

# HALEWOOD AND HUNTS CROSS: A PARISH PROFILE



St Nicholas'



St Mary's



St Hilda's



## ABOUT OUR PARISHES

The people of our three churches in Halewood and Hunts Cross are courageous, experienced, and committed to their churches and communities. They enjoy serving God together and spending time with one another. In addition there is a large number of younger families who are keen to become more involved in the work and ministry of the churches.

***We invite you to join our wonderful community.***

We are looking for a minister who is able to give spiritual leadership alongside other clergy and lay people and who will be proactive in rebuilding and strengthening the team so that we are ready to face whatever challenges and opportunities lie ahead. As a people-person who works collaboratively, you will have a passion for enabling, encouraging, and developing others. "Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith." The Ordinal

Our two parishes have a history of making courageous decisions in terms of church planting, building and community projects (e.g. adult care, nursery, and counselling services). All our buildings are in serviceable condition, including our halls and the extensive St Nicholas Centre. We have good historic and current links with the community and are naturally integrated within it. Halewood parish is proud to be one of the oldest Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnerships in the country, which was pioneered at St Mary's. The LEP is a registered charity.

## THREE CHURCHES: ONE COMMUNITY

We are three churches who see our future being defined as one people with three buildings. We have been making exciting changes to our shared life to build greater unity and utilise the different skills and experience within each church. This has been an energising experience, which has opened up ministry opportunities to more people in our congregations, grafting them even more into the body of the church.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

Halewood and Hunts Cross are suburbs on the outskirts of Liverpool and occupy two different local authorities: Liverpool City Council and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Halewood parish also includes the adjoining village of Tarbock, an historic rural community.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarbock>

At a more local level Halewood is also served by Halewood Town Council. Our churches reflect the varied social demographic, with some older houses, 1960's estates and more recent new housing developments which are still ongoing. (For further information about the local areas see

<https://knowsleyknowledge.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Halewood-Partnership-Area-Profile.pdf>

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/media/9938/allertonandhunts-cross.pdf>)

Both Halewood and Hunts Cross have local shopping areas and the areas also adjoin some beautiful parks and farmland.

## Schools

Within our parishes there is one C of E primary school, three community schools, three RC schools, one secondary and one special needs school.

There are expansion plans currently under discussion for some of these schools, to take account of the new housing developments.

## Rectory

The living accommodation for the person appointed will be a 5 bedroomed house within the Halewood Conservation Area, behind St Nicholas' Church.



## Transport

Halewood and Hunts Cross have good transport links (bus and rail) to Liverpool city centre and beyond.

## The Ministry Team

To allow us to fully understand the Diocesan Fit for Mission proposals and engage in any future pastoral reorganisation, the Halewood Church Council (HCC), Hunts Cross PCC and Deanery submitted a recommendation to suspend the benefice. It was also agreed that the Rector of Speke be appointed as Priest in Charge to work with the current Team Vicar and Interim Team Vicar. We are now seeking an Interim Team Vicar, who is committed to the vision of the Diocese and will help the parishes navigate those conversations and decisions, working with the Priest in Charge and the current ministry team which consists of a Team Vicar, based in Hunts Cross, a Non-Stipendiary Minister with PTO, four Readers and one Reader Emeritus as well as a Methodist Children's worker.

## What are our priorities for the next three years?

Despite the recent challenges of Covid and the period of vacancy, our congregation numbers have, in the main, held up well and are continuing to grow particularly with families with young children.

We are looking to our Interim Team Vicar to help us work towards the four basic mission priorities identified in Fit for Mission:

- Introducing people to Jesus
- Deepening discipleship
- Developing Christian leaders
- Working for justice



## As a team

- We want to explore how we can develop and improve the ways in which we work together at all levels within our existing Team structure and also how we build working relationships with neighbouring parishes in line with the aims of Fit for Mission.

## Financially

- We want our three churches to be on an 'even keel', able to cover our costs by encouraging people to recognise the importance of regular Christian giving

## Locally we want someone to work with the whole ministry team:

- To nurture this new life and encourage it to multiply.
- To provide pastoral care and support to existing members of our churches especially those who are still struggling with the aftermath of the pandemic.
- To look for creative ways in which we as churches can engage with residents moving into the new developments in our communities.

