



# ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

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

Articles for the December issue to me by 20th November 2023 please.



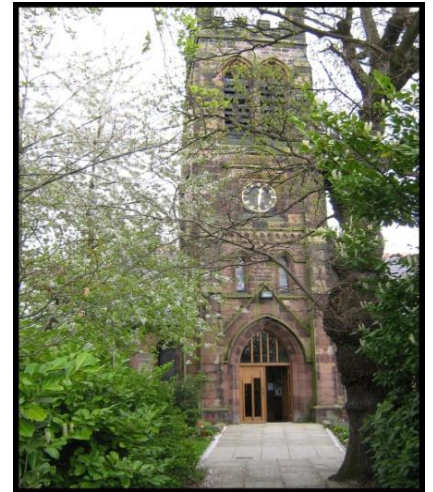
Church website

[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 November 2023



Father God,

November is not many people's favourite month, unless there is a birthday or a delight in bonfires. Short days, sometimes dismal weather can lower our mood. The days of springtime optimism and summer sunshine seem a long way away, whether we look back or forward.

Help us Lord, whatever the month, whatever our circumstances, whatever our mood, to know the reality of Your presence and peace; to treasure each new day and know it is transformed by You into the most precious and beautiful gift. Help us not to waste a single one of them, Lord. Thank You so much for November days.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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**Administrator: Jessica Forrester**

St Nicholas Centre  
70 Church Road  
Halewood Village  
LIVERPOOL, L26 6LB  
Telephone: 0151 487 9965  
email: [halewoodparish@btconnect.com](mailto:halewoodparish@btconnect.com)

**PRIEST IN CHARGE**

Phil Saltmarsh  
[speke.rector@gmail.com](mailto:speke.rector@gmail.com)  
07365279983

**TEAM VICAR**

Andrew Radford  
[revandyhhc@gmail.com](mailto:revandyhhc@gmail.com)  
St Hilda's Rectory  
07966033648

**TEAM VICAR**

Rev Gareth Morgan  
The Rectory  
3 Rectory Drive  
Halewood  
L26 6LJ

Direct Contact:  
Landline: 01518372420  
Mobile: 07947318613  
Email:  
[revgarethmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:revgarethmorgan@gmail.com)

*Friday is my normal day off*

Parish Office Contact:  
Tel: 01514879965

Email:  
[halewoodparish@btconnect.com](mailto:halewoodparish@btconnect.com)

Address:  
St Nicholas Centre, Church Rd,  
Halewood, L26 6LA  
Mon to Fri 9am to 1pm

**YOUTH & COMMUNITY**

Mike Sutcliffe  
[mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com](mailto:mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com)  
07867489463

**LAY READERS**

Matthew Hargreaves  
07810872987  
[mattharg@mac.com](mailto:mattharg@mac.com)

Jen Radford  
07966624729  
[jennyradford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jennyradford@hotmail.co.uk)

Carol Burke  
[Burkie.carol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Burkie.carol@hotmail.co.uk)  
07588848667

Adam Grey 07814727622  
[adam\\_grey@msn.com](mailto:adam_grey@msn.com)

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

Jessica Forrester  
[halewoodparish@btconnect.com](mailto:halewoodparish@btconnect.com)

**ST NICHOLAS WARDENS**

Graham Elliott  
07516852066  
Lesley Webb  
0151 4877234/07852778839  
[Lawebb74@hotmail.com](mailto:Lawebb74@hotmail.com)

**ST NICHOLAS DEPUTY  
WARDEN**

Andrew Reynolds  
07776250718  
[andy@nadiareynolds.co.uk](mailto:andy@nadiareynolds.co.uk)

Alison Shacklady  
288 Higher Rd, H'wood  
L26 9UF  
486 2415/07909652442

[Alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com](mailto:Alison1.shacklady@btinternet.com)

**ST MARY'S**

**WARDEN**

Jen Hargreaves  
[jen@mattharg.co.uk](mailto:jen@mattharg.co.uk)

**METHODIST STEWARDS**

Gill Dover 07973 815190  
[gillian.dover@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.dover@gmail.com)

# MINISTRY MESSAGE

## Going deeper with God through the Psalms

Just recently as I was coming out of the doctor's surgery, I met someone whom I knew a few years ago. We asked how each other were, as you do, to which we both replied 'fine'. This person then commented on the irony of this response considering we were in a GP's surgery! Fortunately I can say that my general health check was fine, and so I was answering honestly. I guess that moment probably wasn't the best opportunity to share intimate details of how life was really going. However, at some point our relationships need to develop beyond the superficial to become meaningful and supportive.

