



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the March issue to me by 20th February 2024 please.



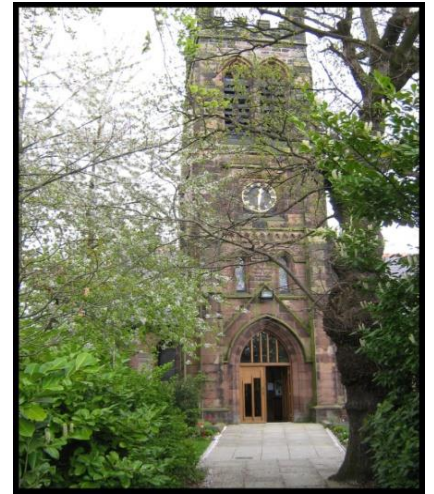
Church website

www.halewoodparish.org

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

Email address above. Margaret

Prayer for February 2024



Father, In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. In his name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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St Nicholas and St Mary's Ecumenical Team Ministry

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MINISTRY MESSAGE - God for every generation

Speaking to someone over the weekend, they said they were enjoying January because, for once, the month seemed to have gone slow rather than time flying like it usually does! This impressed me as it was very much an alternative point of view! Appreciating time and all we have is an amazing attitude. Grateful for the opportunities and demonstrating an attitude of gratitude. **How do you feel** ... is it the same? Well ... we have now progressed from the first month of the year and reached February! January is a strange month because it comes after a full month of the excitement and build up to Christmas, followed by New Year celebrations, but then all too quickly it means: back to work, dark mornings and nights, often freezing or wet weather (this year including snow) and, worst of all, financial recouperation for all the Christmas spending! January starts so promisingly with the toll of midnight, the impressive fireworks and with New Year Resolutions firmly decided upon with the promise of a better future. **How are those resolutions?** Are they still intact? Don't give up hope if they are not!

February is one of my favourite months, because with February, comes **the hope of spring, the hope of lighter days** to come and soon, very soon, **the hope of Easter**. We will think more of that in a bit.

February starts with **Candlemas (2nd Feb)**, a Festival that links us back to Christmas, where we remember Jesus 'Light of the World', who banishes all the darkness in life. We remember Jesus' naming day at the Temple and, most significantly, the Prophetess Prayer Warrior Anna and devoted servant of God Simeon, who both recognised the baby Jesus as Messiah, the long-awaited Saviour. The name Jesus means, 'the Lord is Salvation'. The Angel was very specific in telling Mary that Jesus would be the name for her baby. Isaiah and Matthew's Gospel names Jesus **Emmanuel**, which means 'God with us' and shows us that Jesus came to bring us Salvation, to show that God IS with us, His people. As John 3:16 showed, this light, this salvation, is for the world...a new hope and tells us it was given with love. Simeon announced in the Temple: *"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles (non-Jews), and the glory of your people Israel."*

During the winter, we long for light and lighter, warmer days. **Light brings hope**. In life, there are dark times but there is also light that shines hope in the darkness. As Christians we pray about areas of suffering (darkness) in the world and for God's grace, mercy and light to shine.

Where in the world is on your heart this February? Can you spend some time as you read this, to pause, and pray for a specific area? Maybe Gaza, Israel, the Ukraine and all peoples who are dispersed.

As Christians, we are not only commanded to pray, but also to try to *bring* light to the dark situations so we can have a positive impact on them and show God's love and light in action. **Is there something on your heart you long to see the light and warmth of God change? Do you pray for that situation? Do you actively find ways to make a difference, or support those who can? Could this be a February challenge to make this new month your opportunity to shine?**

Alongside **light**, another attribute we see coming from God is **love**. Love is also a theme very much associated with February. **14th February** is when we celebrate love and remember St Valentine. He preached the love of God and wanted to show that same love, even in a dank dark prison. He wanted to add **light** ... and **love**, foundations that were already strong in his own life. **Who needs to experience the love of God ... will you pray for them?**

