



# ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

MARCH 2025 ISSUE

Editor's email: [mirrie1@sky.com](mailto:mirrie1@sky.com)

Articles for the April issue to me by 20th March 2025 please.

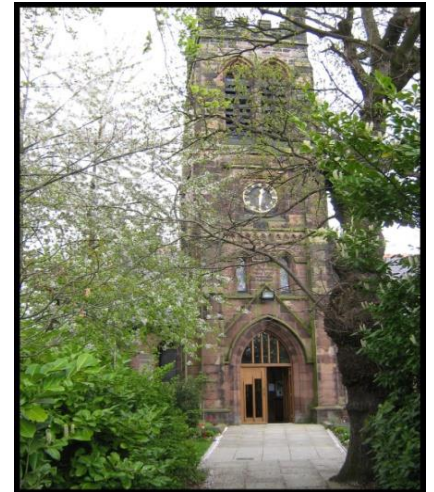
Church website [www.halewoodparish.org](http://www.halewoodparish.org)



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

*Email address above.*

*Margaret*



Dear Lord,

In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection.

Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives. We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it.

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in His name. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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*Friday is my normal day off*

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## MINISTRY MESSAGE

A few weeks ago, I preached on Luke 5:1-11 and, ever since, I haven't been able to stop thinking about Jesus stepping into Simon-Peter's boat. About how Simon-Peter wasn't expecting anything to change that morning. About how he was tired, worn out from an unproductive night, just going through the motions. And then—Jesus stepped in. Uninvited. Unexpected. And everything changed.

That's how Jesus works, isn't it? He doesn't wait for an invitation. He doesn't ask if we're ready. He steps into our boat—our lives, our routines, our everyday moments—and He speaks. The question is, are we paying attention?

Lent is just around the corner, a season of reflection, of listening, of stripping away distractions. But even before we get there, maybe this is a moment to pause and ask: *Where is Jesus stepping into my life right now?*

We so often look for God in the big moments—the dramatic answers, the life-changing revelations. But more often than not, He speaks in the ordinary. In a conversation at work. In an unexpected encounter at the supermarket. In the quiet pull to reach out to someone who's struggling.

Simon-Peter thought he was just lending Jesus a boat. He had no idea that moment would shift the course of his entire life. What if the same is true for us?

What if the small yes—the simple act of trust, the willingness to listen—is the beginning of something far greater than we can see?

So, let's not miss it. Let's not assume we know how things will go. Let's be people who are awake to the presence of God in the everyday, who expect Jesus to show up in unexpected ways and who, when He speaks, respond with faith:

*"Because You say so, I will."*

Because when Jesus steps in, everything changes.

### A Prayer for Us All

We thank You, Heavenly Father, for the way You step into our lives, even when we least expect it.

Open our eyes to see where You are moving.

Open our hearts to hear where You are calling.

Wherever we are, whatever we do, whoever we are, may we be faithful to Your voice and trust in Your leading.

Guide us by Your Spirit so that, in all things, we may do Your will in the world, in the service of Jesus Christ, and with great joy.

Amen.

James

**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.



## **MARCH SERVICES**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:

***1 before Lent (Exodus 34.29-35, Luke 9.28-36)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Adam Grey

11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Matthew Hargreaves

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March:

***Ash Wednesday***

10.00 am St Mary

7.30 pm All Saints Speke

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March:

***Lent 1 (Luke 4.1-13, Romans 10.8b-13)***

10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Andy Radford

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan & James Hutchinson-Ferguson

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Christ our Light Service

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March:

***Lent 2 (Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18, Luke 13.31-35)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship/Baptism: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves

6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

***Lent 3 (Luke 13.1-9, 1 Corinthians 10.1-13)***

10.30 am St Mary GMJC: Matthew Hargreaves or Mike Sutcliffe (tbc)

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Andy Radford

1.00 pm Baptisms: Gareth Morgan

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March:

***Mothering Sunday (Exodus 2.1-10, Luke 2.33-35)***

10.30 am St Mary: James Hutchinson-Ferguson

11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade: Matthew Hargreaves

6.30 pm St Nicholas : **No service**

11.00 am St Hilda: Andy Radford

## PARISH WALK

We set off on a misty-moisty February morning for our latest Church Walk. This one was starting at Pickering's Pasture, leading to the foot of the original Runcorn bridge, then onto the Catalyst Museum at the Runcorn side of the bridge.

