



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE



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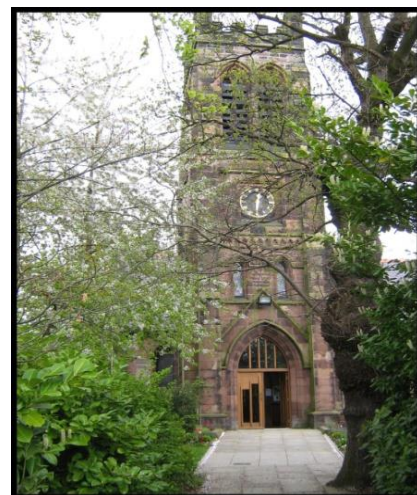
Articles for the February issue to me by 20th January 2023 please.



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*



O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Benedict of Nursia c.550)

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

2 Corinthians 4.

6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Jesus said I am the Light of the World ! So we often use candles in church to remind us of his presence amongst us, and none more so than during Advent and at Christmas. So perhaps, as you light a candle this season, take time out to scratch beneath the surface of what it means about who Jesus is and what it means for us. I chose to start with a verse that is not particularly associated with this time of year, as it came to me as I was thinking about this idea. I have found it encouraging to think about what it means. In a similar way in which God spoke into the darkness at creation so He speaks into the lives of sinful people into the darkness of our hearts. This is the new creation! So when Jesus comes into the world his presence overcomes the darkness.

Perhaps as we light a candle this year, bring to mind the darkness of our situations and be thankful for what Christ does for us and He shines into our world and into our hearts. The following verses of 2 Corinthians say this:-

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. **8** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. **10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

What a wonderful privilege that we have, to know that Christ lives within us! What treasure! These verses also reveal that there is a purpose to our sufferings. We may feel at a loss at times, we may be walking through 'the darkest valley' , but it is his light that brings hope and reassurance. It has been well said that darkness is merely the absence of light, and so even the smallest flicker helps us, guides us, and brings us warmth. There is, it seems, a lot of darkness in our world today but it is soon banished through the Light of Christ. In fact, in the last days, it says in 2 Thessalonians, that Jesus will return, and that it is the splendour of his coming that will overcome the Power of Evil (the Lawless one). Jesus only has to turn up to make all the difference in the world. That is why Advent and Christmas are such hope filled times; we celebrate Jesus' first coming and look forward to his second coming.

Do you feel despair, crushed, disappointed, and hard pressed? The wonderful painting by Holman Hunt called 'Light of the World' depicts the verse Revelation 3 v20. ' I stand at the door and knock; whoever hears my voice and opens the door and welcomes me I will come in...' This is the answer to our fears and heartaches, to welcome Jesus into our lives. Let his light come in and flood your souls. We will need to hand over control of our lives to Him, but the exchange is worth it, it is what we were created for.

In recent weeks I have taken a few funerals, and on one occasion, after a day of rain, as we got to the cemetery the sun began to shine brightly as it dried up, and on another occasion, even though it was raining, just after the coffin was placed in the grave a rainbow appeared . At both times it felt as though these were poignant reminders of the promise of God's presence in a moment of great grief. God is so gracious to us as his light shines through, in our most trying times of darkness.

Of course we can then take this light to those suffering around us. 'You then are the light of the world a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.' This then is an invitation to us all to begin ,or to continue to live in Christ's light, to understand more clearly what it means, to bathe in his light to enjoy it, and so reflect it into our world.

Andy Radford

DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 4th December:

Advent 2 (Isaiah 11.1-10, Matthew 3.1-12)

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Garry Critchley

11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Alan Kennedy

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Carol Burke

Thursday 8th December:

9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Nicola Milford

Sunday 11th December:

Advent 3 (Isaiah 35.1-10, Matthew 12.2-11)

10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion (Toys): Andy Radford

11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC Parade (Toys): Matthew Hargreaves

4.00 pm Tarbock Village Hall - Carols at Tarbock: Alison Shacklady

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan

Thursday 15th December:

9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 18th December:

Advent 4 (Isaiah 7.10-16, Matthew 1.18-25)

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Phil Saltmarsh -

(St Mary's Creche & Junior Church Nativity)

