# **LOCKDOWN PICTURES** week 6/8

This week's Lockdown 6 visits slide show link below another lovely set of pictures.

We need as few more for next week please and don't forget your 'Christmas greetings' to everyone pictures (Feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers whilst holding up your cards) the link to this week's slideshow is

https://youtu.be/8zB89-wyaSI

nother of Ken's lovely slideshows of beautiful places to visit close to home and a little bit further afield

https://youtu.be/1CbsLAZEzK8

We probably have one more week to go of pictures of visits and then will be moving onto our 'Christmas Greetings' slide show in mid December

Please remember to send you Christmas greetings pictures in as soon as possible

It should show you/your family holding up a sign to wish all your friends at our churches a Happy Christmas. Feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers, reindeer antlers, Santa hats whatever. Ken needs your photos by the first week in December.

This is the last of our Lockdown Visits slideshows.

Thanks to everyone who, over the last couple of months, has sent in such amazing photos of places you have visited since Lockdown began

It's been lovely to see how many fantastic places we have nearby and I know that it has encouraged others to go and visit some of these places themselves

Some of the pictures have been of places a little further afield and hopefully give us all something to look forward to when we can start making plans again

There will be a break of a couple of weeks now and then we will have our 'Christmas Greetings' Slide show I'll email separately about that

A big thankyou to Ken Allen who has done such a fantastic job in putting these slide shows together. Link to today's slideshow

https://youtu.be/pVFEI\_70-is

Alison







See www.traidcraftshop.co.uk for more products containing the revolutionary FairPalm.

## **JESSE TREE ADVENT**

Andrew Parson's put together a very special Advent Calendar It will be on our Facebook page each day. If you are on Facebook the link is below

https://www.facebook.com/HalewoodParish Alison



Halewood Parish Regular Activities			
DAY	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Time</u>
SUNDAY	St Nicholas' Centre	Junior Church	11.00-12.00
	WI Hall Bailey's Lane	Drama Group	19.00-21.00
MONDAY	St Nicholas' Centre	Rainbows	18.00-19.00
		Bible Studio Group (Alternate weeks)	13.30-15.00
-15.30	St Nicholas Centre	Painting Club	13.00
-13.30			
TUESDAY LARS	St Nicholas' Cen- 09.15—11.00	tre	CATERPIL-
			2 <sup>nd</sup> H'wd
Brownies	17.00-	18.30	Guides/
Rangers	19.00 S t	-20.30 Mary's	100% Boss
Club	5 t 7 7 7 0 0 1 7 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	<b>-19.00</b>	
weeks)			(Alternate
	19.45	10.45	Next Level
18.45-19.45 (Alternate weeks)			
		•	-
	Scout Hut	Beavers	18.00-19.30
WED	St Nicholas' Centre	3 <sup>rd</sup> H'wood Brownies	
		Drama Group	19.15-19.00
	St Nicholas' Church	Bell Ring Practice. Jam Club	20.00-21.00 15.30-17.00
	St Mary's St Nicholas' Church	Knit & Sew	10am-12
	Scout Hut	Cubs	18.00-20.00
THURS	St Nicholas' Centre	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00
		Mothers' Union	13.30-15.30
		(1 <sup>st</sup> of the month) Vestry Hour	19.00-19.45

## St Nicholas and St Mary's Ecumenical Team Ministry

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Martyn Woodsford
The Rectory
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# The seven St. Nick's of Merseyside - a tale of troublesome towers and sacrificed spires... by Bryan McCahey Part 2

Part 2: Whiston, Sutton and Blundellsands

The next two St. Nick's are fine Victorian churches on the eastern side of Merseyside, at Sutton and Whiston, respectively. Both churches stand in former coal-mining territory, a consequence of which is that neither received its intended spire due to fears of subsidence. The third St. Nick's at Blundellsands, did not even manage a tower, let alone the intended spire...

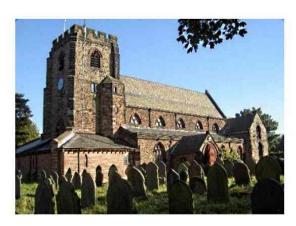
**St. Nicholas, Sutton**, on the outskirts of St. Helens, was founded in 1841. The ancient parish of Prescot has long been in the patronage of King's College, Cambridge. In 1841, to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of its foundation, the College agreed to pay £500 towards the cost of erecting a new church to serve district of Sutton, formerly in Prescot parish. The church was built in 1846 and dedicated to St. Nicholas, one of the patron saints of King's College. The architects were the renowned Lancaster partnership of Edmund Sharpe and Edward Paley and the total cost of the building and expenses was over £3900. Unfortunately, this was significantly more than had been budgeted for, so King's College increased its contribution to £1270.



