

Halsall News



April 2024

**Front cover photograph taken and provided
by Noel McCarthy-Thomason**

May 2024 MAGAZINE

**Closing date for Articles and Adverts :
13th April 2024**

Contributions by Email to halsallnews@gmail.com

***All details in the magazine are correct to the best of our
knowledge at the time of going to press.***

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Electricity NW	105 or 0800 195 4141
United Utilities (water / flooding)	0345 672 3723
Flooding - Highway	0300 123 6701
Police Contact (non urgent)	101 OR 01695 566058
Local Police Officers or PCSO's	01695 566444
Street Lighting Fault Reporting Line	0300 123 6701
Fire Safety Helpline	0800 169 1125

POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, 4110 Billy Matthews e-mail
Billy.Matthews@lancashire.police.uk

or alternatively Neil Cronshaw who is the Community Beat Officer
for Halsall at 7176@lancashire.police.uk

**Residents should phone 999 in an emergency
and 101 to report a crime and obtain a crime incident number.**
Local contacts are for local issues and consultations only.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair	Elizabeth Wright	07817 056145
Vice Chair	Mary Lyons	01704 840607
Councillors	Raymond Brookfield	07771 798167
	Andy Timon	07979 768562
	Melissa Schofield	07512 584644
	Jimmy Ridley	07941 591937
	Keith Wright	07507 209674
	Noel McCarthy-Thomason	07485 151395
	Beth Roberts	07961 697064
	Julie Ferguson	07415 099652
Parish Clerk	Chris Pyne	Clerk@halsallparish.gov.uk
Borough Councillor	Marilyn Westley	Cllr.MWestley@westlancs.gov.uk 07738 680752
	Alexander Blundell	Cllr.Blundell@westlancs.gov.uk
County Councillor	Jane Marshall	Cllr.Marshall@westlancs.gov.uk
	David O'Toole	01695 421056

THE CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, HALSALL

Rector	The Rev Susan Salt	07730 197656
Curate	The Rev Glen Gardner	0151 287 1686
Reader	David Walker	0151 520 2496
Church Wardens	Elaine Ayre	07896 301322
	Pamela Carr	01695 423817
	Sarah Mitchell	01704 889237
Verger		07808 064996
P.C.C. Secretary	Edward Carr	01695 423817
P.C.C. Treasurer	Colin Throp	01704 841281
Organist	Edward Carr	01695 423817



Access to St Cuthbert's Church

If you require the ramps to be put over the steps in order to gain access to church services or to visit the graveyard, please ring to arrange a mutually agreeable time.

Elaine Ayre 07896 301322

WARDENS AND SIDEPERSONS April 2024

	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides persons
April 7th	Pam Carr	Anne Grimshaw	Beryl Sephton Len Davidson
April 14th	Elain Ayre	Angela Webster	Bill Banks John Wroe
April 21st	Pam Carr	Colin Throp	Elaine Ayre Philip Banks
April 28th	Elaine Ayre	John Wroe	Eleanor Wroe Enid Banks



**Tuesday 2nd April 10am to 11.30am, St Cuthbert's Church,
choir vestry**

Meet old friends and make some new ones, and take the
opportunity
to have a quiet moment in church.



**Tuesday 23rd April 7.30-8.30pm, Millenium Centre, St
Thomas' Lydiate.**

Come along and explore the Christian faith in a fun and
friendly way.

Bring yourself, your friends, and your questions.

The Rector Writes



Liverpool Diocese has long understood the complexities around the region's connection with the transatlantic slave trade. There is ongoing debate about how churches should respond to the reality that some of their historic wealth came from the profits of the slave trade in the form of Queen Anne's Bounty. This was a fund set up in the eighteenth century to help supplement the income of poor clergy and which is now part of the money managed by the Church Commissioners.

The Queen Anne's Bounty invested significant funds in the South Sea Company, a company that traded in enslaved people. It also received numerous benefactions, many of which are likely to have come from individuals linked to, or who profited from, transatlantic chattel slavery or the plantation economy.

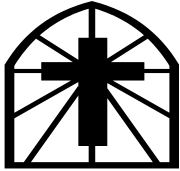
In addition, many churches had benefactors who were directly involved in the slave trade. It is perhaps no great surprise, given our proximity to the port of Liverpool, that St Cuthbert's falls into that category, as an article elsewhere in this newsletter highlights.