We hope that our new Interim Team Vicar will walk with us to deepen our relationship and reliance on God, and to develop our relationships with each other and our community further.

## Spiritually we want to:

- Be in tune with God all week and demonstrate this through acts and behaviours.
- Become listeners to God.
- Reflect God's nature more, be more like Him.
- We want everyone to be defined as 'part of church,' everyone welcome



## About the Churches

### Governance

Halewood Church Council includes members from both St Nicholas' and St Mary's churches and meets 10 times a year including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Halewood also has a Standing Committee  
St Nicholas' Church has two wardens and two assistant wardens.

St Mary's church currently has one Methodist Steward and no wardens.

As a Local Ecumenical Partnership, the two Halewood Churches also have a formal Constitution relating to the charitable status of the partnership.

St Hilda's PCC meets 9 times a year.  
St Hilda's currently has no wardens or Standing committee.

### Worship

Services are generally performed by the clergy team along with additional lay involvement including local preachers and clergy from the Methodist Circuit.

Each church has active lay involvement in the form of wardens and stewards, sidespersons, those who read scripture, lead corporate prayer, music etc.

In accordance with the Halewood LEP Schedule, Item 21 the Interim the Team Vicar shall seek and be offered authorisation and approval from the Methodist Church, so that they can also act as a Methodist Minister.

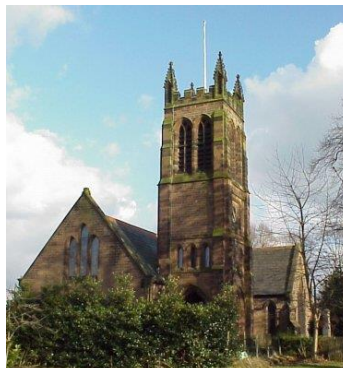
### Safeguarding

All three churches have adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Details can be found on the Halewood Parish Website/A church near you.

## Halewood Parish

[www.halewoodparish.org](http://www.halewoodparish.org)

### St Nicholas' Church



St Nicholas' Church celebrated its 175th Anniversary in June 2014. Renovations and reordering (£350,000) were completed in 2009. Work to restore the bell tower and install a new peal of bells was completed in 2013. The building is now a warm and welcoming environment for worship and other activities.

St Nicholas' has a churchyard and whilst there are no new plots available, burials can still take place in existing plots where space allows. We have two Gardens of Remembrance for the interment of cremated remains

The services currently run are:

- 11.00am Every Sunday either Morning Worship, Parade/Family Service or Holy Communion. Followed by Tea/Coffee at the St Nicholas Centre.
- 6.30pm Every Sunday either Evening Worship or Holy Communion
- 12.30pm and 1.15pm. Every Second Sunday, Baptisms - a separate service due to the relatively small size of the church
- 9.15am Every Thursday, Common Worship Holy Communion. Followed by the weekly church clean.

Attendance on Sundays across both services is around 100 adults, 25 children. Thursdays around 20 adults and 4 children.

Following some recent grant funding we have installed cameras and now have the capacity to live stream services. We do this each Sunday morning and for school services. We are exploring the possibility of offering this for weddings, funerals, and baptisms. We are also

looking at the possibility of installing a permanent projector and screens, to replace the temporary ones we currently use.

The number on the electoral roll is 159. Worshippers at St Nicholas' tend to be fairly open to many styles of worship and are used to having a range of different people, ordained and lay, Anglican and Methodist, leading worship. However, worship is definitely at the lower end of the ecclesiological spectrum. One of the areas for development at St Nicholas' is the area of music. A visiting organist plays for us twice a month, and we have a small singing group to help lead at most services.

Each year there are around 50 baptisms and 6 weddings at St Nicholas'. The ministry team undertake baptism preparation evenings, with our two Baptism secretaries, and our sponsors visit the families to build relationships. We have three wedding secretaries who book and arrange weddings, but we do not yet undertake wedding preparation courses. We take around 45 funerals at church and/or the crematorium.

