



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

APRIL 2022 ISSUE

HAPPY EASTER!

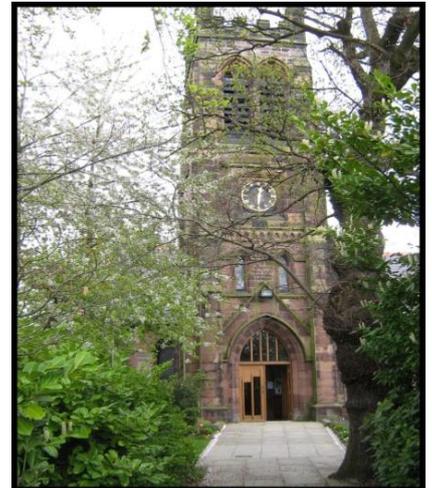
Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the May issue to me by 20th April 2022 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



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

I wonder, do you have a favourite month? Is it July when the summer arrives? Maybe December because of Christmas or maybe it is your birthday month? For me February / March is a time that I love (amongst other months) because all of a sudden, the cold, wet, dark days start to get lighter, and moods start to lift as we approach **Springtime**. As I write this, we have had a great week of weather which everyone has been talking (or moaning) about and Sunday marks the clocks going forward to make it British Summer Time! With lighter nights and the prospect of a brighter future, the question is... **are you full of the joys of spring** 😊?

Recently, walking around Halewood has been a real delight. Suddenly there have been **shoots of hope** appearing everywhere! Walking along, buds are appearing on skeletal trees, green leaves back on bushes and with that the signs of **new life** everywhere. We have an apple tree in our garden along with a cherry blossom that both look *dead* for most of the year until they burst back to life. As soon as we notice them its big news in the house and the excitement never changes each year. **What have you noticed recently that has amazed you or brought you joy from nature? Have you had the time to stop and notice bursts of new life and been thankful?**



When it comes to spring another great theme is 'spring cleaning'! Who loves a spring clean,



going room by room, sorting, tidying, recycling, and detoxing? In Church over the past few weeks we have been thinking about the warnings and invitations Jesus gave in the gospel of Luke. However annoying they can seem, warnings are there to keep us safe and allow us and our companions to thrive. Jesus spent time teaching what is important in life and warns not to ignore God's invitation to life in its fullness. Jesus spoke of a fig tree that looked barren, nothing fruitful had grown on it and the owner of the field it was in wanted it cut down. The gardener pleaded with the owner to give the tree one more year, a year where the

best fertiliser could be mixed into the soil around the tree giving it the very best chance to be fruitful. Lent is a time when as Christians we are called to evaluate our lives and to spring clean things that take us away from the light and 'muddy' our soul. As well as the fun spring cleaning our houses can be, detoxing our spiritual life and shaping our priorities can make a difference both now and for eternity. Jesus came to invite all who listens to accept the gift of new life that will create **shoots of hope** and the **joys of spring** into our very soul. For a plant or a tree to become fruitful, it requires the right minerals, water, sunlight and environment to thrive. Without that perfect combination, it dies or becomes barren. In the same way, what we put into our lives affects our values and ultimately our **hope** for eternity.

With an invitation, comes four letters: RSVP. No one is forced to attend a party or big event, there is a decision to be made and a choice to reflect on. Jesus spoke of 'a banquet' to which everyone is invited. The invitation, He says, brings people together from the north, the south, the east and the west...**everyone!** During Lent we often give things up or take things on to help us detox and become healthier spiritually. God is not inviting the finished article to the banquet, He invites us as we are, with a desire for us to grow in His eternal light.

When we are in the dark winter months, often people look forward to spring, the time when **hope returns**. However cold or wet the days are, there is always that hope in the future. **Are you a spring person?** Are you resilient because you have an inner hope that things can only get better? Lent is not the most enjoyable time in the Church calendar, but with Lent comes the **hope of Easter**. Easter is coming and Easter means **new life**. Those shoots of hope will turn into fully fledged examples of God's wonderful creation. Trees will become green, flowers will bloom, lambs will skip and dance and people will be smiling with time to eat ice cream and holiday together. This year, hopefully not in lockdown, the wonders of that hope realised will be even more special. Easter is the time, that as Christians, we remember the promises of Jesus being fulfilled. We remember the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion but then the bursting from the tomb three days later and the eternal glow ever since. Jesus invited everyone who believes to come to the banquet and His victory over death was the key. Once death was beaten, darkness extinguished, new life and a new hope was born. **Are you amazed still at the power of the Resurrection? Does it give you a new hope even when times seem lost?**

How we face situations change when we are 'full of the joys of spring'. When we have shoots of hope growing within us, we know we are never alone. The invitation Jesus gave in the Gospels is not an invitation for the future, the invitation is for the here and now. Jesus wants to give us the nutrients we need to grow and the living water to refresh and revive us, to shine from the inside out. We have hope for the future but also hope for today because new life starts the moment we RSVP. The flowers and new life around us remind us that God is working out all things and bringing new life. In Revelation 21 we read: *"I am making everything new. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. I will be their God, and they will be my children."* In the same passage, we are reminded to detox all the things that take us away from God and pollute our lives.