This evening we have HCC and the reading for the day is **Mark 5: 21-end**. This will be a familiar story to many, but I feel, with the familiar, it has a fantastic message for the start of this month. Jesus was busy ministering to the crowds. Wherever Jesus went, people would magnate to him. They wanted a piece of the Kingdom, they wanted to see, hear and experience that love, grace and mercy that God gifts through Jesus. **Do our lives reflect this same love of God?** Do people want to be in our presence because we are filled by the Spirit of God? As Jesus worked, Jairus came, pleading with him to heal his daughter who was gravely ill. Jesus listened but before he could seek her out, he was side tracked by an elderly woman who had touched his cloak. She too had a deep need for healing after many years of discomfort. Jesus took time to engage firstly with the crowd, then with the woman, and with Jairus' distress. Jesus was informed the girl has passed away and his presence was no longer needed. Jesus disagreed and went to her house. I love this part of the account, as Jesus simply whispered the words, 'Talitha Koum' which means, 'little girl, get up'. This she did! Evangelism, healing and resurrection in one account.

This story shows Jesus bringing light to the general population, to an older member of the community and to a young girl. Every generation, called to be children of God. Jesus did not give Jairus the synagogue official priority, but all received the same gift.

Does this encourage us with our walk with Jesus? God is concerned with the little as well as the big. He sent Jesus to bring individuals into the kingdom, whatever their age or status. How do we use our time? Do we look out for the widow and the orphan? Do we spread light and bask in the light of Christ ourselves?

So how are you feeling about February? Are you ready to make a difference in your own life or in the life of another?

We need to work to ensure we have our own foundations strong, building our lives with bricks that are in the **light** and using mortar that fills with **love**. After that, we are strong enough to reach out to others and respond to their call.

As we travel with February, and always: be assured that Jesus, Salvation, God with us, is ALWAYS with us and His light will give us the strength and confidence we need for any call. **Let us be determined to become a person who shines with the hope that is within us**, because we know the everlasting Father, Emmanuel. Isaiah put it neatly... *“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength”* (Isaiah 40). **Be renewed** and let’s **look to the light and walk in the light**, spreading **light** and **love**, because with the Christ-light, the darkness will **never** and can never put it out.

Halewood: **are you ready for our lights to shine?!** *Matthew*



Our clergy have been engaged in serving home communion to some of our housebound members.

