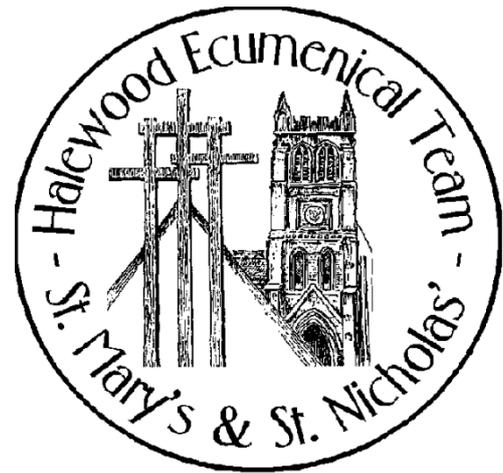


ST NICHOLAS' AND ST MARY'S:
THE HALEWOOD LOCAL ECUMENICAL
PARTNERSHIP
*ANGLICAN AND METHODIST
TOGETHER IN HALEWOOD*



HALEWOOD CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2016



THE HALEWOOD LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
IS A REGISTERED CHARITY, NUMBER 1151632

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Halewood
LIVERPOOL
L26 6LA
0151 487 9965
halewoodparish@btconnect.com

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

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

HALEWOOD CHURCH COUNCIL

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

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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

The purpose of HCC, as set out in clause 2 of the constitution, is:

“to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches.”

The two churches, St Mary's and St Nicholas', relate to the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool and the Liverpool District of the Methodist Church; and to the Anglican Deanery and Methodist Circuit which cover the South of Liverpool. (St Mary's church was, from the beginning, a shared Anglican/Methodist building. St Nicholas' remains an Anglican building.)

Worship and Ministry in both churches reflect both Anglican and Methodist traditions.

In achieving its purpose, HCC engages in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- a) the celebration of public worship;
- b) the teaching of the Christian faith;
- c) mission and evangelism;
- d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved

- e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs; and
- f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Both churches have District Church Councils (DCCs) to which local powers and budgets have been delegated. St Mary's DCC acts in accordance with its *Standing Orders*. The appointment of DCC members is governed by the *Church Representation Rules*. Previously, all those elected to either DCC were also automatically members of HCC. From the Annual Meeting in 2012, as a result of the constitution adopted for the LEP, 12 of those elected to St Nicholas' DCC and 12 of those elected to St Mary's DCC will become Trustees of the LEP and members of HCC. HCC may also co-opt two Trustees

For Methodist purposes, the LEP Trustees are the equivalent of the Methodist Church Council for Halewood.

Both DCCs have appropriate committee structures, although there may be differences depending on local needs. On occasion, there will also be cross-parish working groups, formed to deal with particular issues. These report directly to HCC.

CHARITABLE STATUS

Since 2006, churches, and other bodies established for the advancement of religion, are no longer automatically regarded as charitable, and have been required to demonstrate that their activities are for the benefit of the public. It has become necessary for churches to register with the Charity Commission.

We took a major step towards this with the adoption of a new Constitution at our Annual Meeting in April 2012. And, as of 12 April 2013, we now have a charity number (1151632) and an entry on the Charity Commission website (charity-commission.gov.uk).

The contact for the HLEP Charity is Katherine Cooper, via the Parish Office.

HCC TRUSTEES

The annual meeting of the HCC (LEP) was held on 25th April 2016. The following people are currently LEP trustees and HCC members. Elected trustees hold office for a term of three years. :

EX OFFICIO

Frank Cain (from October 2015)
 Andrew Fox (until 31 July 2016)
 Margaret Oultram (until 31st July 2016)
 Alison Shacklady

ELECTED FROM ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH (MAX 12)

Joe Barlow	Stan Cargill	Kate Cooper
Tom Harrison	Pat Hatchard	Debra Kenwell
Gary Mason (until 14 Nov 2016)	Tim Mason	Steve Murphy
Les Richardson (until 25 April 2016)	Lesley Webb	Kathryn Griffin
Jenny Tasker (from 25 April 2016)		

All of these trustees were elected in 2015, except Kathryn Griffin who was elected in 2014 and Jennifer Tasker who was elected in 2016.

Gill Muir was co-opted as a member of St Nicholas' DCC as Gift Aid Secretary

Sandra Thomas and Graham Elliott were elected Churchwardens at the Annual Meeting in 2016. St Nicholas' DCC also appointed Gary Mason, Steve Murphy and Lesley Webb as Deputy Wardens, and Alison Shacklady as Lay Chair. Gary Mason and Steve Murphy resigned part way through the year.

ELECTED FROM ST MARY'S (MAX 12)

Henry (Harry) Birch	Pam Boffey	Vanessa Harrison
Carol Blakeborough	Gill Dover	Sandra Blackledge
Lee Burton (from 25 April 2016)	Mark Harrison	Delia Jepson

All of these trustees were elected in 2015, except Sandra Blackledge and Lee Burton who were elected or re-elected in 2016.

St Mary's DCC appointed Carol Blakeborough as Lay Chair.

CO-OPTED (MAX 2)

Sandra Thomas, Graham Elliott.

HCC ACTIVITIES IN 2016

SECRETARY

Kathryn Griffin was elected Secretary to HCC. Our thanks to her for all her hard work.

