

Halsall News

April 2017

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL
WE MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH
AT ST AIDANS & THE MEMORIAL HALLS ALTERNATELY
PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARDS FOR DETAILS

May 2017 MAGAZINE
Closing date for Articles: Monday 17th April
Contributions by Email only to the editor
Chris Birks at
enquiry@4cornersdesign.co.uk
Closing date for Adverts: Monday 17th April
susanroberts2805@aol.com

WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN HALSALL NEWS ?

FULL PAGE	£32 per month	(£234 per annum)
HALF PAGE	£20 per month	(£127 per annum)
QUARTER PAGE	£14 per month	(£65 per annum)

There are 10 issues of Halsall News a year

To advertise please contact Mrs Susan Roberts.
01704 897857 or susanroberts2805@aol.com

St Cuthbert's Church Spire update...

As the scaffolding is gradually removed we are pleased to see more of the new mortar on the vestry wall. We can also see the new stones on the 'hips' on the tower. Two historical benefactor boards had suffered water damage over recent years and it is great to see that they have now been restored and are back in place in the choir vestry.

Check out the Facebook page for latest updates.



PARISH COUNCILLORS

Brian Young	01704 840091	Chairman
David Corfield	01704 840705	Vice Chairman
Raymond Brookfield	07771 798167	
Sylvia Corfield	01704 840705	
Neil Campbell	01704 566354	
Lynn Campbell	01704 566354	
Elizabeth Wright	01704 562847	
Stan Park	01704 841148	

Parish Clerk

Dave Bond 01704 534090

Borough Councillor

Maureen Mills 01704 840160 Surgery before Parish Council monthly meetings.

THE CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, HALSALL

Rector	The Rev Paul Robinson Parish mobile	0151 526 0512 07518 926086
Church Wardens	Stephen Henders Lynda Bramwell	01704 841085 01704 840280
P.C.C. Secretary	Edward Carr	01695 423817
P.C.C. Treasurer	Colin Throp	01704 841281
Organist	Edward Carr	01695 423817

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Electricity NW	08001954141
United Utilities (water)	0345 6723723
Police Contact (non urgent)	101 OR 08451253545
Local Police Officers or PCSO's	01695 566444
Street Lighting Fault Reporting Line	0300 1236701
Fire Safety Helpline	0800 169 1125



**Halsall News can now be viewed online at
www.halsall-parish.com**

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST.CUTHBERT, HALSALL

Rector

The Revd Paul Robinson

The Rectory

Church Lane

Lydiate

L31 4HL

Phone: 0151 526 0512

Parish Mobile: 07518 926086

Email: paulrobinson407@gmail.com

Parish Surgery: Anyone wishing to arrange a Baptism or Wedding should ring the Rector's Secretary to make an appointment. The phone number of the office is 0151 526 2292 and the office is staffed Monday-Wednesday 9.00am—1.00pm or you can email at:

stthomassteph@btinternet.com

The Sick: This parish is committed to the care of the sick. Names of those in need of this ministry, either at home or in hospital, should be given to Paul. The Blessed Sacrament (Holy Communion) is reserved in church and can be taken to the housebound or ill. Holy Oil is also kept for the anointing of the sick.

The Dying: Paul can be contacted at any time of the day or night in order to minister to the dying.



**Check out St Cuthbert's Church Halsall Facebook page to keep up to date with the spire and roof repairs.
Work supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund.**

Halsall St Cuthbert Hub website

The website for Halsall's St Cuthbert Church community can be viewed at:

<http://www.halsallstcuthberthub.co.uk>

The aim of the site is to:

- Raise funds for the repair of St Cuthbert's Church spire – through volunteering and fundraising events
- Showcase archive church documents, school reports and the Halsall Parish Magazine/Halsall News which date back to 1800s and up to the present day
 - Church service times and other news

For more information please contact Colin Throp on 01704 841281 or email:info@halsallstcuthberthub.co.uk

Your Reader Writes

Early April this year is dominated by the end of Lent, by Holy Week and Easter.