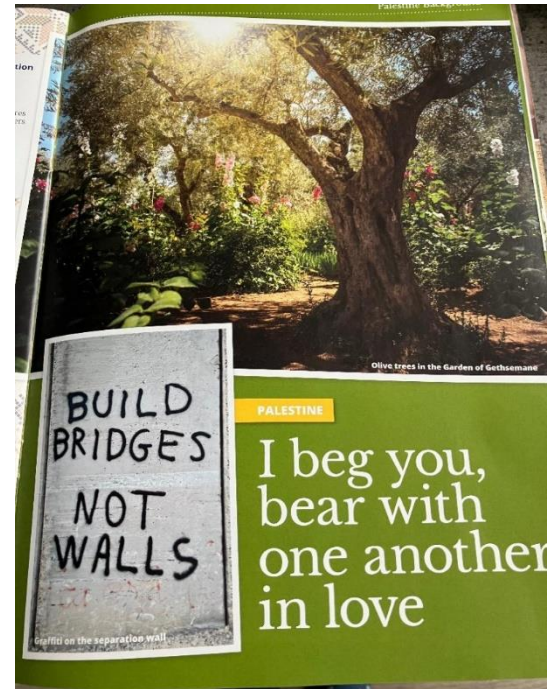
FEBRUARY SERVICES

- Sunday 4th February: ***Epiphany 5/2nd Sunday before Lent (Isaiah 40.21-31, Mark 1.29-39)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Adam Grey
11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Matthew Hargreaves
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan
- Thursday 8th February: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 11th February: ***Transfiguration/Sunday before Lent (2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9)***
10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Julia Pratt
11.00 am St Nicholas GMJC/Parade: Matthew Hargreaves
12.15 & 1 pm Baptisms: Andy Radford
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: David Goodwin
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Carol Burke
- Wednesday 14th February: ***Ash Wednesday***
6.30 pm Speke: Gareth Morgan – accessible online
- Thursday 15th February: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Phil Saltmarsh
- Sunday 18th February: ***First Sunday of Lent (Genesis 9.8-17, Mark 1.9-15)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship/Baptisms: Phil Saltmarsh
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan
6.30 pm St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Andy Radford
- Thursday 22nd February: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 25th February: ***Second Sunday of Lent (Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 & Mark 8.31-38)***
10.30 am St Mary: Joint service at St Nicholas: Carol Burke & Frank Hinds
11.00 am St Nicholas: Joint service: Carol Burke & Frank Hinds
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Andy Radford
- Thursday 29th February: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Andy Radford

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: FRIDAY 1st MARCH 2024 at 1.00 pm at St Nicholas Church, Halewood

STORY TELLING

We all have a story to tell. Some people don't want to share it, others are happy to and others long to have their story heard. It is said that often history is presented to us as HIS STORY. Every year in Hunts Cross and Halewood we are invited to an ecumenical event, A DAY OF PRAYER, in one of our churches to hear a story told to us by a group of women who began five years ago to share with each other their life experience in their own country. Over the five-year period this is translated into many languages and comes to us in the form of an act of worship.



You need to know how this all began. In the telling you will realise that people wanting to flee their own country by boat in the hope of a better life is not something just happening now.

THE BACK STORY

In the 1800s Liverpool was at the heart of this transition, the difference being we were LEAVING THIS COUNTRY because of religious persecution, poverty, inequality, and other reasons, to travel to America for a "better life".



Between 1830 and 1930 over 9 million people emigrated through Liverpool. Unfortunately, their dreams were only dreams, and the reality was there were no jobs, no homes and their poverty was not relieved.

Mary Ellen James, a Presbyterian Minister's wife, called together a group of concerned friends and they began by praying for guidance, which led to action. **THUS BEGAN A PRAYER MOVEMENT** which travelled the world.



1919 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

From then on "His Story" was accompanied by "HER STORY" and women all over the world were able to share at a deep emotional and spiritual level the concerns and challenges and demands of their lives, together with their joys and hopes. At the same time describing in words and images the natural environment they gave thanks for or mourned the loss of.

Through this we are able to understand our connection with one another and discover our need of each other.

OUR STORY

For over half a century, women from (then St. Andrew's RC), St. Hilda's Anglican, St. Columba's URC, Holy Family RC, St. Mark's RC, St Mary's Methodist/Anglican, St. Nicholas Anglican/Methodist Churches have joined together, ALWAYS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH, to join with people all over the world to tell the same story shared by women from a chosen country.

Each church takes a turn each year to invite everyone to share in this time of listening, singing, and praying together.



THEIR STORY

This year we will all gather at ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH to hear the story of the Christian women of Palestine.

THE WOMEN OF PALESTINE HAVE CHOSEN:

"I BEG YOU, BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE"

For the first time in our experience of over 50 years, the service has been written by women in a war torn area who, at the time of our day of prayer, might have been killed.

