



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the November issue to me by 20th October 2025 please.

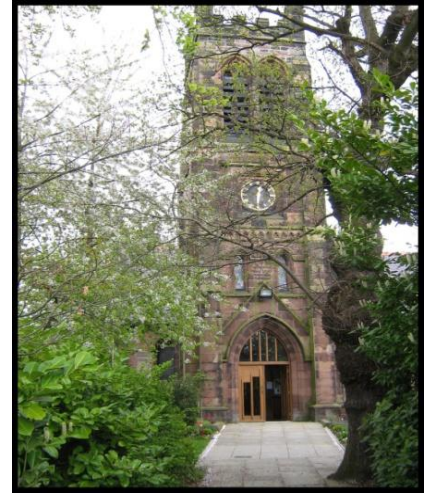
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



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

Email address above.

Margaret



Prayer for October 2025

Dear Lord,

In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers. Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.

Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love – and a kinder world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

We're heading into the beautiful season of autumn. The leaves are changing colour, the air is turning crisper, and the nights are drawing in. Everything seems to slow down just a little. After all the busyness of the summer season with long days and lots of activities, autumn is maybe a chance for us to catch our breath.

As churches, this season is a great reminder that God works in rhythms and seasons – both in nature and in our lives. In Ecclesiastes 3:1 it says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Autumn is a great time to reflect, to be grateful and maybe shed a few things that we don't need any more.

Just like the trees shed their leaves, maybe we're being called by God to lay some things down too – worries, habits, or even the pressure just to keep going at a hundred miles an hour. As we watch the leaves falling off the trees, maybe we could spend some time resting in God and focusing on what really matters in our lives.

Autumn is also the season of Harvest. Harvest is the time where we celebrate the successful gathering in of the crops and give thanks to God for his provision. I wonder if this is also a time for us to celebrate what God has been doing in our lives over the past year. Are there times when you've been blessed, are there ways in which you've grown? As we slow down, let's take some time to see the little victories in our lives, rather than being so busy looking ahead.

As we journey through this season of Autumn, let's take some time to slow down, to reflect and to give thanks to God for his blessings as we journey towards the season of Advent and into the busy season of Christmas.

So, let's remember that God is with us in every moment—in the change, the stillness, and the beauty. May this autumn be full of peace, gratitude, and a deeper sense of His presence.

With blessings

Gareth

OCTOBER SERVICES

- Thursday 2nd October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 5th October: ***Proper 22 (2 Timothy 1.1-14, Luke 17.5-10)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: James H-F
11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Matthew Hargreaves
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan
- Thursday 9th October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 12th October: ***Proper 23 (Psalm 100, John 6.25-35) – Harvest readings***
10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion (Harvest): Gareth Morgan & James H-F
11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade (Harvest): Matthew Hargreaves
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Carol Burke
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship (Harvest): Andy Radford
- Thursday 16th October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 19th October: ***Proper 24 (2 Timothy 3.14-4.5, Luke 18.1-8)***
11.00 am St Mary - Hope Methodist Service
11.00 am St Nicholas - Hope Methodist Service
6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: James H-F
- Thursday 23rd October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 26th October: ***Proper 25 (2 Timothy 4.6-8 & 16-18, Luke 18.9-14)***
10.30 am St Mary GMJC/Baptism: Matthew Hargreaves & Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Phil Saltmarsh
1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: James H-F
6.30 pm St Nicholas: **COMMEMORATION SERVICE:** Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy & Jen Radford
- Thursday 30th October: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Prayers - If you would like us to include someone in prayers on a Sunday morning and/or evening, there is a book at the back of each church to which you can add names. Please ask the duty warden/steward.

PARISH WALK

Today, Saturday 13th September, we embarked on a walk through Sefton and Greenbank Parks and then Wavertree Playground (The Mystery), finally getting to Wavertree Congregational Church, Hunters Lane, where Penni Conlon's dad was a minister.



The weather forecast wasn't good, which probably influenced attendance, which was eight people and Phoebe the dog. As usually happens, any rain chose to come down when we were indoors and, although we put our hoods up a couple of times, we didn't get wet.



