

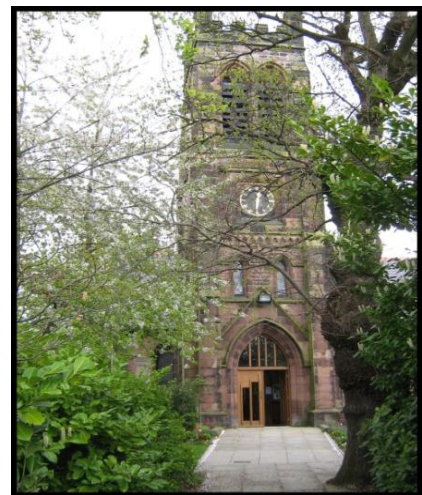


ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the March issue to me by 20th February 2022 please.



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MINISTRY MESSAGE – Revd Andy Radford

There is Hope

I find that it is difficult at times to know what to make of it all. We have now been subject to some kind of restrictions on life for two years, and during that period we have had several false dawns. We have anticipated an end, only again to be disappointed. We are now being advised that there is hope that the real sting of the pandemic should be coming to an end this year, but that we will have to live with it for years to come. Of course that gives us some hope but still will mean some will feel under threat for a while.

It has been difficult for each of us in different ways and has meant that church life has been severely disrupted and will be changed forever possibly. The Bible says this in Hebrews 12 v 26 - 28 “At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’” The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe”

We can't always know what God is doing through the events of life and history, but we are thrown upon the mercy of God in difficult times. Of course this shaking that goes on in many different things causes some to leave their faith, and indeed generally the church in the UK has suffered a noticeable decline since the start of the pandemic. Yet perhaps in situations like this you are like Peter who, when asked by Jesus if he was going to abandon Him along with the many other disciples, said ‘ where shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’

Indeed, any shaking will often prove the reality of our faith: a young tree that is shaken, I have been told, develops strong roots that will serve it well in the future. So, I want to thank all of you who have remained faithful to the Lord and to church; your present, living faith encourages us all. Your prayers, your worship, your witness and your giving are a testimony to others of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1 v 3-9 is an amazing statement of this eternal hope that we have, without it we are wasting our time and church would just become an empty ritual. Read these verses, let them encourage you and, like me, pin all your hope on Jesus, because no matter what happens, both He and this hope cannot be taken from you.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Wednesday 2nd February: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
Thursday 3rd February: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion

Sunday 6th February: **Ordinary 1**
10.30 am St Mary's Morning Worship
11.00 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship

Wednesday 9th February: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
Thursday 10th February: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion

Sunday 13th February: **Ordinary 2**
10.30 am St Mary's Holy Communion
11.00 am St Nicholas' *GMJC/Parade*
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship

Wednesday 16th February: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
Thursday 17th February: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion

Sunday 20th February: **Second Sunday before Lent**
10.30 am St Mary's Morning Worship/Baptism
11.00 am St Nicholas' Morning Worship
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Holy Communion

Wednesday 23rd February: 8.00 pm Night Prayer Zoom online
Thursday 24th February: 9.15 am St Nicholas' Holy Communion

Sunday 27th February: **Sunday before Lent**
10.30 am St Mary's GMJC
11.00 am St Nicholas' Morning Worship
6.30 pm St Nicholas' Evening Worship

SPECTACULAR LIGHT SHOW IN COURT FARM WOODS

I was lucky enough to accompany my family to the light show on Saturday 22nd January this year. The show was put on as part of the celebrations for Knowsley Borough Year of Culture. It was held in Court Farm Woods, just near to the estate where I live.



Well done to *Walk the Plank*, the company who arranged the whole event for Knowsley Council.





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INTERVIEWING THE REVD MARTYN WOODSFORD



When did you know that you wanted to be a priest?

I became a Christian in December 1983 in Cirencester Methodist Church. During the service there was a moment when it was almost like a voice behind me saying “that’s where I am going to take you.” I was seventeen. I wasn’t much impressed about being a clergy person. But it took me another sixteen years to work out what I was going to do. I worked in warehouses and hospitals, married Tracey but we had talked about the possibility of joining the clergy before getting married. We ended up in Eastbourne working for Scripture Union where I began the process. I was ordained in 2001. It was a long journey but my understanding of my dyslexia and educational issues wouldn’t have been discovered if I had responded earlier.

What other job would you have liked to do?

I was put forward for the process of being Bishop of the Northern Territories in Australia. That would be my ideal job. The region is remote, and the Christian groups are spread wide and far. It would take driving for a week in a land cruiser to get anywhere. I thought it looked a lot of fun, working across the communities. I love doing my job and the above job would be the only other.