There were still insufficient funds for the church tower and it was not until 1897 that this feature was added through the gift of Charlotte Hughes of Sherdley Hall. It was built to a simplified design with only one bell and without the intended spire (shown left in an architect's drawing). This was no doubt a wise decision as nearby St. Anne's RC Church – which was completed with its lofty spire - had to be completely demolished and replaced by a more modest structure in the 1970s, following mining subsidence. St.

Nick's Sutton is a Grade II listed building with its original Father Willis organ still in regular use. Gas lighting was provided in 1889 and remained in use until 1949 when electric lighting was finally installed. In 1992, a modern extension containing toilets, kitchen and new vestries was added to the church. There are no fewer than twenty-nine Commonwealth war graves in the churchyard.





Six miles away from Sutton, **St Nicholas' at Whiston** was
consecrated on 30 July 1868 to the
designs of George Edmund Street, one
leading church architects of the day.
The land was purchased and donated
by Rev. Ellis Ashton, vicar of Huyton,
and the foundation stone was laid in
1864 by Daniel Willis Esq. member of a
prominent local family. As to why the
church was dedicated to St. Nicholas,
Ellis Ashton's father was named

Nicholas and his son was baptised Miles Nicholas.

As at Sutton, the original design for St. Nick's Whiston featured a tall spire but concerns about mining subsidence led to that design being abandoned. Thus, the tower has remained with its rather blunt, flat top since then. There is a Father Willis organ and stained glass by numerous artists including Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. The churchyard contains five Commonwealth war graves.

St Nicholas' Church, Blundellsands, near the Crosby shore (hence the maritime dedication) began life in 1870 as a pre-fabricated iron church by the sand-dunes. The current church building was erected in 1874 by Hays of Liverpool, who initially planned an imposing north west tower and spire. This was never executed due to escalating costs and fears that the soft, sandy soil would never be able to support such a structure. Nevertheless, Hays erected a very fine church at a cost of £5000. The building was enlarged and enriched over the following twenty years. In particular, noted local architect, William Caröe, was commissioned to transform the interior. Remarkably, Caröe worked on the church from 1890 right through until 1927, adding choir stalls, panelling, screens, side chapels, stained-glass windows and decorative stencil work to the roof timbers. The result is the exceptionally fine interior that can be seen today.



of



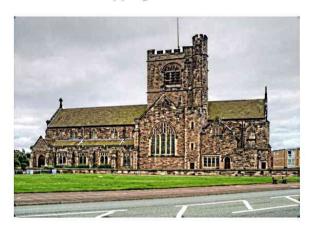


# The seven St. Nick's of Merseyside - a tale of troublesome towers and sacrificed spires... by Bryan McCahey Part 3

Part 3: Wallasey and Greasby

Our final two Merseyside St. Nick's belong to the Diocese of Chester and take us 'over the water' to the Wirral peninsula.

**St. Nick's Wallasey** was built in 1911 by brothers Frederick James and Sir Heath Harrison, in memory of their parents, Jane and James Harrison (of the Harrison Shipping line family). This large and splendid church seats 700 and is also known as the Harrison Memorial Church as well as The Golfers' Church, owing to its proximity to Wallasey Golf Club. In fact, a stained-glass window depicting two golfers adjacent to an image of Christ walking in cornfields, caused controversy when it was first unveiled. The building's architect was J Francis Doyle and the church, with its 75 ft central tower, can be seen from the sea. The architect's dilemma of constructing a large church on sandy soil, complete with a tower and weighty peal of eight bells, was overcome by building it on a floating 'raft' of steel and concrete. The dedication to St. Nicholas is clearly due to the church's proximity to the sea as well as the shipping association of the founders.





The 'baby' of the seven Merseyside churches featured in this article is **St. Nick's**, **Greasby**, near West Kirby. This church can be found on Arrowe Road and first opened its doors in March 1966. The villages of Greasby and neighbouring Frankby were originally farming communities, both served by one church: St. John the Divine, Frankby (built in 1862 and originally part of the ancient parish of St.