The reason I say this is because I want to consider how the Psalms can help us grow in our relationship with God. We can often struggle in prayer and can end up just reciting words of others or our own pat phrases that over time become increasingly empty. God knows our heart and also sees our intent to connect with Him whenever we pray, but as I read the Psalms in particular I read the words of those whose language of conversation with God goes beyond the superficial and plumbs the depths of human emotion. Do you have a favourite Psalm? If not, I would suggest you use one each day and let the words draw you more closely into the presence of Him who loves your company and wants you to express your heart to Him.

Psalm 62 is a favourite of mine - 'Find rest O my soul in God alone, for He alone is my salvation.' There is an invitation to find rest and wholeness in a relationship with God. The danger for us is to keep our relationship with God at just a surface level. We can do that for a number of reasons, perhaps because we perceive that we don't have time for Him, we could also find that drawing close is painful. His closeness can remind us of difficult emotions within, such as disappointment or failure. We might want God at arms length as we feel He might show us things that we need to change in our lives. We do this at our loss, because, as Psalm 63 reminds us, 'my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you'. We were created for our souls to be satisfied in an intimate relationship with God and as we keep Him at arm's length our souls become withered and our humanity diminished.

As we go through the Psalms we find the widest range of experiences and feelings that are expressed. The writers grapple with guilt and shame, and through encounter with God find forgiveness and hope. Psalm 32 'Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven whose sins are covered' - v3 'When I kept silent my bones wasted away through my groaning'. There are Psalms that express great joy at a change in circumstance or at God's intervention in their lives. There are psalms that talk about the injustice in the world, and ask or even demand that God answer their cries. There are those that cry out of despair in asking God to do something about their lot.

All these express honest feelings before God in the context of praise and worship, and as we use them in our own worship we draw closer to God. I have often found that time spent with God expressing these feelings brings about real change. There may be a change in what is happening, it would seem that God has directly intervened into my problem and delivered me. At other times it is simply the reassurance that God brings through His word and His Spirit. Although things might not have changed, my perspective has and I can now face with confidence whatever it is that is in the way.

So do you want to go deeper with God? If so, then read a Psalm a day and spend some quality time with it. There was a time many years ago that I visited my parents who at the time lived near Dartmoor in Devon. As I walked through the countryside by a small river I recited Psalm 84 to myself (no one else was around) and found it a wonderful time with just me and God. What was even more exciting was the fact I knew that God enjoyed time spent together, which if you think about it, is staggering.

Whatever you are feeling today there is Psalm to reflect it, so let your prayers and praise go beyond just cliches to a more meaningful time that you were created for.

*Andy*

## NOVEMBER SERVICES

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November: ***All Saints (Revelation 7.9-17, Matthew 5.1-12)***  
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Adam Grey  
11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: David Goodwin  
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Carol Burke  
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November: ***Third Sunday before Advent – (Remembrance) (Romans 8.31-end, John 15.9-17)***  
10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Rev Cate Jacobs  
10.45 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan  
1.00 pm Baptism: Gareth Morgan  
6.30 pm Holy Communion: Phil Saltmarsh  
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy & Jen Radford
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November: ***Second Sunday before Advent 1 (Thessalonians 5.1-11, Matthew 25.14-30)***  
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Andy Radford  
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan  
6.00 pm St Mary Confirmation: David Goodwin/Bishop Geoff  
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Carol Burke
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November: ***Christ the King (Ephesians 1.15-23, Matthew 25.31-46)***  
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan  
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Matthew Hargreaves  
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan  
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan

## 'He gave us eyes to see them': Wall painting of Pompeii

Each month we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> century theologian, went further and wrote that 'the glory of God is a living person.' He was echoing Psalm 8: 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them...you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.' Yes, the universe teaches of God the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all Creation.



The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1<sup>st</sup> century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don't know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo's intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life. 'Where can we place our hope?' we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls tell us that the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity. [PP nov23 10 God in the Arts](#)

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# Knowsley Fringe Music Festival 2023

Saturday 11th November 7.30 pm Hollies Hall, Hollies Road, Halewood

Mason Brown Connection are a 17-piece band formed by a group of friends with a passion for music and entertaining. The large and diverse set list ranges from Big Band, Swing, Rock 'n Roll to Pop, with 70's, 80's, 90's and current floor fillers – not a typical big band, they are 'A Big Band with a Modern Twist'.

Thursday 16th November 7.00 pm St Nicholas Church –  
Ingredients for Late Night Lilies – see picture opposite.

Saturday 18th November 7.30 pm St Mary's Church,  
Leathers Lane, Halewood

Bentley Operatic Society – Hooray for Hollywood –  
Songs from the Silver Screen  
Tickets from [ticketsource.co.uk/bentley-operatic-society](https://ticketsource.co.uk/bentley-operatic-society)

**For details of other venues please visit**  
**[cultureknowsley.co.uk](https://cultureknowsley.co.uk)**

Knowsley Music Festival 2023  
**Ingredients for Late Night Lilies**

Date and time:  
Thursday 16th November  
7pm (6.30 doors)

Beautiful venue:  
St Nicholas Church  
Halewood

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## **Our local farmer Olly Harrison gets International Award**

From filling pot holes in the church car park in the pouring rain, Olly Harrison, from Water Lane Farm, Tarbock, has risen to the heights of achieving an International Award for his Charity work and You Tube blog. Congratulations Olly, well deserved.

