



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

MAY 2025 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the June issue to me by 20th May 2025 please.

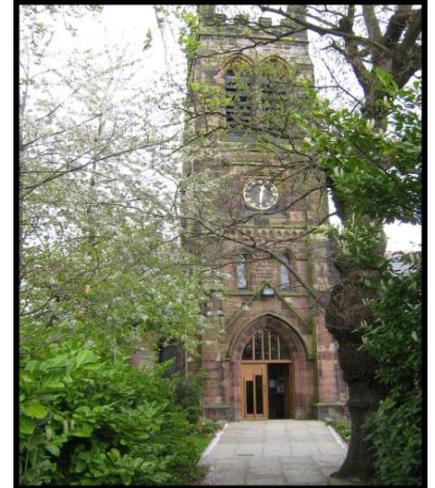
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



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

Email address above.

Margaret



Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow – and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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St Nicholas and St Mary's Ecumenical Team Ministry

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

As we journey through this Easter season, I'm once again reminded of the transformative power that meeting with the risen Jesus has in people's lives.

In Acts 5:29 we find Peter and the others stood before the Sanhedrin, the rulers. The rulers want to silence Peter and the disciples to stop this message of Jesus spreading. Knowing that he could be killed for this, like Jesus had been, Peter stands up to the rulers and says, "We must obey God rather than any human authority." This is the same Peter who not that long ago had denied Jesus three times because he feared what might happen to him. So, what changed? Well, Peter and the disciples met with the risen Jesus.

If we take John 20:19-31, for example, we find Jesus appearing to the disciples who have locked themselves in a room because they were scared that they would also be killed just like Jesus had been. However, Jesus appears to them and brings them his peace. He breathed new life into them. Then Thomas comes along and doubts this story that he's told by the disciples, so Jesus appears again when Thomas is there.

When Jesus appears to Thomas, he tells him to touch his hands, stop doubting, and believe. Jesus meets the disciples where they're at. He meets them in their fear, in their brokenness, in their failures, in their scepticism, and he breathes new life into them through the Holy Spirit. That breath, that Spirit, turns deniers into proclaimers, doubters into believers, cowards into martyrs.

After encountering the risen Jesus, the disciples are changed forever. They go from being scared and locked away, to preaching in the streets, to proclaiming the good news of Christ and challenging power.

Today, we might find ourselves behind locked doors – of fear, doubt, guilt, discouragement etc... - just like the disciples found themselves. The good news for us is that in the same way as he did for the disciples, the risen Jesus still appears in those places for us. He doesn't come to scold us for whatever is holding us back, but he comes to breath peace into us and to offer us new life. Some of us may be like Thomas and need a little more proof, that's OK and Jesus is patient with that because he knows our hearts.

At our APCM service recently, I encouraged us all to invite the risen Jesus into those locked door places of our lives, to let him turn our fears into confidence, our sorrow into joy, our doubt into faith and let him transform our lives through the power of his Holy Spirit at work within us.

As we journey through this Easter season, it's my prayer that each of us will meet with the risen Jesus, that we will be transformed into the people that we were made to be, and that we will be messengers of the transformative power of his love in our lives. *Gareth*

MAY SERVICES

- Thursday 1st May: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 4th May: ***Easter 3 (Acts 9.1-6, John 21.1-19)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: James Hutchinson-Ferguson
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: Adam Grey
- Thursday 8th May: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 11th May: ***Easter 4 (Acts 9.36-43, John 10.22-30)***
10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade: Matthew Hargreaves
6.30 pm All Saints, Speke Joint Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan
6.30 pm NO SERVICE AT ST NICHOLAS
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford
- Thursday 15th May: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 18th May: ***Easter 5 (Acts 11.1-18, John 13.31-35)***
10.30 am United Circuit Service at Liverpool Hope
11.00 am St Nicholas – see above
6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: David Goodwin
11.00 am St Hilda APCM: Andy Radford
- Thursday 22nd May: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 25th May: ***Easter 6 (Acts 16.9-15, John 5.1-9)***
10.30 am St Mary GMJC: Matthew Hargreaves
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Andy Radford
1.00 pm Baptisms: Andy Radford
6.30 pm St Nicholas: Evening Worship: Andrew Gillespie
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Thursday 29th May: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: David Goodwin