If we follow the events of Palm Sunday (when Jesus received a hero's welcome) to Maundy Thursday (when he washed the disciples' feet as an example of lowly service for those who want to be great, and foretold his betrayal by one of his friends) to Good Friday (when Jesus was interrogated, handed over after a mob demanded his crucifixion, abandoned by his friends and hung on a cross), we go on an emotional roller-coaster.

I love the film (and musical) Jesus Christ Superstar. As a teenager, it had quite an effect on me, presenting those events in a fresh, challenging and direct way. But when I became a Christian and saw it again, I still loved the film, was again deeply moved by Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane but I couldn't believe where the film ended. If you've seen it, you will know that it ended with Jesus' death – on Good Friday!

If we stop there, Jesus is (at best) just another martyr who died for his beliefs. But the whole point of Easter is that death is NOT the end – for Jesus nor for his followers.

St Paul put it this way: *“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

Because of Easter, we can be assured that death is not the end; that WHATEVER we are going through, we CAN trust God that, in the end, all WILL be well.

Happy Easter, David

HOLY WEEK AT ST CUTHBERT'S AND ST THOMAS'

Holy Week is, or should be, the most important week in the year for any Christian. It is a time when we think about the journey that Jesus made for us. A journey that would change the course of history for ever.

On **Palm Sunday** we remember that people welcomed Jesus: they shouted Hosanna! To the Son of David; and waved palm branches in welcome. The people were glad to meet him, and that is how it should be for us as Christians today – we should be glad to meet Jesus in our worship. We should be glad to know the person who loves us so very much. Our life should be one of gladness in meeting Jesus.

On **Maundy Thursday** we remember that Jesus had a meal with his friends, and through that meal, he told us that whenever we eat bread together and drink wine, he will be with us in a very special way. It is also the day that Jesus shows us what it is to be a servant to other people. That it doesn't matter how important we think we are, as Christians, we should always be ready to help other people. Jesus was the greatest – the Son of God – and yet he washed his disciples feet, thus setting an example for us all.

On **Good Friday** we remember that because he loved us so much, Jesus was nailed to a cross. He was put to death by people who didn't like him and who didn't understand him. And we still nail Jesus to the cross today, we still put him to death. We do it every time we say or think something nasty and horrible about someone else. Because when we do this, we let God down, we let other people down and we let ourselves down, and it means that Jesus died for nothing. Yet Jesus loves us so very much that he was prepared to die for us, and therefore, we should do our best in keeping him alive by the things we do and say.

On **Easter Day** we remember that Jesus rose gloriously from the dead, and by rising from the dead he shows us that all he had ever said was true. The light that had come into the world could never be extinguished – and that light is Jesus. And when he told the women in the garden to go and tell other people about what happened, he was also telling us to do the same. All of us are called to tell the story of Jesus and we are called to tell it by what we say and do, and by how we live our lives.

So as you get ready for **Holy Week** (and you will find details of the services we have planned in this magazine) remember what Jesus has done for you – remember the journey that he made for you, and come along and share that journey with others. **Holy Week** is the most important week in the Christian Year. It is a time when we remember that the history of the world was changed forever, and it was done by someone who loves us and who desperately wants us to journey towards him.

HAVE A HAPPY AND HOLY EASTER

HOLY WEEK 9TH - 16TH APRIL 2017
SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
AT ST CUTHBERT'S and ST THOMAS'

PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion – St Thomas'
- 9.30am – CW Eucharist – St Cuthbert's
(including The Blessing of Palms)
- 11.15am – Family Eucharist – St Thomas'
(including The Blessing of Palms)

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 8.00am – Morning Prayer – St Thomas'
- 10.30am – Diocesan Eucharist – Liverpool Cathedral
(Including the Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ordination Vows)
- 6.30pm – Eucharist & Reflection – St Thomas'

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 8.00am – Morning Prayer – St Thomas'
- 6.30pm – Eucharist & Reflection – St Thomas'

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 8.00am – Morning Prayer – St Thomas'
- 6.30pm – Eucharist & Reflection – St Thomas'

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 8.00am – Morning Prayer – St Thomas'
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer – St Thomas'
- 7.30pm – CW Sung Eucharist, Stripping of the Altars – St Thomas'
(followed by a vigil of prayer until 10.00pm)

GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.00am – Morning Prayer and BCP Litany – St Thomas'
- 11.00am - Stations of the Cross starting at Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church
with a Walk of Witness to St Thomas'
- 2.00pm – Good Friday Service – St Cuthbert's
(IT WILL BE WARM IN CHURCH – I PROMISE)
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer – St Thomas'

HOLY SATURDAY

- 8.00am – Morning Prayer - St Thomas'
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer – St Thomas'

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am – BCP Holy Communion – St Thomas'
- 9.30am – CW Sung Eucharist – St Cuthbert's
(including The Lighting of the Easter Candle and Renewal of Baptismal promises)
- 11.00am – CW – *Sung Eucharist – St Thomas'*
(including The Lighting of the Easter Candle and Renewal of Baptismal promises)

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT HOLY WEEK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WEEK IN THE CHRISTIAN YEAR. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO WORSHIP DAILY, IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW LIFE OF EASTER THAT OUR LORD OFFERS TO ALL.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

APRIL

1st Rose Serjeant
 1st Nellie Balshaw Edwards
 3rd Keith Styling (Birthday)
 3rd Margaret Heaton (Birthday)
 5th Les Marshall (Birthday)
 7th Roger Baldwin (Birthday)
 8th Nellie Edwards (Birthday)
 10th Vera Styling (Birthday)
 11th John Banks (Birthday)
 12th Thomas Balshaw
 13th Joan Halsall
 13th Maureen Ainscough
 14th Jack Williams (Birthday)
 17th Angela Pilkington
 17th Brenda Helen Rhodes
 17th Edward Sumner
 19th Florrie Pilling (Anniversary)
 21st Catherine Bullough
 23rd Lawrence Baldwin (Anniversary)
 27th Gladys May Core (Birthday)
 29th Harriet Louise Rimmer (Birthday)



Chalice Rota April 2017



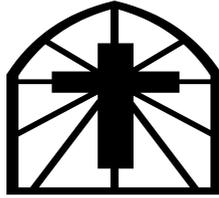
2 nd April	David Jessop	Elaine Ayre
9 th April	Sarah Mitchell	Lynda Bramwell
16 th April	Gwyn Williams	Tara Kenyon
23 rd April	Ann Cushion	Lynda Bramwell
30 th April	Angela Banks	Lynda Bramwell

WARDENS AND SIDEPERSONS

April 2017



	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides Persons
2nd	Lynda Bramwell	Anne Grimshaw	Eileen Houlgrave Ann Critchley
9th	Stephen Henders	Elaine Ayre	Eleanor Wroe Stephanie Hilton
16th	Lynda Bramwell	Colin Throp	Tina Roberts Polly Tomlinson
23rd	Stephen Henders	David Jessop	Jim Critchley Len Davidson
30th	Lynda Bramwell	Elaine Ayre	Christine Jones Rebecca Trearich



SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE FOR APRIL 2017

Sunday 2nd April – Lent 5

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
11.15am	CW Sung Eucharist	St Thomas'

Sunday 9th April – Palm Sunday

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	CW Eucharist	St Cuthbert's
11.15am	Family Eucharist	St Thomas'

Sunday 16th April – Easter Day

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	CW Eucharist & Easter Ceremonies	St Cuthbert's
11.00am	CW Eucharist & Easter Ceremonies	St Thomas'

Sunday 23rd April – Easter 2

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	CW Sung Eucharist	St Cuthbert's
11.00am	CW Sung Eucharist	St Thomas'

Sunday 30th April – Easter

10.30am	U/B Sung Eucharist	St Thomas'
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**PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM EASTER DAY THE MAIN SERVICE AT ST THOMAS' WILL
BE AT
11.00AM**

MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICES

Wednesday 5 th April	12noon	St Thomas' Church
Wednesday 12 th April	PLEASE SEE HOLY WEEK ADVERT	
Wednesday 19 th April	10.00am	St Thomas' Church
Wednesday 26 th April	NO SERVICE	

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

2017/0039/FUL - 46 New Cut Lane – Two storey rear extension
2017/0094/FUL – Malt Kiln Barn - Replacement outbuilding in C3 use providing accommodation ancillary to the domestic use of Malt Kiln Barn

PARKING

Can all residents please ensure when parking not to obstruct pavements or park in bus lay-bys. Pedestrians with prams and wheelchair users need to be able to use the pavement and you should allow enough room when parking to enable them to do so.