Spring, light nights and shoots of hope are all around us but tragically at the time of writing, there is also a dark shadow cast over Europe as we feel helpless watching the news coming from Ukraine. Where is hope there? The Christians in Ukraine will be facing a prospect of the hope of Easter with the too real sense of loss, displacement and fear. The aggressive actions of one State against another demonstrates what occurs when the **wrong** ingredients go into the soil, where selfish ambition of one turns peace into war, freedom to captivity, hope to fear and life to death. Where is hope? **Hope** is seen in the resilience and determination of the people, united to resist unfair invasion. **Hope** is in the welcome given by open borders and the boxes of aid sent from multiple nations across Europe. **Hope** is in the people of Liverpool spending money, dry food and sanitary products by the truck and carload to Polskie Merseyside on County Road. **Hope** is found in the passionate prayers for Ukrainians fighting, in hiding, displaced or watching loved ones from afar. Standing on Country Road seeing a whole mix of society all eagerly wanting to help in some way was quite emotional. Seeing strangers unloading each other's cars, Police directing traffic, PSOs volunteering and recruiting helpers and others simply asking, 'What can I do' was so overwhelming. **Hope** in the midst of confusion. Help just when it was needed, not through Government coordination, but because the people spoke and needed to do something. **Scouse and adopted scouse, shoulder to shoulder**. Wherever there is darkness, there will always be light and shoots of hope because darkness can never extinguish the light. **When we are immersed and rooted in rich soil, nourished by the living water and fed on the Word of God, our values change and our outlook on life becomes focused on the things that God cares about.** Lent is a time to detox so we can be fruitful and continue to grow fruit that impacts our own lives and the lives of others. We become activists, helping the widows and orphans, standing for justice and looking for those shoots of hope, wanting to spread that Christ light to others around us. **What has your response been to the Ukraine crisis? Have you prayed? Have your prayers led you to do something else practical to help?**



Once we accept the gift of hope, remaining true to our calling, **keeps us fruitful**. Chameleons can change colour to reflect their mood, to signal to other chameleons or to adjust to temperature and light. Some people can become like chameleons, changing their values and beliefs (colours) depending on who they are with. Some world leaders can seem one thing but then turn out to have very different intentions and ambitions. Jesus teaches us to be **steadfast** in our values and cling to the hope that does stand the test of time.

Hope gives us a future. Stuart Townend wrote: *"There is a hope that stands the test of time, when suffering cease and sorrows die and every longing satisfied, then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home"*. Jesus taught, healed, told stories and **walked along side people** from every aspect of society. He spoke of His death and the hope and new life His resurrection would bring. He went ahead and faced death. Death could not hold him. All He promised came true. Three days and the shoots of hope sprung into a sure and eternal hope. The invitation has been given. **Have you RSVPed? Are your values Gospel values? Do you know the hope that God gives to all those who accept the invitation? Do you share that hope with others, here in Halewood or abroad, because of Jesus?**

Over the next few weeks leading to Easter, enjoy the light nights and the improving weather. Enjoy seeing our family, friends and work colleagues **'full of the joy of spring'**. As we do, let us also remember to thank God for all He has given us, hope for today and hope for eternity and let us use that gratitude to demonstrate hope to those we meet in troubled times, showing them they too are welcome to sit at the table of the King and have our **everlasting hope**. The banquet is ready ... **are you?**

Matthew Hargreaves

There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,
Yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;
And Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy,
To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms,
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
And every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
For I am truly home.

Stuart Townend & Mark Edwards Copyright © 2007 Thankyou Music

Updating the History of our Churches

Sheila Bersin has reminded us that it is over 25 years since any kind of written history of either of our churches was done. We have three written histories:

- Centenary of Halewood Parish Church James Eccles 1939 (Just St Nicholas')
- Riding the Changes Owen Eva 1989 (Both Churches)
- The First Thirty Years Harry Allen 1996 (Just St Mary's)

Pam Beesley has offered to try and produce an updated history from 1990- 2020 (ish) by collating information that people send to her. So, if you have anything you could write which would contribute to this, please send it to Pam at zzambesi@yahoo.co.uk

APRIL SERVICES

Sunday 3rd April:

Lent 5 (John 12: 1-8, Philippians 3: 4b-14)

10.30 am St Mary's Morning Worship: Garry Critchley
11.00 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Graham Milford
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship: Adam Grey
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship/Baptism: Andy/Jen

Thursday 7th April:

9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 10th April:

Palm Sunday (Luke 19: 28-40), Philippians 2: 5-11)

10.30 am St Mary's Holy Communion: Andy Radford
11.00 am St Nicholas' Parade/GMJC: Matthew Hargreaves
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship: TBC
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Bishop Bev

Thursday 14th April:

Maundy Thursday

9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Friday 15th April:

Good Friday

10.00 am St Nicholas' Morning Worship: Colin Critchley
12 noon Ecumenical service at St Hilda's/St Columba's outdoors
(weather permitting) or inside if not: Andy Radford
3.00 pm St Mary's: Good Friday afternoon service: Colin Critchley

Sunday 17th April:

Easter Day (Acts 10: 34-43, John 20: 1-18)

11.00 am St Nicholas' Joint Holy Communion: Graham Amey
6.30 pm No service
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Thursday 21st April:

9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Carol Burke

Sunday 24th April:

Easter 2 (Acts 5: 27-32, John 20: 19-31)

11.00 am St Nicholas' Joint Morning Worship/APCM:
Matthew Hargreaves
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship: Matthew Hargreaves
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Thursday 28th April:

9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion: Andy Radford

PARISH WALK – FEBRUARY 2022

Another smashing church walk took place on Sat 26th Feb 2022, with Penni Conlon again being our guide.

We met at St Nicholas Centre, as usual, then off to Norton Priory Museum, Gardens and Café, the latter being our main requirement. After our refreshments we wandered through the trees to the Bridgewater canal, down the slope and off towards Preston Brook.



It was a lovely winter's day, with spring seemingly just within reach and the weather and very flat terrain continued to be kind for the whole trip. Off we went along the tow path, following the well-worn track of a bygone industrial age. The

pace was good, enhanced, rather than hindered, by a couple of new walking recruits.

After negotiating underneath many bridges, we arrived at our planned stopping point near Preston Brook: a location where transport features run through the centuries ie the railways, the canals and the high-speed road routes. Richard Conlon recalls attending a university site meeting at this location, used because of this rare phenomenon.



Nature was at its abundant best, with numerous birds, including coots, moor hens, swans and mallards on display. Our return trip included a trip through the “Big Wood”, run by the Woodland Trust. Its website highlights the area as follows: -



“Big Wood is designated as a Local Wildlife Site as well as one of the Guardian’s 10 best woods for spring flowers. With an eclectic mix of broadleaf and exotic tree species, a wealth of wildlife and a rich and varied history, it is a great place to visit.”

And some 5 miles after starting we arrived back at Norton Priory for our journey home. A lovely day.





Addendum to our latest church walk

I met up last week with the man who could be regarded as the first to organise our church walks. Here he is at the original gates of Strawberry Fields, the renowned Care Home mentioned in the Beatle song.

Anybody recognise him?

It is Alastair Ross. Alastair was Vicar of St Mary's from 1982-87. He and his wife Chris now live in Calderdale, West Yorkshire.

Alastair now works with schools, teachers and several local authorities as an RE advisor and trainer. Both Chris and Alastair still enjoy walking. Their son, Matthew, born after they left Halewood, is living in the Peak District and working for the National Park.



SMILE AND RAISE MONEY!

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





BOSCH



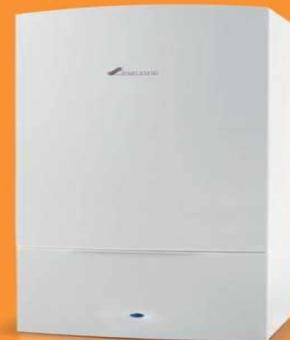
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Lent 2022

Andy Radford has sent the following message about some events during Lent:

Can I encourage you to take some time out to grow together during this Lent period? It is traditionally a time to reflect on life and to recommit ourselves to the call of Christ upon our lives.

We have a couple of things to get involved with that will definitely aid you in your journey of faith:

1. Lent course - this is an opportunity to explore blockages in our growth as believers and also a time where we might receive healing for the stuff of life that we carry. It runs for five Mondays starting on Monday 7th March, 8.00 pm - 9.15pm - (14th, 21st, 28th March and 4th April).

Email parishcohhc@gmail.com to get involved!

2. Prayer days - 9th March and 6th April. These are days when we can join across the three churches to pray for the issues affecting us, also take time out to worship God. We're asking everyone to commit to just fifteen minutes to spend time with God. Why not try to do this and see how it goes. **Email me to get involved!**

Let's join together to grow in our faith and love for God and see what happens?

An Introduction to Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Join us for a spiritual journey during lent, as we explore how we grow spiritually and emotionally through engagement with God through His word and in prayer. We will explore various issues including recovering from loss, growing through difficulty, and healing for damaged emotions.



Each week we will have some worship, a short talk, and discussions in breakout groups. The aim will be to point to ways in which we can look beneath the surface of problems and break the power of past wounds, failures, sins and circumstances to live a life of leaning in to God more for his grace.

In many ways this is a good time to explore these issues as many of us have experienced loss, difficulty and challenge in our families, work places and elsewhere as a consequence of the pandemic. This course will help us grow in confidence and have a greater sense of wholeness. It will also equip us to help others in dealing with anxiety and anger that affects so many at this time.