After sampling Dobbies' breakfast, we went to Sefton Park and disembarked near to the lake. It's a bit of a ritual for me and Becky Conlon to get some bird seed from the café and then distribute it amongst the many feathered creatures



inhabiting this area; Becky's bag usually lasting much longer than mine because of my over generous handfuls. Becky still had some for our return journey.



We went through the park and we were thankful for being dry, as were the cormorants spreading their wings out in the good breeze. Then on to Greenbank Park, where there is an equally lovely lake, and very picturesque views, one view enhanced by a large tree that had sadly fallen into the lake.

Before we knew it, we had galloped into Wavertree Playground, where we found some logs to sit on and top up our not very empty stomachs.

This is where the nostalgia kicked in for Penni, who had spent many youthful years using the park, as her dad cured souls nearby.

The logs did the job, but were a bit spikey to sit on, so we soon raised to go to Penni's old church, where there was a Wedding Dress display on, with Penni's and our very own Sue Turnley's wedding dresses amongst the dresses on show.

The display was impressive, with dresses and family history exhibited down both sides of the church. The best bit for me was to share Penni's interesting family history in the church. Her dad, the Rev Frank Oswald Brown, was Minister there from 1955 until 1985. Penni and Richard were married there and her dad's imprint is still present. His picture is on display in the vestry, and we managed to find a copy of the Lord's Prayer on a card, which he always had visible to him in the pulpit.

We had another refreshment stop here, just for tea/coffee and a biscuit this time, honest! And then we meandered



past the Liverpool Reform Synagogue, just around the corner in Church Road, and then through The Mystery and Sefton Park and back to our cars. It proved to be an easy six miles, with the weather and Phoebe the dog both being on good behaviour. Can't wait for Penni's next adventure.

Geoff

NEXT PARISH WALK

Saturday October 18th. Meet at 10am as usual.

Dobbies again for bacon butties then drive to South Parkway Station.

Train to Central and then to Hoylake.

The walk is from Hoylake to West Kirby and back to Hoylake - some paths that could get muddy. Also a steepish hill (pavement though by a main road) but can take our time!

At West Kirby we have the option of walking around the marina - depending on tides and how people feel!

The walk is just over 5 miles in length and quite interesting.

If anyone wanted to get train back from West Kirby that is also an option.

If you have a Merseyrail Pass bring that - if not you will need a train ticket.

Bring a snack and a drink for our stop in West Kirby.

Hoping for good weather.

More details from Penni on 07990953334.

2th October – Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God's work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But, instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

'Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient I believe I shall.' And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker 'minister', and her good works in London began.

But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth's life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life's work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education.

In 1817, she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818, Elizabeth had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a 'Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London', which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a 'hands-on' sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She then inspected prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a 'minister of Christ'.

Thank you Parish Pump

Live Streaming of services on YouTube

Thanks to some grant funding from Community Foundation Merseyside, we have installed cameras in St Nicholas' to enable us to live stream services on YouTube. The YouTube channel is called St Nicholas St Mary's Halewood Team and the direct link is: <https://bit.ly/halewood-ecumenical>



We are streaming Sunday and Thursday morning services live and it is also available for you to watch later. You may wish to make use of this if you are unable to attend church in person for any reason.

If you subscribe to our YouTube Channel (It's free) it will make it easier to access in future.

BAPTISMS AT ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S – SEPTEMBER 2025

21st September - St Mary's
Jude Eric Harvey

28th September - St Nicholas
Remi Lee Andrews
Isaac Leslie Black
Mia Rose Le Gros
Lauren Hamilton

Funerals at St Nicholas' in September 2025			
14 September	Michael Handley	Age 89?	Burial of ashes
18 September	Edward Day	Age 88	Funeral

Lincoln Pilgrimage 2025 – First Day

We had our usual driver and, this year, he brought his wife as well! Our send off was a prayer by Alison and a 'good bye' from Pam who couldn't be with us this year, along with some other 'missing' regulars. There were bags and bags of sweets doing the rounds as usual!