Jean Critchley

Christianity and Interfaith

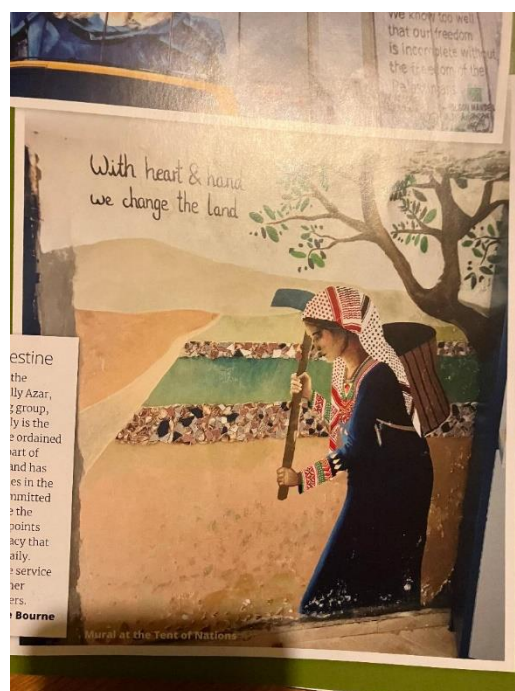
The **Christian Church in Palestine** is an active church rich in its history and diverse in its traditions, with a unique mission and calling. This area from which Christianity spread and many denominations arose is now represented mostly by the Orthodox church, though there is also a rich variety of Catholic and Protestant churches: Jerusalem alone is home to thirteen historically recognised churches throughout the Holy Land and worldwide.

Christian-Jewish interfaith connections are central in the ongoing conversation regarding Israel and Palestine. Christian-Jewish 'interfaith dialogue', which is strongly related to the long-term Christian mission to reconcile with the Jews after millennia of persecution by the Church, is the most constructive method of maintaining and preserving these hard won links.

Christians in Palestine seek to foster an interdenominational spirit across all denominations. This healthy ecumenical atmosphere does not guarantee a complete absence of struggle amongst the churches, but they have propagated the message of Jesus' Resurrection for two thousand years without interruption. Since the 1980s, all denominational heads or representatives have met monthly to discuss common concerns, grievances and positions to pursue. The **Jerusalem Interchurch Office** is a collaborative effort of the churches in Jerusalem, the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). Christians in Palestine continually strive to live the message of Jesus Christ, proclaiming equality, justice and forgiveness for all.

The World Day of Prayer

This spirit of ecumenical solidarity is demonstrated by the Palestinian women who participate in the World Day of Prayer. The National Committee in Palestine works in conjunction with a wide variety of organisations that are connected to the Christian Church, including the YWCA, the YMCA, Kairos Palestine, Bethlehem Bible College, the Justice and Peace Commission and Pax Christi International.



Palestine's involvement with the WDP movement has allowed Palestinian women to interact with over 100 countries since becoming involved in the 1950s, strengthening the Middle East's presence and witness.

The invitation to write the service in 2024 was accepted as an opportunity to reflect through the chosen scripture on continuing challenging times, encouraging Palestinian Christian women to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all the people who share the land, trusting for and hoping in the humanity of one another.

Prayer for Peace by Maureen Colbert

Dear Lord Jesus

Today we pray for the women of Palestine whose ancestors walked with you in the desert,

shared bread and fish with you on the hillside, waved palms for your entry into Jerusalem and

touched the hem of your cloak to receive healing.

Palestinian women today face many difficulties which curtail their freedoms as human beings and make living often dangerous and fearful.

We pray for peace:

Peace between beliefs,

Peace between heritages,

Peace between political affiliations and peace between nations.

You have the power to open the eyes of those in authority and make them see that bombs and bullets only bring destruction and never harmony.

In the country of your birth, boyhood, ministry and death, many are calling out for your intervention, to bring your peace into their troubled lives and make all things new.

Amen



Article and prayer taken from 'Together in Prayer' – World Day of Prayer 2024

Grants Update

Every year, the England, Wales and Northern Ireland National Committee award grants to registered Christian charities throughout the UK and worldwide. This is only possible due to the continuing generosity of those who attend the World Day of Prayer services. Alongside our regular international donations, our Development Grants commit us to supporting a five-year project and our Projects Grants are individual grants given for a specific project.

In 2022 we also gave one-off grants to seven charities we recommended as the writing country: Ascension Trust, Touchstone, Girls' Brigade, Teen Challenge UK, Corrymeela Community Northern Ireland and Raven House Trust.

Here are two examples of the projects and charities you have helped to support; more can be found on our website.