This is a complex and sensitive subject. How should St Cuthbert's respond? As a place of worship dedicated to the worship of God, it is key that, as far as we are able, all are made to feel welcome. It is also important to recognise that this not just a historic issue but one that is still a reality for many today. Modern day slavery may look different, but it is still sadly very much present in our modern world.

Whilst St Cuthbert's does not have grand monuments to slave traders, as other churches do, we have a duty to humbly admit that some of our historic wealth has come from this evil trade and, in doing so, recognise that as Christians we are called to live in a different way.

Over the next few months the Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be considering how we acknowledge St Cuthbert's connection with the slave trade and how we can speak up to challenge modern slavery, and in doing so try to build a better world.

Susan



Service in the United Benefice for April 2024

As we continue to celebrate Easter, what acts of kindness and generosity can we share with each other and our wider community?

Sunday 7th April, Easter 1

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (with Church without walls)
11.00am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist

Tuesday 9th April

9.15am	St Thomas' said Morning Prayer
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Wednesday 10th April

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 11th April

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 14th April Easter 2

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

Tuesday 16th April

9.15am	St Thomas' said Morning Prayer
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Wednesday 17th April

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW holy Communion
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Thursday 18th April

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 21st April Easter 3

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (with Messy Church)
11am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist

Tuesday 23rd April

9.15am	St Thomas' said Morning Prayer
--------	--------------------------------

Wednesday 24th April

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 25th April

9.15am St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer

1.30pm St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Rogationtide celebration (weather permitting) Saturday 27th April

Join us on one of a number of leisurely walks around the village to mark Rogationtide. We walk with thankful hearts and ask God's blessing on the land and the work of our farming community.

Sunday 28th April Easter 4

8.00am St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion

9.30am St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist with a focus on Rogationtide

11am St Thomas All Age Eucharist

Please note there will be an additional evening service at St Thomas' at 7pm for Ascension Day on Thursday 9th May

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us at any of our United Benefice Services.

There is now a Southport to St Helens Service Monday to Saturday

152 Southport To St Helens via Halsall (new timetable)

Southport, Kew Hospital, Moss Road, Shirdley Hill, Renacres Hospital, Halsall, Barton, Haskayne, Town Green, Aughton, Ormskirk, Edge Hill, St Helens

Southport	Shirdley Hill	Halsall	Haskayne	Ormskirk
07:50 (Hospital)	07:56	08:06	08:12	08:31
09:30 (Lord St)	09:48	09:58	10:04	10:23
11:30 (Lord St)	11:48	11:58	12:09	12:23
13:30 (Lord St)	13:48	13:58	14:09	14:23
17:15 (Lord St)	17:33	17:43	17:49	18:08
Ormskirk	Haskayne	Halsall	Shirdley Hill	Southport
08:23	08:42	08:48	08:58	09:18 (Lord St)
10:25	10:44	10:50	11:00	11:20 (Lord St)
12:25	12:44	12:50	13:00	13:20 (Lord St)
15:25	15:44	15:50	16:00	16:20 (Lord St)
17:47	18:06	18:12	18:23	18:43 (Lord St)

YOUR CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT, HALSALL

For enquiries about baptisms or weddings or service information

Phone: 0151 526 2292

Email: stthomassteph@btinternet.com

The office is staffed Monday-Wednesday 9.00am—1.00pm.

Our website, www.halsallstcuthberthub.co.uk contains information about services and events, archive material including historic school records, up to date Parish Magazines as well as those dating back to the 1800's.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Prayer and worship is at the heart of all we do.

It is only with the generosity of our community that we can sustain our wonderful church and keep our clergy.

St Cuthbert's is responsible for funding everything we do as a church. Despite what some people think none of our activities are directly funded by the Diocese or the National Church.

You can use the Parish Giving Scheme to make one off donations by scanning this QR code.



FRIENDS OF ST CUTHBERT'S

You can also support St Cuthbert's by becoming "a friend".

All the funds raised through this scheme are directed to the maintenance and repair of the church building and grounds.

There is a minimum donation of £20 per year to join, but you can then choose how much and how regularly you donate.

For further information please contact info@halsallstcuthbert.co.uk

Thank you for supporting us.

Without you we cannot be the church we aspire to be.