PARKING ALONG SUMMERWOOD LANE

Cars parking either side of Summerwood Lane at school times and when funerals and weddings are taking place at St Cuthbert's are causing an obstruction and prevent large vehicles, including the emergency services from passing through.

Please use the Memorial Hall car park whenever possible.

Co-option

The council still has 2 vacancies.

Anyone interested in being co-opted and wishing to find out more about the work the council does and what their role would involve should

contact Dave Bond (Parish Clerk) on 01704 534090

Email: davebondhpc@aol.com

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 8.15 p.m. at The Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall.

A full list of Councillors and contact numbers can be found toward the front of the magazine.

The Parish Council Website www.halsallparish.com includes agendas and minutes of previous meetings.

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Wednesday 12th April 2017
at the Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall
at 7.30 p.m.**

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 6th April 2016.**
- 3. Chairman of the Parish Council's report.**
- 4. Parish Council Financial Statement 2016 – 2017.**
- 5. Reports from organisations.**
- 6. Report from County Councillor David O'Toole.**
- 7. Report from District Councillor Maureen Mills**
- 8. Open forum.**
- 9. Date and time of the next meeting**

**Dave Bond
Parish Clerk
3 Rawlinson Grove
Southport PR9 9NF
Tel: 07837 787525**

Council wants to hear your views on important stage for the Local Plan

West Lancashire Borough Council is working on a new Local Plan and wants to hear your views on this extremely important document.

A Local Plan guides how the borough develops over a specific time period. It can cover everything from where new homes, employment sites and retail and leisure facilities should be situated to policies on transport, local services, energy and the environment.

The current Local Plan covers up to 2027 and the Council is in the early stages of forming the next Plan. It is asking local people to comment on a number of significant topics which will shape how the Plan develops.

This is called a Scoping and Issues & Options Consultation and the topics include:

- How much housing and employment land development will be required each year
- What period of time the Local Plan should cover
- Scenarios on how new development should be spread across the borough
- Consideration of the infrastructure required to support new development

In total there are five options papers that residents can read and give their views on. They also cover other important issues such as the economy, the environment and social issues such as affordable housing and providing for an ageing population.

Councillor John Hodson, portfolio holder for Planning, said: "I would urge people living and working in West Lancashire to take part in this consultation as this will influence how the new Local Plan takes shape. This will in time dictate how the new Local Plan guides how West Lancashire develops over time."

The consultation starts on Thursday 16 March 2017 and you can view all the relevant documents and complete the survey form at www.westlancs.gov.uk/localplan from that date. The closing date for people to respond is Friday 28 April 2017. If you are unable to access the survey online you can also send your written comments to localplan@westlancs.gov.uk, or Local Plan Team, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF.

You can also see the documents at the Council offices at 52 Derby St, Ormskirk, and the Customer Service Point at the Concourse Shopping Centre, Skelmersdale, as well as at libraries in the Borough.

A number of public consultation events, for which places must be booked, are also planned for the following dates:

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 27 March	7pm - 9pm	The Grove, Burscough
Wednesday 29 March	7pm - 9pm	Ecumenical Centre, Skelmersdale
Monday 3 April	7pm - 9pm	Parbold WI Hall, The Common, Parbold
Thursday 6 April	7pm - 9pm	Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk
Monday 10 April	7pm - 9pm	Halsall Memorial Hall, Halsall
Wednesday 12 April	7pm - 9pm	Tarleton Academy, Tarleton

To book a place at one of the above events or for further information on the consultation, please call the Council's Local Plan Team on 01695 585194. All reasonable comments received will be considered in taking the Local Plan forward.

For more information on this press release, contact the PR unit on 01695 585011.