Although the wind was Easterly and the temperature low, we were mostly sheltered by the high banks along the River Mersey. Fortunately, it stayed dry, although an occasional drip from the skies made you wonder whether that would remain the case.



The tide was clearly out with mud banks evident along all the route, but this didn't seem to bother all the Shelducks, Seagulls, Swans, Geese or Pigeons we met along our journey.

Upon arrival at the Catalyst Museum, Becky Conlon couldn't resist another go on their zip wire. Her dad wasn't with us this time, so big John from Springwood made sure she got on safely.



Once inside, John's enquiring mind took over and he asked us what the long word was that was displayed on a banner inside the Museum Café. It read "Saponification" Any ideas?

Apparently, it's the process that converts fats, oils or lipids (the acid) into soap.

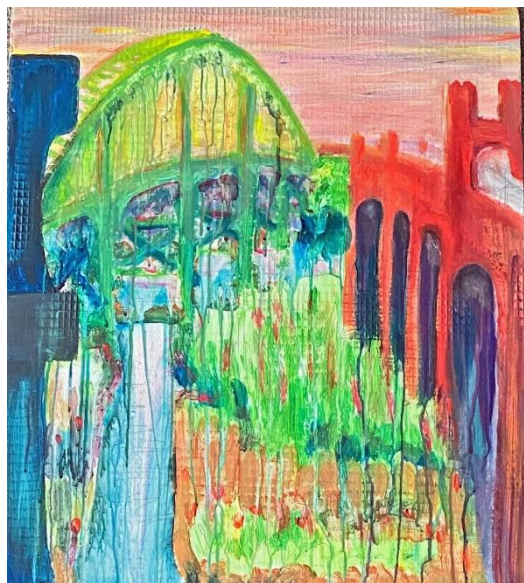


Upon our exit, big John wasn't to be outdone by Becky, so he jumped on the slide, which goes down to the lower level of the grounds. His journey was much slower than Becky's. I'll say no more.

John also has an artistic side and he has shared one of his impressionist paintings, based on Runcorn Bridge, with Penni.

I remember that all the marine bird

life here had to be rescued and re-sited in recent times, when the water dried up. However, it was lovely to see that they had all returned to the area, as numerous, lively, and boisterous as ever.



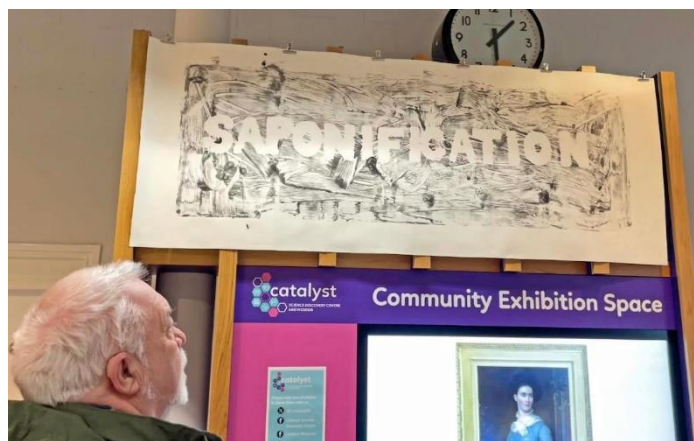
From there, we walked around their lovely paths, which was a perfect time to see their



snowdrops in abundance. The group then went past the site of the old Transporter Bridge and onto the original Runcorn bridge. Always a great nostalgic trip.

As usual, the return journey to Pickering's seemed much faster than the outward one and we were soon home, with red, rosy, cheeks from all the fresh air.

Geoff







## CHURCH WALK MARCH 2025:

This is on at Norton Priory till the 9th March so we are doing our Runcorn to Norton walk on the 8th March as people might enjoy seeing it.

Meet at St Nick's centre - 10 am as usual. Walk is around 5 and a half miles and mostly along the canal path. Bacon butties at the Bridgewater garden centre and a stop at the Priory to have a cuppa / eat a snack.