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)



CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

April 2024

14th April	P Carr	J Bond	E Carr A Grimshaw	A Webster
28th April	E Wroe	J Wroe	G Williams	S Richards

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Email: hello@theshipinnhaskayne.co.uk

**Saracen's Head
Crown Green Bowling Club**
(rear of Saracen's Head, Summerwood Lane, Halsall)

New Members and Visitors Welcome

We would be delighted to welcome both established players
and beginners.

**We have several league teams for those looking to play
competitively**

Social Bowling is hosted twice weekly

Thursdays 1.30pm - 4pm

Sundays 1.30pm – 4pm

We will provide the bowls and tea & biscuits!

- Anyone is welcome to come along to the Socials.
- You don't have to be a member, or a bowler, to join in
- A very friendly crowd of bowlers who will welcome you,
and a great way to try out bowling.
- Tuition can be arranged if you are new to bowling

Come along and give bowls a try.

50% Discount on your first year's membership fee if you
decide to join us

For further information, please contact
Lynda Hodge on 07435 971762

Check our Facebook page and website for more info
<https://www.facebook.com/saracensheadbowlingclub>
<https://saracensheadbowlingclubhalsall.wordpress.com>

COME JOIN US!

EASTER FILM & CRAFTS

THURSDAY
4TH APRIL
10:30AM

**HALSALL MEMORIAL
HALL**

Colouring Competition
Egg Decorating
Mask Making & More!

Donations to the Halsall War
Memorial, Playing Field & Hall Trust
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Ormskirk Music Society Orchestra

We are recruiting!

If you play an orchestral instrument, we'd love to hear from you.

- Rehearsals: Thursdays 7.45pm at Asmall Primary School, Ormskirk, L39 3PJ
- No auditions
- Friendly atmosphere
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Email hgarritt@talktalk.net
ormskirkmusicsociety.org.uk

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Halsall's Patrons, A questionable past

In the 19th century Halsall St Cuthbert's was a rich parish. It had had some very wealthy patrons in the past, including the Earl of Macclesfield and the Mordaunts. The patron was important not just to the church but to the village.

The Advowson (deeds) of the church were a lucrative prospect when they became available for sale at the end of the 18th century and Jonathan Blundell, who had made a fortune in the trans-Atlantic slave trade from Liverpool, bought the advowson so that his brother Thomas could benefit from the living as Rector, with a good income from glebe lands and church tithes. Shipping was in the family and his father Bryan Blundell had captained the *Mulberry*, which transported a large number of slave workers to Virginia and was the first ship to berth in the Old Dock in Liverpool in 1715.

During the 18th century Liverpool was Britain's main slaving port. Between 1700 and 1807, ships from Liverpool carried approximately 1.5 million Africans across the Atlantic in conditions of great cruelty. Most Liverpool ships went first to Africa and then to the islands of the Caribbean and Virginia in the American colonies, where captains sold the men, women and children as slaves to plantation owners. His son Jonathan was the sole owner of the slave ship *Tarleton* which, on one recorded voyage, landed 236 of its 273 slaves in Barbados having embarked them from the Gold Coast. The Blundell's sons and descendants continued to build wealth from the transatlantic slave trade throughout the 18th century.

Liverpool controlled more than half of the European trade and surpassed London and Bristol. Wealth was amassed and, consequently, much of the city's growth and development was based on profits of the slave trade.

There were 111 known voyages over six decades, when slaves were sold in West Indies and the American colonies, the ships returned to Liverpool with sugar, cotton and tobacco. One sixth of captured Africans died on voyages in the cruel and cramped conditions. Most slaves came from Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Congo, Gabon, and Angola. One sixth of captured Africans died on voyages in the cruel and cramped conditions.

The Blundells kept the patronage of the church throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. After slavery was abolished the descendants of the Blundells turned their attention to mining for coal. They were philanthropic, building schools and a church for mining communities in Orrel near Wigan. When Rector Thomas Blundell Hollinshead Blundell came to the living of St Cuthbert's in 1870 he had a new rectory built across the road from the church. Great expenditure was lavished upon the church in stained glass and ornate lecterns and his brother Henry Hollinshead Blundell financially supported the foundation of the new school in Halsall with his generosity.

The Rector Thomas and his wife Adelaide were much loved for their support of the village and villagers. However, though slavery had been abolished in 1833 his brother Henry Hollinshead Blundell was still using child labour in the mines until 1900. It could be argued that the Blundells in their generosity to the church and village were atoning for the mistakes of the past. They had made much of their wealth in the mines of Pemberton, Orell and Wigan but the profit of that wealth had its origins in African slaves.