Can you remember your best sermon?

No. I don’t remember what I have preached. The moment I am in front of a congregation to deliver a sermon the words come from the heart; I don’t have the capacity to deliver the same sermon at a following service. Apart from that, congregations are different. I don’t write my sermons as because of my dyslexia it takes me too long. I don’t want to do sermons the way I have been trained by someone else because I need to discover myself when I preach. I have to be me, not somebody else.

What are your interests/hobbies?

I really like fishing. Fly fishing. I am not one of those people who sit on a riverbank for several hours with a rod and a float. I also like sea fishing. I love to read. I can’t imagine not being able to read. I read novels, science fiction, speculative fiction, history, theology, and I go to the movies a lot. I have been sea fishing with Zak off the coast of North Wales and occasionally I go fishing in Kent with my mates. I also like riding motorcycles.

What are your future goals?

I am going to finish my graduate diploma in Theology, which is half a Masters. I have one more unit which I will do at college in Adelaide. Then I will decide whether I want to complete the Masters. Bishop of the Northern Territories would be very nice, but it would be difficult to persuade Tracey and Zak to move up there from Adelaide.

What is your biggest wish for the coming year?

My biggest wish for the coming year is that the motorcycle that I want to buy will be under 20,000 dollars. I don’t mind if it’s new or old. It’s a BMW R18 which is reasonably old fashioned looking, with character and comfort. Riding a motorcycle is a life-giving thing for me.

What talent would you like to have?

I don't know. But I do have friends who are world class artists and I look at them and think they are brilliant. They can pull you into a story and into another world. If I could have a skill or talent that I didn't have to work at I would pick something like to be able to paint. To be able to translate your ideas into the world to make people stop and think.

What famous person would you most like to meet? Past or present?

I wouldn't mind meeting Paul, the Apostle. He has had a lot of flak about some of his letters to Churches. I don't think we understand that correctly and we think that because he has written the letters it must be true for everybody. But we must remember that he wrote to the churches in response to a request from them to help them to live in their community. And some of it has been lost in translation because we don't have the originals. He was huge in how we begin to understand ourselves in relation to God. He was a highly educated Jewish Pharisee man and could say that it doesn't matter about who you are in relation to God. He was phenomenal but gets a bad reputation.

What are you looking forward to most in Australia? (except for the weather!)

I am looking forward to being warm and not having cold feet. Adelaide has a Mediterranean climate. It rains solidly for an hour but then it clears up and there are blue skies again! In some regards Adelaide is like Liverpool – vibrant, interesting, celebrating. But it is overlooked.

What will you miss most about the UK?

Because I grew up with my Dad being in the RAF, I have never missed places but there will be people I will miss. I have been involved in their lives and have seen them grow and recover.

Thank you for talking to me Martyn.

Margaret

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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 below 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





“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)*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Junior Church at St Nicholas - *volunteers urgently needed*

Monica Sharma 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 monica_dharni@hotmail.com.

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 spectacles 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!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Vestry Dates for February and March will be:

Thursdays 7.00 - 7.45pm

3rd February

24th February

17th March

At St Nicholas' Centre for wedding bookings only.

We are fully booked for Baptisms up to and including July. The next vestry at which people can book Baptisms from September onwards will be in June. Date to be announced.

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



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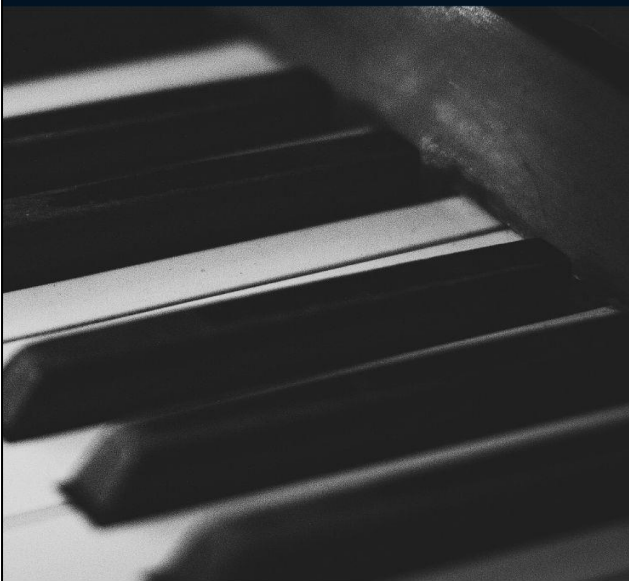
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