To book your place on the course please contact Jenny by email parishcohhc@gmail.com (or if you haven't got internet phone Andy on 07966 033648)

Halewood Pillar Box Easter Trail

From 8 April 2022

Our knitted pillar box toppers are a new way of telling the Easter Story. We hope you will enjoy following the trail and reading the stories of the events from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection.

1. **Shops on Wood Road** - *Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) Luke 19:28-40*

Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Even though this didn't seem very grand, the people recognised that He was someone special and began waving palm branches and shouting 'Hosanna' which means 'Save us, we pray'. The disciples were very excited by all of this, but the Jewish religious leaders did not like it one little bit and they began to plan to get rid of Jesus.

2. **Halewood Library and Health Centre** - *The Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) Luke 22:7-23*

Later that week Jesus and his disciples met together to share a special meal to celebrate the Jewish feast of the Passover. Jesus broke the bread, blessed it, and passed it around and then did the same with the wine. He told them that every time they shared bread and wine like this, they should remember him. But Judas, who was one of the twelve disciples, had decided to betray him to the Jewish leaders and so he left part way through the meal to do just that.



3. **St Mark's Church Leathers Lane** - *The Garden of Gethsemane Luke 22:39--53*

When Jesus and the remaining eleven disciples had finished their Passover Meal, Jesus led them outside and they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus wanted to pray, and he asked the disciples to keep watch, but they fell asleep. Then Judas, some of the Jewish Religious leaders and some Roman soldiers arrived. Judas showed the soldiers which one Jesus was by kissing him on the cheek and they arrested him.

4. **By Convenience Shop on Bailey's Lane** - *The Crucifixion (Good Friday) Luke 23: 26-49*

Jesus was put on trial and was condemned to death. Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, offered to spare him but the same crowds of people who had cheered him as he rode into Jerusalem only a few days earlier now shouted for him to be put to death and so Jesus was taken to a place called Golgotha and hung on a cross along with two criminals. After Jesus had died, he was taken away and put in a tomb which belonged to a man called Joseph of Arimathea. The tomb was sealed with a stone and a Roman soldier was put on guard in case anyone tried to remove his body.

5. **Rutland Avenue opposite Plantation School** - *He is Risen (Easter Sunday) Luke 24:1-12*

The next day (Saturday) was the Jewish Sabbath, when no work could be done, but early the following day (Sunday) some of the women who had been followers of Jesus went to anoint his body with oils, as there had not been time to do this before he was put into the tomb. When they arrived, they were amazed to find that the tomb was empty, and they were told by an angel that he had risen from the dead. The women ran back to tell the disciples.

6. **Okell Drive by Bus Stop opposite Torcross Way** - *Resurrection Breakfast John 21:1-14*

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples quite a few times, although they did not always recognise him. One of these appearances was when some of the disciples were coming back from a fishing trip. They hadn't caught anything but a man on the side of Lake Galilee told them to try again and this time they made a huge catch. They suddenly realised it was Jesus. He had prepared a fire to cook the fish they had caught and they shared a breakfast together.

Card Workshop Saturday 21st May

Gill Dover, Elaine Crerar and Linda West are delighted to invite you to a cardmaking workshop at St Mary's Church on Saturday 21st May from 10.00 am to about 12/12.30 pm, doors open at 9.30 am. May should be good enough weather to make having doors open for ventilation quite pleasant!



The session costs £10 for five cards and refreshments, but probably not bacon butties as there is no coffee shop at present.

We are looking forward to having everyone together again but as the remote card-making was so successful we are happy to deliver packs to you at home if you can't make the date or still want to socially distance. The instructions would be via an email attachment, we're not quite up to doing a broadcast of the session.

How to Book

Please email lindawest01@gmail.com or gillian.dover@gmail.com to reserve a place or a pack for home delivery.

We need your name and if you want to attend on the Saturday.

If you are booking for a group we need the number and their names as well.

If you want a pack (or packs) we will need your address and a phone number so we can arrange delivery and payment.

Please book your place(s) by 30th April as then I will know how many packs I need to prepare. We regularly get 40+ packs sold and it takes a lot of time designing, sourcing materials and collating all the bits so the sooner the better!

As usual all the money from the sales goes to St Mary's.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Linda, Gill and Elaine

Traidcraft

Thank you to all of our customers and supporters who have kept us going over the last two years. We are pleased to announce that we will be recommencing our face to face stalls in March. The first will be on Sunday 13th March at the St Nicholas' Centre after the service. Hopefully we will be coming to St Mary's sometime very soon. We also have some new Spring Catalogues available for browsing. If you would like to see one please phone/text Penni on 07990953334 - no obligation to buy! There is a wide range of Easter eggs available as well as fairly traded food, clothing and gifts. It will be good to be back!

There is a fascinating history of Liverpool schools to be found at liverpool-schools.co.uk: why not see if your school is in it?