More information from Penni : 07990953334

# Lent Course 2025

# Be Still.




Mondays 7.30pm @ St Hilda's  
 Tuesdays 1.00pm @ St Nic's Centre  
 Wednesdays 7.30pm @ The Place To Be  
 Starts week beginning 10th March for 5 weeks  
 Please book with Andy, Gareth or Phil



11:21
96

## Museum

Norton Priory Museum and Gardens, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1SX

Add to My Planner



Mars, Luke Jerram's mesmerising planetary art installation, moves into a new orbit at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens in Runcorn, Cheshire, for a six week visit from Tuesday 28 January to Sunday 9 March 2025.

Following the incredible success of Museum of

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# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

# Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

The World Day of Prayer for this year focuses on the Cook Islands and the service is written by women from the Islands. The theme of the year of prayer is “I made you wonderful”

## Psalm 139:14

*‘I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.’*

The Bible says you are ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ The Hebrew word used is ‘Yare’ which also means stand in awe and respect. God made us all with great honour and respect.



***God of the Islands,  
Thank you for creating a land of wonder,  
Thank you for the coconut tree bending  
with the winds,  
For the mango fruit juicy with nourishment,  
For the pink guavas reflecting the light of  
the tropical sun.  
Thank you for creating a land of wonder.  
Thank you for the ocean breezes.  
For the fish feeding our families,  
For the beauty inviting visitors.  
Thank you for creating a land of wonder.  
Show us how to help care for the young  
seeking work,  
For the old needing care,  
For the land threatened by rising water.  
As we wonder about the future of the Cook  
Islands,  
Embolden us to change our practices in  
solidarity with our island sisters.  
Amen***

Over 200 years ago a ship's captain travelled the oceans to discover lands which had never been mapped before. These lands were tiny volcanic islands already named by the indigenous people. Once mapped for the British sponsors, they were named after the explorer as the Cook Islands.

What he found was a series of beautiful islands inhabited by beautiful people. The women of these islands have written to share their story with us and the rest of the world via the World Day of Prayer organisation.

The churches of Halewood and Hunts Cross; Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and URC have each year been sharing the stories of each chosen country.

***This year St. Mary's Church Halewood will welcome everyone on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm***

to hear the voices of the women of the Cook Islands with the theme, "I made you wonderful." Psalm 139:14



***We extend to you all a warm welcome and hope to see you there.***

Last year the WDP focused on Palestine with the theme, "I beg you, bear with one another in love," and the power of prayer is evident.

Praying for the needs of the world throughout the year lies at the heart of the WDP - please use this QR code to take you to the website with prayers in response to a variety of places and situations.





## *Beloved apostle to Ireland*

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But, as a young man, he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

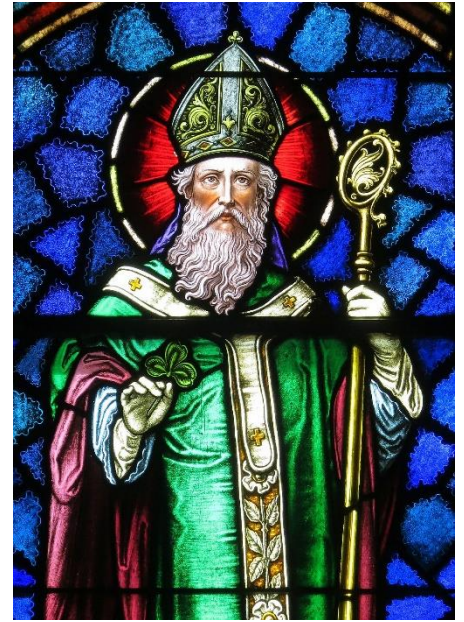
Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God". Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.



## *Patron saint of fathers and holy death*

Why should St Joseph's day be in March? Surely, he belongs to Advent and Christmas, at Mary's side in millions of nativity scenes around the world.

In any case, as the foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. Read especially Matthew 1 – 2. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy.



Joseph's gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God's will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn't want a father like that?

Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus, countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.

