtime, and this book suited short sessions. The last two chapters were especially brief. ***Notes From the Author***, for example, explaining the language changes I have just mentioned and how he wanted to reflect the social context of Yeshua's time. Then, finally ***What Happened to The Disciples?*** This chapter reviewed their mission to establish the early church and that, in most cases, they met violent deaths because of their bold witness and faith in Christ.

Now to the core reason for me writing this. Having come to an earlier than expected end to the book, I turned on my trusty Samsung tablet. What popped into view was pure click bait for me. An article on how psychologist Carl Jung and physicist Wolfgang Pauli joined forces to explore Jung's idea of Synchronicity. These are two people who really did think outside the box, each pushing far the boundaries of their respective disciplines. Jung for work on the conscious and human psyche, Pauli for work on the strange but true world of quantum mechanics.

Synchronicity is where mind and its surroundings influence each other without any knowable cause. Sometimes called meaningful coincidence as opposed to purely random events. The concept is based on the idea that everything in the universe is interconnected and that certain events or occurrences have deeper meanings. Some examples are when you think of a friend you haven't seen for years and immediately the phone rings and it is them calling you. Or having a vivid dream which lives out for real the next day. It could also be when you have a sudden unexplained and deeply moving spiritual experience.

This interesting collaboration between Jung and Pauli was all new to me. Then what popped up next when I closed that article? **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISCIPLES?** I was dumbfounded. It was almost a repeat of what I had just read. It even mentioned the Aramaic language that I mentioned earlier. I felt like something significant had just happened to me. I know that these days your mobile phone can listen to you, or even your smart tv can too. Then you get unwanted but targeted links to related products. In my case though, I had silently read this book and our gadgets certainly cannot read our minds.

Are these events just coincidental? I am convinced not. More likely I had just been given a practical lesson in synchronicity. Also known as 'occurrences of a deeper meaning'.

Joe Barlow.

BAPTISMS – APRIL 2026

19th April - Aurora Antonia Marcy-Mai Felstead at St Mary's

26th April - Charlotte Ivy Rose and Joshua John Rose (Sally's niece and nephew) at St Nicholas

Funerals at St Nicholas' April 2026			
7 April	Ann Shwenn	Age 67	Funeral
17 April	Christopher Gargon	Age 75	Burial of ashes

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Save the Date for Ordinations

2026's ordination dates have been announced.

Join us at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 20th June at 3pm for the Ordination to Priest and on Sunday 28th June at 10:30am for the Ordination to Deacon.



Discover More about Larger Single Parishes

Want to explore how Larger Single Parishes are shaping the future of mission in the Diocese of Liverpool?

As part of our Fit for Mission strategy, Larger Single Parishes bring neighbouring churches together under one collaborative structure, enabling shared leadership, pooled resources and a stronger, more sustainable presence across a wider area.

This model creates space for collaborative ministry teams, clearer governance, new and productive ways of working as well as new opportunities for both ordained and lay leaders to flourish in their calling.



From Christ Our Hope Liverpool in the centre, Warrington to the East and Church Saint Helens in the North of our diocese, discover how this approach is working in practice and what it could mean for you.

Find out more on the Diocesan website.

Halewood CultureFest Programme 2026

Date	Event	Venue	Time	Further Information
Fri 12 June	Barn Dance	St Hilda's Church Hall	7.30 pm	Tickets free Bring your own refreshments
Saturday 13 June	Moth and Bat Walk	Environment Centre, Okell Drive	9.30 pm	Free Please wear suitable clothing Booking essential 0151 488 6151
Sunday 14 June	Plant Swap/Giveaway With Halewood Community Choir	St Mary's	1.30 – 3.30 pm	Bring along any spare plants, cuttings, seeds etc to swap or pass to others and/or come and take away new items to brighten up your garden With entertainment from Halewood Community Choir
Monday 15 June	Poems Prose and Afternoon Tea	Arncliffe Centre	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Led by Fiona Martin - Tickets free Bring your own favourite piece to read and share with others
Monday 15 June	Lost Villages of Garston and Speke Talk by Ken Pye	St Mary's Church	7.30 pm	Tickets free
Tuesday 16 June	Mayor's XI v Patron's XI Cricket match	New Hutte Centre	6.30 pm	Refreshments available to purchase from the Green Room
Wednesday 17 June	Songs and Scones with music by Your Voice Your Choice	Arncliffe Centre	1.30 – 3.00 pm	Tickets free
Wednesday 17 June	Pub Quiz	St Mark's Parish Centre	7.30 pm	Free (Maximum 15 Teams) To enter a team (6 players) Contact halewoodculturefest@gmail.com
Thursday 18 June	Thursday Night is Music Night Liverpool Male Voice Choir	St Mary's Church	7.30 pm	Tickets free Interval refreshments
Friday 19 June	Murder Mystery Night Murder on the Titanic	St Mary's Church Centre	7.30 pm	Tickets free Bring your own refreshments
Saturday 20 June	Nature Arts Workshop	St Mary's	10.30 am - 12.30 pm	Tickets free
Saturday 20 June	Bold as Brass	St Mary's Church	7.30 pm	Tickets £5.00 Interval refreshments
Sunday 21 June	Closing Open Air Service	Hollies Field	5.00 pm	If wet, in St Nicholas' Church All welcome