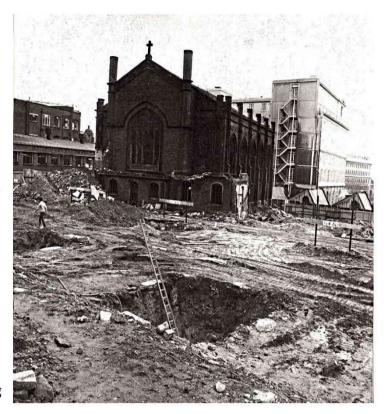
Bridget, West Kirby). The population of Greasby expanded from 200 before WW2 to about 8,000 by the 1960s and St John's was on the fringe of the conurbation, so a new church was needed for Greasby. St. Nicholas' was built as a multi-purpose building with no fixed pews, on the site of an existing community centre, the site having been purchased by the Diocese of Chester. The building work was carried out by members of the local community. Although it is not of architectural note and does not have a long history, it is



nevertheless well used and much loved by its congregation. There is no troublesome tower or spire to vex the architect or cause any safety concerns to this modest but well-maintained church!

#### Post-Script

There was formerly an eighth church on Merseyside dedicated to St. Nicholas. Built in 1813, St Nicholas R.C. Chapel, Hawke Street, Liverpool, served as the Pro-Cathedral for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool from 1850 until 1967, when the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King was opened The building, complete with small cemetery and burial crypt, was demolished in 1973 to make way for the Royal Mail Sorting Office on Copperas Hill. A plaque identifying the church site was formerly on the sorting office exterior wall. The sorting



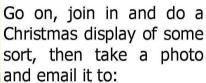
office has since been demolished to make way for a new student hub for John Moores University, but where has the plaque gone? Does anybody know?



### **November Flowers**

Last month we included Harvest arrangements and invited you to join in and make an arrangement yourself. Well nobody else has joined in for the foliage challenge so there are just 3 photos.

The arrangement to the right does have some 'flowers' but all materials came from the garden.



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before the 23rd December and we'll feature it in the next magazine.

Any link to Christmas is acceptable and it could be made with artificial flowers...we mix fresh and silk for church to reduce the costs, so no need to spend a fortune (and ivy grows everywhere so help by pruning a bit while you are out walking).



# **The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy**

"I have been especially touched by one such project, The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, which has been proposed by Commonwealth countries wanting to harness their collective expertise and resources to protect the world's forests."

☑The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), conceived by the Right Honourable Frank Field MP, was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, in 2015. The QCC is a unique network of forest conservation initiatives, which involves all 54 countries of the Commonwealth.



#### A unique opportunity for all 54 countries

☑The QCC presents a rare opportunity to unite the whole Commonwealth family and save one of the world's most important natural habitats – forests. By creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects, the QCC will mark Her Majesty The Queen's service to the Commonwealth while conserving indigenous forests for future generations.

The QCC is committed to raising awareness within the Commonwealth of the value of indigenous forests and to saving them for future generations.

It will create a unique network of forest conservation projects that brings collective and integrity to individual Commonwealth initiatives.

It will raise the profile of the Commonwealth, demonstrating the capacity of its 54 member countries to act together as one to ensure forest conservation.

It will use the Commonwealth network to facilitate knowledge exchange, share best practice and create new, collaborative initiatives for forest conservation.

It will create a physical and lasting legacy of The Queen's leadership of the Commonwealth.

#### With your help, we can make a huge difference

Every Commonwealth country has the opportunity to participate in the QCC by nominating and dedicating existing or future conservation projects that meet the broad objectives of the initiative.

Those countries with limited forest cover will also have the opportunity to participate through the planting of native trees, the conservation of other indigenous vegetation, or by supporting QCC partnerships with fellow Commonwealth members.

So far, over 45 countries are participating, with over 60 projects.

#### **Cost-free commitment**

A major advantage of the QCC is its utilisation of existing forestry resources and projects throughout the Commonwealth. Participation is free and comes without regulatory obligations for accredited projects. In fact, we believe helping to save the earth, shouldn't cost the earth.

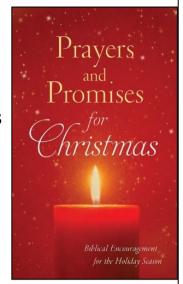
### Taken from www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org

### **ADVENT and CHRISTMAS RESOURCES**

This coming Sunday (29th November) is the first of Advent and I'm sure many of you will already have your Advent Calendars ready and waiting to start the countdown

Last year a number of us also did our Advent countdowns not just with chocolate but also with some reflections and a daily activity.