### **DLG Agri Influencer Award: winners 2023**

### **DLG Best Agri YouTuber International: Oliver Harrison**



<https://youtube.com/@OllyBlogsAgricontractfarmer>

### **Jury's rationale**



With his YouTube channel @OllyBlogsAgricontractfarmer, the jury views Oliver Harrison as an influencer in the truest sense of the word. He has not only been posting a daily video concerning all aspects of his everyday life on the farm since a lockdown campaign in March 2020, he also drove 940 miles across the British Isles in a chopper to draw attention to the importance of mental health, collecting over £100,000 for mental health and for child cancer initiatives. He also leverages his social media presence, sending birthday wishes in his videos in

exchange for a charitable donation. He also interacts extensively with his online community, through several initiatives, including a daily check-in for mental health in farming under the hashtag #AnswerAsAPercent.

Oliver Harrison comes from Tarbock in the northwest of England and currently has 102,000 followers on YouTube.

## **Shining Lights Halewood CIC**

A reminder that our Baby Bank is open at St Mary's church every Saturday 10 – 12: please come along if you need anything - we have baby essentials and clothing and shoes for all ages & sizes.



## 2023 Pilgrimage based at Launde Abbey Leicestershire – Part 2

### Day 3, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August

Today we headed off to St Mary and All Saints, Fotheringhay...but first we had to allow the sheep to go around us. It was probably a lot more entertaining for us than it was for the shepherd trying to get them to take the 'easy' way round the coach.

We were greeted by the church warden, Bill, who was a very good speaker. He told us his version of the history, and left us to wander around for ourselves, asking questions if we had any.

The church is at least 1000 years old and the village is mentioned in the Domesday

book. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century Simon de St Liz established the castle. His widow, Maud, married David I of Scotland and Fotheringhay passed to the Scottish crown. It was forfeited to the English crown in 1294, which is a politically correct way of saying that Edward I seized it.

The charter for the church was granted to Richard, Duke of York, in 1434.

The nave was set aside for the use of local residents as a parish church. Richard III was born at Fotheringhay Castle but has a strong connection to the church as it was here in 1476 that he brought the bodies of his father Richard, Duke of York, and his brother Edmund, Earl of Rutland, for reburial from the original graves in Pontefract.

After Richard lost his life at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 the castle was allowed to decay. St Mary's suffered at the Dissolution of the Monasteries for its connection with the college of priests, but as the nave was reserved for use as a parish church it was left alone. Henry VIII granted Fotheringhay to Catherine of Aragon, and Catherine lavished money, returning the castle to its former glory. Unfortunately, her tenure as queen did not last, and Henry granted the castle in turn to each of his subsequent wives. It was used primarily as a prison, and it is in this role that it would see its most famous moment in history.

In time the cloisters and choir collapsed, and the rest of the church might have followed suit had not Elizabeth I stepped in. The queen was alarmed at what might happen to the tombs of her ancestors so she granted money so that Duke Richard and Earl Edmund could be reburied in the sanctuary, on either side of the high altar. And there they rest today, in beautifully decorated Elizabethan tombs.





The Fifteenth century octagonal font with foliage and grotesque heads carved on it was difficult to miss. The cover is made from rescued misericords from the dissolved collegiate church.

In 1586 Mary, Queen of Scots, was brought to Fotheringhay from Chartley in Staffordshire to stand trial for treason. Why Fotheringhay? Because the castle was set in a marshy landscape, where access was difficult, especially during the winter months. It was felt by the authorities that the unfortunate Scottish queen would be more secure at Fotheringhay, and the location would discourage any rash attempt to free her by force. Mary was tried at the castle on 14 and 15 October 1587 in a show trial and predictably found guilty on 25 October - a foregone conclusion. She was not executed immediately, for Elizabeth I was reluctant to sign the death warrant, but finally on 8 February 1588 Mary was executed in the great hall. She carefully dressed for the occasion in black with a scarlet bodice and petticoat; the colours carefully chosen because they represented martyrdom. Mary's body was left on view at Fotheringhay until July when it was carried at night to Peterborough Cathedral for burial. When Mary's son James took the throne as James I of England he had his mother's body transferred to Westminster Abbey and

buried in Henry II's chapel, in a tomb slightly larger than Elizabeth I's. After Mary's execution the castle was allowed to decay completely. It was eventually sold, and local people began to rob the site of building stone. The castle was finally dismantled completely in 1628, and stone used to build an inn in Oundle.