2016 was another busy and significant year for the Church Council. We continued with our pattern of holding DCC meetings for both churches on the same night, and in the same venue, as HCC meetings. Among the matters discussed by HCC were the following:

- Faculties
 - For work on establishing a new Woodland Memorial Garden adjacent to the existing churchyard at St Nicholas' Church and for completing the work, agreed in an early faculty application, to other sections of the churchyard.
 - A dedication board for the bells to be sited close to the door of the belltower
- Finance
 - Including making sure that both churches are in a healthy situation financially, and paying their Parish Share to the Diocese and their Assessment to the Circuit.
 - HCC is responsible for submitting annual accounts that cover the work of both churches, the St Nicholas' Centre and the Nursery. The accounts form part of this report.
 - HCC reviews and agrees the charges that we make for weddings and funerals.
- Safeguarding
 - HCC takes very seriously its responsibility to make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children.
 - The safeguarding policy developed by HCC is being implemented across the Halewood-Hunts Cross Team.
 - Health and Safety, Risk Assessment
- Employment
 - HCC is responsible for the employment of the Parish Administrator, Parish Bursar, St Nicholas' Centre Premises Officer and the Nursery staff. In 2016, HCC reviewed the pay of the Administrator, Bursar and Premises Officer. The contracts and pay of Nursery staff were handled by the Nursery Committee.

HALEWOOD AND HUNTS CROSS MINISTRY TEAM

The Liverpool South Deanery Mission Plan committed St Mary's and St Nicholas', Halewood, to working as a 'cluster' with St Hilda's, Hunts Cross, so that the three churches – St Mary's, St Nicholas' and St Hilda's – would be served by two full-time ordained Anglican clergy working across both parishes. Since July 2012, the Church in Halewood and Hunts Cross have worked together as The Halewood and Hunts Cross Team.

Halewood continues to operate as an Anglican-Methodist Ecumenical Partnership, but Hunts Cross does not formally participate in this.

In November 2016 Rev Frank Caine, the Rector, announced that he would be leaving Halewood to take up a new appointment within the Diocese.

The Team Council, set up when the Halewood- Hunts Cross Team was formed, comprising members from each church, has continued to meet throughout the year.

Until summer 2016 Methodist Ministry in Halewood was provided by the services of an ordained Minister and a Children and Pastoral Worker.

For the latter part of 2016 Methodist Ministry has been overseen by the South Liverpool Circuit with Rev Jenny Rainer being the assigned Minister.

In 2016, the Team comprised:

ANGLICAN MINISTRY

Team Rector: The Revd Frank Cain (from October 2015)

Team Vicar: The Revd Jane Durham

Assistant Minister : The Revd Keith Hitchman (until autumn 2016)

NSM (With Permission to Officiate) The Revd Colin Critchley

READERS

Alison Shacklady

METHODIST MINISTRY

Minister: The Revd Dr Andrew Fox, who also served as Circuit Superintendent for South Liverpool, and in pastoral charge of Garston Park and Banks Road churches, left in July 2016.

Children and Pastoral Worker: Margaret Oultram (until July 2016). Natasia Bullock from September 2016.

LOCAL PREACHERS

Delia Jepson

Daren Murrall

TEAM MEETINGS

The Ministry Team has a regular monthly business meeting.

Members of the Team who are available also usually meet for prayers at St Mary's on Tuesday mornings and for Communion at St Nicholas' on Thursday mornings, followed by an informal get-together at the St Nicholas' Centre Coffee Shop. These weekly 'Coffee Shop' meetings provide opportunities for us to catch up with one another; they also mean that parishioners who want to speak to a member of the Team know where to find us! Members of the Team value the opportunities and support that this meeting provides.

LIVERPOOL (SOUTH) CIRCUIT

The Methodist Church - Liverpool (South) Circuit is a registered charity (No 1134958). Its activities are described in this way:

The Circuit offers worship, including large celebrations, and has developed worship events including café church for young adults, events aimed at encouraging young women to fulfil their potential, young family worship and family activity days. A congregation has moved to a new outreach base following the sale of their church building and an after school homework club is being piloted in Toxteth.

Contact

Liverpool (South) Methodist Circuit Office
151 Garston Old Road
Liverpool
L19 1QL
0151 427 9082

Correspondence should be addressed to Ms Lee M Phillips, Circuit Office Manager, at the above address.

Harry Birch is the Halewood Representative to the Circuit. Mark Harrison, of St Mary's, is a Circuit Steward.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

All three churches in the Team belong to the ecumenical group Churches Together in Halewood and Hunts Cross. As well as the ministers of the Halewood-Hunts Cross Team, this group included Fr. Vincent McShane of the Roman Catholic parish of St John Vianney, replaced by Fr. Matthew Nunes in September (which covers Halewood and Hunts Cross – the parishes formerly served by St Mark's, St Andrew's and Holy Family churches) and the Revd. Alan Crump (Minister at St James, Woolton, and St Columba's, Hunts Cross). Ministers from all the churches meet for lunch from time to time to discuss issues that affect them.

In 2016, the churches met together on Good Friday for an open-air act of worship in Hunts Cross (followed by a bread and soup lunch at St Hilda's).

THE HALEWOOD-HUNTS CROSS TEAM

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation Service took place at St Mary's on 20th November 2016 when Bishop Stephen joined the Revd Caroline Ainger in confirming candidates from all the Team in both Anglican and Methodist traditions. At this service a number of Candidates both adults and children were confirmed.

We continue to prepare candidates from Halewood and Hunts Cross (young people from around the age of 13, and adults) for Confirmation in both traditions.

TEAM WORSHIP

The churches of the Team continue to run regular corporate worship. On Sunday mornings each church has a mid-morning service, as well as early morning celebrations at St Nicholas' and St Hilda's.