Southwell Minster

Southwell was our lunch stop, and is in Nottinghamshire. In 1884 it was renamed as Southwell Cathedral, a little less of a mouthful than its original title of 'the Cathedral and Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary'. It is a grade I listed building.

In the Middle Ages Southwell was part of the diocese of York and the minster acted as mother church to the surrounding area.



The earliest church on the site is believed to have been founded in 627 by Paulinus, the first Archbishop of York, when he visited the area while baptising believers in the River Trent. The legend is commemorated in the Minster's baptistry window.

In 956 King Eadwig gave land in Southwell to Oscytel, Archbishop of York, on which a minster church was established. The Domesday Book of 1086 recorded the Southwell manor in great detail. The Norman reconstruction of the church began in 1108, probably as a rebuilding of the Anglo-Saxon church, in the Romanesque style, starting at the east end so that the high altar could be used as soon as possible and the Saxon building was dismantled as work progressed. Many stones from this earlier Anglo-Saxon church were reused in the construction. The tessellated floor and late 11th century tympanum in the north transept are the only parts of the Anglo-Saxon building remaining intact. Work on the nave began after 1120 and the church was completed by c.1150.



The square ended Norman chancel was considered too small so was rebuilt from 1234 to 1251 in the Early English Gothic style. In 1288 the chapter house was built; it is decorated with carved foliage of exceptional quality, and includes several 'green men'. Individual plant species such as ivy, maple, oak, hop, hawthorn can often be identified. The botanist Albert Seward published a detailed description of the carvings and their identification in 1935 and Nikolaus Pevsner wrote the classic description entitled *The Leaves of Southwell*, with photographs by Frederick Attenborough, in 1945.

The minster's rood screen is also of high quality built in 1320-40.

The church suffered less than many others in the English Reformation as it was refounded in 1543 by Act of Parliament.

This is where Charles I surrendered to Scottish Presbyterian troops in 1646 during the English Civil War, after the third siege of Newark. The fighting saw the church seriously damaged and the nave is said to have been used as stabling. The adjoining palace was almost completely destroyed, first by Scottish troops and then by the local people, with only the Hall of the Archbishop remaining as a ruined shell.

In August 1540, as the dissolution of the monasteries was coming to an end, and despite its collegiate rather than monastic status, Southwell Minster was suppressed specifically in order that it could be included in the plans initiated by King Henry VIII to create several new cathedrals. The plan for the minster's elevation did not proceed, so in 1543 Parliament reconstituted its collegiate status. In 1548 it again lost its collegiate status under the 1547 Act of King Edward VI which suppressed (among others) almost all collegiate churches: at Southwell the prebendaries were given pensions and the estates sold, while the church continued as the parish church on the petitions of the parishioners.

By an Act of Philip and Mary in 1557, the minster and its prebends were restored. In 1579 a set of statutes was put into law by Queen Elizabeth I and the chapter operated under this constitution until it was dissolved in 1841. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners made provision for the abolition of the chapter as a whole and it



came to its appointed end on 12 February 1873 with the death of the last prebend, Thomas Henry Shepherd, rector of Clayworth and prebendary of Beckingham.

In 1805 Archdeacon Kaye gave the Minster the Newstead lectern; once owned by Newstead Abbey, it had been thrown into the abbey fishpond by the monks to save it during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, then later discovered when the lake was dredged.

The best old glass was made by the 16th century French stained glass artist Jean Chastellain from designs by the Noël Bellemare for the Temple Church in Paris and given to the Minster in 1818. These are the four lower panels of the East window representing four scenes from the life of Christ, given to the Minster in 1818 by Henry Gally Knight which he acquired from a Parisian Pawnshop, while above are the four evangelists by Clayton & Bell from 1876. Other 19th century glass includes work by Kempe & Co, notably the Archangels Gabriel, Michael and Raphael in the south aisle and

scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary in St Thomas' Chapel. The highlight is the great Angel Window at the West end by Patrick Reyntiens installed in 1996. The artist described it as "a great gathering of angels enjoying being with God, just all joy and worship".



The spires were removed in 1805 as they were likely to collapse and re-erected in 1879–81 when the minster was extensively restored by Ewan Christian, an architect specialising in churches. The nave roof was replaced with a pitched roof and the quire was redesigned and refitted.