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Carol Burke

6.30 pm Carol Service

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion and All Age Carol Service: Andy & Jen Radford

Thursday 22nd December:

9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Saturday 24th December:

Christmas Eve (Isaiah 9.2-7, Luke 2.1-20)

4.00 pm St Nicholas Crib Service: Matthew Hargreaves & Mike Sutcliffe

11.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Katy Canty & Matthew Hargreaves

11.30 pm St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 25th December:

Christmas Day (Isaiah 52.7-10, John 1.1-14)

10.30 am St Mary Joint Halewood Service: Matthew Hargreaves

6.30 pm St Nicholas No service

10.00 am St Hilda Family Service: Andy & Jen Radford

Thursday 29th December:

No service

Sunday 1 st January:	<p><i>Christmas 1 (Isaiah 63.7-9, Matthew 2.13-23)</i></p> <p>11.00 am St Nicholas Halewood Team Service: Phil Saltmarsh</p> <p>6.30 pm No Service</p> <p>11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Graham Amey</p>
Thursday 5 th January:	<p>9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion</p>
Sunday 8 th January:	<p><i>Epiphany (Isaiah 60.1-6, Matthew 2.1-12)</i></p> <p>10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Alan Kennedy</p> <p>11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade: Andy Radford</p> <p>12.15 & 1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: Andy Radford</p> <p>6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Matthew Hargreaves</p> <p>11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship or Holy Communion tba: Katy Canty</p>
Thursday 12 th January:	<p>9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Nicola Milford</p>
Sunday 15 th January:	<p><i>Baptism of Christ (Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-17)</i></p> <p>10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Bill Forster</p> <p>11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Carol Burke</p> <p>6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Stephen Gough</p> <p>11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford</p>
Thursday 19 th January:	<p>9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford</p>
Sunday 22 nd January:	<p><i>Epiphany 2 (1 Corinthians 1.1-9, John 1.29-42)</i></p> <p>10.30 am St Mary GMJC: Matthew Hargreaves & Mike Sutcliffe</p> <p>11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Graham Amey</p> <p>6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Garry Critchley</p> <p>11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford</p>
Thursday 26 th January:	<p>9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford</p>
Sunday 29 th January:	<p><i>Epiphany 3/Covenant Service (1 Corinthians 1.10-18, Matthew 4.12-23)</i></p> <p>10.30 am St Mary Team Service: David Goodwin</p> <p>6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Andy Radford</p>
Thursday 2 nd February:	<p>9.15 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford</p>

St Martin's Day: Magusto & chestnuts

Martin was a Roman soldier, born around 316AD near Savaria, in what is now Hungary.

According to legend, Martin came across a beggar one cold day while he was stationed in France (Gaul, at the time). The man was sorely underdressed, and shook with cold as he called out to Martin for alms.

Martin, distressed because he had no money to give the man, drew his sword and cut his own cloak in half, so that he could give one piece to the beggar. Instantly, the clouds parted, and the winter sunshine warmed Martin, allowing him to reach home with no great discomfort. That night, Jesus appeared to Martin in a dream, wearing the beggar's half of Martin's cloak, and thanking Martin for providing Him with protection against the cold.

Shortly afterward, Martin left the army and dedicated his life to evangelism and service to the poor, becoming a monk, then a bishop, and eventually became known as St Martin of Tours.

Over the centuries, St Martins Day, in late Autumn, has evolved into a celebration of the harvest. In Portugal, St Martins Day, or Dia de São Martinho, November 11, has become a day to celebrate the maturation of the year's wine production.

This period is also quite popular because of the usually good weather period that occurs in Portugal at this time of year, called Verão de São Martinho (St Martins Summer). It is frequently tied to the story since Portuguese versions of St Martin's legend usually replace the snowstorm with rain (because snow is not frequent in most parts of Portugal, while rain is common at that time of the year) and have Jesus bringing the end of it, thus making the "summer" a gift from God. This year is no exception with temperatures still in the low twenties half way through November.

At about the same time, the chestnuts begin to ripen and the first of the year's wine is ready to sample, as well as other alcoholic beverages made from the semi-processed grapes, such as *agua-pé* and *jeropiga*.