This year the Church of England has some Advent and Christmas resources under the heading 'Comfort and Joy' and each Sunday in Advent there will be a weekly reflection



https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy

You can find more about this here

In addition last year some people also used the Tearfund Advent material which included a daily reflection and activity

Tearfund are doing something similar this year under the heading 'Our Present Hope'

https://www.tearfund.org/en/about\_you/resources/christmas/ This link gives you more detail about this

And of course there is still time to sign up for our Deanery 24/7 prayer marathon during the first week of Advent

This is the sign up web site

https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/cb46c4/

This is the deanery web site with a few resources to use to help https://www.liverpoolsouthdeanery.org.uk/prayer/247-prayer.php

I'm receiving these Advent and Christmas email reflections from the Church of England and wanted to share them with you.

You can sign up on the Church of England's website: <a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/comfort-and-joy.">https://www.churchofengland.org/comfort-and-joy.</a> Alison







# PHOENIX PROJECT (Christmas Stocking Appeal)

Thanks to everyone who donated to our Christmas Stocking Appeal for the Phoenix Project for Homeless men and women. The items donated are pictured here ready to be collected, packed into Christmas stockings and distributed. Alison



# Do not be afraid - A Christmas reflection

## from the Bishop of Liverpool 2020

But the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid". (Luke 2:9)

This year has been marked by anxiety, chiefly of course anxiety about the Coronavirus. Will we, or our loved ones, get it badly? For some of course this is not an academic question - you or a member of your family may indeed have suffered from this illness - and for others there has been the deep pain of loss and bereavement, as a loved one has contracted the illness and has died. In such a world, where for months things seem to have been upside down, it is hard not to be afraid.

And yet over and over again that is exactly what we are told in Scripture: not to be afraid. The phrase is like an echo, repeated over 100 times in the Old Testament, over 40 times in the New. Within the chapters of the Christmas story Joseph, and Mary, and Zechariah, and the shepherds all hear this message of overcoming life - "Do not be afraid"..."Do not be afraid"... "Fear not". And in Mary's song (the Magnificat in Luke 1) we hear the pregnant young woman sing, in the midst of her bewilderment, when perhaps she was suffering over and over again the stigma of being with child outside marriage; still she sings: "...that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear".

To live without fear doesn't mean that all threat and worry vanishes, or that God will blow the virus away just because we believe in Him. And it's not a matter of will power, as if you can force yourself not to feel what you feel. Rather it's to put the landscape of your life in a different frame - a frame that is built by God's plan and God's purposes in Jesus

Christ. Do not be afraid, even if things go badly; because God is with you. Do not be afraid, because the promises of Jesus are for you. Do not be afraid, because the worst that life can throw at you is as nothing compared with the glory that has been set aside for you forever. Fear not, for (as Elisha said to his servant in 2 Kings 6) "...there are more with us than there are with them".

In the frame of God's providence and God's unfailing love, we can face the cold winds of the world for ourselves - just as Joseph and Mary did in their journey to Bethlehem. And there's more: by the Spirit of God we can be strengthened to offer hope and love to those around us, who may indeed be lost in fear and who need the joy and the quiet assurance that God truly enables us to give.

May God bless you in this anxious time - with hope for yourself and strength for your loved ones and your neighbours, and with the solid promise of eternal life. And may you indeed hear the repeated echo of Scripture speaking to you - Jesus is born, life will indeed conquer death; do not be afraid.

**Happy Christmas!** 



# **Share Joy**

### **A National Christingle Service**

Sunday 13 December at 9am (45 mins long)
The Children's Society is hosting an online Christingle
service in collaboration with The CofE. The service will include a few words from HRH The Duchess of Gloucester,
soprano singer Joanna Forest and young people lighting
the Christingles.



Host your own service

Order your free resources to plan a safe and memorable Christingle, whether online, in church or at home. If your church has already planned a Christingle service, then please let them know by registering here

# **SAFE FAMILIES UK**

Jen Radford has passed on details of a charity called Safe Families UK and a link to their website. The charity looks for help in three ways and the website explains these:



By donating
By praying
By volunteering

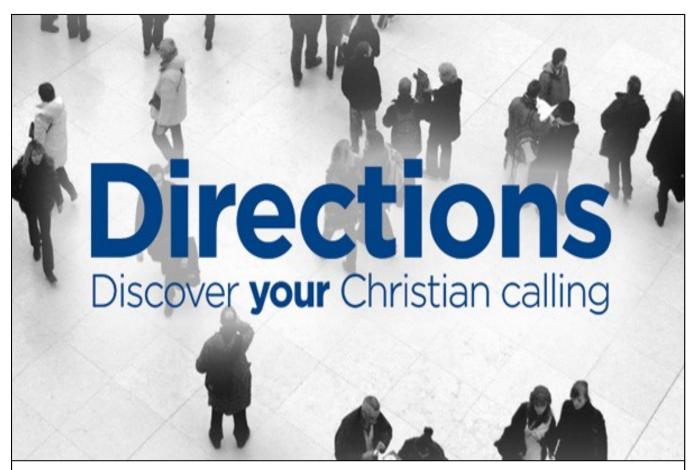
As Jen mentions below there are sometimes families in our area who are struggling and for whom the charity might be seeking support. This can range from being a supportive listening ear to taking children for trips out to having children for an overnight stay, training and support for volunteers is provided