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Please call Sandra on **01704 547938** for more details or visit www.homeinstead.co.uk/southport

What's On

Club/Group	Meetings	Contact
Archery Club	Sunday 2-4pm St Cuthbert's School Winter months.	Andy Yarnell 01704 870143
Badminton Club Over 16's	Thursday 7.30pm St Cuthbert's School	Margaret 01704 840305 Jim 01704 840908
Bootcamp	Monday 6.30-7.15 Wednesday 6.30-7.15 Halsall Memorial Hall	Rachel Pimblett 07875 483733
Halsall Community Group	Various	Louise 07734452323 Facebook. The Official Halsall Village Community
Halsall West End Cricket Club Junior Coaching Boys and Girls Year 3 to Year 6		John Kershaw (Junior Players Coordinator) 07718433492
Crown Green Bowling Club	Saracen's Head Halsall	Carole Toal 01695 577920 Charles Nason 01695 574073
Halsall Environment Group	Various working parties around the village.	Eleanor Wroe 01704 841216 Or Enid Banks 01704 567654
Shirdley Hill Roadside Environment Workers SHREW	Various	Dave Corfield 01704 840705
Halsall Football Club	Memorial Playing Field Halsall	Paul Williams

Club/Group	Meetings	Contact
Karate 7 years and over	Monday 6pm-8pm St Aiden's Hall Shirdley Hill	Graham Parsons 0151 531 7598 07745668129
Luncheon Club	St Aiden's Hall Shirdley Hill	Sylvia Corfield 01704 840705
Meditation Monthly Meetings	Sunday St Aiden's Shirdley Hill	Jenny Pearce 01704 840117
Pilates	Monday 7.30-8.30pm Halsall Memorial Hall	Rachel Pimblett 07875 483733
Shirdley Hill Residents Association	Various See Halsall News	Dave Corfield 01704 840705
	Scouting	
Beavers	Tuesday 6.30-7,30pm St Cuthbert's School	Barbara Threlfall 07817 382221
Cub Scouts	Monday 6-7.30pm St Cuthbert's School	Tracy Berkley 07531 603290
Scouts	Monday 7-8,30pm St Cuthbert's School	Jane Coventry 07887 685219
Snooker Club	Halsall Memorial Hall Playing Field	Gerald Neale 01704 841275 Or Jason Neale 07968228173

This list is for guidance only please contact the organisers for more detailed information.

There is a charge to attend some groups or clubs.

St Cuthbert's Primary School : April Update



Admissions

The Admissions Committee has now ranked the many applications for places in the reception class in September 2017.

Parents will find out whether they have managed to secure a place for their child in September, when the LEA issues formal e-mails and letters around mid-April.

Please refer to the school's Admissions Criteria if you are interested in your child starting at Halsall St Cuthbert's in September 2018 onwards.

It's important to stress that the long-term faith commitment must be by one or both of the parents. This has to be regular involvement in the main act of worship. A child's attendance at the fortnightly Sunday School is not an Admissions Criteria and this will not have any bearing on ranking.

There should be a book in church that prospective parents can sign if they wish their church attendance to be recorded. This will provide an important record to support parents' claims of a faith commitment. This book will be available to sign at the end of each Sunday Service.

Church Links

- To further strengthen the school's links with St Cuthbert's Church, we are organising some half-termly, end-of-day services for each year group, which parents and family will be invited to. They'll only be very short reflective services and a few songs, a Christian message and prayers and they should be a nice way to end the day.
- On Ash Wednesday, the year 5 and 6 children went along to the service at St Cuthbert's and took communion. In the afternoon, Rev Paul came into school to deliver a short service about Lent and all the children received the sign of the cross with ash. It was such a lovely occasion.
- The teachers are looking at ways in which we can use the church and its environment in their local studies. There'll be more visits to study the history of the church, its architecture and artefacts, the gravestones and the natural world within the gardens.

Residential Holidays.

This year we have organised the following :

Year 5 PGL Camp to Winmarleigh Hall in April

Year 4 PGL Camp to Winmarleigh Hall in May

Year 6 Adventure Week to Weston super Mare (Somerset) in June.

Many thanks to the staff for offering to give up their own time to provide the children with such wonderful life-skill opportunities.

School Field

As the weather gets warmer over the next few months, the children will have access to the school field on a daily basis. It is important therefore that the field is clear of dog mess. Exercising dogs on the field or playground is trespassing and is prohibited. We would ask people to contact us if they witness any such activity.

And thank you for helping to keep our premises clean and safe for the children.

Swimming Gala

Our children competed in the West Lancashire Primary Schools Gala the other week and did brilliantly. The school won the small schools trophy.