This archive of Liverpool schools was started in Summer 2006. Obviously, it's still in its very early stages and there are bound to be errors. This is an ongoing project, and I hope people will contribute with corrections, memories, images and information. Please send to:



info@liverpool-schools.co.uk

Liverpool has always been a city of religious diversity, and the lists of schools reflect this. From the earliest Directories there are Board Schools and Church of England schools as well as Catholic, Presbyterian, Jewish, Methodist, Wesleyan, Quaker, Muslim and other more esoteric schools. I hope I've got the classifications and listings right - if not, please contact me and put me right!

info@liverpool-schools.co.uk

FAB GROUP – Friendship after bereavement

Losing someone we love is something most of us will have to go through at some point in our lives. Each experience is different and personal to us, but knowing how other people have dealt with it can be very helpful. In the FAB Group, you can share your experiences of how you've coped with the death of a loved one, or ask questions about how others have dealt with such difficult times. What some of our members say:



"After the death of my husband in 2011 I found out about the FAB Group. Everybody welcomed me and I have made many friends and help to organise social occasions. I look forward to our chats and friendship."

"FAB was a lifeline in my time of need and resulted in firm friendships."

"I had counselling at Listening Ear after I lost my partner. I was still very low but was then signposted to the FAB Group. I never miss a meeting, as I enjoy the company and the outings with people who were finding life so different and difficult. It still isn't easy, but bearable."

"I joined the FAB Group in 2008. It was a lifeline for me as I was feeling so low. I also enjoy our evenings out."

"I enjoy my time in FAB. It's a very special time meeting up with friends who all have had a bereavement. It also helps me get through the day."

"I joined the FAB Group because I never left the house after my husband died. It's been a great help to me. I now enjoy going out with the group."

FAB Group meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the St Nicholas Centre.

Tel: 0151 488 6648. Email: enquiries@listening-ear.co.uk

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Junior Church at St Nicholas - volunteers urgently needed

Hayley McShane has taken over from Mary Carew as Leader of the Junior Church and urgently needs some more volunteer helpers to put on the rota. If you can help, please contact Monica at clemeh.nh@hotmail.co.uk

Volunteers needed please

We are planning to restart serving tea and coffee after our Sunday morning services at St Nicholas' from Sunday 6th March. We could do with a few more volunteers to join the rota. You could join as a family group, with a friend or on your own and we will match you up with another volunteer.

Please contact Alison Shacklady alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com or Lesley Webb lwebb74@hotmail.com

Calling all former bellringers!

The ringers at St Nicholas' badly need some help to keep the bells ringing on Sunday mornings for service as usually we now only get 4 regular ringers. We don't have the capacity to take on any beginners at the moment, but if there are any former ringers out there, you would be very welcome to join us. Our ringing is at a basic level - mostly rounds, call changes and plain hunt, so no need to be worried about managing more complicated methods. Anyone interested, come up the tower between 10.40 and 11am on Sundays, or contact Gill Moore on 0151 475 5545



Live Steaming of services on YouTube

Thanks to some grant funding we have now 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 will be streaming this Sunday's service live and it will also be 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.

We are planning to live stream future Sunday and Thursday morning services from this Sunday. If you subscribe to our YouTube Channel (It's free) it will make it easier to access in future.

Wedding bookings and Vestry Dates for weddings and baptisms

We now have a team of wedding secretaries (Rachel Mason, Keighley McLinden and Su O'Brien) who will be working with the wardens and clergy to look after wedding bookings and reading of banns, and they will also liaise generally with new and existing wedding couples. They can be contacted on a new dedicated email address: halewoodparishweddings@hotmail.com or at wedding vestries which will be held every third Thursday of the month from 7.00 - 7.45 pm at the St Nicholas' Centre. So the next two wedding vestries will be held on **21 April and 19 May**. Keep a lookout in the parish magazine for an article introducing our wedding secretaries, so that you can recognise them if you see them in church!

Please note that we are fully booked for Baptisms up to and including July. From June, vestries for booking Baptisms to take place later in the year will be held on the first Thursday of the month starting on Thursday 9 June.

Confirmation 2022

Our Halewood/Hunts Cross confirmation service this year will be on Sunday 20th November at 6.30 pm. Confirmation preparation for *adults* and young people (Year 6 and above) will begin early in October. A separate email about this will be sent out shortly



“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)*

KNOWSLEY – BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2022

The Borough of Culture title is awarded annually on a rotational basis to one of the six local authorities that make up the Liverpool City region.

The purpose of the Borough of Culture award is to stimulate new cultural and creative opportunities; highlighting the unique character and distinctiveness of its people and places, and developing the skills and talents of its residents in order to create an exciting year of cultural events and activities that everyone can enjoy and take part in.

Each host borough will create its own programme of cultural and creative events, activities and opportunities, but all will include five key elements:

- Children and young people:** accessing, enjoying, learning through culture and creative engagement, developing skills and talents.
- Positive outcomes:** wellbeing, health, education, cohesion and future world of work.
- Communities:** increased opportunities for participation and involvement.
- Distinctiveness of place:** promoting the creative and culture on offer to local people and visitors.
- Infrastructure and legacy:** building future cultural and creative opportunities beyond the Borough of Culture year.