The hotel set up a large table, decorated it with leaves and bottles of wine, and placed cooked chestnuts, glasses of *jeropiga* and some cakes, a bit like Bakewell tarts only no jam or almond flavour, for guests to sample. I have looked for the *jeropiga* in all the Garraferias (sort of off-licences) in Albufeira and have not found any, which is a pity because it tastes delicious! I took the photo before the chestnuts arrived or the wine was poured!

Agua-pé (literally "foot-water") is made by adding water to the pomace left after the juice is pressed out of the grapes for wine (traditionally by stomping on them in vats with bare feet, and letting it ferment for several days) - or the "*jeropiga*", a sweet liquor made with "*aguardente*". Traditionally it is also the first day when the first wines of the season, called the new wines, can be tasted. This celebration festival is known as a *magusto* (believed to come from the Latin *magnus ustus* or "great fire").

So as they like to party, on or around November 11th, the Portuguese gather around bonfires, fireplaces or even stoves to drink, talk, laugh, eat chestnuts, and celebrate (traditionally) the bountiful harvest and coming winter rest. Before the introduction of potatoes from the New World, chestnuts were a staple starch in the Portuguese diet, and a good harvest meant families could comfortably weather the lean winter months.

These celebrations are called *Magusto*, and traditions vary around the country. In the north of Portugal the day is still often marked by outdoor gatherings or community parties, such as the *Feira da Castanha* in Marvão.

In Lisbon the day is mostly an excuse for a party, often in the schools as well as with family. The chestnut sellers do a brisk business at this time of year, and a few companies sponsor giveaways of free chestnuts, for the publicity. Many restaurants also offer seasonal dishes, such as meat roasted with chestnuts, which are often delicious. The hotel did a turkey and chestnut dish with a creamy sauce which was very tasty.

As Colin and I happen to be visiting Lisbon this time of year, we may buy *uma dúzia* (a dozen) from one of the outdoor chestnut vendors and savour them while walking the streets of the Baixa.

As they say in Portugal: É dia de São martinho. Comem-se castanhas; prova-se o vinho!

("It is St Martins Day. We'll eat chestnuts; we'll taste the wine.")

Linda West



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Tom Beesley has registered our charity, Halewood Ecumenical Partnership, with Amazon Smile. If you pick us as your chosen charity, every time you shop on Amazon they will make a donation to us. It doesn't cost you, the customer, anything. So, if you haven't already chosen a charity or would like to change your charity just click on the link next time you shop at Amazon or when you are invited on the website to pick a charity. Just search for Halewood Ecumenical Partnership.



Thanks everyone! Alison

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DATES TO REMEMBER

The Light Before Christmas- Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

The Angels are Coming 2-9 December

This is one of a series of events, concerts, talks and special services at Liverpool Cathedral over the next two months. For further details visit <https://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/events-calendar/>

Help needed with Children's Work at St Mary's - A message from Katie Cardwell

So, since reopening after lock down, the numbers at St Mary's Junior Church have more than tripled which, of course, is an answer to prayer: however, we are struggling with the small number of helpers that we have. If you are able to go onto the rota to help with this please contact Katie on katiemc84@gmail.com

A Message from Mike Sutcliffe

We need some help because we are struggling to run the after-school clubs, as we need at least another adult (as well as myself). We have 3 clubs at the moment:

JAM Club is a club for children in years 1, 2, and 3 and we're currently making our way through the New Testament. It takes place on Wednesdays from 15:30-16:30.

Boss Club is a club for children in years 4, 5, and 6 that takes place on Thursdays from 18:00-19:00.

Next Level is a club for secondary school children that takes place on Thursdays from 19:30-20:30.

If anyone is available during these times and might be able to offer some assistance that would be amazing. You can contact Mike on natasia.circuitchildren@gmail.com

It is fantastic news that our children's work is really taking off again but we need people to help with all of this if that is to continue.

Knowsley Winter Warm Knitting Project

This year, as in previous years, we are knitting and crocheting items for the Knowsley Winter Warm Project: hats; scarves; neck warmers; fingerless mittens; shawls; knee blankets etc. This year these will be needed more than ever with the rising costs of fuel. We have simple patterns and a budget for wool. So if you are not already knitting for this and would like to be involved please contact Alison who will provide wool and whatever else you need.