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month our mid-morning service is usually a Joint Communion Service at one of the three churches in the Team. We also tend to worship together as a Team on the Sundays following Christmas and Easter. This is usually a more informal service.

Members of the Team meet quarterly to plan services for the coming months. This has proved to be a very helpful arrangement, enabling us to offer a variety of worship styles across the Team.

WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We are proud that, since 2006, St Nicholas' and St Mary's have held the Diocesan Child Friendly Church Award. In 2015 we were successfully reassessed for this award.

Our thanks also go to Margaret Oultram (until September 2016), who was the Ministry Team member with responsibility for work with children and young people, and to Gill McIver our Under 18s Coordinator and Safeguarding Verifier. We welcome Natasia Bullock who joined us in September 2016 and has taken over from Margaret.

In 2016, our work with children and young people continued to be an important part of our parish life.

St Nicholas' crèche facilities during morning services were well used and **Junior Church** also met during term time.

GMJC has continued largely on the 4th Sunday of the month at St Mary's as an alternative form of all age worship. The service offers a multi-sensory way of worshipping. The congregation for this service has increased steadily but can fluctuate with school holidays. Some families come to St Marys from their regular worship base of St Nicholas and some come to church just once a month only for the service. The St Marys Baptism secretary has encouraged baptism families to attend this service and this has been a successful strategy. As yet links with Jam club families have not been consistent and established. A number of congregation members have offered support for resourcing this service and this will be an area for development to ensure its sustainability.

Vineyard Youth Club is a thriving club for 11-16 year olds in our Parish. We run on Friday evenings in term time from 7.30-9.30pm at the St. Nicholas' Centre. The club provides a safe place for the children to be with their friends and relax in a non school environment. As well as more traditional activities such as table tennis and snooker, we have music and gaming, and in the warmer months, football, rounders and badminton on the field. We also run a tuck shop, and have an occasional barbecue in the summer. The Centre is well suited to these activities with its multiple room layout. We encourage the children to join with us at Parade Services, though attendance here is no longer mandated. We do encourage a Christian philosophy with the children, especially in the way that they relate to their friends, and are always available if they need someone to talk to.

We currently have 36 children on the register, and an average of number of 26 attend each week. We have 12 children on the waiting list. We charge only £1 per week subscription, which with tuck shop profits around 15% and is sufficient at present to cover our rent, equipment maintenance and renewal costs. The club account remains in credit and we have not had cause to dip into our reserves.

Finally the club could not run without our substantial army of volunteers. We have a team of 12 core and occasional helpers who give up their Friday evenings to provide at least 3 adults each week, which the club needs to run safely and effectively. Our thanks go out to these lovely people.

'Next Level' meet on alternate Tuesday evenings and is aimed at young people aged 11 and upwards. We would like to meet weekly, but the young people's diaries can only make Tuesday evenings, so we continue to meet alternate weeks to 100% Boss Club. This group is well attended and we are growing in male members too. This group focuses on contemporary issues and how we can look to the Bible and God for guidance and support. We are creating a launch youth event in 2017 with the hope to bring church and non church youth groups together in fellowship across Halewood and Liverpool. We are continuing to deliver the annual weekend away at Beddgelert in Snowdonia as well as team building trips planned in for 2017.

JAM Club is part of the Children's University awards, which means that children attending get credits towards their graduation. Numbers are steady and the club has between 35-45 attending each week. There continues to be a large number of younger children attending. We are also blessed having some young people who are now in secondary education, who come and help as young leaders. We are also benefiting from some mums helping each week. We invite parents to attend a GMJC style of service at the end of each term, which includes a buffet afterwards.

JAM Club is for children in Reception Class up to Year 6, though many of the older children attend Boss Club, which meets alternate Tuesday Evenings

The session consists of biblical teaching, followed by crafts and/or cooking related to the day's theme. In the spring term the theme was Jesus' parables, followed by the events leading up to the Crucifixion and Easter.

At the end of the summer term children with regular attendance were awarded a prize of a book.

100% Boss Club over 13years, and is also Children University registered and well attended; numbers are steady at 12 and all come from Halewood C of E. Because of this we follow up their weekly Christian Value from school and explore in more depth.

Experience Christmas was held at St Hilda's Hunts Cross this year and was a success. We will be running Experience Church for the first time at St Nick's in the summer term of 2017 and will be offered to all Halewood Primary schools.

Schools Work: Weekly assemblies are delivered to Yew Tree Primary School by Natasia Bullock. Natasia, and small team of volunteers, also run weekly lunch time and after school clubs. These clubs are following the stories in the Bible in a chronological idea and are explored through drama and creative arts. Lunch time is well attended and is full at 15 members and afterschool is currently less at 7 members.

Weekly collective worship assemblies are delivered to Halewood C of E by Natasia Bullock. In addition to this Natasia runs a lunch group called BAFTA Bible for KS2 which is fully attended with a waiting list. This club creates plays to recreate Bible morals and stories for the rest of the school to watch, for example The Easter story.

Natasia also has a full day with each class in both Yew Tree and Halewood C of E scheduled throughout the school year. In these days she explores a theme or Bible story in more depth and creates an assembly/play with them to present to the rest of the school. These days have been received very well within the schools.

Contact has also been made with Halewood Academy and we have worked with St Andrew the Apostle Primary school through working with year 4 exploring the theme of women in the Bible.

As a parish we continue to be blessed with the number of volunteers who are willing to commit their time and energy for the children and young people. Their dedication and enthusiasm is very much appreciated. We thank all those who give generously of their time and energy.

Holiday Club 2016

The 15th Holiday Club was held at St Mary's in the summer with good numbers attending each day.