It may be something with which some of you might be interested in becoming involved. I'm sure that Jen would be happy to provide more information

#### Jen writes

Here's the link to the website, which gives the ways to contact them about volunteering. They are an excellent Charity, and to my knowledge founded and staffed by Christians although they welcome volunteers of any faith or none. They do have families who pop up needing support on our team parish patch as well as nearby, so it would be amazing if we had a few volunteers from amongst our congregations who were interested. I'll post this to St Hilda's too Alison, and if there are a few volunteers who come forward, they might find it helpful to connect with each other to navigate the volunteer training etc and encourage each other perhaps.

https://safefamilies.uk/



### **New Directions course starting January 2021**

This year's course will take place online using Zoom. We hope this means it will more accessible for those people who have previously been unable to travel. Starting on 21st January. Be inspired by the stories of previous participants and find out more about how to apply to be on the course here.

For more details, access Liverpool Diocesan Bulletin News.

The Right Reverend Geoff Pearson E: geoff.s.pearson@outlook.com I retired to Rainhill from the Diocese of Blackburn in 2017. I am supporting Bishop Paul and am part of the ministry team at St.Ann's, Rainhill alongside the Rev. Alan Conant, with a focus on Platform 2 (An alternative to traditional worship.)

As a priority in my ministry I have highlighted a concern for children and young people. I also relish opportunities for evangelism. My life verse is from Psalm 96, "Proclaim every day the good news that God has saved us."

Before my role as Bishop of Lancaster I was for seventeen years Vicar of St.Bartholomew, Roby in the Huyton Deanery. I am a scouser from Wavertree and I rejoice at being back on Merseyside, especially with the proximity of Anfield. My wife Jean is a Reader and together we have led Alpha Away Days and Parish Weekends. We have both been involved with St.Mellitus and are just starting a new prayer group, mainly for Platform 2 but also for Revival!! We have three children and four grandchildren.

# **Eco Meeting on Zoom**

Karen, Ruben and I 'attended' tonight's Eco Zoom
Webinar (first one of those I've been to) which Liz
Atherton hosted. Bishop Bev did the opening and closing
Great motivational talk by Rachel from Operation Noah, although she went so fast it was hard to keep up with her
And two churches (Huyton (just starting off) and Croxteth
(about to get gold award)) talked about their experiences.



### https://operationnoah.org/

The Operation Noah website-Linda- might have some resources to use for magazine articles. Croxteth shared some useful ideas such as using a baby bath to make a wildlife pond and old washing up bowls sunk in the ground to make a row of small ponds Collecting seeds and sharing them (We've already been doing a bit of this) Using Lent as an opportunity to focus on eco issues

Croxteth are using the 360 degree Carbon tool which is provided by A Rocha who run the Eco Church project which looks at various areas where churches can improve their carbon footprint. https://360carbon.org/about. I haven't signed us onto this yet but It is apparently a very detailed document and so they are taking one area at a time and in 2021 are planning to do a travel survey to make people aware of how much they travel and thinking about the impact this has. Huyton are going to make every fifth Sunday an Eco themed Sunday to keep reinforcing the message. So a few more things to add to our list Alison

### **OPERATION NOAH**

Operation Noah is an ecumenical Christian charity, based in the UK, that campaigns exclusively on climate change. Trustees are cross-denominational, with members from the Catholic, Anglican and free churches. The charity is managed by the Chair (Dr Isabel Carter) and



Board, with a small number of support staff. It is funded through supporter donations and grants.

Operation Noah was founded in 2004 by Christian Ecology Link (CEL), with its official launch in October that year. It gained charitable status in 2010.

In October 2009, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, gave the Annual Lecture at Southwark Cathedral, speaking on 'The Climate Crisis: A Christian Response'.

In February 2012, Operation Noah launched The Ash Wednesday Declaration, a theological response to climate change. The document was signed by a number of church leaders including Rowan Williams.

In September 2013, Operation Noah launched Bright Now, a campaign for UK church disinvestment in fossil fuel companies. **See Wikipedia for more details.**