Olivia Arrowsmith won the 50m freestyle, Rachel Latham came 3rd in the 25m freestyle, Katie Fisher won the 25m breaststroke and Eve Mc Loughlin came 2nd in the 25m backstroke.

Kristian Barker came 2nd in the 50 freestyle, Sebastian Carlisle-Collette came 2nd in the 25m freestyle, Orlando Campolucci-Bordi won the 25 breaststroke and Dylan Spencer won the 25m backstroke. The girls also won their relay and the boys finished 3rd.

Car Park Safety

The school speed indicator is certainly having a positive effect and is encouraging users to slow down and drive more responsibly. The governing body is keen to ensure that the area is as safe as possible throughout the day and parents/users who ignore the limits and drive recklessly will be prohibited from coming onto the school premises, whether it be to park up or to use the drop-off zone. Parents are encouraged to report incidents of irresponsible driving to the school so that these can be recorded. Many thanks.

D Scholes (Head Teacher)

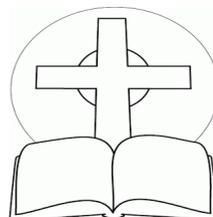
Halsall From the Registers

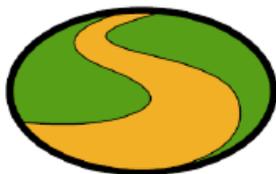
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12th February 2017

Theodore Michael Forshaw

Ted Andrew Houghton





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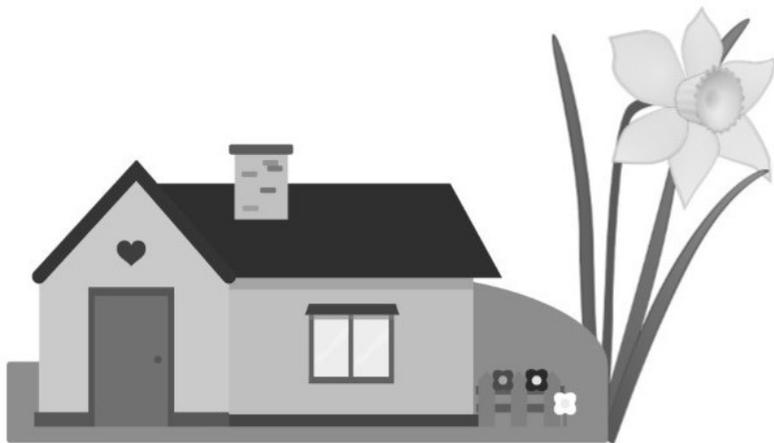
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St Cuthbert's
Church

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The Ireland family of Lydiate, St Catherine's and St Cuthbert's.

When Laurence Ireland began construction of St Catherine's chapel 400 yards south of the Hall in 1480, it was started as a private chapel for the Ireland family. Although it was close to the Sefton parish of St Helen, it lay within the parish of St Cuthbert, Halsall nearly 4 miles away. A road led from Maghull to Scarisbrick and Halsall and this was fairly straight and punctuated with wayside crosses which were important markers for worship, here it was custom to say a rosary, especially during feast days, or prayers over the coffin on the way to a funeral. However in poor weather it was an arduous journey up the rise and across swollen brooks to Mass at the parish church. St Catherine's soon became a 'chapel of ease' for the faithful in and around the village of Lydiate and the bells in the tower would have sounded a round on Sundays and on the many feast days to summon folk to devotion. There would have been a direct path from the hall to the chapel for the family. One can imagine how beautiful this little chapel would have looked lit by candles on a starry Christmas Eve with the villagers in celebration and the chapel warmed by torches on the northern wall.

The chapel was probably ruined in 1539 on the orders of Henry VIII. Evidence has already been documented that the doors were ripped off their hinges causing damage to the stonework. Other evidence suggests violence towards the chapel, not least with the slate roof being torn off and the windows smashed. The decoration and images were also defaced except those which were squirreled away for protection in the hall.