The large tower with the distinctive lantern is considered the most striking feature. There is a weathervane shaped like a falcon in a fetterlock, symbol of the Duke of



York. If a fetterlock is open it signifies freedom, closed it shows the deceased has done their duty. The fetterlock appears in several places including a wooden bowl and on the ceiling.

Another reminder of the Wars of the Roses is the wonderfully painted pulpit, given to Fotheringhay church by Edward IV. It is decorated with the arms of the House of Plantagenet and the symbols of the Yorkist House; a white boar, white lion, and the black bull - for the three Yorkist brothers Richard III, Edward IV, and George, Duke of Clarence. Though the painting is modern, it follows known medieval patterns and colours.



And on to Peterborough!

### Peterborough and the Cathedral

We had quite a bit of free time in Peterborough before meeting up at the cathedral. Many of us managed to find our way down to the river where it was possible to hire water vehicles, but pretty sure no-one did, or there could have been some outdoor swimming at the Lido, if anyone had thought to pack their cossie.





There were plenty of shops, a lovely Guild Hall, and lots of places to eat.

Because they were dismantling a Star Wars exhibition in the cathedral they had declined to give us a guided tour and all the really interesting bits were inaccessible to us. Still, we sang, and the ladies who were doing the beautiful needlepoint did say they enjoyed our performance! They were located to the south side of the choir and were stitching the roof design. It had already been underway for some years, and they are several years left before completion.



Peterborough Cathedral, the Cathedral Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Andrew is also known as Saint Peter's Cathedral. Statues of the saints look down from the three high gables of the famous West Front. It was founded in the Anglo-Saxon period but its architecture is mainly Norman, following a rebuilding in the 12th century. With Durham and Ely cathedrals, it is one of the most important 12th-century buildings in England to have remained largely intact, despite extensions and restoration.

Peterborough Cathedral is known for its imposing Early English Gothic West Front. The appearance is slightly asymmetrical, as one of the two towers that rise from behind the façade was never completed (the tower on the right as one faces the building), but this is only visible from a distance.

The original church, known as "Medeshamstede", was founded in the reign of the Anglo-Saxon King Peada of the Middle Angles in about 655 AD, as one of the first centres of Christianity in central England.

In the mid-10th century monastic revival (in which churches at Ely and Ramsey were also refounded) a Benedictine Abbey was created and endowed in 966. The original central tower was retained and extensions made to the original building. It was dedicated to St Peter and surrounded by a palisade, called a burgh, hence the town surrounding the abbey was eventually named Peterburgh. Only a small section of the foundations of the Anglo-Saxon church remain beneath the south transept

Although damaged during the struggle between the Norman invaders and local folk-hero, Hereward the Wake, it was repaired and continued to thrive until destroyed by an accidental fire in 1116. The ceiling, completed between 1230 and 1250, still survives.





It is unique in Britain and one of only four such ceilings in the whole of Europe. It has been over-painted twice, once in 1745, then in 1834, but still retains the character and style of the original. We could actually see this ceiling, and there was a mirror to provide a reflection as well.



The Norman tower was rebuilt in the Decorated Gothic style in about 1350 – 1380 (its main beams and roof bosses survive) with two tiers of Romanesque windows combined into a single set of Gothic windows, with the turreted cap and pinnacles

removed and replaced by battlements. Between 1496 and 1508, the Presbytery roof was replaced and the "New Building", a rectangular end of the Norman eastern with Perpendicular fan vaulting by John Wastell, the Chapel, Cambridge and the at Canterbury Cathedral), the New Building lies on the Hedda Stone. This destruction of the of the Abbot and Monks by the Vikings in 864. We there is a picture.



building built around the apse, vaulting (probably designed architect of King's College Bell Harry Tower was added. In an alcove of ancient stone carving: medieval carving of 12 commemorates the Monastery and the death when the area was sacked didn't get to see this bit but



In 1541, following Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, the church survived by being selected as the cathedral of the Anglican Diocese of Peterborough. Henry's former wife, Catherine of Aragon, had been buried there in 1536. To this day, her grave is honoured by visitors who decorate it with flowers and pomegranates (her symbol). The gold letters at the site, added much later, read "Katharine Queen of England", a title she was denied at the time of her death. A festival to commemorate the Queen is held yearly. We couldn't view this area.

In 1587, the body of Mary, Queen of Scots was initially buried here after her execution at nearby Fotheringhay Castle, but it was later removed to Westminster Abbey on the orders of her son, King James I of England.