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

Halewood CultureFest Programme 2025

Date	Event	Venue	Time	Further Information
Fri 13 June	Moth and Bat Walk	Environment Centre Okell Drive	9.30 pm	Free Please wear suitable clothing Booking advisable 0151 488 6151
Saturday 14 June	Barn Dance Caller Jim Craig	St Hilda's Church Hall Stuart Avenue Hunts Cross	7.30 pm	Tickets Free Bring your own drinks
Sunday 15 June	Children's Storytime with the Liver Bird	St Nicholas' Church	2.00 pm	Suitable for children aged 5-11 Children must be accompanied by an Adult - Tickets Free
Monday 16 June	Poems, Prose and Fun with Afternoon Tea	Arncliffe Centre	2.00-4.00	Led by Fiona Martin Tickets Free Bring your own favourite piece to read and share with others
Monday 16 June	Talk - 'Curious & Amazing Tales of Hale, Runcorn & Widnes'	St Mary's	7.30 pm	Presented by Local Historian and Broadcaster, Ken Pye. Tickets Free
Tuesday 17 June	Cricket Match Mayor's XI v Patron's XI	New Hutte Centre	6.30 pm	Refreshments available to be purchased from the Green Room
Wednesday 18 June	Songs and Scones featuring Your Voice Your Choice singers	St Nicholas' Centre	2.00 pm	Tickets Free
Wednesday 18 June	Pub Quiz	St Mark's Parish Centre	7.30 pm	Free (Maximum 15 Teams) To enter a team (6 players) Contact Alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com or tommybesi@yahoo.co.uk
Thursday 19 June	Thursday Night is Music Night	St Mark's Parish Centre	7.30 pm	An evening of music featuring Halewood Community Choir followed by Open Mic.(contact Andrew.hesford@btinternet.com) Tickets Free
Friday 20 June	Murder Mystery Night Waterloo Sunset	St Mark's Parish Centre	7.30 pm	A Murder Mystery Play Tickets Free (Come along and solve the murder)
Friday 20 June	Arts and Crafts Exhibition	St Mary's	10.00-3.00	An opportunity to see some of the work produced by local artists and artisans
Saturday 21 June	Arts and Crafts Exhibition	St Mary's	10.00-3.00	
Saturday 21 June	Nature Arts Workshop	St Mary's	10.30 am	Card making using natural materials Led by Tony Leach - Tickets Free
Saturday 21 June	Bold as Brass	St Mary's Church and Centre	7.00 pm	An evening of music featuring Liverpool Brass Band Tickets £10 including Buffet Bring your own Drinks
Sunday 22 June	Walking Quiz around Halewood	Start from St Nicholas' Centre	2.30 pm	Collect a quiz sheet from St Nicholas' Centre
Sunday 22 June	Closing Open Air Service	St Nicholas' Centre	5.00 pm	

Throughout the week there will also be a Scarecrow Trail with scarecrows on display at various sites around Halewood. For further information and/or tickets please contact Alison Shacklady at Alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com

PARISH WALK

Saturday the 12th of April dawned bright and clear. Fourteen members of the walking group met at the St Nicholas Centre ready for a day of walking, good company and enjoying the beauty of the spring.

Our first stop was Strawberry Field for pre walk refreshments which were enjoyed by all. It was quite busy here, as the tourist season has started, and this is a popular attraction for fans of the Fab4 from all over the globe. It is good to see that it is



doing well. We then had a stroll in the garden and some of us followed the labyrinth stepping stones on the lawn. The planting in the flower beds here is done mostly in shades of green which is quite restful to the eye.



After a perusal of the gift shop we carried on to the Speke Hall Estate. The walk took us through Stockton's Wood which can be accessed from the main car park.



This is a semi ancient woodland which is deceptively large. There are several paths to follow and this particular day it was filled with birdsong. During World War Two it was used by the American military to hide aircraft from German spy planes.

The Speke Estate was once part of the vast Lancashire forest. In 1275 the local area was described as "wood, plain and meadow" and it included marsh areas with peat cutting taking place.

From this historical landscape we left by the main gates and entered the Estuary Commerce Park, home to NHS Blood and Transplant, Pharmaron and Merseyside Police Operational Command among other things. This is attractively landscaped with trees and ponds bustling with bird life as well as plenty of benches to enjoy the scenery. No sitting for us though - we followed a





marked footpath that brought us out on the banks of the River Mersey close to Liverpool Sailing Club.

There was quite a bit of action on the slipway and river with a tractor, trailer and numerous boats and dinghies. One boat was just coming in from sailing as we got there and my friend told me afterwards on seeing the photo that it was her husband sailing it. From here we followed a path back to the old airstrip and so back into the Speke Hall Estate.