It's encouraging that we have a large group of young helpers who were once themselves children who attended the holiday club. All the chairs and church furniture are removed, so that the whole room (and part of the Care Centre) can be used for the activities.

The title of Holiday Club this year was "Pyramid Rocks", which is the story of Joseph. Each day started off in groups with an activity based on the theme for that particular day. This was followed by a drama put on by the leaders, and learning the theme song. After some energetic exercises the children (and leaders!) welcomed refreshments. The children then had a choice of activities, including various crafts, cooking or drama, which were then shown to the other groups during a plenary session. Lunch was at 1 o'clock, after which the under 6 year olds went home.

After lunch each day there was a competition, in groups, such as building a pyramid out of cardboard boxes, with certain conditions on its shape, size, etc. This was always fiercely competitive, and thoroughly enjoyed. Finally, the children wrote a newspaper article for the daily newspaper, printed out overnight, and given to the children the following day. An alternative was to help construct a large model relating to the theme, for this year a scene beside the River Nile, with fields (and lots of sheep and cows!), houses, boats and a palace.

Holiday Club starts with a service on the previous Sunday, and ends with a service on the following Sunday, which the parents are encouraged to attend. One activity from each day is taken and demonstrated to the parents, to give them a flavour of Holiday Club. All crafts made during the week are on display, for the parents to see, and at the end of the service the children are allowed to take them home.

Holiday Club would not happen without a great deal of planning and preparation by Margaret and her team of leaders, which starts at the beginning of the year. For the week itself, many church members (including some from Garston Park) help to run it, as do a number of teenagers. The immense contribution of all these people is recognised by a meal out together.

UNIFORMED GROUPS

Uniformed Groups for girls – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides - continued to meet at the St Nicholas' Centre. As usual they held a number of events and trips, some of which were enjoyed with other packs in the Division.

Uniformed groups for boys – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – while not formally affiliated with the church, nevertheless maintain a good relationship with us.

Along with their own activities, the Uniformed Groups attend a monthly Church Parade Service at St Nicholas', with groups taking responsibility for readings and prayers, and sometimes offering songs and other contributions to the church's worship.

GUIDING

Guides

We have 40 guides attending regularly aged from 10 to 14. We have a team of 5 leaders and 2 young leaders (aged 14 – 18).

The team consists of Dorothy Sumner, Barbara Eva, Katie Brown, Lauren Mubery and Lisa Schears all qualified leaders trained with Going Away With Guides, Safe Space and 1st Response qualifications.

Guiding is 'girl led' with their input being paramount to the running of the unit. We enjoy many activities including trips away from the meeting place, camping, holiday indoors, crafts, cooking indoors and out of doors and achieving badges on a variety of subjects.

2nd Halewood Brownies

As usual this has been a busy year, with a 24 Brownies registered most of the year. Many badges were earned, either as a whole Pack or in small groups or individually, including First Aid, Healthy Heart, World Guiding, Home Safety, Swimmer, Advanced Swimmer and Brownie Traditions.

In the summer we each made ourselves a crown, and had a party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. A great time was had by all.

Two weeks were spent helping the Brownies to develop their self-esteem and body confidence, resulting in the Free Being Me badge being awarded.

In the autumn we spent a day at the Catalyst Museum in Widnes, along with over 200 other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from all over the North West. They all enjoyed an action-packed day, and each girl took home a piece of soap which they had made.

A few of us went to Tesco in Widnes, where we were shown around parts of the shop which customers are not allowed in, including the canteen and the bakery. With some trepidation we all went into the enormous fridge, and were glad to get out! We weren't allowed in the freezer next door, though our fantastic guide went in, clad in a thick insulated coat. She told the Brownies that is what she wore when she went out in the evening, but somehow they didn't believe her!

Another trip which we had was to Belle Vale Fire Station. The first half an hour was spent waiting for the firefighters to return from a callout, but when they returned they told the Brownies a lot about fire safety, which enabled them to earn their Fire Safety badge. They were then shown around the fire engine, and those who wished were allowed to sit inside the cab.

The last outing of the year was to the Halewood Drama Group's pantomime in the WI Hall. They did a lot of singing and shouting – oh, no they didn't – OH, YES THEY DID!

We returned to the Catalyst in early November, where we had free run of the museum after it had closed, and then, after watching a film, slept on the top floor (the glass part). Great fun, but it did get rather cold during the night. After breakfast in the café we went to one of the labs to do some experiments with eggs, then in the theatre were shown some more experiments on static electricity. It was an experience the Brownies will remember for a long time.

Gemma Roberts, Georgia Stockton, Pam Boffey

ST MARY'S / ROSEHEATH CHILD CARE

31st August 2016 saw the end of an era. On that date, Halewood Church Council ceased to have responsibility for the Nursery. It brought to an end 44 years of St Nicholas and St Mary's congregations developing and supporting early years facilities in Halewood. It is a record of which we can be justifiably proud

The management team of Margaret Wilson, Pat Darlington and Alison Darlington formed a company and got off to a flying start gaining a 'Good' in an Ofsted inspection in November 2016. We wish them continued success.

HALEWOOD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halewood C of E Primary School provides quality education and schooling for children from 3 years to 11 years, with extended schools facilities of breakfast and afterschool club. Extensive extra-curricular activities linked to children's university take place each day.