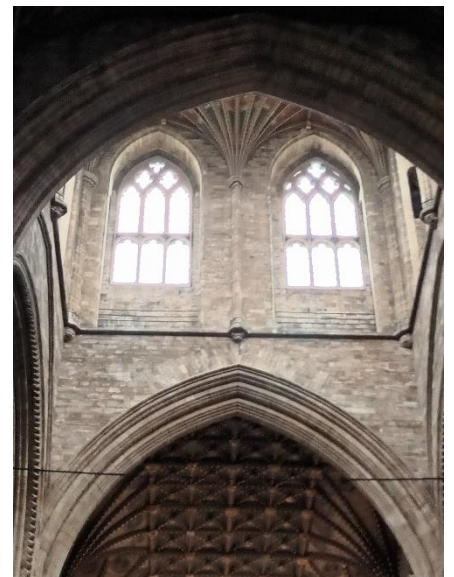
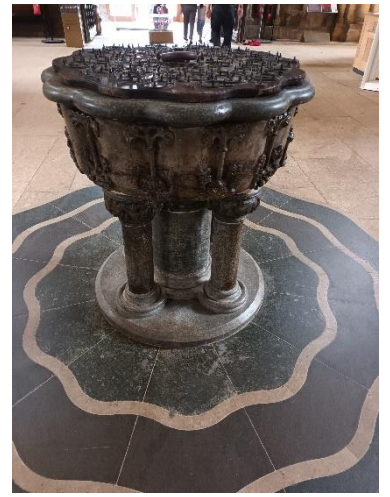
The cathedral was vandalised during the English Civil War in 1643 by Parliamentarian troops. As was common at the time, almost all the stained glass and the medieval choir stalls were destroyed, and the high altar and reredos were demolished, as were the cloisters and Lady Chapel. All the monuments and memorials of the Cathedral were also damaged or destroyed.

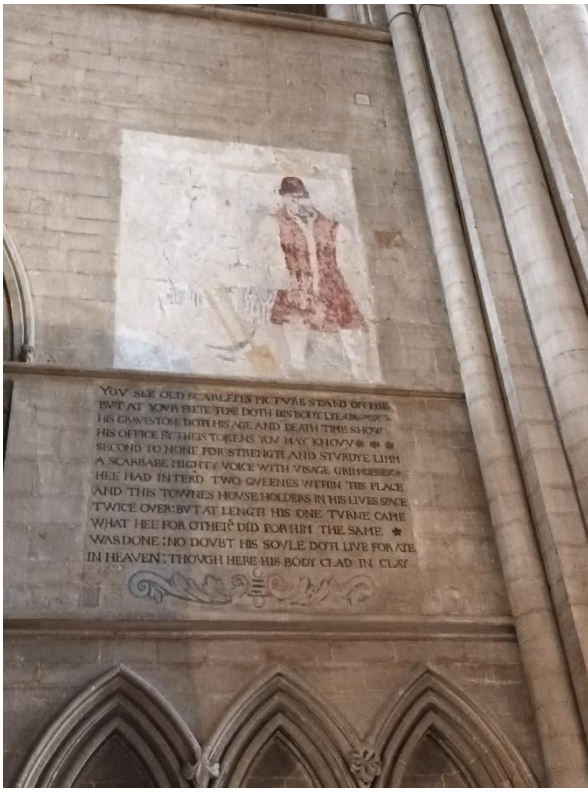


The font was accessible, and was impressive.

The hanging crucifix or rood was designed by George Pace and installed in 1975, the figure of Christ is by Frank Roper.

We started our visit at the back of the cathedral and could see through the choir to the tower and the 'new building' and this is where we sang, and where we could see some of the interior architecture.





High on a wall is a depiction of 'Old Scarleitt' who was the grave digger according to the poem on the postcard.

The poem follows, copied from the postcard

*You see old Scarleitts picture stand on hie  
But at your feet there doth his body lye  
His gravestone doth his age and death time show*

*His office by theis tokens you may know*

*Second to none for strength and sturdye  
limm*

*A scarebabe mighty voice with visage grim*

*Hee had interd two queenes within this place*

*And this townes house holders in his lives space*

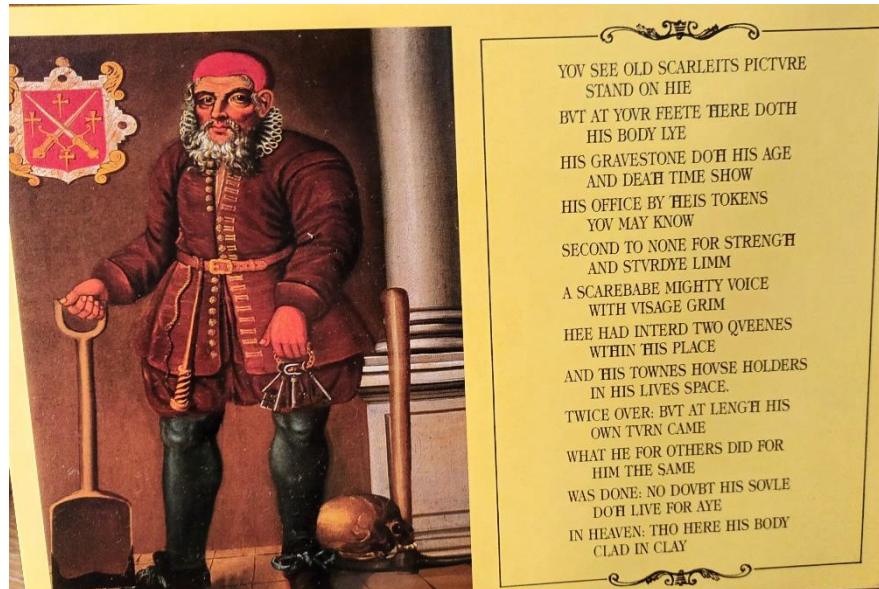
*twice over: But at length his own turn came*