In 2019 Wirral hosted the award, followed by Sefton in 2020 and Halton in 2021. In 2022 the honour comes to Knowsley and the theme of Knowsley's year is based around 'stories' with the strapline:
'Everyone has a story to tell. It's time to tell ours.'

There will be a range of events taking place around Knowsley throughout the year, starting in January with a programme of public light spectaculars in each of Knowsley's areas, including Halewood. Details can be found on the website: <https://www.cultureknowsley.co.uk>.

Another event will be 'The Owl and the Pussycat' Sculpture Trail, celebrating the fact that Edward Lear actually wrote the poem, whilst living at Knowsley Hall, as well, of course, the much-anticipated opening of the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot.

We are looking at how we link some of the events into our annual Halewood CultureFest. Watch this space!

I have been made aware that on Sunday June 5, there is to be a 'bring your own picnic' on Hollies Field on Hollies Road, to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee - this is being organised by Halewood Town Council, and there will, no doubt, be more advertising nearer to the event. If you wish for more information, I would suggest that you contact your Halewood Town Councillor direct.

John Woollam



The role of **Community Champion** will be to develop and/or carry out activities which support communities to improve their health. One of the key activities will be to support the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme by engaging with people in the community to dispel myths about the COVID-19 vaccines, to provide information about how to get a vaccination and to pick up on any concerns or problems.

If this is something you would like to get involved with please register your interest via the link below.
<https://oneknowsley.teamkinetic.co.uk/volunteers/opportunity/10185661>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Our APCM will take place during the morning service on Sunday 24th April at St Nicholas' (Joint service).

Further information will follow about this but one of the things we need to do is ensure that our Electoral Rolls are up to date.

The ER will be open from 16.03.2022 - 09.04.2022 for any changes. If you wish your name to be added please ask for a form and please report any other changes such as change of address or if a family member on the Electoral Roll has passed away to angelajg@yahoo.co.uk. Thanks.

Changes in our churches

Following recent changes in Government guidance with regard to Covid restrictions we have made the following changes:

- It is no longer a requirement that you wear a mask in church, however given that case numbers are again increasing and the fact that we have a number of members who are vulnerable, we would encourage you to still consider doing this for you own and others' safety.
- We have started taking collections again by passing around the collection plate for cash or envelopes. You can still also donate by card using the card reader available in each church. (Or, better still, switch to setting up a direct debit via the Parish Giving Scheme.)
- We will be serving teas and coffees after our services at St Nicholas' Centre every week, and at St Mary's 1st and 3rd Sundays until we are able to get more volunteers.

QR Codes for School Applications- Important information

We have noticed some anomalies in the way in which the QR code registering church attendance for school applications is being used. The system is quite sophisticated and does pick up and report misuse. We will be monitoring this carefully over the next few weeks, so please make sure that you **only** scan and use the code if you are actually present in church. Thanks

Murder Most Foul: Footman shot Lady Derby, then had a pint!

If you had just shot two people dead and left two injured, would the first place you went be the pub for a jar of “falling down juice”?

That’s exactly what 19-year-old Harold Winstanley did after going on a senseless rampage at one of Merseyside’s grandest homes.

Lady Derby was at home in Knowsley Hall watching TV on her own when the family’s trainee footman entered. Lord Derby was away at a dinner engagement – probably saving his life. Harold Winstanley arrived unannounced, smoking a cigarette, “extremely bad form” in those days.

But, what was to follow was worse. In his other hand Winstanley clutched a particularly nasty machine pistol, a German MP40.

And on October 10th 1952, murder, as it invariably does, spilled into high society.

At the end of that day two people lay dead in Knowsley Hall and two people were badly injured, among them Lady Derby. The killer was judged guilty but insane at his trial and sent to Broadmoor.

But, curiously enough, witnesses throughout the trial professed a liking for the lad, referring to him as “a nice boy”, “jolly”, “an excellent type of youth (in the days before youth stood for a young lout)” and “honest”.

Even more puzzling was why the trainee footman bought a gun and went on the rampage with it. Even he was at a loss to explain it. “I just don’t know why I did it,” he told police after handing himself in.

The gun was a German trophy from World War II, a 9mm Schmeisser machine pistol which had passed through various hands until Winstanley bought it with some ammo from a friend. His original intention was to shoot rabbits on the Knowsley estate. But it would be the weapon used to murder a butler and under-butler and wound Lady Derby and a valet.

Lady Derby was forced to stand and turn around while Winstanley fired several shots at her. Wounded, she played dead on the floor. Before the mad gunman could check if he had killed her, he was interrupted by butler Walter Stallard. His under-study Douglas Stuart was just a few steps behind. He too received fatal shots to the body.

As Winstanley calmly walked away from the hall he fired at Lord Derby’s valet William Sullivan catching him in the hand but leaving him alive.

After stopping for a pint in a nearby pub the killer hopped on a bus into the city and, from a public phone box in North John Street Winstanley, called to give himself up. He was quickly arrested by police.