In 1884, 344 years later than first proposed, Southwell Minster became a cathedral proper for Nottinghamshire and a part of Derbyshire including the city of Derby. The diocese was divided in 1927 and the Diocese of Derby was formed. The diocese's centenary was commemorated by a royal visit to distribute Maundy money. George Ridding,

the first Bishop of Southwell, designed and paid for the grant of Arms now used as the diocesan coat of arms.



Rib vaulted ceiling



A very old stone carving...of Trump?

Bishop Grosseteste

Lincoln Bishop University (LBU), known until 2025 as Bishop Grosseteste University, is a public university in the city of Lincoln, England. LBU was established as a teacher training college for the Diocese of Lincoln in 1862. It gained taught degree awarding powers in 2012, applied for full university status, and was granted on 3 December 2012. It has around 2,300 full-time students enrolled on a variety of programmes and courses.

Lincoln Diocesan Training School for Mistresses was founded in 1862. It occupied the premises of an earlier, unsuccessful training establishment for female teachers, which had been built in 1842 with a chapel, lecture rooms and a school for teaching practice. It was later renamed Lincoln Diocesan Training College and, to mark the centenary in 1962, was renamed Bishop Grosseteste College.

The college took its name from Robert Grosseteste (also known as Robert Greathead and Robert of Lincoln), a 13th-century statesman, scholastic philosopher, theologian, scientist and Bishop of Lincoln. The college began awarding degrees of Bachelor of Education (BEd), originally validated by the University of Nottingham. From 1987, degrees were validated by the University of Hull and BEd students spent one of the four years of their course reading their main subject at Hull. In 1991, the college stopped awarding BEd degrees and began instead to award the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours and Qualified Teacher Status (BA(Hons)QTS). In 2003, a Validation Agreement was signed with the University of Leicester.

In 2006, the college was awarded university college status as Bishop Grosseteste University College (BGUC). 2012 saw a change in legislation regarding the use of the title university, allowing higher education establishments with more than 1,000 students to apply for 'university' status. BGUC applied for the university title in June 2012 and was renamed Bishop Grosseteste University in December 2013. In 2022, historian Tracy Borman was named Chancellor of Bishop Grosseteste University.



In March 2024, the university announced plans to change its name to Lincoln Bishop University, which received mixed reactions. The university assumed the new name in September 2025.

Source: Wikipedia

A crocheted topper on the main street in Southwell



We used the Chapel for Compline services.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Announcement Regarding the Bishop of Warrington

The Rt Revd Beverley A Mason has resigned as suffragan Bishop of Warrington in the Diocese of Liverpool. This will take effect from 1st October 2025.

The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, Interim Bishop of Liverpool, says:

'It is with heavy hearts we receive this news today. We are thankful for all that Bishop Bev has given in her ministry among us here in the Liverpool diocese. She goes with our love and prayers for the future.'

Bishop Bev has written a letter to the people of the Diocese which can be read [on](#) the Diocesan website.

Tickets Now Available for Testament to Truth

An Evening with Testament *20th October | 19:30 | Liverpool Cathedral*

Step into the timeless grandeur of Liverpool Cathedral for an unforgettable night of truth, rhythm, and revelation.

Renowned West Yorkshire poet, rapper, and world-record breaking beatboxer, Testament, takes to the stage for a performance that speaks powerfully to our times. Through original theatre and reflection, this event explores the themes of inclusion, community, identity and the role of faith and spirituality in shaping who we are both as individuals and as a society.

In honour of Black History Month, this evening is more than a performance, it's a call to listen, to reflect, and to awaken. Testament to Truth invites you to walk with him through stories that challenge, uplift, and inspire.

Testament is writer of awards nominated play *Black Men Walking* (*Best Play UK Theatre Awards, Best New Play Writer's Guild of Great Britain*) and *Orpheus In The Record Shop* which was broadcast on BBC Four TV. [Get your tickets from the Diocesan website.](#)

In the last magazine a concert in the Palm House by 'Your Voice, Your Choice' was advertised.

