



# ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

APRIL 2024 ISSUE

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

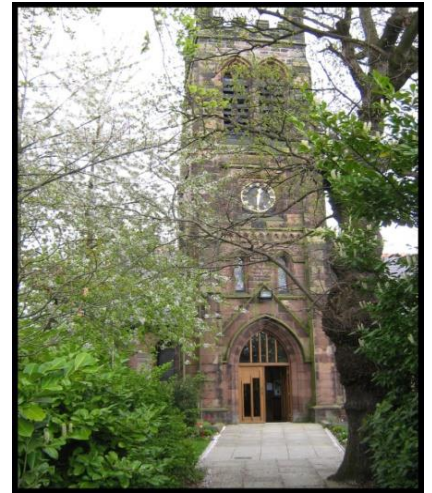
Articles for the May issue to me by 20th April 2024 please.

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*



## Prayer for April 2024

*based on John 20: 19-end*

Almighty Father,  
In the weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh  
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.  
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.  
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection  
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.  
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.  
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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*Friday is my normal day off*

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## MINISTRY MESSAGE – I am sending you!!!

Happy Easter, Jesus Christ is risen, death is defeated, and he has paid the price for you and for me. We've journeyed through Lent, and we've remembered the events of Good Friday and now we celebrate Jesus rising again on Easter Day.

In John's Gospel, when Jesus has risen and appears to his disciples, in chapter 20 we read, "21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Here we find Jesus identifying himself and telling the disciples by whose authority he has done his work. He then passes the job on to the disciples to spread the good news of the gospel of salvation all around the world. They're reminded that what God calls them to, they are doing under God's authority and that Jesus has demonstrated for them through his actions and words, how they should go about doing the job they've been given. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on them, and he sends them out ... and he's sending us too.

Each of us today is sent by God to be his disciples in our world today. The good news of salvation is not just for us, but it's for everyone. However, for people to hear this good news, they must be told by someone. I wonder what the first thing you do when you receive good news is? If you're like me, you'll tell someone. You might put something on social media. Normally when we receive good news, we want to share it. The good news of Jesus should be no different. It's the greatest news we'll ever receive, so how are we going to share it?

Our world is in a terrible state, and desperately needs good news and hope. We only have to put the news on to see what's happening locally and across our world. However, we have a message of good news and hope that people need to hear. Imagine what our local communities, and indeed our world, could look like if everyone came to know Jesus for themselves.

Each of us is a part of the world, and we each come into contact with people, whether it's at the school gate, in our workplace, at the shops, in the pub, in our street etc... It might feel quite scary to share our faith with others, or to tell people that we go to church, but we're under God's authority and it's up to him to change people, we just need to be willing to tell.

Just imagine what our communities of Speke, Halewood and Hunts Cross might look like if each of us told one other person about Jesus. Imagine the difference it would make in people's lives and in our communities if people came to know the good news and hope that Jesus brings, if we invite him in.

As we travel through this Easter season together, let's celebrate what Jesus has done for each of us and the difference he makes in our lives, but let's also commit ourselves to sharing this good news with others. Jesus is sending you, and me, so let's go on the journey of a lifetime and see where it leads. *Gareth*

## APRIL SERVICES

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April:

### ***Easter 2 (Acts 4.32-35, John 20.19-31)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Garry Critchley

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves

6.30 pm St Nicholas: **No service**

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Adam Grey

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April:

### ***Easter 3 (Acts 3.12-19, Luke 24.36b-48)***

10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: David Goodwin

11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade: Matthew Hargreaves

12.15 & 1 pm Baptisms: Gareth Morgan/Andy Radford

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April:

### ***Easter 4 (Acts 4.5-12, John 10.11-18)***

10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship/Baptisms: Gareth Morgan

11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Carol Burke

6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April:

9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April:

### ***Easter 5 (Acts 8.26-40, John 15.1-8)***

10.30 am St Mary: APCM at St Nicholas

11.00 am St Nicholas: APCM

6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Andy Radford

11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Phil Saltmarsh & 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.