Support for young people

"We would like to thank World Day of Prayer EWNI National Committee and their sponsors for their kind donation towards the work of Teen Challenge UK.

Teen Challenge UK support those who are steeped in addiction, bringing hope and freedom in Christ, and the donation we received really helped us continue this.

Christmas can be a difficult time for our residents, missing their families and loved ones, so we like to make this time of year a little more special for them. The donation was used for day trips out and to help cater for the lovely Christmas and New Year dinners that we served to all of our residents in our main centres. We were also able to buy extra gifts for all our residents giving them a little surprise in their stockings.

Again, thank you so much for all your continued support and encouragement to the ministry of Teen Challenge UK, it is much appreciated." *Find out more at www.teenchallenge.org.uk*

Alleviating mental distress for workers at sea

"Our grateful thanks to World Day of Prayer EWNI for awarding us a grant of £1,196.00 to support our work in the Philippines, a country which provides more than 25% of the seafaring workforce.

Seafarers can be away from home for up to a year, which can have a huge impact on the families they leave behind. Many were away for even longer during the Covid pandemic over the past few years.

The money we have been awarded has been used to provide welfare services to help alleviate the mental distress caused by husbands and fathers spending long periods away from the family working at sea. The provision of counselling sessions, alongside mental health resilience workshops has provided emotional toolkits for these vulnerable families to use when facing the challenges of everyday lives as a one parent family and when life events such as bereavement increases the level of distress significantly.

We have also facilitated access to grants for those facing financial hardship - seafaring is a major source of employment in the community so the inability to work and loss of life at sea (seafaring is one of the most dangerous occupations in the world) can cause real hardship for the family and wider community. While the Philippines is a predominantly Christian country, we support those of all faiths and none." *Find out more at www.sailors-society.org*

FEBRUARY

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13). Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires. Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him. Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine. Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day. In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found: *'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'*

Thank you Parish Pump

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Saturday 10 February 2024 7.30pm

&

Sunday 11 February 2024 2.30pm

All Hallows Church Hall, corner Greenhill/Allerton Rd L18 6JJ

Tickets £12 via

- ticketsource.co.uk/bentley-operatic-society
- tel/text: 07503 334376 (before 23 January)
07523 679569 (after 23 January)
- email: info@bentleyoperatic.co.uk



THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED TO
TIDY THE ST NICHOLAS CENTRE AND
FILLED A SKIP!

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.

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.



Definition of a Committee:

"A committee is a dark avenue down which good ideas are lured and quietly strangled."

News from the Diocese

Get ready for Generous Lent

Generous Lent is a new concept, building upon the Generous Seasons series of stewardship resources we have developed over the last couple of years. Lent is a brilliant time to look at our own generous practices as we choose to draw closer to God in new ways.

Typically, this can be done by 'giving something up', reflecting on Jesus' journey in the desert, denying himself, and resisting temptation. We also interpret this as a time to 'begin something new', taking up a new practice to build healthy biblical practice in your life.

The Generous Lent resources include sermon notes and outlines, services including relevant readings and prayer stations to reflect on our personal journeys.

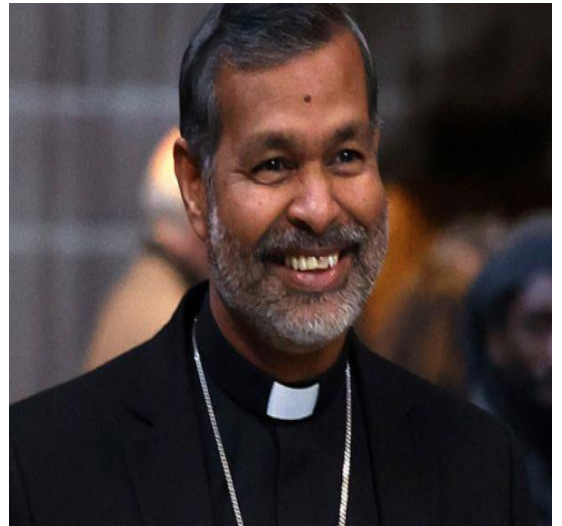
[See the Talking Money section on the website to download the resources.](#)

Bishop John: 'Let's Reclaim the Bible as our Story'

The Bishop of Liverpool has called for our focus to be on the understanding of the Bible and biblical study in all we do over the next and future years.