His trial centered not around his guilt, for he never denied it, but around his sanity.

TAKEN FROM THE LIVERPOOL ECHO – thank you for sharing Colin.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Thank you from Bishop Paul and Kate

Bishop Paul writes:

"Kate and I are so grateful for the many kind messages we've received and for the Diocese's enormously generous gift. Thank you all for your love and care. Please keep us in your prayers as the move gathers pace and as we go through the agonies of downsizing!

Diocesan Synod postponed

We have taken the highly unusual step of postponing the Diocesan Synod, scheduled this Saturday. Diocesan Synod will now take place on Saturday 7th May 2022. The venue will be confirmed in due course. The reason for the postponement is the high levels of Covid and other illnesses amongst senior staff in the diocese and concerns about clergy Covid levels being reported in. We just think it is too great a risk to the health of Synod members and the ongoing worshipping life of the diocese.

We pray for those who are unwell and thank you for your understanding.

Statement of Needs

As we begin our search for the new Bishop of Liverpool, the Vacancy In See Committee 2022 has issued our Statement of Needs.

It encapsulates how the Committee has discerned what God is telling us we need for our Diocese; setting out our context and our needs as we pray for all who may be called to be the next Bishop of Liverpool.

[You can read it on our Diocese website.](#)

Diocese offered £7.5m from Church Commissioners to take Fit for Mission Forward

West Derby Deanery votes to be in our first cohort on the Fit for Mission journey

After two years of prayerful planning, our vision is to continue the long obedience with God and come together to get Fit for Mission. Our diocese has received significant support from the national church's Strategic Transformation Fund. The news comes as West Derby Deanery voted to be in the first cohort of Fit for Mission. Parishes across St Helens Deanery are discerning whether they want to be involved with a vote due in April.

Fit for Mission is a creative, locally-owned process that gives support and capacity to local leaders to make the right decisions for their area. Through it, we seek to release all God's people into their God-given vocation and call. In that way, it gives substance to our diocesan vision of asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference with more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world. It continues our long obedience to God's call to mission.

Fit for Mission continues and refreshes what we are about. It sits in the centuries-old tradition of Christians following Jesus' call to make disciples of all. It reinterprets that call afresh for the generation and world we find ourselves in. And it focuses on four basic priorities:

1. Introducing people to Jesus
2. Deepening Discipleship
3. Developing Christian leaders
4. Working for justice

Fit for Mission has progressed a great deal over the last 2 years through the input of so many people across the diocese. We stand at the start of a new phase of our work as together we look to build a church for future generations with more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.

At the moment it is only West Derby and St Helens deaneries involved in cohort one but we are starting to have conversations in other places as we continue to work together to be Fit for Mission. [Read the full story here](#)

To find out more

Go to www.liverpool.anglican.org/fitformission for more details or contact fitformission@liverpool.anglican.org with any questions. *Together we can be Fit for Mission.*

Return of the Passion Plays

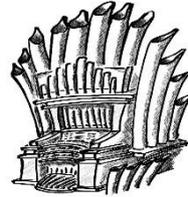
We are pleased to see the return of Passion Plays taking place within the Diocese during Holy Week after being unable to go ahead during the pandemic.

[Liverpool Cathedral's 'The Liverpool Passion Plays' will be performed on 11th April from 6:30 pm.](#)

[In Another Place will be premiering their 'Liverpool Passion' in the gardens of Liverpool Parish church on 16th April from 3:15 pm.](#)

Easter Bank Holiday Organ Recital

The Easter Bank Holiday Organ Recital returns to Liverpool Cathedral for the last time we host this recital. So don't miss your opportunity to join us at 11:15 am on Monday 18th April in the Main Space of the Cathedral for a performance from Ian Tracey and more to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.



Inside The Sikh Temple Serving 10,000 Free Meals A Day

At the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib in Delhi, rice and dal aren't just lunch; they're an act of worship.

The entrance to the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib bars none, so long as visitors' heads are covered and their feet are bare. With any luck, they've brought a healthy appetite, because the largest Sikh temple in Delhi also serves roughly 10,000 hearty vegetarian meals each day, free of charge.

Lunchers must first wet their feet in a shallow tank of water before they climb a set of white marble steps reaching up to the temple door that stands open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The sonorous call of the rabab, a classical stringed instrument, drowns out the hectic traffic of Connaught Place, Delhi's bustling financial and business center that sits just outside the temple complex's towering white gates.

Inside the gurudwara—literally the door to the Guru—devotees wrap around the perimeter of a golden shrine that dates back to the 1700s. Some worshippers stand and sing before the shrine, which resembles a small, ornate canopy, with their hands clasped to their chests, while others bend low to the floor in prayer.

But the most compelling form of worship isn't found here; it's beyond the shrine, past the courtyard decorated with tourists and pilgrims taking selfies, eating karah parshad—a sweet temple gift made of flour, ghee, and sugar—and leisurely strolling around the sarovar, an expansive pool of water that's believed to be sacred and all but fills the open marble complex that's bookended with staunch white porticos. Families linger on the steps overlooking the pool just long enough for a child to get lost and found in the crowd, then follow the faint scent of hot roti until they reach the entrance to the holiest sanctuary of all, the kitchen.