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 .

HALEWOOD WARM HUBS

MONDAY

The Arncliffe Sports & Community
Arncliffe Road
12pm - 2pm

TUESDAY

Halewood Youth Centre (Boyzee)
Lichfield Road
12pm - 2pm

WEDNESDAY

St Marks Parish Centre
Pennmann Crescent
1pm - 3.30pm

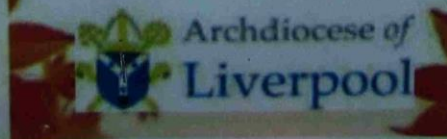
THURSDAY

St Nicholas Centre
Church Road
10am - 12pm

FRIDAY

Halewood WI Hall
Baileys Lane
10am - 12pm

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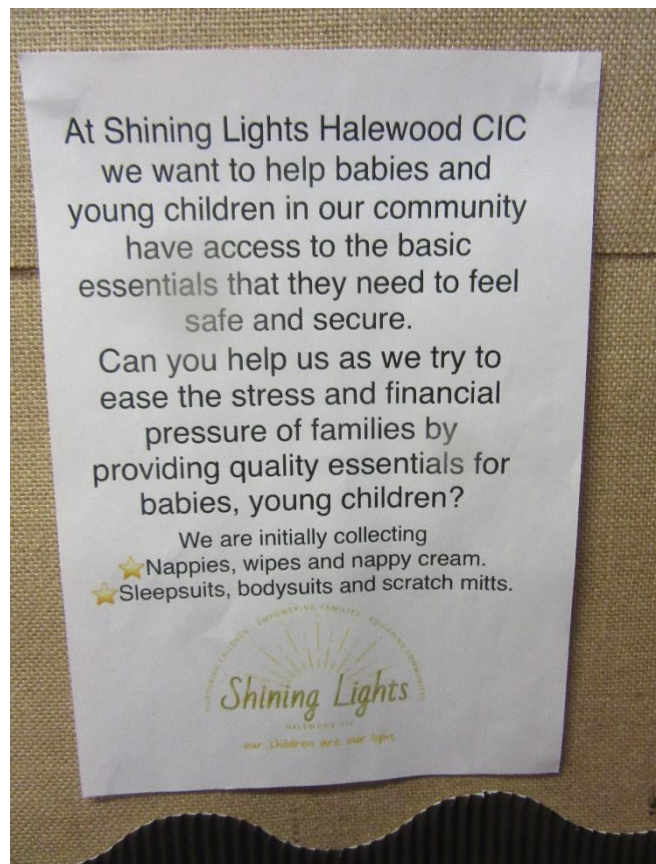
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SHINING LIGHTS



JAM CLUB

'At Jam Club the children had loads of fun whilst learning that Jesus was able to perform miracles.....evidence that He certainly was the Son of God on here on Earth.

They all made a basket and put 5 loaves and 2 fish in each one.
Great work 🎵'

Vanessa (Harrison)



Event for the Knowsley Year of Culture:

Halewood Christmas Concert, 14 December evening at Halewood Academy.

Tickets via Knowsley Year of Culture website.



Just a bit of fun!

A bus stop was sited close to the church which had a wayside pulpit noticeboard on which was boldly painted "Where will you be on Judgement Day?"

Underneath someone had written: "Still waiting for a number 125 bus!"

Also

We are delighted to report that the choir raised £120 for the building fund during their recent sponsored sing. This included £10 not to do it again.

'The cost of loving at Christmas' - Bishop Bev's message for Parishes

First published on: 4th November 2022

The cost of loving at Christmas

We all know the uncertainties! Despite our best efforts the country is experiencing its worst crisis in decades. Political turmoil, the aftershocks of the pandemic, the devastation of war and communities, families and individuals deeply concerned about being able to survive - not to mention the ongoing effects of the climate crisis.

It doesn't feel like a recipe for a Happy Christmas does it?