There will also be a Children's Art Competition involving children from local primary schools.
Art works will be on display at St Mary's Church during the week.

For tickets for any of the events contact halewoodculturefest@gmail.com

Halewood CultureFest

Barn Dance

7.30pm Friday 12th June 2026



Recorded music with caller : Jim Craig



St Hilda's Church Hall Hunts Cross
Tickets Free
Bring your own Drinks
For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest

Bat and Moth Walk

9.30pm Saturday 13th June 2026

Around Halewood Triangle





Meet at Halewood Enviromental Centre
Okell Drive
(Please wear suitable clothes and footwear)
Booking Essential
0151 488 6151

Halewood CultureFest

Plant Swap / Giveway

with
Music from
Halewood Community Choir



1.30 to 3.30 pm
Sunday 14th June 2026



Bring along any spare plants, cuttings, seeds to swap or pass to others and/or come along to take away new items to brighten your garden



St Mary's Church Halewood
No Tickets Required

Halewood CultureFest

Poems, prose and fun

with **Afternoon Tea**

Presented by
Fiona Martin

Bring along your favourite poem
 or
 short piece of prose to share

2.00 - 4.00 pm
Monday 15th June 2026





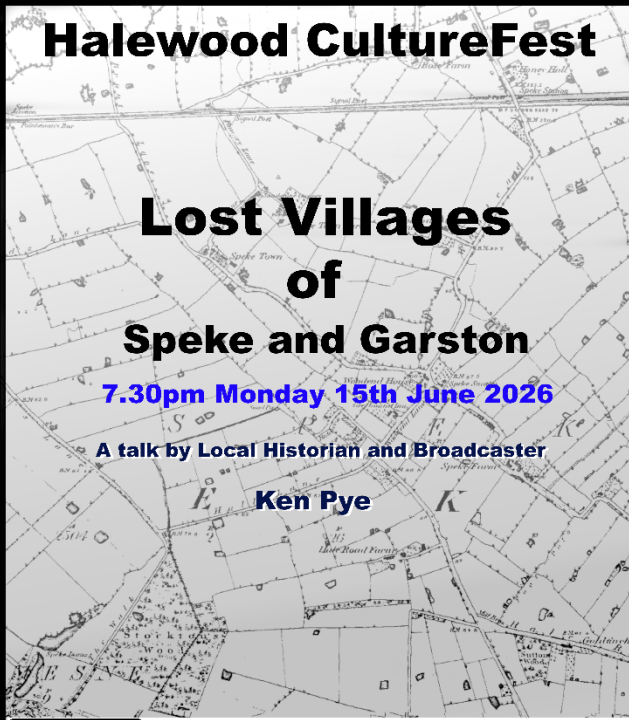
Arncliffe Centre
Tickets Free
For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest

Lost Villages of Speke and Garston

7.30pm Monday 15th June 2026

A talk by Local Historian and Broadcaster
Ken Pye




St Mary's Church Halewood
Tickets Free

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest Programme

Halewood CultureFest

Cricket Match

6.30pm Tuesday 16th June 2026



Mayor's XI v Patron's XI



New Hutte Centre
*Refreshments available to be purchased
from the Green Room*

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

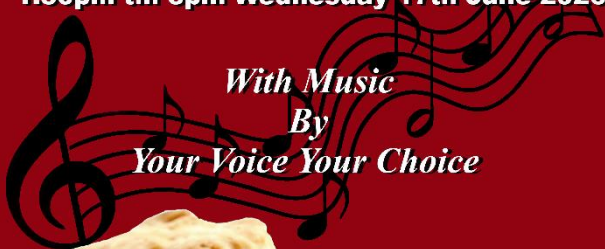
Halewood CultureFest Programme

Halewood CultureFest

Songs & Scones

1.30pm till 3pm Wednesday 17th June 2026

*With Music
By
Your Voice Your Choice*





Arncliffe Centre
Tickets Free

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest Programme

Halewood CultureFest

★ Pub Quiz ★ ★ Night ★



7.30 pm
Wednesday 17th June 2026



St Mark's Parish Centre Halewood
To Enter a team (up to 6 Players)

email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or
Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest Programme