By contrast the parish church in Halsall shows little evidence of mob vandalism during this time. St Catherine's was an easy target; it was not surrounded by a village like Halsall and because the ownership was with the family rather than the villagers, it could have been resented by some reformers. It is also likely that areas like Maghull which were made up of scattered farms and homes had a more disparate loyalty to Catholicism and were more receptive to reforming ideas. While St Cuthbert's suffered little by vandalism it had to conform to certain edicts in images and furnishings and it is probable that images were removed from the parish church. Speculation has it that the bishop, which today adorns the pulpit in Our Lady of Lydiate, may have at one time decorated the Chancel of St Cuthbert's.

With the onset of the Reformation and sanctions against Catholic worship the Ireland's moved the worship to inside the hall, where a place for hearing Mass was created. It is probable that the faithful were still admitted and later as penal laws against Catholics took effect, they were smuggled in under cover of darkness. Later heads of families who refused to go to the parish church were fined, those who paid the fines were called 'recusants'. W T Bulpit, a local historian writing in the 19th century, suggests that with the succession of Mary 1st (a Catholic Queen) in 1553 the chapel at Lydiate was reroofed with stone slabs and worship reinstated there. While there is no evidence to support this, it is possible the Ireland's may have reinstated the chapel again as it would have afforded them some privacy.

The times under Edward VI had been hard for Catholics it did not become any easier when Mary died in 1558. The reign of Elizabeth and James 1st brought further hardship for Catholics. The Ireland's continued to attend the parish church and gave the outward sign of conforming. Laurence III's son Edward had been brought up as a Protestant but it is likely that he was "churched" that is he conformed to the penal law requirements, to avoid recusant fines. He had even purchased his own pew at Halsall and sought to decorate it with the Ireland crest but not the crest adopted by recent parentage. Instead he went back to the ancient coat of arms. Was this a secret sign of adherence to pre Reformation ways? Part of the pew displaying the Coat of Arms is still retained in St Cuthbert's. When Edward died he left a wife Ann and his son Laurence IV. His wife hid her son from the proselytising authorities who wanted to educate Catholic children into Protestant ways, as they had done with his father. When such a prospect threatened she took refuge at her neighbours' houses declaring, " I would rather he hang than be brought up a Protestant". Laurence IV was a devout Catholic and he joined the Jesuits as a priest later in life. His wife and his mother were both buried at Halsall.

During this time the proximity of Little Crosby played a much bigger part in perpetuating Lydiate's Catholic worship. The Blundell's at Crosby were most resolute of all the family's in the local area about preserving 'the old faith' and Catholic priests were sheltered in Crosby Hall. The ties between the Ireland's and the Blundell's of Little Crosby go back to Laurence Ireland 1st who married Catherine Blundell in the early 1430's. The Blundell's, the Halsall's, the Scarisbrick's of Scarisbrick Hall and the Gorsuch's, another manorial family in Halsall were the prominent Catholic families and they had most likely met to discuss the situation and shared information and resources. Their mission was to keep the faith burning and priests, often Jesuits, became itinerant, crossing the river Alt from Crosby and travelling to Lydiate and Scarisbrick to say mass. The bridge which crosses the Alt is still known as the 'recusant bridge' and it was a precarious expedition for priests crossing the moss to lead worship at Lydiate Hall. Watchers who sympathised with reformers, would be all too ready to inform the authorities, so planning and protection across the open country was organised by local Lydiate men.

When Laurence Ireland IV died in 1673 without issue the Anderton's from Lostock inherited Lydiate Hall. Sir Francis Anderton, the next squire of Lydiate gave battle at Preston in 1715 for the Catholic cause supporting the Jacobites and Lydiate men mustered with him. Sir Francis was captured and imprisoned for 2 years. On his return to Lydiate he chose a less controversial role but his support of Catholicism never wavered and his wife Dame Margaret set aside a cottage for visiting priests.

Sir Francis died in 1760 he was 80 years old. He was buried inside Halsall Church under the second window on the south side forming part of the paving of the floor. His stone does not bear an inscription because he was Catholic. It seems his grave was topped with an ancient stone bearing a stepped floriated cross (a recognised Catholic symbol). When extensive renovation took place in 1876 it was moved outside the church with other grave slabs beside the porch, where it remains to this day.