## St. Nicholas' Centre

The Centre is located next to St Nicholas' Church. Originally a Children's Home, the complex was purchased by the church and was re-opened in its present guise in 1995. It houses our parish office and provides rooms and resources for parish and community use. Refreshments are served here after services and on other occasions. It is largely self-sufficient (turnover circa £60,000) and is managed by a committee which reports to the Halewood Church Council. Part of the complex was converted for residential use with five units of rented accommodation. Listening Ear (Merseyside) rent a two storey wing of the Centre and they provide support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse or facing separation and traumatic loss, counselling for adults with mild to moderate mental health problems, friendship after bereavement groups, counselling for work based mental health issues, support for looked after children and their carers, and AMPARO, a unique suicide prevention and postvention service which is the largest in the country. The Centre employs our Parish Administrator, Parish Bursar and Centre Premises Officer and is home to: Junior Church, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Fellowship and Friendship groups; Fair Trades Stall; Knitting group and Mothers' Union. The Centre is also used for a variety of meetings and as a polling station during

elections. St Nicholas' Centre is an amazing resource which connects church and community

Link to drone view of church interior:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzL\\_ljCJdds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzL_ljCJdds)

## St Mary's Church



St Mary's emerged in the mid-1960s through the merging of two groups, an already existing Methodist Society looking for a home, and the recognition from the Anglican parish that an additional 'church' was needed to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding town. It became the first Anglican/Methodist LEP in the Diocese and is proud of that tradition.

Originally the two congregations worshipped separately, but now there is one congregation where all are members of both traditions. This ecumenical link is also fully embraced at St Nicholas'.

Services at St Mary's take place at 10.30am each Sunday. Each month there is one service of Holy Communion, two services of morning worship (one including baptism), and GMJC (Good Morning Jesus Christ) interactive all-age worship.

There is a wonderful family feel at St Mary's and many are drawn to it because of that reason. Tea and coffee are always served afterwards. Music has traditionally been an important part of our worship at St Mary's but following lockdowns it has been difficult to re-establish this and this is an area which we want to redevelop. Attendance on Sundays is around 60 per week (Adults and Children)

The two traditions ensure that we have a rich and varied pattern of worship with input from the clergy team, lay readers, worship leaders and local preachers from the Methodist Circuit.

Historically our church building has hosted two vital services for local people, the St Mary's Care Centre for the elderly and The St Mary's/ Roseheath nursery providing Child Care for under 5s. Sadly the latter closed during the pandemic, but we have another provider who is hoping to reopen a nursery facility on site once all the necessary checks have been completed.

Prior to lockdowns, church members led a fortnightly Stroke Club and weekly Saturday Coffee@St Mary's, sadly these too have fallen victim to the pandemic.

We also act as Halewood's distribution centre for the Knowsley Foodbank services which are provided on a Saturday.

Weddings and funerals tend to be those of church members rather than the wider population who usually use St Nicholas' as the parish church. Around 8 Baptisms a year take place at St Mary.

There are 55 members on the Electoral Roll.

## Social Outreach

Over the last three years we have been working across both St Nicholas and St Mary's in collaboration with our local council and other community volunteers to run a school uniform recycling service, Halewood Uni-Wise, using St Mary's Centre and the St Nicholas' Centre as distribution points for this and we have also been involved with our local primary schools, in putting together food parcels to be delivered to families who are struggling with the current economic situation.

So, although we have lost some of our traditional opportunities for community outreach, our willing volunteers continue to seek out and develop new projects.

Halewood parish's weekday children's work is being led by our part time Methodist children's and youth worker, who runs three weekday groups and also helps lead collective worship in some of the local primary schools.

Our Sunday children's work is developing and growing.



The relationship with Halewood Church of England School is very important. By being a school governor, a member of the Ministry Team offers spiritual direction to the governing body and maintains a strong link with staff and pupils.