*Thank you Parish Pump!*

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### Update on Episcopal Leadership in the Diocese of Liverpool

Following the retirement of the Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath as the Bishop of Liverpool, the Archbishop of York has committed to putting the necessary arrangements in place as soon as possible to provide episcopal oversight for the Diocese. At this stage we can't confirm how long this process will take however we will make any announcement as soon as we can

### Threads Through the Bible: Now Open at Liverpool Cathedral

Liverpool Cathedral is thrilled to announce the official launch of *Threads Through the Bible*, an awe-inspiring art exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson. Open from 16th January 2025, this extraordinary display brings the timeless teachings of the Bible to life through an astonishing 25 million stitches.

Spanning 44 breathtaking textile panels - over 80 meters long and nearly 30 meters high - this monumental work tells a story of love, life, tragedy, and triumph. Jacqui Parkinson dedicated a decade to crafting this masterpiece, with each stitch representing a moment in the narrative of faith and humanity.

A perfect post-festive season experience, *Threads Through the Bible* is not to be missed. Families and visitors alike are invited to explore this unique celebration of art and storytelling, now open at Liverpool Cathedral. Find out more about this art installation [on the Diocesan website.](#)

#### 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>



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 – FEBRUARY 2025

Charlotte Anne Clifford  
Clementine Paula Joan Rigby  
Lyra Gladys Rigby

Funerals at St Nicholas' church February 2025			
3 February	Donald Young	Age 86	Funeral
21 February	Margaret Foster	Age 84	Burial (RC)

A young missionary served in a remote part of Africa with few resources. But he did manage to convert some of the locals. One day, unarmed, he was walking through the bush when he was confronted by a lion. He knelt in prayer, hands clasped and, after a few moments, opened one eye and saw that the lion was kneeling down and had his paws clasped. "My goodness," he said in relief, "are you a Christian too?" "Yes, certainly," the lion replied, "I was just saying grace."

## DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

**Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 7.00 - 7.45 pm.**

Our email address for weddings is. [halewoodparishweddings@gmail.com](mailto:halewoodparishweddings@gmail.com)  
Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries -

Our Baptism Secretary's email address is [halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com](mailto:halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com)

**Mothers' Union Service** - St Nicholas Church on Thursday, 6th March at 2:00 pm (prompt)

Join us for a special service as Gareth will be enrolling new members and commissioning the officers. We would like to give our grateful thanks to our new Branch Leader: Georgina McQueen, Secretary: Pat Hatchard, and Treasurer: Lesley Webb, as they take on their responsibilities within the parish, deanery, and diocese. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Christ Our Light Single Larger Parish Joint Worship Service**

All of the single larger parish churches will be joining together on **Sunday 9th March at 6.30pm** at St Nicholas' Halewood for a service of worship and for an update on where the Fit for Mission process is up to. We will also have our Finance Change Team Lead presenting with an opportunity for more Q&A so we can ensure you are ready to go in March for the confirmatory vote. If you have questions about Fit for Mission, this is your chance to find out so please make every effort to attend.

We are meeting for worship and food, and to discuss and plan a Circuit event for young people in the summer. We have invited Nic Findlay, who is a 'Revealing Jesus' Pioneer from Scripture Union - she will be talking about her work and sharing ideas. Numbers to Mike by 9 March, please!  
God bless,  
Chris



***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](mailto: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, 7.30pm 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](mailto: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.

## **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](mailto:jen@mattharg.co.uk) or Gill on [gillian.dover@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 Thursday 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](mailto:lauraburke09@hotmail.co.uk) or Emma Rooney [emma.creasy@btinternet.com](mailto:emma.creasy@btinternet.com)

For St Nicholas' creche contact Catherine Williams [catherine12725@gmail.com](mailto:catherine12725@gmail.com)

For St Nicholas' junior church contact Hayley McShane [hayleymcshane84@gmail.com](mailto:hayleymcshane84@gmail.com)

For after school clubs at St Mary's: Jam/Boss/Next Level contact Mike Sutcliffe [mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:geoffbullen@btinternet.com)

For St Mary's contact Pam Boffey [pam.boffey@hotmail.com](mailto:pam.boffey@hotmail.com) or Dave Crerar [d.r.crerar@btinternet.com](mailto: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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