Continued overleaf

The west side of the Alt in Little Crosby and Ince Blundell remained almost 100 per cent Catholic. Burials statistics at St Helen's right up to the 19th century show more than half were Catholics. The east side Halsall and Lydiate were slow to reform though the parish church at Halsall came under pressure because of its proximity to Ormskirk. Nevertheless Catholic burials continued at Halsall even after Our Lady's was built in Lydiate. The last Roman Catholic buried in the 19th century registers was James Blundell age 60 who was buried on 29th October 1874, he was from Lydiate.

Stephen Henders

Halsall St Cuthbert's Sunday School



We welcome any new children and their parents to join us on the 9th and the 23rd April at 9.30am at St Cuthbert's Church. In May our Sunday school will be on the 14th and the 28th at 9.30am.

Our next Family Service is on 25th June.

Tara Kenyon and Ann Cushion

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Scarecrow Festival 2017



Just a reminder that our Scarecrow Festival will be taking place again this year.

Display dates will be from 1st June to 1st July. There's no theme and no competition.

Once again it's just for fun.

If it's as much fun as last year then we have a lot to look forward to!

And this year we will also be organising a Scarecrow themed treasure hunt for the children on Saturday 10th June to link in with the Village Heritage Weekend.

More details contact Eleanor Wroe.

01704 841216

St Cuthbert's Church Heritage Weekend June 9th-11th

You are warmly welcomed to join us to celebrate the completion of restoration work on the spire and roof

Programme of events:

Friday, 9 th June, 7.30 pm	Musical evening
Saturday, 10 th June, 10 am – 4 pm	History and Heritage of Halsall Church and village
Sunday, 11 th June, 10 am	Sunday service with the Bishop of Liverpool

This weekend will see the culmination of the **Scarecrow Festival** and many interesting artefacts and documents will be on display at the church. As a token of appreciation to all in the community who have supported our efforts over the years all events during the weekend will be free of charge.

Look out for more information next month

If you wish your organisation to be represented in the church display please contact any member of St Cuthbert's social committee or the parish office
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Halsall Sunshine Club

The Christmas party at Briars Hall last December was well attended and enjoyed by all. We had made the decision that this would be our final event and the Sunshine Club would close.

However, at a recent committee meeting we found that we have a small amount of money left in the kitty.

The decision has been made use this money to part- fund a Golden Oldies Lunch Party at Briars Hall on Tuesday 3rd October.

The party costs £15.95 per head and anyone interested in going will be asked to contribute between £5 and £10 to cover the cost. The exact amount will depend on how many people are interested in attending.

Further details to follow later in the year.

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Gardener`s Corner

April at-a-glance

April is the month when the blossom is out in force with everything from flowering cherries to garden fruit trees all making a beautiful show. Mild April weather can make you think summer is here but sharp frosts can still catch you out. Be careful not to plant out tender plants yet unless you can cover with fleece. Enjoy mild sunny days – spring is just around the corner. Happy Gardening.

General Garden Tasks

Spring clean borders, keep on top off weeding & hoeing.

Feed roses, borders, hedges, trees & shrubs with a general-purpose fertiliser.

Treat moss & weeds & re-seed bare patches.

Plant or move evergreen shrubs.

Feed acid loving plants.

Prune winter jasmine and hydrangea; tie in shoots of rambling roses & clematis.

Wait for six weeks (if you can) after flowers of spring bulbs are over before cutting foliage down.

Towards the end of the month, plant dormant dahlia tubers outside.

Plant new alpines & top up scree beds or troughs with gravel.

Continue to sow hardy annuals outside.

Pot up cuttings of tender perennials taken last year.

Tidy up hedges & clip if necessary.

Plant first early, second early & maincrop potatoes.

Plant asparagus crowns & globe artichokes.

Harvest the first overwintered spring onions.

Sow hardy herbs (parsley, chervil, coriander, fennel, dill & marjoram.

Plant strawberries.

Plant & tie-in a new grapevine.

Prune stone fruit trees if necessary.

Ventilate the greenhouse on sunny days but close it early to retain the heat at night.

Top-dress & take cuttings from big old plants.

Spring clean the pond.

Divide overgrown plants & put in new water plants.

Towards the end of the month start feeding your fish.

Watch out for

Slugs & snails on newly emerged perennials & vegetable seedlings.

Plant in their Prime

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