## Finances Halewood Parish

As part of an LEP, each of the Halewood churches pays their contributions of the Parish Share and Methodist Assessment. Both St Nicholas and St Mary's participate in the Parish Giving Scheme in addition to planned giving, standing orders and loose plate collections. Both churches are starting to embrace digital giving. At the moment St Nicholas' income and expenditure is about break-even (circa £100,000) and we are actively encouraging new families to join the Parish Giving scheme. St Mary's is currently running a deficit of around £6,000 with a turnover (circa £35,500) but strenuous efforts are being made to encourage an increase in giving during these difficult times. Despite the current financial situation, the members of the church family give generously to support specific internal and external projects and there is an excellent track record of fundraising.



# Hunts Cross Parish

## St Hilda's Church



St Hilda's Church was built in 1898 as a mission church of St Peter's, Woolton. In 1947 the Parish of St Hilda's was created and took in areas from the parishes of All Saints Speke, St Nicholas Halewood, and St Peter's Woolton. The Parish has around 10,000 inhabitants and straddles the boundary between Liverpool and Knowsley councils. There are two residential care homes and warden-managed flats in the parish.



Our services are:

- 11am Sunday Platform 1 Common Worship, 40 people (a variety of Morning worship, Holy Communion and Baptism).
- This is a traditional service but still relatively informal with readings and intercessions led by the congregation.
- 4pm Sunday Platform 2 All-age Café church, 30 people.

Platform 2 is an initiative that was developed to meet the needs of our ever-growing population of young families. Platform 2 is an informal, cafe style of worship in the church. Platform 2 is led by the Team Vicar and a Reader.

Other members of the congregation have recently started to share again in preparing, leading, and preaching.

There are 85 people on the electoral roll. Parish share is paid in full, and the church currently operates with a small surplus (turnover).

St Hilda's has approximately 10 baptisms a year, during the morning service, and around 20 funerals some of which come into church first.

There is a hall attached to the church which generates a good stream of income. Through the church hall we are involved in a number of different community groups, particularly the Children's Centre based at Hunts Cross School and the local Childminders network. The hall is also hired out to various other tenants and is used as a polling station when required. It is also used by the Zero Waste community group, and Al anon.

The church has a good relationship with St Columba's Church, joining together at Christmas and Easter. There are regular assemblies in Hunts Cross Primary school and the children visit the church at different times.

There is a well-equipped office in the hall building which is run by a volunteer.

We employ a part-time parish co-ordinator to help facilitate ministry including our 'Place of Welcome' where members of the community are invited to come in to have a bite to eat and relax. There are between 30-40 people of all ages who regularly come to this.

Also food-related is our newly instigated monthly afternoon tea. Numbers are steadily rising as word is getting around!

We see ourselves as being a welcoming and giving church and support a number of groups and charities including Tradecraft, Knowsley food bank, the Whitechapel Centre for the homeless, Shrewsbury House (children), Share Knowsley (asylum seekers and refugees) and the annual shoe box appeal.



## Liverpool South Deanery

Liverpool South Deanery is made up of 18 parishes following the River Mersey from Speke to Aigburth, heading north through Mossley Hill, and sweeping east back to Halewood. The Deanery has deployed its allocated number of 13 stipendiary clergy.

The Chapter holds monthly meetings, and all clergy are encouraged to take an active part within it.

The Deanery is currently in the early stages of exploring the Diocesan 'Fit for Mission' strategy and considering the impact that this might have on the current parochial structure

## Liverpool (South) Methodist Circuit

The Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership links the two Halewood Churches with seven other churches in the Liverpool (South) Methodist Circuit. The nine churches in the Circuit include three which are also ecumenical partnerships with the Church of England or the United Reformed Church. It is not expected that the Halewood Anglican clergy will routinely attend Circuit meetings, but occasional involvement through preaching in the wider Circuit is appreciated.

**“Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God’s people that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.”**

◆ The Ordinal ◆

## Questions?

Thank you for your interest in our parishes and this post. 'For more information on this vacancy please contact the acting Archdeacon of Liverpool the Revd Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes on [miranda.threlfall-holmes@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:miranda.threlfall-holmes@liverpool.anglican.org)' for an informal confidential discussion