Yet these realities of hardship, uncertainty and fear existed way back at the time of the first Christmas. God chose incarnation among the poorest of a turbulent country at a difficult and dangerous time. His birth set the tone for his life and ministry. Though fraught with risk, incredulity and profound uncertainty, Jesus reached to those living in poverty, to the sick, the hungry, the marginalised and dispossessed, bringing hope in what would have seemed like bleak and hopeless times. His birth wasn't, of course, good news to everyone! To the ruling elite, he would bring judgment for their actions and he brought fear.

Confident of the hope Jesus blesses his people with, we are called to be hope-givers, light-bearers and life-blessers. We have a song of hope to sing this Christmas and people need to hear the song more than ever. This means look beyond our walls and our peripheral vision to the people Jesus wants us to reach. So many of us are doing this and we are seeing the bigger difference that it makes in people's lives. One act of loving-kindness in the name of Jesus will transform somebody's life. This Christmas, let's commit to doing at least one act of loving kindness a day. However much we are struggling, please remember there are people starved of hope - they have less than nothing.

Christmas is the time when the world connects most with the Christmas story. This season gives us a wonderful opportunity to invite people to the many and various events and acts of worship. Those of you familiar with LYCIG will be familiar with the mantra, 'It's going to be great - I'm going, why don't you come, too!' There are so many people of all ages, families and single people, the lonely, isolated and bereaved - people like you and me whose Christmas may be transformed by your invitation. Friends, the first worshippers around the crib were invited: the angels invited the shepherds; the star invited the magi. Who will you invite? The National Church's Follow the Star: The Great Invitation gives us fabulous resources and support to enable us to reach out gently yet confidently to the world around us, so very much in need of its saviour.

If you fear the cost, ponder for a moment the cost of love which came to us at Christmas - the love of God in the face of the Christ-Child, the one who lived for us and died for us in order to redeem death itself, that we might live with him in the place that knows no ending. That same love that is poured into the hearts of all who dare to invite Him in.

My hope for us all is that we will rise to the act of kindness challenge; that we shall dare to be invitation givers and hope bringers and that by blessing others, we will deepen our own understanding of what it means to be blessed by God.

I pray that you have a happy, blessed and warm Christmas.

Risley Moss and Birchwood Forest Park

On Sat 29th Oct 2022, we set off to meet our leader Gemma, at the Partridge Lakes Café in Culcheth.

On a day when the forecast of rain was extremely uninviting, 16 of us met up to be guided around the Risley Moss Nature Reserve and Birchwood Forest Park. Gemma was walking in the footsteps of her mum and dad, Colin and Jean Critchley, who have led our walking group on so many occasions in the past.



After our refreshments, we headed off along the lovely footpaths through Risley Moss, with our younger members of the group showing us how it was done. Skipping along a lovely wooden walkway we went into

the woods proper, where the children climbed a tree for a dickie bird photo shoot sitting on its branches.



After a decent walk, we had our break near the Birchwood shopping Centre and then moved into Birchwood Forest Park. One of the perimeter roads is called Ordnance Avenue, which sums up the history of the area.

In 1939 the area was transformed from a small farming community into the Risley Royal Ordnance Factory, which produced millions of shells and bombs for the second world war.

Birchwood Forest Park was created in the 1970's from one of the largest derelict land sites in Europe. The area is now a beautiful, wooded parkland and it was a lovely site for the final stretch of our 5 mile walk.

We finished at a swing-park area and the children carried on with their exercise, whilst the more senior members of the group sloped off, looking forward to getting their boots off. Upon our return to Halewood we found out that the weather there had been as predicted, unlike our rain free period out in the wilds of Warrington. Thanks, Gemma, for a smashing walk, with the added bonus of decent weather.



THE WORLD OF GUIDING

I started my Girlguiding journey in 1993 at the age of 5 in 1st Halewood Rainbows. It was held in the old school rooms before moving to the St Nicholas centre. I can remember going to Chester Zoo with them around Christmas and doing some Christmassy activities.

In 1995, I moved on to 1st Halewood Brownies. I had lots of fun in Brownies - I remember going to Southport Zoo for the day with lots of other Brownies and it taking a long time to get in.

We also went away on Pack Holiday and I remember walking down to Tatton park from one of the places we stayed. Something I later repeated as a leader.

