

St Nicholas' and St Mary's Halewood Anglicans and Methodists Together in Halewood

Annual Report of the
Halewood Church Council
(Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership)
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Charity registration number: 1151632

Administrative information

St Nicholas' church is located on Church Road, Halewood L26 6LA and St Mary's church is on Leathers Lane Halewood L26 9TS. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England and its official correspondence address is:

The Parish Office
St Nicholas' Centre
70 Church Road
Halewood
LIVERPOOL
L26 6LA
0151 487 9965

The Parish email is: halewoodparish@btconnect.com
The Parish Website is <https://www.halewoodparish.org/>

Official correspondence should be sent to the Parish Administrator at the above address.

The Treasurer is Lee Burton and the Independent Examiner is Roger Craine, both of whom can be contacted via the Parish Office.

Halewood Church Council

For the period covered by this report the following people served as members of Halewood Church Council:

Rector (ex officio):	Rev Martyn Woodsford	Chair
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HCC members:	Sandra Thomas
	Graham Elliott
	Alison Shacklady
	Mark Harrison
	Tom Beesley (Until 1 Feb 2020)
	Carol Blakeborough (Until September 2020)
	Pam Boffey
	Kathryn Griffin
	Elisabeth Simon
	Tom Harrison
	Joe Barlow
	Gillian Dover
	Jean Critchley
	Lee Burton
	Ken Allen
	Heather Holmes
	Colin Critchley
	Katherine Cooper
	Vanessa Bevan

Emma Walsh (From September 2020)
Andrew Radford

Electoral roll officers:	Clare Baker and Angela Milne
HCC Secretary	Kathryn Griffin
Safeguarding officer	Colin Critchley
Deanery Synod Officers	Linda West, Geoff Bullen
Circuit Representatives	Gill Dover, Mark Harrison
Churchwardens	Sandra Thomas (St Nicholas') Graham Elliott (St Nicholas') Pam Boffey (St Mary's)
Deputy Wardens	Lesley Webb Andy Reynolds
Methodist Steward	Gill Dover (St Mary's)
Additional members of Halewood and Hunts Cross Ministry team:	Andrew Radford (Team Vicar) Colin Critchley NSM with permission to officiate (until 23 Feb 2020) Alison Shacklady (Reader) Matthew Hargreaves (Reader) Jen Radford (Reader- licensed 6 September 2020) Natasia Bullock Methodist Circuit Children's Worker (Returned from maternity leave 3 August 2020) Andrew Parsons Methodist Circuit Youth Worker (From 3 August 2020) Adam Grey (Reader in Training)
Independent Examiner	Roger Craine
Treasurer	Lee Burton
Bursar	Janet Fleming

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance act as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the parish. Parish Bankers: Barclays Bank (St Nicholas') and Natwest Bank (St Mary's).

Structure, Management and Governance

Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership Trustees exercise the functions of the Methodist Church Council and are also the members of the Parochial Church Council. They operate as each body as appropriate according to the LEP constitution, Methodist Standing Orders, the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The method of appointment of LEP trustees is set out in its constitution and is compliant with the Church Representation Rules and Methodist standing orders. All church members are encouraged to register on the unified Electoral Roll and stand for election to the LEP trustee body.

Related Trusts:

Halewood Church of England Primary School: the parish has representatives on the school board of governors.

St Mary's Care Centre (registered charity 1000849): 2 members of the parish sit on the board of directors.

The HCC operates one subcommittee: St Nicholas' Centre management committee: Martyn Woodsford (chair), Tom Harrison (vice chair), Pat Hatchard (Secretary), Joe Barlow, Sandra Thomas, Lesley Webb, Pam Boffey, Gill Dover, Barbara Harrington (Parish Administrator), Jan Fleming (Bursar), Lee Burton (Treasurer), Debbie Kenwell

Individual LEP trustees receive external training as and when deemed appropriate by the trustee body. Training may include trustee responsibility training, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management, child protection procedures.

The LEP and St Hilda's Hunts Cross form the Halewood and Hunts Cross Ministry Team.

Objectives and Activities

Halewood Church Council is the overall decision-making body for the Parish. Halewood Church Council is an ecumenical body – Anglican and Methodist – which acts as the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Methodist Church Council. The members of Halewood Church Council are the Trustees of the Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership and operate under a constitution, based on a model document produced by Churches Together in England, adopted on 23 April 2012 and amended on 29 April 2017.

On 12 April 2013, the Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership was granted registered charity status by the Charity Commission (Registered Charity Number 1151632).

When planning our activities for the year, the Halewood Church Council gives consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The purpose of Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership, as set out in clause 2 of the constitution, is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches.

The two churches, St Mary's and St Nicholas', are part of the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool and the Liverpool District of the Methodist Church; and the Anglican Deanery and Methodist Circuit which cover the South of Liverpool. (St Mary's church was, from the beginning, a shared Anglican/Methodist building. St Nicholas' remains an Anglican building.) Worship and Ministry in both churches reflect both Anglican and Methodist traditions.

In achieving its purpose, as stated in its constitution, Halewood Church Council engages in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- a) the celebration of public worship;

- b) the teaching of the Christian faith;
- c) mission and evangelism;
- d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Activities for 2020

2020 was a very 'different' year for our churches as, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, for eight and a half months of that time we were subject to various Government restrictions and guidelines which meant that our buildings were either completely closed or could only offer worship services with very limited numbers.