They have bright new T-shirts and sang several favourites. There was a good audience, including Amanda's Day Care group.

The Palm House bougainvillea was in full bloom, so a lovely afternoon's entertainment.
Linda



DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – Thursday 16th October 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas Centre.

Our email address for weddings is. hailewoodparishweddings@gmail.com

Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries -

Our Baptism Secretary's email address is hailewood.baptisms@yahoo.com





Alpha across
Christ Our Light
7:30pm starting...

Mon 6th Oct
St Hilda's
L25 0NG

Tue 7th Oct
All Souls
L19 4TF

Thu 9th Oct
St Stephen's
L25 2PQ

 **SIGN UP**
alpha.org.uk/try

CURRYOKE

Back by popular demand, there'll be another CurryOke Night on Saturday 11th October at St Mary's from 6pm to 8pm. You provide the singing; we'll provide the curry. Please sign up at either of the churches so we know how many to cater for. Places are limited.

HARVEST

This year, our Harvest Services will be on Sunday 12th October in both of our churches. Instead of donations of food this year, we're asking for donations of money so that we can purchase food vouchers for families so that they can choose their own food, rather than being given bags of food that they may not eat. If you would like to donate, please use this link <https://givealittle.co/c/halewoodharvest2025>, there will also be cash donation boxes in both churches.

Please check the details of the groups and volunteers below and let me know if any of them have changed. Thank you, Margaret.

*Run by Halewood Town Council, **Women`s Wellness Group, Self Care for You!***

*Relaxation exercises, creative writing, fun quizzes, group discussions, and more!
£ 7.00 per session with refreshments included, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm at Hollies Hall, Hollies Road, Halewood. Please contact begertoncoaching@gmail.com to book a place.*

Halewood Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union meets on the first Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.00 pm at the St Nicholas' Centre. Sadly numbers in the group are dwindling and they would love to welcome some new members. The group has a programme of guest speakers and other events throughout the year.

You don't have to be a mother to be a member and men (known as Muscle men) are also welcome. For more information, please speak to Georgina McQueen.

Knowsley Older People's Fun Olympics (K.O.P.F.O.)

Are you aged 50 or over, looking to take part in an activity, and meet new friends? Why not come and join us at our weekly activity sessions held at the Halewood Leisure Centre, Baileys Lane, Halewood, L26 0TY.

We meet every Thursday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Amongst the activities we play are:

- *Badminton*
- *Boccia (a game like bowls but played sitting down with soft leather balls)*
- *Indoor Bowls*
- *Curling*
- *Table Tennis*
- *Dominoes*
- *Draughts*
- *Scrabble*

The sessions are aimed at encouraging you to be active, socialise and having fun at the same time, so please come along where you will be made very welcome and quickly become one of the group. Cost is 90 pence per week. For further information, please ring Sue, a member of the team, on 0151 487 0974.

Bible Study

Wednesday evenings, 7.30 pm at Mark and Vanessa Harrison's house.

All are welcome to come and study God's Word, learning together in an informal setting.

If you would like more details please contact us on ness.harrison@gmail.com

Community Connect (Formerly Warm Hub)

Join us every Thursday at 10.00 am in St Nicholas' Church for tea, coffee, juice and toast! You will receive a warm welcome!

Volunteers always needed! Please speak to James.

Elevate - New Youth Club for should Years 5 - 8

Elevate is a new youth club for those in Years 5 - 8 on a Sunday night from 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm in St Nic's Parish Centre. There'll be games and activities, real talk & faith discussions and a space to belong. For more information contact James on jameshf.parish@gmail.com or just turn up this Sunday night. Parents will still need to attend the evening service to obtain a scan-in for schools' applications.

We'll Care Community Tea Dance

The Tea Dance is held on the last Thursday of every month 12 midday to 3.00 pm.

Entrance is FREE and tea, coffee and soft drinks are provided.

Our Tea dance is held at: Hollies Hall, Hollies Road, Halewood, L26 0TH.

Limited car parking available.

For further information and to confirm your attendance please contact

Ria - 07707620544 (9.00 am – 4.00 pm)

HALEWOOD ART CLUB - EXPERT GUIDANCE AND TUITION FROM LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ARTIST, ANTHONY SMITH. BEGINNERS WELCOME!