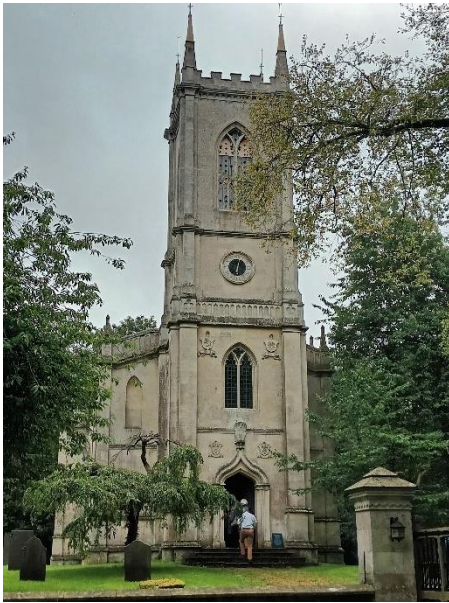
*What he for others did for him the same*

*was done: No doubt his soule doth live for aye*

*in heaven: Tho here his body clad in clay*

From Peterborough we were going to visit Rutland Water but the weather was inclement so we went straight to the Blue Ball for our dining experience. After dinner Alison was presented with her 'Thank-you' gift for all her work organising the Pilgrimage.





**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

As there was no suitable cathedral for us to grace with our presence for our closing Holy Communion service we went to St Mary Magdalene, Stapleford.

It is a lovely little church set in incredible grounds. It is part of the Churches Conservation Trust, still consecrated, but not in regular use. The lights came on and went off at will suggesting the wiring may need work. It is another church where the pews faced each other.

The service was led by Rev. David Crowe who has Scottish/Irish parents with Irish being a little more obvious. It was a soul satisfying way to end the pilgrimage, although we still had Melton Mowbray to visit for our lunch break.

St Mary Magdalene's Church is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building, and is situated in the grounds of Stapleford Park.

The church was built in 1783, having been designed by George Richardson for Robert Sherard, 4th Earl of Harborough. It replaced an earlier church on the site, and functioned as the Sherard family estate church as well as a parish church. Restorations were carried out in 1931 and 1967.



There were some impressive tombs but this one seems to show a remarkable number of children.

St Mary's is constructed in limestone ashlar and is in Gothic Revival style.

Adrian got us all to face the coach and took a video of us all, and then printed frames. It's the first time I've been photographed by a bus! And it has Adrian in it.



## Melton Mowbray

It's famous for the Pork Pies, and some were bought for presents and several samples were tasted to ensure the quality was all it should be.

Free time allowed us to enjoy a leisurely lunch but some pilgrims had time for one more church, St Mary's Melton Mowbray!



approximate £2 million.

St Mary's Church is the largest and "stateliest" parish church in Leicestershire, with visible remains dating mainly from the 13th-15th centuries. The stonework in the lowest section of the tower, which has



Norman windows, dates from 1170,

although there were certainly one or more Anglo-Saxon churches on this site before the Norman one. It is built on a plan more usual for cathedrals and the 100-foot (30 m) tower dominates the town, and is a rare example of a parish church with aisled transepts (one of only five in the country) a feature usually found only in a cathedral. It contains a number of notable monuments including the tomb of Roger de Mowbray, 1st Baron Mowbray and others dating from the 14th to the 18th century; also a memorial tablet to equine artist John Ferneley (1782 to 1860).

The belfry contains ten bells. The earliest bell (No.6) is by John of York dating from the fourteenth century.