Halewood CultureFest

Presents

Liverpool Male Voice Choir

7.30pm Thursday 18th June 2026



St Mary's Church Halewood

Tickets Free (Interval Refreshments provided)

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest

Presents

Murder Mystery Night

7.30pm Friday 19th June 2026



Murder on the Titanic



St Mary's Church Centre Halewood
Tickets Free

Bring your own Drinks

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest

Nature Arts Workshop

*Join Tony Leach our Local Ranger
for this workshop using natural materials*

*Make a card using materials
from
the
Natural World*

Children welcome with parents/carers.

10.30am to 12.30pm Saturday 20th June 2026



St Mary's Church Halewood

Tickets Free

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

Halewood CultureFest

Presents

Bold as Brass

7.30pm Saturday 20th June 2026



We are delighted to welcome the award winning
Liverpool Brass Band
(Formerly The Formby Band)
to provide an evening of music in a variety of styles



St Mary's Church Halewood

Tickets £5 (Interval Refreshments provided)

For Tickets: email: HalewoodCultureFest@gmail.com
or Phone: Alison Shacklady on 07909 652 442

CLOSING OPEN AIR SERVICE

Each year at the end of CultureFest week we close the proceedings with an open air service. This will be held at Hollies Field at 5.00 pm on Sunday 21st June.



Please come along and experience this short service



DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – 21st May 2026 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

Pentecost Two Cathedrals March: 3pm Sunday 24th May, starting at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

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 :

(Halewoodparish@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 - 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 and 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.

THRIVE — our new youth group!

We have started a brand new youth group for **Years 9 - 13** called **Thrive**.

It's a place to hang out, have fun, and explore life and faith together.

We'll be kicking off with the **Youth Alpha Course** — real talk, good vibes, and plenty of snacks!

 **Sunday, 7:30 – 9:00pm**  **St Nicks Centre, Halewood**

Please pray for this exciting new 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. 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.

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 Georgina McQueen or Lyn Green.

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

Speak to Gill Dover or Jen Hargreaves.

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

St Mary's Saturday mornings 10-12. Sorting donated items and helping visitors find suitable baby items.

Speak to Jen Hargreaves jen@mattharg.co.uk

Ever thought about wearing a cross as a necklace?

"Good morning, sir, madam. You're interested in a cross and chain I believe? Very wise, sir, if I might say so. So modern, so chic. Never out of fashion. Will you be interested in one with the little man on it, or without?"

"Let us see both, please."

"Very wise sir. Now here we have the traditional model, but with a small diamond in the centre. Let's people know you're not without means, just a gentle hint there. Discreet size too, sir, not too pushy if you see what I mean. No?... Okay, what about this one... you look like a sporty-type sir, this one is lightweight, comes in various colours, to blend with your track suit or gym wear....or this one sir..... the 'Weekend' model – slightly larger so you can project well, particularly on Sundays, sir..... Or we have this one sir, imported from Jerusalem, so it's very authentic, made of olive wood, I think there's a special something about that don't you sir?... Or here's our very latest model, just come in, it's recyclable, so when you get tired of it you can happily recycle it and know it's not going to landfill. Very ethical sir.

"Now madam, here's one of our high-end models, which I think madam will like; encrusted with small rubies, very appropriate I'm sure you'll agree. Again, it gives just that little hint you're a discerning person, yes? Or this one, it's in plain gold, but rather larger because it plays 'There is a green hill far away' if you touch it, which is very sweet, don't you think? "

'We were looking for something more traditional, plainer.'

"Well, we can do that sir, if you wish. I just thought that madam might like something more in keeping with the times, if you see what I mean. Right, so two plain cross and chains. I'll wrap them up right away..."

If you wear a cross and chain, or have a cross as a tattoo, what do you want it to say about you? What does the cross of Jesus mean to you?

If you were asked *why* you wear a cross, how would you respond? And would it be an easy, or embarrassed response? Talk to God about this.

Thank you Parish Pump.

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OR SCAN THE QR CODE



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