The school has excellent facilities and resources for all children and has received a number of national accreditations including 'Most Inspirational Primary School' of the Year Award 2015 and most recently Outstanding commitment to sport in the Primary School 2016. Our aim is to develop the talents and abilities of each child and help them to achieve their full potential by providing a happy, safe, Christian school environment which promotes high achievement in a broad curriculum. Children and adults are encouraged to show respect for all and care of others and we foster an equal partnership with parents and offer them opportunities to develop and learn so they may support their children's learning. Together, we will ensure all members of our school community are healthy, safe and feel valued by encouraging them to make the most of their learning opportunities, appreciate the environment and make a positive contribution to fulfill our aspirations.

The school ethos is reflected in the motto, 'Where children believe, achieve and succeed.'

School Contact Details: Tel: 0151 487 5673

Website: www.halewoodcofe.co.uk

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

HCC has a policy for the protection of vulnerable adults which may be inspected on application to the Parish Office. DBS checks are undertaken on those who work with vulnerable adults on our behalf.

PARISH EVENTS AND NEWS

Halewood is a busy parish with a cycle of annual events and a number of one-off (and often memorable!) occasions. 2016 saw its fair share of both.

HALEWOOD CULTUREFEST 2016

The 2016 Halewood CultureFest, ran from Saturday 25 June to Sunday 3 July. Activities included:

- A Revue performed by Halewood Theatre Club
- A family picnic and It's a Knockout competition
- Pub Quiz at St Mark's Social Club won by a Team from St Nicholas'
- Drama workshop led by local thespian, Fiona Martin, at Arncliffe, where participants were taught to breathe, walk and talk, at the same time!
- A concert with performances by Memory Lane Singers; Halewood Community Choir and Knowsley Ladies
- Singalong a Mary Poppins at St Mary's with some great fancy dress
- An Arts and Crafts exhibition celebrating the many talents of local people
- The Great Halewood Bakeoff with music provided by Mason Brown Connection

Sadly the annual cricket match for the Patron's Pot had to be cancelled because of the weather.

This year St Nicholas' Church hosted two very successful performances of As You like it by Mate Productions part of Shakespeare North

Both St Nicholas' and St Mary's churches are well represented on the steering group for this annual event and a closing, open air service, took place on the Hilton Grace Field opposite St Nicholas'.

The CultureFest programme provides a real opportunity for our churches to play an active part in the community and to engage with residents in a wide range of informal, entertaining events.

The Halewood CultureFest was also nominated for a Liverpool Echo Pride of Merseyside award in the Community Group of the Year Category. Past and present members of the Steering Group attended the awards ceremony at a Liverpool hotel and although we did not win our category, just to be recognised in this way was a real achievement.

HALEWOOD PARISH MAGAZINE

The magazine is printed, collated, distributed and subs collected by Barbara Harrington and our volunteers – a considerable effort. We make no profit from it – indeed, a single colour page costs about 10p...Front and back cover. Annual Subscriptions - Are currently £4 for the 10 issues each year.

Content tends to be about past events whereas the weekly parish notes are up to date – listing events to come.

Church is about people and social activities which help to bind us together. The coffee shop at St Mary's has shown this – people enjoy meeting and chatting. I know that there are parishioners who can't get out and welcome the magazine. Still, we could do with a few more adverts - some church magazines I've seen have lots. Like most newspapers, the magazine is subsidised by the adverts!

Most of the content comes inevitably from a few contributors – a few letters commenting on the articles would be gratefully received! I have never received a reader's letter, yet!

Most of the articles are church-related, but I have tried to feature 'external' articles, e.g. Notable Churches, Notable Clerics, Halewood CultureFest, History of the WI etc.

I've been editing the Magazine for some years now.... Perhaps, we need to have a meeting/workshop To 'renovate' the magazine!
Colin West.

HALEWOOD MOTHERS' UNION

Halewood Mothers' Union meets regularly at the St Nicholas' Centre, on the first Thursday afternoon of each month. This year Halewood MU has had a variety of speakers.

We also managed to fit in a garden party, Easter and Christmas Communion and the occasional trip. The Mothers' Union also plays an active part in the annual Mothering Sunday service at St Nicholas'

Thanks go to our leader Sandra Thomas.

The Branch Enrolling Member is Sandra Thomas. Enquiries about MU can be addressed to Sandra at the Parish Office.

HALEWOOD PILGRIMAGE 2016

This year our pilgrimage was to St Andrews in Scotland with the group of 26 staying at Agnes Blackadder Hall, one of the university halls of residence. The pilgrimage included visits to Churches, Cathedrals and museums in the area including Rosslyn chapel with its amazing stone carvings. We received a warm welcome wherever we went. We ended each day with a service of Compline followed one night by a card-making session and another by a quiz night. The Pilgrimage ended with a service of morning worship on the sands at St Andrews made famous in the film Chariots of Fire.

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS

St Nicholas' and St Mary's each have a District Church Council (DCC), which is responsible for all matters that are specific to that church.

ST NICHOLAS' DCC

Pat Hatchard, Secretary to the DCC, recorded that the DCC met on 5 occasions in 2016, to consider the following matters, amongst others, in furtherance of its aims:

The faculty for the Bells Dedication Board was approved so the Board can now be installed in the Church Porch.

A new CD Player was installed and it was agreed that fund raising will be carried out to install a Hearing Loop.

Les Richardson stood down from the DCC, due to ill health, after serving since the 1970's.

It was agreed to reform the Finance Sub Committee and make the Committee smaller. The Committee to consist: of Church Wardens, Rector, Treasurer, Jan Fleming, Gill Muir and Lee Burton, with Frank as Chair. It was recognised that the Church is running at a loss.