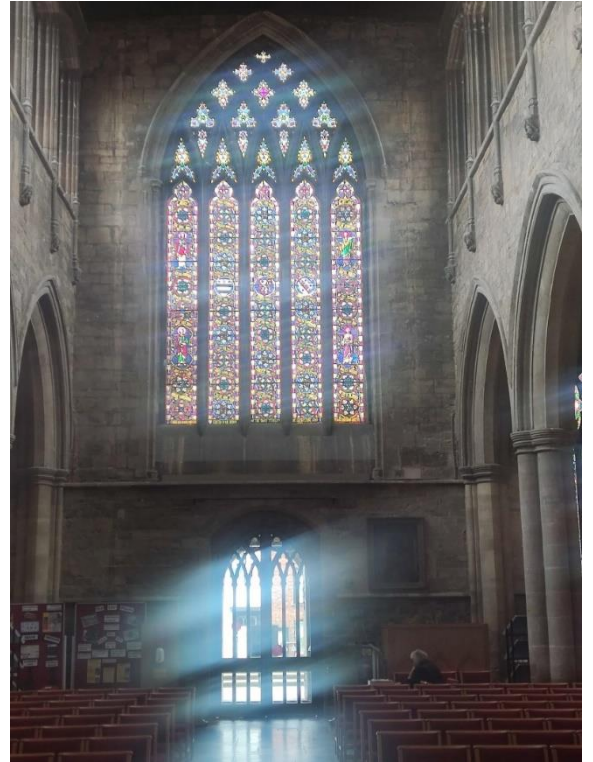




Most of the rest have been recast. Until 1802 there were only six bells: then two more were added and in 1894 a further two made the total ten. In addition there is a small sanctus bell which dates from the seventeenth century.

The carillon on which the chimes are played three times a day were restored in 1938 through a bequest by Alice Henton. This restoration involved a new clock to replace the previous one dating from the early nineteenth century.

The windows are particularly lovely and Karen decided to share her photos with us.



## 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://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_QFMMVOMxaTa38ibdkzVag](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_QFMMVOMxaTa38ibdkzVag).

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.



## PARISH WALK

Thirteen strong, we set off on our walk today along the banks of the River Mersey, starting at Pickering's Pasture and heading to Spike Island and the Catalyst Museum.

It was a cloudy day, with a bit of an east wind, but generally good Autumnal weather. The tide was high, but in a slack state, with no movement either way.

Other than us, the first sign of life was an orange Fire and Rescue boat



coming our way, with the old Runcorn bridge as a lovely backdrop to the picture.

Further on, we met with the unusual zig zag path, which takes you up about 40 feet to the upper level of the pathway. After some huffing and puffing we soon made it up and we were soon within the shadow of our iconic bridge. After a



quick photo, we began to sneak past the bridge



and we were soon at the end of Mersey Road, where the old Transporter Crossing ran from. A lovely red bricked building still has a sign stating “Transporter Bridge Offices” displayed on it.

There was plenty to talk about at this location and it took a while before we headed off to the Catalyst Museum. The museum is a renowned Science Discovery Centre, however, its café was the only area we sought on this occasion, for our halfway break.



After that, we set off back towards Pickering’s, but Penni had a little trip across the old bridge planned on our way back. Much quieter than it used to be, it’s always a surreal and pleasant journey, particularly if you don’t look down too much to the river below. Becky took a group selfie, just as her dad, Richard, had done on an earlier walk.

We were soon back on the return path, this time with the river to our left and the sea now ebbing out towards the Irish Sea. Typical of our climate, both the sun and a small rain cloud decided to

join us on this part of the trip. It seemed quicker going back, like most return journeys, and we were soon looking at our phones to compare the varying pedometer recordings. Somewhere between 5 and 6 miles, as usual, was agreed upon.

Geoff

**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.



## 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.*

## 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, starting on Thursday 5th October.

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.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries** - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas' Centre.

### **Confirmation 2023**

Our confirmation service this year will be on Sunday 19th November at 6.00 pm at St Mary's Church. If you are thinking about taking this next step in your faith journey or would like to find out more please speak to Andy Radford.

### **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.

# HALEWOOD ART GROUP

The group meets 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 Community Choir

Starts 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

*Ideal way to have fun and make new friends.*

**New - Free** Open Rehearsals for visitors, 7 – 9pm,  
once a month – come and find out what we do. Sing  
along or sit and watch, meet choir members and find  
out what we sing. Just turn up and enjoy!

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

Want more info? Visit us on Facebook or ring/text

Phil on 0748 6709 567 or ring Carol 0151 281 2508

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### Congratulations to our new Readers

In a joyful and celebratory service at Liverpool Cathedral we had seven new Readers licensed to our Diocese. Congratulations to Louise Appleby, Heather Heaton, Paul Peacey, Amanda Taylor, Philip Wells, Debbie Williams and Janet Yardley.



### Rev Canon Anne Taylor appointed associate Archdeacon



Congratulations to Rev Anne Taylor who has been appointed as our third Associate Archdeacon. Anne will support Archdeacon Pete in Sefton and Knowsley whilst remaining as Area Dean of Sefton North with Rev Poppy Thorpe appointed Assistant Area Dean.

Anne joins Rev Harry Wood and Rev Robert Clack who were announced as Associate Archdeacons for Warrington and St Helens and Liverpool earlier this year.