In 1998 I moved on to Guides where I also had lots of fun. We went on Guide camp and also enjoyed trips to the ice rink in Deeside and Cheshire Oaks on the way home. There was also the annual trip to Cadburys World.

In 2005 I started helping at 3rd Halewood Brownies and stayed there until 2015. I really enjoyed my time here and gained my Young leader and Leadership awards and we had trips out to Disney on ice and Chester Zoo. Also we took the Brownies away for weekends where we didn't get much sleep.

On 20/10 2010 at 20:10 we renewed our promise along with lots of other Brownies, Rainbows and Guides to celebrate the centenary of Guiding.

In 2014 we had a Division sleepover with lots of other Brownie groups at St Peters church in Woolton for the 100th Birthday of Brownies.

During this time I was also a member of the Merseyside County Senior Section group for women aged 18-26 at St Stephen's Church Wavertree. We completed badges and I gained my Chief Guide award there. I also helped at a Rainbow unit in Wavertree for a few years.

In 2015 I was approached by the Division Commissioner in Wavertree about a Brownie group that was being taken over by a new younger team and she wanted me to be a part of it. I went along and really enjoyed it. Unfortunately this meant I had to leave 3rd Halewood as they met on the same night. I enjoyed weekends away to PGL with this unit, including one memorable one when it was the first time myself and the other leader had been in charge of a group.

One Brownie fell out of bed and banged her head resulting in a huge egg on her head and a trip to hospital to get checked out. At the same time another Brownie lost her tooth.

They were both fine thankfully but because of all this the "tooth fairy" forgot and had to do the deed at breakfast. Luckily the brownie had also forgotten to look.

In 2018 the unit sadly closed due to the other leaders work commitments and I moved to 202nd Liverpool Brownies where I have been ever since. At the same time I started helping at 202nd Liverpool Rainbows.

In the Brownies, I have enjoyed fun activities with them including a fair trade evening with the Halewood Traidcraft team and a dancing session run by Lyn Green's daughter Jo.

We have also had weekends away with them to Woodbank Activity Centre near Knowsley safari park including a memorable one in February 2020 where we experienced gale force winds and a sick Brownie.

With the Rainbows we have also done some fun activities including a trip to the Liverpool University science jamboree.

In March 2020 when Covid hit Brownies and Rainbows had to stop and in June 2020 Brownies went onto Zoom. We had an average attendance of 15-18 each week. Rainbows followed onto Zoom in September of that year when I took over as Leader in charge. The Zoom sessions weren't as fun as real life but we made it as enjoyable as we could under the circumstances.

Brownies celebrated the unit's 90th Birthday on Zoom making mug cakes and the Rainbows participated in the Merseyside County Magic day on Zoom with over 100 participants.

In April 2021 Brownies returned face to face.

Although we could only meet outside, we were lucky with the weather only having a couple of meetings in the rain. It didn't stop us having a good time.

Rainbows returned in September 2021 with a whole new leadership team and a group of 8 girls who didn't talk at all for the whole session - now they don't stop talking. They have done lots of activities and gained quite a few badges already.

We enjoyed a trip to the Lord Mayor's Gala Performance in April 2022 at the Philharmonic. The show should have finished at 9.00pm but due to a late start it went on until after 11:00. We along with other groups left at about 10:15 as they were falling asleep.

On 7th May 2022 we went to a 35th Birthday day out to Waddow hall in Lancashire (see previous magazine) which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Before the May Half term we spent an evening at Calderstones Park which was fun. We ended the evening with a well organised game of Hide and Seek.

The Brownies had a sleepover in June 2022. In October this year the Brownies enjoyed another weekend away at Woodbank. The theme being Monsters to link in slightly to Halloween. They made monster themed food and crafts and a good time was had by all.

The Rainbows have a sleepover planned with lots of bonfire night related activities.

I have really enjoyed my Guiding Journey so far and look forward to lots more fun in the future.

Being leader in charge at Rainbows was hard at first but now I love it. It helps that I have a great Leadership team and a supportive group of parents.

I also enjoy being an assistant leader at Brownies, supporting the team and seeing my Little Rainbows grow up.

Thanks go to Maureen Holmes, Pam Boffy, Lyn Green, Debbie Kenwell, Sandra Thomas, and Dorothy Sumner for helping me to get to where I am today.