Bishop John said "We have the rule of life where we are encouraged to pray, read and learn and I would ask you think about how you use this discipline to reengage with your bible, to maybe delve into places that you haven't visited for a while. You will find great joy in the exploration. Our rule of life challenges us to continue to place scripture at the heart of what we are doing."

[Read the full letter from the Bishop on the Diocesan website - Let's Reclaim the Bible as our Story](#)



Racial Justice Sunday 2024

Racial Justice Sunday takes place on Sunday 11th February this year with a focus on movement and those who have had to move from their homelands to the places they now call home. Understanding the motivations behind this movement, exploring the journeys made and the reception received upon arrival.

But what does it mean for us, the Church, to seek justice for God's people on the move?

[Read the article by Racial Justice Officer, Jennie Taylor on the Diocesan website.](#)

PARISH WALK

We had our latest church walk today, Saturday 27th January, around Delamere Forest, we were 13 strong in number. It's one of our favourite places and this is our third visit in recent years.

It was a clear, still, and chilly day, one of those days when you need to keep on the move.

On our way, we pulled into the Petals Tea Room, in Frodsham, for our usual snack before each walk.

Once refreshed, we moved on to the lovely Delamere Forest and we were soon into the woods and heading for Blakemere Moss Lake. There we joined the dog walkers, pony riders, pedal cyclists, and other walkers around the perimeter of the lake, moving past heaps and heaps of pine logs from recently felled trees. It wasn't as busy as usual, maybe due to the chill factor. It's 6.1 kilometers (3.79 miles) around the lake, all on the flat and we were quickly around it and back at the Visitor Centre.



Phase two of our walk was labelled by Penni, our leader, as voluntary for anyone who still had gas in the tank. It was up the steep incline called Old Pale Hill, where there is a view out to seven counties. Penni and Ruth had completed a "recci" last week and they proudly said it only took them 20 minutes to climb. All of us still had gas in the tank and after synchronizing their watches Penni and Ruth led off, determined to do a personal best time. The

rest of us walked in their wake, at an easier pace and once at the top we congratulated them on a 13 minute trip, knocking 7 minutes off their last effort.

At the top of the hill, we eagerly spied out into the distance managing to recognize several landmarks, including the 4 remaining cooling towers at Fiddlers Ferry. However, the chill kicked in causing us to do a quick about turn back down the hill to the Visitor Centre. Once there, we had a group hug, thanked Penni for a great walk and headed home. *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.



Thank you from Channel

As always there was a great response from children at St Mary's and St Nicholas with toys at the Toy service in December. The toys went to a local Children's Centre and were distributed to families in need.

The staff of the Centre asked that their thanks be passed on to all.

Channel was the link to the Centre. Channel is a registered charity and was founded in 1969 by the Dean of Liverpool's wife, Margaret Patey, and Elwyn Owen, a social worker in Everton. The purpose was to link volunteers in the community with professionals in order to provide support for vulnerable families.

There were a number of groups across Liverpool; Halewood formed a group in 1978 and is the only one not in Liverpool.

The groups have been consolidated into three units, Channel North, Channel South and a Holding Group, which covers the centre of Liverpool. Halewood is part of Channel South.

Last year Channel helped 173 families, distributing over £13,000.

Our income is mainly from donations, fund raising events and grants from larger bodies; Garston Rotary gives Channel South a grant each year. We have also received grants from the marvellously named 'The Skelton Bounty' which conjures up vision of buccaneers. It is a long-established Lancashire charity.