# JOIN US FOR EASTER

## MAUNDY THURSDAY:

Communion Service 7.00pm

@ St Nicholas'

## GOOD FRIDAY:

Family Service 10.00am

@ St Mary's

Ecumenical Service 12.00pm

@ Hunts Cross Garden

Service of Reflection 2.00pm

@ St Nicholas'

## EASTER SUNDAY:

Sunrise Service with Breakfast 6.30am

@ Wood Rd Field & back to St Mary's

Family Holy Communion 11.00am

@ St Nicholas'



ST MARY'S CHURCH, HILLINGDEN AVENUE, L26 9TY  
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## **Canon Paul Hardingham considers what Easter has given us**

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God '*has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it '*is kept in heaven for you*' (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: '*Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now*'.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us '*with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*' (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, '*These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.*' (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

*'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'!*

***Thank you Parish Pump***

## **PARISH WALK**

**The walk this month was cancelled. More next month!**



### 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.

Funerals at St Nicholas' church			
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Nicholas Williams	Age 60	Burial of ashes.

### PHOTOS FROM THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER held at St Nicholas on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024





*The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: [enquiries@parishpump.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parishpump.co.uk)*

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.



Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why, if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly, mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle Eustace

## **DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS**

**Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas' Centre.

We now have a new email address for weddings after some problems with the previous one. Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries - [halewoodparishweddings@gmail.com](mailto:halewoodparishweddings@gmail.com)  
Our Baptism Secretary's email address is [halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com](mailto:halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com)

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 28/4/2024**

### **Electoral Roll update**

In order to vote at the APCM you need to be on the churches' electoral roll. If you are not already on this but would like to be please request an electoral roll form from one of the wardens or stewards. The final date for submitting this is 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024. (if you are not sure whether you are already on the electoral roll a copy is available in each church which you can check.)

### **Holiday Club**

For this year's Holiday Club, our theme is going to be "The Key" and we are going to be based in the Gospel of John. Can anyone offer any time between Monday 29th July and Friday 3rd August?

*Mike Sutcliffe*

### **3Generate – PowerPoint & Plan**

It is never too early to let me know if your children are interested in going this year, which takes place from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October. I will share more information about this year's 3Generate soon.

If you have any questions about any of these events, please don't hesitate to contact Mike, our circuit children's worker:

[mike.circuitchildren@gmail.co.uk](mailto:mike.circuitchildren@gmail.co.uk) or, 07867 489463

**Advance information - Halewood CultureFest 2024 will run from Friday 14th June – Sunday 23rd June. A Programme will be available in the new year.** As part of this we are planning a Scarecrow Trail. We would like as many schools, community groups, local organisations and individuals as possible to be involved in this. More information in the new year.

## **Shining Lights Halewood CIC**

A reminder that our Baby Bank is open at St Mary's church every Saturday 10.00 am – 12 midday: please come along if you need anything - we have baby essentials and clothing and shoes for all ages & sizes.

## Halewood Community Choir

Meets Thursdays 7-9pm in Halewood Academy,  
The Avenue, L26 1UU. £5 each session.  
Open to those aged 18 to 108

No auditions, no need to read music, just join in and have a go.

**Singers and Beginners – most welcome**

### *Something new for 2024*

**Free** monthly choir sessions for visitors, 7 – 9pm,

Join Halewood Community Choir for an evening

Singalong or sit and watch us rehearse, meet choir  
members and find out what we sing.

Come on your own, or bring a friend. We'll guarantee  
you'll go home with a smile on your face!

Feb 29th    March 21st

Want more info? Visit us on Facebook or ring/text  
Phil on 0748 6709 567 or ring Carol 0151 281 2508

## **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.*

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 ART GROUP

The Halewood Art Group has now achieved its maximum capacity of members due to the size of the venue, but we still invite anyone who is interested to go on to our waiting list as members do leave for various reasons, both personal and health.



We meet every week on Mondays from 1.00 to 3:30 pm at the Women's Institute Hall, Baileys Lane, Halewood.

The aim of the group is to help people wishing to get into painting, or to encourage those who previously painted and now want to restart: beginners are very welcome and advice is given if required.

You only pay for the week you attend, so if weekly is not possible for you, drop in whenever you want, whatever fits in with your lifestyle.