Becky Conlon.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Archdeacon Mike to take up new role in Diocese of Manchester

Mike McGurk, Archdeacon of Liverpool and acting Archdeacon of Wigan is to leave our diocese in January to take up a role in the Diocese of Manchester. He will join them as Head of Mission and Growth.

Mike has been Archdeacon of Liverpool for the past five years, latterly supporting Sector Ministry and Church Wigan as part of his portfolio. He was one of the driving forces behind our successful Missing Generations bid to the Church of England's Sustainable Development Fund.

Mike said "after five fruitful and enjoyable years in the Diocese of Liverpool I feel God calling me to a new challenge back in Manchester. I have a real heart for the growth and mission of the church and this role excites and suits me.

I will miss Liverpool Diocese terribly though. I have made great friendships and worked with special colleagues and thank you all for your welcome and enduring support. I will continue to pray for you all and hope to be able to slip back across the border from time to time."

Bishop Bev, Acting Bishop of Liverpool said "I would like to thank Mike for all his work, drive and enthusiasm for us to see more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world. He has been a fabulous colleague and dedicated friend and servant of our diocese. Our prayers are with him and Nicola as they move to Manchester."

We will have an opportunity to say goodbye to Mike at a formal service of thanksgiving in January at Liverpool Cathedral. More details will follow.

Special Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday 11 December - Toy Service at both churches

Sunday 11 December – 4.00 pm Carols at Tarbock

Sunday 18 December - 10.30 am St Mary's Creche/Junior Church Nativity

Sunday 18 December - 6.30 pm Parish Carol Service at St Nicholas

Saturday 24 December – 4.00 pm Crib Service at St Nicholas

Saturday 24 December - 11.30 pm First Communion of Christmas at St Nicholas

Sunday 25 December - 10.30 am Christmas Day All Age service at St Mary's

Sunday 1 January – 11.00 am Joint Service at St Nicholas

Notable Churches: Albufeira parish church

The parish church (Igreja Matriz) in Albufeira is one of the finest examples of neoclassical architecture in the Algarve. It was built in the late 18th century and consecrated on the 15th July 1800. The original church was destroyed by the 1755 earthquake and the site of this earlier church was converted from a pre-existing mosque. It has an imposing bell tower.

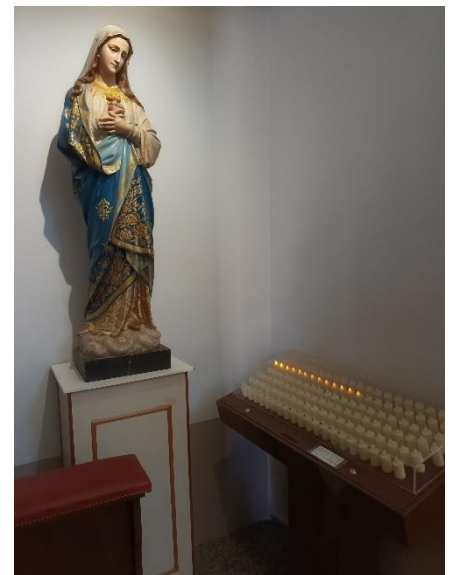
Inside there is a single nave with four neoclassical side chapels, a baptismal chapel, choir, two pulpits, sacristy and Eucharistic chapel, which contain notable artworks featuring St. Louis and St. Peter. Also worthy of note is the filigree stucco-work on the barrel vault ceiling. The pews are made from some beautiful mahogany, with a protective varnish which has kept the wood in very good condition.



However, it is in the chancel, beyond an imposing triumphal arch with its Cross of Aviz, (a military order to which the town once belonged) that you will find the main reason for visiting this church. On the main altar there is a valuable image of Nossa Senhora da Conceição from the second half of the 18th century and an altarpiece painted in the 20th century by the Albufeira artist Samora Barros.



As in many churches there was the opportunity to light candles. This was a little different from the usual fire risk method...you just put a coin into the slot and depending on the value of the coin a certain number of flames light up in the cabinet.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers Needed - We have a small dedicated band of cleaners who clean at St Nicholas' Church every Thursday after our communion service. They would welcome some additional help from 10 am for around 30-40 minutes. All cleaning materials provided.