C/E School raised funds for Church by holding a "Bake Off". Jean & Colin Critchley held an Open Garden Day to raise funds for the Hearing Loop system to be installed in Church. The Loop will cost approximately £1,000. Members of the congregation volunteered to take part in a "Talent Scheme" and a total of £3,386 was raised for Church funds.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission contacted Church and said that we have 9 such graves in our Churchyard. All nine graves have been located and a sign will be considered to be erected to indicate the location of the graves.

Changes were made to the Service Patterns in Church with the 9am Sunday morning Service changing from weekly to twice a month.

The Mother Board on the heating system had to be replaced at a cost of £1,455.

Quotes for the restoration of the organ are being sought.

A proposal was made that the DCC/HCC be re-structured, this means that the DCC's would not meet separately but just meet as an HCC every 2 months.

CHURCH FABRIC ST NICHOLAS

Early in the year we conducted a Building Assessment Framework Exercise as required by the Deanery. There were 10 sections to rate our building in terms of how fit for purpose it is. We scored very well overall, ending in the highest category. This is mainly thanks to the tremendous amount of work which has been done in the recent past. Some areas where we could improve had already been identified and it is planned to improve access to the churchyard and provide baby change facility for example. This latter item hit a hitch due to the need to move a radiator. A free-standing alternative is being appraised. A Bells Dedication Plaque was installed next to the tower entrance door, to mark the

installation of our new bells. Faculty was granted for the provision of a Woodland Garden of Remembrance in the copse area of the churchyard and the set aside element of the pathways improvement faculty was merged with it. Adjustments were made to balance the sound system. Special thanks are owed to a dedicated team of volunteers who keep the church interior looking spick and span. Also to Tom Beesley and Tom Harrison who keep our gutters and downspouts clear.

Whilst we continue to enjoy the results of the major reordering to the building and tower, we must remain aware of our responsibility to maintain the building in a sound, comfortable, accessible, safe and welcoming condition.

BELLS AND TOWER

St Nicholas' continues to enjoy its ring of bells installed in the strengthened tower in 2013. Since then the ringers have been trying to recruit learners and although this is slow work, there are now a small group of learners who ring at Halewood and also other towers in the area. There is ringing now for nearly every Sunday service and practice nights take place usually twice a month and are generally well attended. The ringers are very grateful for the support they continue to receive from other local towers.

WORSHIP

The DCC has a Worship Committee which meets when required.

The committee has not met in 2016 as decisions about necessary changes to patterns of worship during the vacancy were dealt with by the Team Council as they affected all three churches.

OUTREACH

Plan International

We continue to sponsor Oidoh Konate who is 12 years old and lives with her father, Djiba, mother Sogony and grandmother Velegoila in Macenta Guinea. Their house is made of unfired mud with a corrugated metal roof. She attends school and her favorite subject is maths. Almost half the population in Guinea are children under the age of 15 and over 1500 were orphaned due to the ebola epidemic there. Plan prioritized resources to help with prevention and recovery through education and hygiene. Fortunately, Oidoh and her family were spared and remain in good health. In 2016 Guinea celebrated one year of being ebola free. Plan continues to work with others to focus on child protection, reinforcing health and education structures to provide quality services to the people there. They are only able to do this through sponsorships such as ours. Velegoila has written to thank us for this with the message "May the almighty God protect you."

Traidcraft

2016 was another busy year for the "St Nicholas Fairtraders". Throughout the Year we held:

- 8 stalls after the parade service at St Nicholas
- 2 stalls at St Mary's
- 2 stalls at St Hilda's
- Annual coffee and cakes morning in November
- A Christmas Hamper raffle
- An Easter Egg Raffle.
- Had an evening at 2nd Halewood Brownies to do some Fair-Trade chocolate testing, Brownie bake off- crispy cake making and a power point presentation informing them about where the products come from.

We are repeating this at 60th Liverpool Childwall Brownies. We also delivered numerous individual orders to customers throughout the year.

There are 7 helpers at present ranging in age from 11-60+

Incoming money from stalls, coffee morning, teas and raffles: £1,718.85. Money from individual customers in region of £500. Total outgoing to Traidcraft for goods for stalls and customer orders: £2,481.36. Donations made to Christian Aid from the stall: £610. Money in bank account as of 6th March 2017- £829.56

A huge thank you to all our customers and helpers.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 2016 was held from 15th- 21st May. The preparations begin in April when a letter is sent to the regular collectors asking if they are willing to collect again. As well as trying to recruit some new collectors by advertising on the Sunday Link. Since taking over the role in 2007 the number of collectors has fallen from 44-24.

The total raised in 2016 was £1, 598.13 This figure includes £122.66 from St Mary's envelope collection.

At the end of the week the counting begins with several helpers to assist with this. The aim is to have all the money paid into the bank by the end of June. Then the total can be announced and the individual collectors receive a thank you card with their totals.

There was also an emergency collection for Christian Aid in October which raised £250.

Thank you to all involved

FINANCE

DCC has continued to monitor income and expenditure. We have been running a deficit and acknowledge this needs to be addressed particularly by improving our giving further. Thanks to Jan Fleming, our Parish Bursar, who manages our day to day finances so well.

The DCC acknowledges gratefully the generosity of all who give to support the work of our church and Centre.

THE ST NICHOLAS' CENTRE

The St Nicholas' Centre is located next door to St Nicholas' Church at 70 Church Road, Halewood, L26 6LA. Originally a children's home, the building was purchased by the church and re-opened as a church Centre in 1995. It now houses Halewood Parish Office and provides rooms and resources for church and community groups, such as:

- St Nicholas' Junior Church
- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
- Monday Fellowship and Wednesday Friendship Group
- Thursday Morning Coffee Shop and regular Fair Trade stall
- A new Men's Group which meets monthly on Thursdays
- Mothers' Union
- Vineyard Youth Club
- Art Group
- Refreshments after services and other occasions; sale of Fair Trade goods.