Channel has no direct contact with the recipients of grants. Referrals are received from social workers, health visitors and teachers. They identify a need, make a referral and the grant is usually processed within a week of receiving the referral.

Typical requests are for stair gates, beds and cots, floor covering and for help with school uniforms. Sadly, we are receiving an increasing number of referrals concerning victims of domestic violence who have been re-located and are without resources.

We are an ageing body of trustees but are still active as need is always there.

If you want to know anything more about Channel please contact me on 0151 487 5710 or at colin.critchley@bluyonder.co.uk

Colin Critchley

DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Dates for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – Thursdays 15th February and 21st March 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

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



The Bible Course
Explore the BIG story

New to the Bible or want to go deeper? *The Bible Course* is for you. It shows how the key books, famous characters and epic events form one **BIG** story, from Genesis to Revelation. The course also provides **tools** and **skills** that help apply the Bible to everyday life.

This eight-session course is ideal for groups – big and small. Each session includes video content, discussion time, personal reflection and daily readings. Explore the **BIG** story and discover its relevance for today.

St Nicholas' Centre Halewood, Mondays 1.00pm - 2.30pm
Starts 19th Feb, email: revgarethmorgan@gmail.com to book a place
Also on Zoom (email for link)

St Hilda's Hunts Cross, Mondays 7.45pm - 9.00pm
Starts 5th Feb, email: parishcohhc@gmail.com to book a place

St Aidan with All Saints Parish Hub, Thursdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Starts 22nd Feb, email: speke.info@gmail.com to book a place
Also on Zoom (email for link)

£5 Voluntary Contribution for Course Booklet

Experience Easter

Experience Easter this year is from the 11th to the 14th March. Anyone able to offer time, between 9:00 and 15:00, to guide school classes through the story of Easter on any of the four days, is invited to meet at St Mary's after church, at 12:00, on Sunday the 18th February. *Mike Sutcliffe*

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. I have put together a plan, and I am going to have a meeting at St Mary's, after church, on the 4th February. The meeting is for anyone who can offer any time between Monday 29th July and Friday 3rd August. We will discuss my ideas for this year's holiday club, and it would be great to hear other peoples' ideas. *Mike Sutcliffe*

Youth Workers Gathering

We have received some funding to enable all the people who work with children in our circuit to gather together. Our gathering is for anyone with an interest in working with children and young people on behalf of the church. Whether you are currently involved with things such as Sunday School and Youth Groups, or you are interested in getting involved and would like to find out more, this will be a great opportunity to gather with others involved in youth work across the circuit. The plan is to gather for a late lunch at 14:00, on the 24th March, at Elm Hall Drive. We will spend some time worshipping together, and sharing what we are currently doing and any ideas we have for developing children's and youth ministry going forward.

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 4th to 6th 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 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.

Halewood Investment Masterplan

Some local residents have received maps and consultation documents about various developments being proposed for Halewood, including Wood Road and Leathers Lane Field and Higher Road.

These have gone to a fairly limited number of people, but the proposed plans will affect more people than have received the information. From the information Sheila Bersin has received it looks as if there will be a series of 'consultation/information' events.

Dates and venues are below, so if you want to find out what is being proposed, do go along to one of these events.

1. New Hutte Community centre Tuesday 23rd January 8.00 am – 1.00 pm
2. Halewood Leisure centre Saturday 27th January 8.00 am-1.00 pm and Wednesday 31st January 5.30 -9.00 pm
3. Halewood Shopping centre (mobile unit) Saturday 3rd February 9.00 am – 2.00 pm
4. Halewood Environment centre Monday 5th February 9.00 am – 12 midday
5. Hollies Hall Thursday 8th February 1.00 – 6.00 pm

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.

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.

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

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

Website: halewoodartgroup.chessck.co.uk



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, commencing Wednesday January 31st, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm at Hollies Hall, Hollies Road, Halewood.

Please contact begertoncoaching@gmail.com to book a place.