We adapted very quickly to the changed situation and were able to offer online worship, using Zoom, on Sunday mornings and also on Wednesday evenings. Those who were able to take part in those services appreciated them very much but unfortunately a number of people who did not have access to the relevant technology were not able to take part. Wherever possible we ensured that those unable to join the services were provided with the weekly service sheet so that they could use that in their own homes.

We were also able to use the Zoom facility to put on special services to celebrate a number of events including a 90th birthday, a 60th wedding anniversary and the licensing of Jen Radford as a Reader in September. Our annual Commemoration service, for families who had lost someone during the year, also took place on Zoom as did our service of Remembrance which included a very moving video of the wreath laying ceremony at our war memorial

At the start of the pandemic a number of members of our congregation were classed as 'at risk/vulnerable' and were therefore advised to shield themselves. This meant that they were also at risk of becoming isolated and so we set up a network of volunteers who each took on the role of keeping in contact with a small number of people by making weekly phone contact and offering whatever other support and help might be needed. Again, this was much appreciated by those who were not able to get out and about as they would normally have done.

Other regular activities also moved online including our church council meetings and APCM (which was postponed until September 2020)

The electoral roll number reported at the 2020 Annual Meeting stood at 198 (St Nicholas' 142; St Mary's 56).

Services in the first two and a half months of 2020 took place as normal in our churches and during that time the average attendance at St Nicholas on Sundays was 120 across both services and on Thursdays, 20 Attendance at St Mary's during this period on Sundays was on average 50 people
When Lockdown was introduced in the middle of March we moved to having a joint Sunday morning Zoom service for both our churches and a Wednesday evening night prayer service which was also shared with St Hilda's. Average attendance at these was 145 for the Sunday services and 44 for the Wednesday evenings. (Estimated figures)

We reopened both our churches for two months in September and October but with very restricted numbers of 20 people at each of the three weekly services. (Sunday morning at St Mary's and Sunday evening and Thursday morning at St Nicholas) Our online services also continued to operate during this period

During the year ministers conducted 25 funerals either at one of our churches (Some of which were graveside services) or at the local crematorium. There were also 5 services for the interment of ashes. 2 weddings took place right at the end of the year. During the first two and a half months of the year there were 16 Baptisms at St Nicholas and 2 at St Mary's. No baptisms have taken place since March 2020.

All the regular groups which use our church building, Mother's Union, Art Group, Stroke Club, Wednesday Craft group and so on have been unable to meet since March.

Our children's and youth groups led by Natasia Bullock and Andrew Parsons have all moved online and Natasia and Andrew have been very creative both in the online children's activities they have designed and also in producing materials for weekly children's worship which have been shared on Social Media. These have included an online Advent calendar, Sunday School sessions, 'Experience' sessions and an online Summer Holiday Club based around an Olympic Theme.

Some of the uniformed organisations linked to our churches have also been able to meet via Zoom and leaders have delivered materials to the children's homes to enable them to take part in online craft sessions.

Wherever possible we have continued with our charitable giving

Charities which we support/give donations to include:

Foodbank which normally operates from St Mary's Centre on a Saturday Morning but which for a time ran from the Council run Arncliffe Centre

FairTrade with people still being able to place orders for items even though the regular stalls were not able to run

Plan International (St Nicholas')

Junior Mission for All (JMA- St Mary's)

Christian Aid

We have also responded to a number of local appeals for families who have found themselves in difficulties.

Our Christmas appeal this year supported the Phoenix project for the Homeless.

With Halewood Town Council we also set up the Halewood Uniwise project which recycled and reused good quality items of uniform from all our local schools.

Financial review

Over recent years our regular giving across the parish has failed to keep pace with our expenditure . Maintaining regular giving has been a particular challenge during this year partly because there have been few opportunities for weekly collections during services and partly because some people's personal financial positions have been affected by the pandemic which has in turn affected their ability to maintain their previous level of giving.

Thanks to fundraising and one-off donations as well as careful monitoring and management of our scarce financial resources we have just about managed to cover our costs but we have also had to eat into our reserves which are now seriously depleted and this is something we need to address at the earliest opportunity

We are continuing to promote the Parish Giving Scheme which is showing positive results and streamlines the reclaim of Gift Aid.

Despite the situation we have still been able to carry out a number of fundraising activities have contributed significantly to our parish funds. These included online card making workshops, Afternoon teas delivered to people's homes, a sponsored run by a member of the congregation and a sponsored bounce by children of Halewood Church of England School.

Plans for the future

Our plans for the immediate future mainly focus on being able to return, safely, to worshipping in our buildings but we also recognize the need to capture the learning from what has happened during the past year particularly around the area of using technology to enhance our worship.

We are also planning to review the use of our buildings and the spaces that we have available to us. Immediately prior to Lockdown in March 2020 we had registered both of our churches with the Eco Church project and whilst we have done some initial work on this, we plan to move forward as soon as we are able to do so

We will also continue to look at our financial position and explore ways of ensuring that our finances are robust enough to enable us to move forwards.

We plan to continue to develop our work with children and young people, particularly older teens. We are working to involve more of the younger adults (20-40+) in our congregations, encouraging them to take on leadership roles both in worship and support roles.