The Centre aims to be self-sufficient and is managed by a Committee which reports to the St Nicholas' District Church Council. In 2016, the Management Committee comprised:

Debra Kenwell Chair

Tom Harrison, Vice Chair;

Sandra Austin, Lee Burton Treasurer;
Tom Beesley, Acting Centre Manager
Pat Hatchard, Secretary.
Barbara Harrington, Centre Administrator
Jan Fleming, Parish Bursar

Joe Barlow (St Nicholas' Church)
Pam Boffey (St Mary's Church)
Gill Dover (St Mary's Church)
Steve Murphy (St Nicholas' Church)
Flo Owens (St Nicholas' Church)
Sandra Thomas (St Nicholas' Church)
Lesley Webb (St Nicholas' Church)

The Centre Management Committee met at least six times in 2016 and discussed how best the Centre can meet its aims, including the following:

- Looking after our Staff
 - Working with Staff on their contracts and terms and conditions.
- Looking after our residents, tenants and users.
 - Listening Ear (Merseyside) occupies part of our building and requested permission for various improvements to their rooms, the costs of which were borne by Listening Ear
 - Working with residents who are struggling to pay their way
- Looking after our building and grounds
 - Checking fire alarm and extinguishers
 - Servicing and maintaining the heating system (which we would love to replace, could we afford to do so...)
 - Testing the electrics
 - Replacing windows
 - New Carpet in Hall and Corridor
 - Listening Ear had some work carried out on their garden
 - Fire Risk Assessment completed
 - Roof Repairs carried out
 - Fire Safety Lighting fitted
- Looking after our finances
 - Roger Craine agreed to be the External Examiner for the accounts
 - Various fundraising events were held throughout the year
- Reaching out to others
 - Fourth successful Christmas Lunch for single people in the community

We are very grateful to Barbara Harrington, our Parish Administrator and Bill Bell, Centre Caretaker, for all that they do to keep the show on the road. They are the ones, "Without whom..." (You can fill in the rest!).

Further information about the St Nicholas' Centre, Halewood, is available from the Parish Office, by email:

halewoodparish@btconnect.com
Telephone: 0151 487 9965

ELECTORAL ROLL

The roll was presented to HCC for examination.

ST MARY'S DCC

Early in the year, a small group of people from St Mary's joined some people from St Nicholas' and also St James' Woolton as part of the ongoing Circuit Review Group.

During Lent, people were encouraged to give towards Water Aid. Over £600 was raised for this charity.

After many years of work by a number of people, St Mary's finally agreed a new License Agreement with the Care Centre and the Nursery.

The Nursery ceased to come under the umbrella of the HCC and is now run by First Friends Child Care Ltd, but is still based in our building.

In August we said goodbye to both Andrew Fox and Margaret Oultram. Andrew moved to Shetland to minister to the islanders. Margaret married Richard in September and moved to live in Bristol.

In September Natasia Bullock joined us to work with the children and young people in the parish and the community.

Over the year we have been pleased to welcome some new families to the St. Mary's congregation.

Two Card Making Workshops were again held to raise funds for the church. Despite raising around £1000, once again St Mary's continues to monitor its finances carefully.

ST MARY'S

The Care Centre continues to offer a much needed service to some frail elderly people and we thank Justine and all the staff for their hard work.

The many volunteers that keep Stroke Club a very valuable support for those affected by a stroke do great work and we're especially grateful to Elaine and Dave, Alan and Pauline and Mike for their commitment.

Coffee shop continues to offer a ministry of hospitality to our community and, along with the Food bank, ensure that the place is buzzing on a Saturday morning. Sue and Nick do so much for both and we're so grateful to them and the wonderful volunteers without whom they couldn't happen.

Fundraising, whilst not our main focus, is still important for our finances and the Coffee Shop is a great help in this. We are really grateful to Linda, Gill, Elaine, Dave and Mike for their hard work and the important contribution the card making workshops and table sales make to our fundraising and for the fun they provide. These activities along with the generous giving of our congregation have helped get our finances into a healthier position.

St Mary's is extremely grateful to Pam, our lone Warden, who works so hard and is so committed to our church as well as all the other roles she has in our community.

We were very saddened towards the end of the year to learn that Frank was struggling with ministering here in Halewood and that he and Sue would be moving to a new parish. We know that they had put a lot of effort into getting to know us all and hope that their next move is a positive one for them. We will welcome Richard as an interim minister in the new year and hope that we can all work together to address some of the issues raised and make sure we are in a good place to welcome a new Rector before too long. We also look forward to strengthening our relationships with members at St Nicholas so we operate more as one parish even though we are two churches. Likewise we value our Team connection with St Hilda's especially Jane's invaluable support.

Our Pastoral Care Team will continue to pray and support members of the congregation as we go forward feeling more confident that God wants to use us to serve him and our community. We look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2017 and marking 50 years of our LEP, Anglicans and Methodists working together trying to reflect God's love to all around us.

SATURDAY COFFEE @ ST MARY'S

Many Saturdays are really busy with a great buzz about the place and a very busy kitchen. We know that people find it a happy, safe environment to come and relax and meet friends and, along with the Foodbank that runs at the same time, we are becoming a valued resource for our community. We are very aware though that there are still many people who use the shops but don't come over and join us so we need to explore ways of reaching them.