WEDNESDAYS 1.00 – 3.00 pm, Environment Centre, Okell Drive

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - £5

PLEASE CONTACT RANGER TONY on 07717301355 or 0151 488 6151

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Both of our churches rely on the generosity of members of our congregation in giving up their time to volunteer in all kinds of ways. At St Nicholas and St Mary's we are very blessed with the number of volunteers we do have but there is always room for more.

Below is a list of some of the volunteering opportunities you might like to consider, a rough idea of what the time commitment might be and, where possible, details of whom to contact for further information. The list is not exhaustive and doesn't include roles which might require some specialist knowledge, such as finance skills, HR skills etc.

Reading and leading Prayers at services in both churches – on a rota, approximately once or twice a quarter. *Speak to Gill Dover at St Mary's and Alison Shacklady at St Nicholas.*

Baby Bank St Mary's Halewood - Volunteers needed

Every Saturday Morning at St Mary's, the Shining Light's Baby Bank is open from 10 am - 12 midday providing pre loved baby items (clothes, toys, baby equipment etc) to families with babies and young children, all free of charge.

However, Jen Hargreaves and Gillian Dover, who are currently staffing this, urgently need some additional help to sort and organise donations as they come in and to help families find what they need. If you are able to spare the occasional Saturday morning to help out with this or know anyone else who might be able to help, please contact Jen on jen@mattharg.co.uk or Gill on gillian.dover@gmail.com.

Message from Micheal Sutcliffe

I need a volunteer, who has an enhanced DBS check, to help at Jam Club (which meets every Wednesday, between 15:45 and 16:45) and this is for children in years 1, 2 and 3 at school.

I also need a volunteer with the same level of safer recruitment to help out at Next Level, which is for secondary school children on Thursdays between 19:30 and 20:30.

Please contact Mike, our circuit children's worker: mike.circuitchildren@gmail.co.uk or 07867 489463.

Sidespersons at both churches – on a rota, approximately once or twice a quarter: meeting and greeting people, giving out and collecting in service sheets, taking the collection, tidying up after the services.

Speak to Wardens/Steward.

Communion Stewards - to help set up Communion and assist with administering Communion (2nd Sunday) - on a rota once a quarter.

Baptism Sponsors – at the moment just at St Nicholas – approximately three or four times a year: supporting families during baptism services (12.15 pm and 1.00 pm on second Sundays). (But we would welcome a couple of volunteers for this role at St Mary's for the occasional baptism services which happen there.) *Contact Sally Moore, Baptism Secretary on hailewood.baptisms@yahoo.com.*

Tea and coffee before and after morning services – on a rota, approximately two or three times a quarter. *Speak to Wardens/Steward.*

Church cleaning – St Nicholas on Friday mornings between 10.15 and 11.00 am. *Speak to Graham Elliott.* St Mary's – date and time can be arranged to suit – but Saturday morning when the building is open for Foodbank might be a good day - once a month. *Speak to Gill Dover or Jen Hargreaves.*

Work with children – all roles need a DBS check and safeguarding training.
Creche and Junior Church at St Mary's and St Nicholas operate three Sundays a month during term times. Help required on a rota basis.

For St Mary's contact Laura Fisher – auraburke09@hotmail.co.uk or Emma Rooney emma.creasy@btinternet.com

For St Nicholas' creche contact Catherine Williams catherine12725@gmail.com

For St Nicholas' junior church contact Hayley McShane hayleymcshane84@gmail.com

For after school clubs at St Mary's: Jam/Boss/Next Level contact Mike Sutcliffe mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com

Volunteers are also often needed to help out with uniformed organisations (Rainbows/Brownies/Guides) – contact via <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Gardening/Churchyard clearance – occasional gardening working parties at both churches.

For St Nicholas contact Geoff Bullen geoffbullen@btinternet.com

For St Mary's contact Pam Boffey

pam.boffey@hotmail.com or Dave Crerar d.r.crerar@btinternet.com

Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.

Parish Pump

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they are proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.

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