A crowd of over 200 people waits patiently outside, seated on the floor between a tall iron fence and a series of glass doors that will soon open into the langar, the food hall. Volunteers of all ages, called sewadars, quickly prepare the bright airy room for the next communal meal. The marble floor is swept and mopped after each serving before long, skinny mats are rolled out in neat rows separated by aisles wide enough for volunteers to proceed down, doling-out shiny stainless steel trays and spoons to each person seated. – *Thanks for sharing, Colin.*

You can care for Comic Relief!

This year me and my sister Emily thought we would help out Comic Relief by selling funny face rocks and biscuits to make people laugh and smile, think we did well. Last year we did the same but sold funny face rocks and spider plants but this year we sold biscuits instead. Oh and raised a grand total of £80.40 but this time we raised even more! We started our stall at least 11:15am and ended at about 2:00pm so we had a good few hours to do it. We really enjoyed it when our friends from school or church popped by for something but it was just as good when stagers came past too. One Taxi driver even stopped by to see what we were selling and gave us £5.00 for a biscuit but we were only asking for donations or none at all. Me and Emily have really enjoyed doing this and all together we raised £88.00 all together. I think we will do it again next year.

By Kaitlin Potts
Age 10



Our local farmer, Olly Harrison, is no stranger to Ukraine, having visited several times over recent years, mainly on trips to train Ukrainian farmers on aspects of crop spraying. However, he branched out on Sat 5th March and offered his services for the storage of clothing, bedding, medical supplies and toys for those suffering because of the war in Ukraine.

Friends and family were mobilised and attended at their new barn at Water Lane farm to help offload the enormous articulated lorries, laden with items donated from various parts of Merseyside. Although full of aches and pains afterwards, Olly and his team were well pleased that they could help the Ukrainian refugee effort in some small way. The gifted items will be packed and moved on to an assembly point, where they will be sent off to Ukraine. Well done to all.



Packing daffodils for Mothering Sunday!



14 Mar 2022

Your Lordship,

Having lived in Liverpool all my life I have just read the First Earl (and 2nd Earl) of Liverpool's history on the internet!

And the existence of the 5th Earl of Liverpool... Yourself!!

I wonder if you can answer my question - which is 'Why Liverpool'?

Was there some connection?

I intend to submit an article to the new editor of the Church Mag!!

Thank You

Colin West

LIVERPOOL, Earl of LIVERPOOLE@parliament.uk

15 Mar 2022

Dear Mr West

Thank you for your email.

I hope the following may be of some help in answering your query!

Charles Jenkinson was an eminent politician and statesman in the mid to late 17th Century. He was President of the Board of Trade from 1786 - 1804 and during that time (which followed the industrial revolution and the expanding British Empire) he introduced legislation which helped the country to prosper globally and the cities which benefitted most were Liverpool and, to a lesser extent, Bristol.

When he was offered a peerage for his parliamentary work in 1786, he became Lord Hawkesbury – this being the place where he lived in Gloucestershire. Subsequently, in 1796 he was offered an Earldom and he took the name of Liverpool in recognition of the contribution he had made to the city of Liverpool. The good burghers of Liverpool city must have approved because exceptionally, he was allowed to incorporate the Liver bird crest into his coat of arms!

His son, The 2nd Earl became the Prime Minister and was in office from 1812 – 1827.

I am the great great great great grandson of Charles, 1st Earl of Liverpool.

I could go on.... But I hope this helps to explain the connection!

Best wishes

Eddie Liverpool

The Earl of Liverpool London SW1A 0PW

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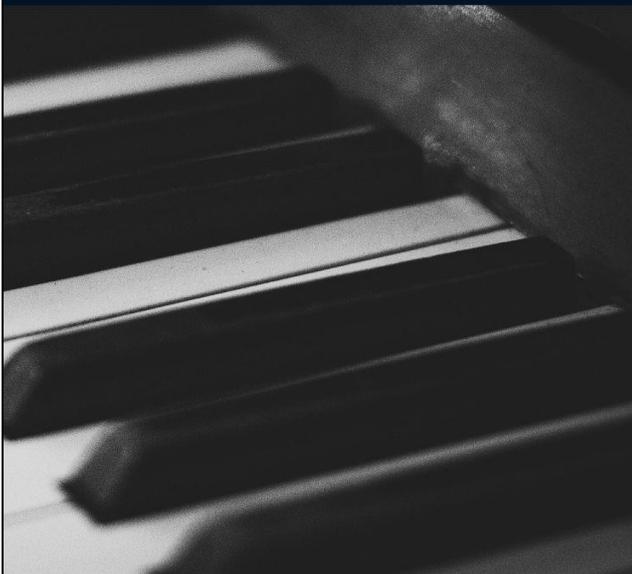
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