Working together on the coffee shop has certainly strengthened friendships and fellowship, especially with the great support we enjoy from our friends at St Nicholas - which really is appreciated. Although this project was never about making money, thanks to the generosity of many who donate cakes, bacon etc. it has certainly been part of a revival in our finances.

“With the continuing support of volunteers and customers alike we feel positive about the future and developing what we offer on a Saturday, and if you're not already a part of this please do come and join us.”

KNOWSLEY FOODBANK @ ST MARY'S

Knowsley Foodbank @ St Mary's and St Nicholas

Knowsley Foodbank which is operated by the Big Help Project based in Kirkby has a distribution centre at St Mary's which is open every Saturday alongside the Coffee Shop from 11.00am until 2.00pm. People in need visit the centre with a voucher issued by local agencies.

Clients are issued with three days of nutritionally balanced food in five different family sizes, ranging from 8kgs for a single person to 24kgs for a large family of six or more people. When available, clients may also receive fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and bread.

As well as providing food, we also recognize that clients may also have other longstanding needs and where appropriate we signpost them to other agencies. Clients are further supported by staff from “Get Connected”, part of the Big Help Project who attend each Saturday to provide debt advice, help in finding jobs and IT support.

The Foodbank is totally reliant on donations and we are grateful to both congregations and the local community who contribute so generously. Between April last year and February this year (March figures not available) St Mary's donated 1,361.6kgs in food and over £500 in cash donations and St. Nicholas donated 355.9kgs of food.

We are grateful too to our volunteers from both churches and the local community who give up their time to staff the centre each Saturday, co-ordinate the donations from each church and support the regular supermarket collections. Without this support Knowsley Foodbank could not have fed many people in need across the borough during the last year.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The roll was presented to HCC for examination.

OTHER ASSOCIATED BODIES

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

The uniformed groups of the Guiding Association – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – continued to use the St Nicholas' Centre for their meetings and to attend monthly Parade Services at St Nicholas'. (A more detailed report on uniformed groups for girls can be found in the 'Under 18s' section, above.)

Uniformed groups for boys – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (which is also open to girls) – meet at their own premises on Hollies Road. They also attend Parade Services at St Nicholas'.

LISTENING EAR (MERSEYSIDE)

Listening Ear Merseyside is “an exceptional community-based charity” with limited company by guarantee status. Our quality services are free, professional and confidential, enabling positive mental health. We are a BACP accredited Counselling service serving the North West of England community (this is subject to funding). We provide one-to-one Counselling, Listening and a Bereavement Support Group for adults. The Butterflies Project provides unique activity based support for 6-16 year olds who have experienced bereavement or loss.

Listening Ear (Merseyside) is a charity (Charity Registration No. 1117324) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company Registration 5999650 (England and Wales)).

The Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2016 can be found at the Charity Commission's website (www.charity-commission.gov.uk) and its company details can be found at the Companies House website (<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>).

For further information contact 0151 488 6648, email enquiries@listening-ear.co.uk or visit www.listeningearmerseyside.org.uk.

ST MARY'S CARE CENTRE

St Mary's Care Centre provides day care to older people. We provide transport to and from the centre, a three course lunch and a range of stimulating activities. We actively promote activities designed to increase and support healthy lifestyles and a sense of well-being. We support and host a number of community groups and events. Our area of operation is primarily Halewood but also includes the borough of Knowsley.

The centre currently provides day care to approximately 50 service users. The centre is funded by Knowsley Social Services and referrals are made through Halewood social services team.

“The centre acknowledges the difficulties that older people have in accessing health care services and aims to alleviate these inequalities.”

The Care Centre's Articles of Association state that there must be “between four and twenty directors, four of whom, classified as 'A Directors', are nominated and approved by the Parochial Church Council of Halewood (after consultation with Halewood St Mary's Church Council). The directors can also appoint a maximum of three co-opted members for a period to be specified by the Board.”

The Care Centre began offering support to elderly people in Halewood in 1986. Today, its client group of vulnerable, elderly people are collected by minibus and given a hot meal and provided with support, advice and social contact. The Care Centre is open from Monday to Friday, between 9:00am and 4:30pm.

Although the Care Centre is run by a Management Committee which is not a sub-committee of the HCC, there are clearly many issues which affect the Care Centre which have to be discussed by Church Council, particularly St Mary's DCC. The life of the Care Centre continues to be vibrant, and the clients all enjoy attending. There is a weekly worship service in the Care Centre, which is usually led by a member of the Ministry Team, with occasional help from other ministers. The St Mary's DCC are very

aware that we owe our very comfortable facilities mainly to the funding obtained by the Care Centre to enhance the indoor environment. We are very grateful to the staff of the Care Centre for their hard work and dedication to serving the elderly of Halewood.

St Mary's Care Centre is a charity (Charity Registration No. 1000849) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company Registration No. 2516554 (England and Wales)).

The Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2016, can be found at the Charity Commission's website (www.charity-commission.gov.uk) and its company details can be found at the Companies House website (<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>).

IN CONCLUSION...

As this report shows, **Halewood is a busy and lively parish** with plenty of activity. There are many ways in which people can get involved, and a report like this can do little more than scratch the surface. In addition to those whose names are included, there are, as always, many more **unsung heroes**. We are grateful to all who have played their part in the life of the church in this parish and beyond.

We believe we have much to be proud of as we look back on 2015, we look forward with hope and faith to what lies ahead.

Printed copies of this report can be obtained from the Parish Office. You can also download a copy from the parish website:

www.HalewoodParish.org

THE HALEWOOD LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP IS A REGISTERED CHARITY,
NUMBER 1151632