We pray for all in their new roles.

### We appoint a new Parish Sustainability Lead

The Diocese of Liverpool is pleased to announce that it has appointed Warren Hartley as Parish Sustainability Lead. This new role has been supported by the National Church of England funding over the next three years as part of our efforts to support parishes and our diocese to be sustainable into the future.

Warren takes up this role after having a range of roles in our diocese over more than 11 years, including most recently working as PA to the Bishop of Warrington. He said "I have loved working with Bishop Bev over the past two years and I look forward to taking up this new role and continue to serve the people of our diocese". Bishop Bev expressed her deep gratitude to Warren for the excellent work he has engaged in as her PA saying "Whilst I'm very sorry to be losing Warren as my PA this is an excellent post for him and I wish him every blessing."



### Tickets on sale for the Light Before Christmas



[The stunning Light Before Christmas is returning to Liverpool Cathedral from 1st - 8th December.](#)

Peter Walker and Luxmuralis is back with a spectacular large-scale light and sound projection artwork Entitled "The Manger". This spectacular installation allows viewers to follow the story of the Nativity using traditional and abstract imagery, to take the audience on a journey to the crib of the infant's birth.

### Prayers for the Holy Land

We join with the Archbishop of Canterbury in praying for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank.

"God of Compassion and Justice,  
We cry out to you for all who suffer in the Holy Land today.  
For your precious children, Israelis and Palestinians,  
Traumatized in fear for their lives;  
Lord, have mercy."

Read the Archbishop of Canterbury's statement on Israel and Gaza on the Diocesan website.



“We asked food bank managers and users across the UK, and these are all the things people say consistently – time and time again – they need, but they are not things people often think to buy,” says Hodson. “And they make such a difference.”

### **1. Toilet roll**

This is self-explanatory, and always necessary. “One food bank is having to ration it to one roll per household,” says Hodson.

### **2. Sanitary towels and tampons**

“We don’t have the data on how users of the food banks break down across gender lines,” says Hodson. “When someone comes to the food bank, they’ll often pick up for the whole household.” But she adds: “[Feminine hygiene products] are an awkward thing to say that you’re short of. If you’re at the point where you can’t afford food, chances are that you’re not going to be able to afford sanitary products either.”

“It’s really important, especially in terms of dignity, to be able to cope. We’ve heard some horrible reports from some of our food banks where women were [having to use newspaper and that sort of thing](#). Obviously, you have to be resourceful in these situations and people come up with all kinds of coping mechanisms, but we’d prefer they didn’t have to cope, and that they actually were able to have what everybody else has.”

### **3. Tin openers**

“There are all kinds of people who don’t have these, especially women who’ve been relocated because of domestic abuse,” says Hodson.

And as food banks get a lot of tinned, non-perishable food, this is a handy thing to drop off at the collection point.

### **4. Nappies**

Generally, food banks would prefer disposable nappies over cloth nappies. “The best thing people can do is call their local food bank and find out what they need,” says Hodson.

“We get parents with children of all ages. Some of the most stark cases are women who have literally just given birth and haven’t got anything, and are really struggling as well as being a new mum.”

### **5. Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant)**

You know how at Christmas, lots of people get packs of toiletries they don’t want, because it’s a bit of a standard present? Bring them along to your local food bank collection point. “If people don’t want them,” says Hodson, “it’d be amazing if they gave them to the food bank, because it’s the kind of thing that makes a massive difference.” Shaving gels and foams are also welcome.

### **6. Baby food**

Baby food is another item that many people don’t think to include on their list of donations to food banks, says Hodson. Well, now you know. *(taken from the Foodbank website)*



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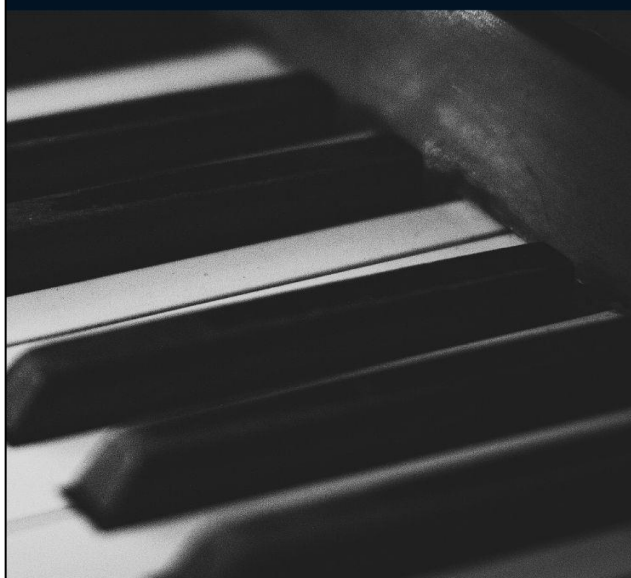
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