After a short lunch break we walked over "The Bund" which gives wonderful views over the river and airport. The Bund is a large earthen bank that was built to protect the Hall from noise and visual pollution after the construction of Liverpool Airport in 1967.

A walk through the bluebell woods and well kept gardens was an enjoyable finish to our walk.



CHURCH WALK MAY 2025:

The next walk will be on Saturday May 24th. We will meet at St Nick's Centre at 10.00 am. Refreshments at Dobbies and then on to the Festival Gardens. From here walking along the river front to the Pier Head. We will then trace our steps back the same way. There are great views in both directions and we usually get good weather for this one.

It is about 3.5 miles each way so if anyone just fancied doing one way and then making their way home by bus that is an option too.

Bring a drink and a snack - further details from Penni on 07990953334.

Live Steaming 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>



Please note new link details and a QR code for live streaming



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 – APRIL 2025

None.

Weddings and funerals at St Nicholas' church April 2025			
Weddings			
11 April	Marc John Wickham and Amii Marie Edgar		
Funerals			
17 April	Robert Campbell	Age 84	Funeral
23 April	Marion Gunning	Age 88	Funeral

29th May – Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you Parish Pump!

From The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. It was only when the church filled with the smell of burned bacon that we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Thank you Parish Pump!

On the Sunday after Christmas at St Mark's Church, Hamilton Terrace, London the lights failed just as Evensong was about to commence.

Undaunted, the curate and congregation found one or two candles and in the almost complete darkness of this large church proceeded with the service.

Meanwhile (unknown to the others) the youth club leader, an electrician by trade, had gone down to the crypt to check the fuses.

At the opening sentence of the third collect, "Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord," the lights came on again.

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NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

New Diocesan Podcast Episode

In this latest episode, Revd Fran Nunn shares her experiences as a curate in Cohort 1 of the Diocese of Liverpool's Fit for Mission programme.

This honest and engaging conversation explores what it's like to begin ordained ministry in a changing Church landscape. Rev Fran reflects on the challenges and opportunities of being part of a parish in transition, what she's learned through the Fit for Mission process, and how it's shaped her calling and practice as a priest.

You can listen to this new episode [on the Diocesan website](#).

Passing of Pope Francis

On Easter Monday we were informed of the tragic news regarding the passing of Pope Francis. We join with Christians across the globe as we mourn his passing.



Bishop Ruth issued the following statement on this news...

“We at the Diocese of Liverpool were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Pope Francis. His passing marks the end of a remarkable papacy that touched lives far beyond the Roman Catholic Church. His leadership remained steadfast through a rapidly changing world, shaped by many global events.

He was someone who ‘smelt of the sheep’ — a man of the people who was for the people. He celebrated the Easter feast of resurrection yesterday, and now he is experiencing it fully himself. May he rest in peace and rise in glory... You can read Bishop Ruth's statement in full [on the Diocesan website](#).

Dean Sue also issued the following statement on Pope Francis...

“The Catholic Church and Christians across the world have lost an inspirational leader in Pope Francis. His calls for justice and focus on the least in society is something that chimed strongly with all of us in Liverpool. His teaching and pastoral care will have a long-lasting impact. The prayers of us at Liverpool Cathedral are with Monsignor Tony O’Brien and all those at the Metropolitan Cathedral as they mourn the loss of the Holy Father.”

You can read Dean Sue's statement in full [on the Diocesan website](#).

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DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – Thursday 15th May 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas Centre.

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

Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries -

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

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 Lin Green or Lesley Webb.

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 Yrs 5-8

Elevate is a new youth club for those in Yrs 5-8 on a Sunday night from 6pm to 7.15pm 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 will be held on the last Thursday of every month 12 midday to 3.00 pm.

Entrance is FREE and tea, coffee and soft drinks will all be provided.

Our Tea dance will be 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)

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.

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.

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.*

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 halewood.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 Lesley Webb.*
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 – lauraburke09@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

FOOD CLUB



Halewood is getting a Food Club!

Food Club members can choose up to 10 items of food, groceries and other necessities for £3.50, or 15 items for £5.

Every Saturday, 10:30am - 12pm

Starting from Saturday 6th July

**St Mary's Church, Leather's Lane,
Halewood, L26 0TX**

Find out more about Knowsley Foodbank: [knowsleyfoodbank.org](https://www.knowsleyfoodbank.org) 0151 673 1250

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