If you are interested please contact Ken Allen on 07815 306502 or email [allen556@btinternet.com](mailto:allen556@btinternet.com)  
[Website: halewoodartgroup.chessck.co.uk](http://Website: halewoodartgroup.chessck.co.uk)



## 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.

## Warm Hub at St Nicholas' Centre on Thursday mornings 10.00 am – 12 midday

We are planning some activities for our Warm Hub guests. The programme is as follows:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 4 April:  | Closed  |
| 11 April: | Tea/Toast and Bingo   |
| 18 April: | Tea/ Toast and planting/growing workshop. Led by staff from Knowsley Council. Encouraging people to grow for this year's Knowsley Flower Show. (All materials provided) |
| 25 April: | Last day of this year's Warm Hub. Activity To be confirmed.   |

## 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.*

**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 collection, tidying up after 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 [halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com](mailto:halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com).*

**Tea and coffee 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)

## Warm Hub at St Nicholas' Centre - volunteers needed on a rota basis, approximately once a month

Following the success of our Thursday Morning Warm Hub over last winter, we are open again each Thursday morning from 10.00 am - 12 midday from October to April.

We have a small, dedicated team of volunteers who prepare tea and toast but, more importantly, who chat to visitors, some of whom are quite isolated and enjoy the company as much as the warmth and refreshments. We could do with a few more people to go onto our rota. So, if this is something you would be interested in doing, please speak to Alison [alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com](mailto:alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com). It is very rewarding and doesn't involve a huge commitment of time. And even if you don't feel able to volunteer then just come along and enjoy a warm drink and a warm welcome.

## Knitted Angels

We are going to be knitting small angels again this year to distribute around the community at Christmas with details of our Christmas services as we did a couple of times pre covid lockdowns. They are very easy to make.

It would be great if as many people as possible could get involved in knitting these. You don't need to stuff the heads and put on faces (unless you want to) as we have a couple of people who will do this for us.

If anyone would like to get involved who hasn't already got a pattern please email [alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com](mailto:alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com) and I will send you one.

# News from the Diocese

## Service of Celebration held marking the anniversary of Women's Ordination

The anniversary service held this week celebrated three key milestones in women's ministry and gave thanks to God for all he has done through the priestly ministry of those women he has called.

Next week we will have an interview with Rev. Frances Shoesmith who spoke at the service.



## Celebrating a Legacy: Bishop Hall's impact on women's ordination

Following the celebration service of women's ordination held at Liverpool Cathedral, we spoke to Revd Frances Shoesmith, Team Vicar - Wigan North East. Being the granddaughter of Bishop Hall, she reflects on 80 years since he ordained Florence Li Tim-Oi in the Diocese of Hong Kong and South China, the first woman ordained in the Anglican Communion.

[Read more about the service and Revd Frances's reflection on the Diocesan website.](#)



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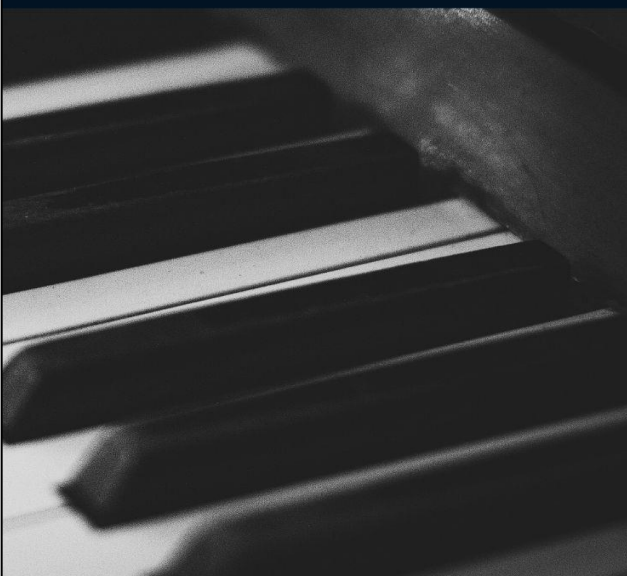
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