Halewood Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union meets on the first Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.00 pm at the St Nicholas' Centre. Sadly numbers in the group are dwindling and they would love to welcome some new members. The group has a programme of guest speakers and other events throughout the year. You don't have to be a mother to be a member and men (known as Muscle men) are also welcome. For more information, please speak to Lin Green or Lesley Webb.

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:

1 February: Tea/Toast and Natter

8 February: Craft Activity - Make a Bird Feeder from Natural Materials Led by Ranger Tony Leach

15 February: Tea/Toast and Natter

22 February: Tea/Toast and Bingo

29 February: Tea/Toast and Natter

A Message from Andy Radford - Prayer for our Churches 24 - 1 Wednesday 21st February and Wednesday 14th March

Growing deeper in our relationships with God and one another, broadening our reach into the community

We are planning two more prayer days for the Team and would invite you to join in.

As we have done before we will split the 24 hour period into 15 minute slots. We can then pick one or more of those slots in which to pray.

In your prayer time you can focus on our vision for the year (above) and our verse for the year - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119 v 105.

Our vision this year is in line with our Diocesan discipleship challenge to "Pray, Read, Learn, Tell, Serve, Give." We need to pray that we all may grow in these areas of our discipleship journey so that we may live up to the calling upon our lives. So let us not grow weary in doing good, because at the right time we will reap a harvest.

You can sign up by giving your name to me or Geoff Bullen at St Nicks, or Mark Harrison at St Mary's.

Something I also found helpful when praying recently was using Psalm 24 and 33 as a guide. I feel as we focus on these two psalms God will speak into our lives and churches.

Andy

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 (2nd Sunday) - on a rota once a quarter.

Baptism Sponsors – at the moment just at St Nicholas – approximately three or four times a year: supporting families during baptism services (12.15 pm and 1.00 pm on second Sundays). (But we would welcome a couple of volunteers for this role at St Mary's for the occasional baptism services which happen there.) *Contact Sally Moore, Baptism Secretary on halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com.*

Tea and coffee 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 or Emma Rooney emma.creasy@btinternet.com

For St Nicholas' creche contact Catherine Williams catherine12725@gmail.com

For St Nicholas' junior church contact Hayley McShane hayleymcshane84@gmail.com

For after school clubs at St Mary's: Jam/Boss/Next Level contact Mike Sutcliffe mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com

Volunteers are also often needed to help out with uniformed organisations (Rainbows/Brownies/Guides) – contact via <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Gardening/Churchyard clearance – occasional gardening working parties at both churches.

For St Nicholas contact Geoff Bullen geoffbullen@btinternet.com

For St Mary's contact Pam Boffey pam.boffey@hotmail.com or Dave Crerar d.r.crerar@btinternet.com

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. 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 and I will send you one.

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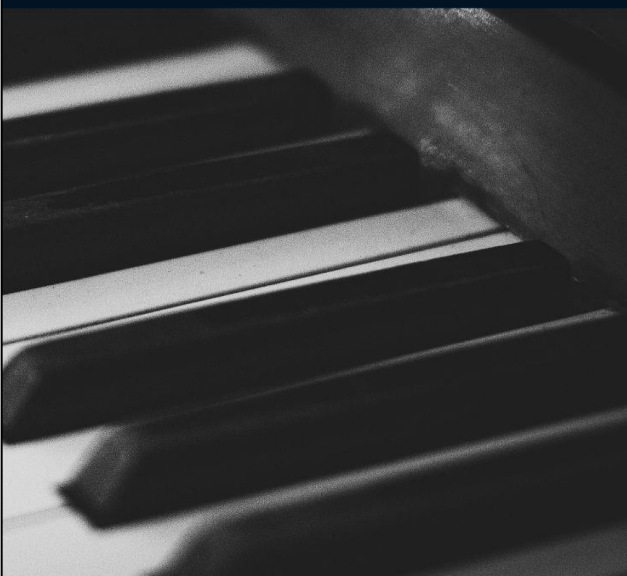
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