If you are able to help, even if it is on occasional weeks, please speak to Lesley Webb or Graham Elliott.
Thanks

Request from Mothers' Union

Mother's Union have been asked to donate items for refugees coming to the Liverpool area particularly for pregnant or new mothers. The items particularly requested are: Large size sanitary towels; breastpads; nipple cream; nice smellies for mums; baby bath foam and similar items; nappies size 0-2; baby grows/baby clothes; small blankets. Also, craft items, eg wool and needles; large saucepans.

For more information or to donate contact Sheila Bersin on 486 7565.

Sheila also says: If anyone could knit some "Teddies for Tragedy", it's a good way to use up the oddments of wool. Sheila has the pattern if anyone needs it. Very easy and colourful and it's only garter stitch with stocking stitch for the head. And doesn't take long!

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://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_QFMMV0MxaTa38ibdkzVag.



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.



“We asked food bank managers and users across the UK, and these are all the things people say consistently – time and time again – they need, but they are not things people often think to buy,” says Hodson. “And they make such a difference.”

1. Toilet roll

This is self-explanatory, and always necessary. “One food bank is having to ration it to one roll per household,” says Hodson.

2. Sanitary towels and tampons

“We don’t have the data on how users of the food banks break down across gender lines,” says Hodson. “When someone comes to the food bank, they’ll often pick up for the whole household.” But she adds: “[Feminine hygiene products] are an awkward thing to say that you’re short of. If you’re at the point where you can’t afford food, chances are that you’re not going to be able to afford sanitary products either.”

“It’s really important, especially in terms of dignity, to be able to cope. We’ve heard some horrible reports from some of our food banks where women were [having to use newspaper and that sort of thing](#). Obviously, you have to be resourceful in these situations and people come up with all kinds of coping mechanisms, but we’d prefer they didn’t have to cope, and that they actually were able to have what everybody else has.”

3. Tin openers

“There are all kinds of people who don’t have these, especially women who’ve been relocated because of domestic abuse,” says Hodson.

And as food banks get a lot of tinned, non-perishable food, this is a handy thing to drop off at the collection point.

4. Nappies

Generally, food banks would prefer disposable nappies over cloth nappies. “The best thing people can do is call their local food bank and find out what they need,” says Hodson.

“We get parents with children of all ages. Some of the most stark cases are women who have literally just given birth and haven’t got anything, and are really struggling as well as being a new mum.”

5. Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant)

You know how at Christmas, lots of people get packs of toiletries they don’t want, because it’s a bit of a standard present? Bring them along to your local food bank collection point. “If people don’t want them,” says Hodson, “it’d be amazing if they gave them to the food bank, because it’s the kind of thing that makes a massive difference.”

Shaving gels and foams are also welcome.

6. Baby food

Baby food is another item that many people don’t think to include on their list of donations to food banks, says Hodson. Well, now you know. *(taken from the Foodbank website)*

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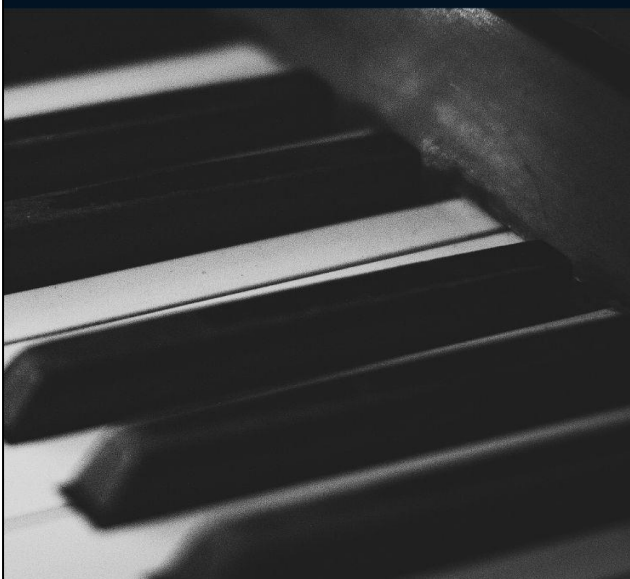
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