I began research on this subject in June 2023 after a visit to the Bluecoat chambers in Liverpool which led me to linking slavery to Jonathan Blundell one of the Halsall patrons listed in Bullough's book. It was a long shot because Blundell is a common name however, the link was established when the Mordaunts previous patrons advertised the church for sale among the business and commerce classes in Liverpool and Jonathan Blundell responded. The story behind this is referenced in my article in the Lancashire Archive magazine November 2023.

Stephen Henders

Sources Consulted

H Bullough 1985—A guide to Halsall Church Gordon A Grant 1993—A History of St Michael's Highfield

Bluecoat Chambers Liverpool—Walled history & illustrations of ships used in slavery trade

Lancashire record office Halsall archive

Illustrated London News January 1939—'A page for Collectors' Frank Davis

Birmingham Gazette July 1896

The Painting of Thomas Turner Lancashire Archive Magazine November 2023 S Henders



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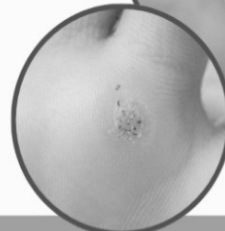
Email: lesrynhart@yahoo.co.uk

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Southport
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Friends of the Green (FROGS) update 2024

As I'm sure you are all aware, this excessively wet winter has been somewhat of a challenge for the FROGS. However, we have managed to make some progress in our efforts to further improve our surroundings. We have planted several hundred daffodil, tulip, and mixed selection spring bulbs and most of the pots have been replanted. New roses have been added to the beds, plus some additional perennials. Sadly, we lost five mature willows due to the high winds and boggy ground. To compensate for this 25 whips have been planted in a nursery bed but these will only be ready to plant out as young sapling trees in a few years time. The fallen trees have all been cut up into logs and distributed to local residents with log burners. A plum tree and a pear tree have been added to the orchard and two other trees are in transit.

I'm also pleased to tell you that a very generous local resident has offered to supply a shaded tree ring bench (in the hope of a hot summer).

All of this work is possible because of the very kind and generous support we receive from you the residents, in your attendance at the various functions held at St Aidans, and on the Village Green. Speaking of which, Noel with the support of the newly formed community association has organised a full programme of events running throughout the summer; please attend when possible.

Before closing, since this is your green, any ideas you may have for improvement are always appreciated. On behalf of the frogs, thank you one and all.



Ormskirk Music Society Choir

Calling all singers...

- Rehearsals: Fridays 7.30pm at Asmall Primary School, Ormskirk L39 3PJ
- No auditions
- Music reading not essential
- Friendly atmosphere
- Four concerts a year

For more information

Call 07908 688167

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One-Off Users £10 per hour, Regular Users £7 per hour
Kitchen, amplifier & speakers, projector & screen,
ample parking

Contact Chris Pyne 01704 841467
Halsallparishclerk@gmail.com

MEMORIAL HALL and PLAYING FIELD Hire

The hall is available for bookings; days, evenings,
Saturdays after 7pm and Sundays
Changing Rooms, Showers, Toilets, Kitchen, Main Hall with
Dance Mirrors. Tables and Chairs for 60+ guests.

£12 per hour, £10 per hour for regular users

Catering service available from Bakehouse Café next door

Folding Tables and Folding Chairs available to hire

Contact Chris Pyne 01704 841467 HalsallTrust@gmail.com

HALSALL ST CUTHBERT'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

Tuesday Evenings from 6pm or Saturday.

Contact Mr Scholes at School Tel; 01704 840253

HALSALL PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre is available for private lettings

Please contact Mr Scholes at school

For details of charges and availability Tel; 01704 840253

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01704 891555

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What's On!

Club/Group	Meetings	Contact
1st Halsall Scout Group Boys & Girls age 6-14	Scarisbrick Village Hall Monday 6.30-8pm	Karen 07973953651
Halsall Village Proud & Tidy Group	Various working parties around the village.	Eleanor Wroe 01704 841216 Or Enid Banks 01704 567654
Saracen's Head Crown Green Bowling Club	Various. contact Lynda for details.	Lynda Hodge 07435 971762
Ormskirk & District Lions Club	Charity supporting local causes. Looking for new members.	Sylvia Corfield 01704 840705
St Cuthbert's Church	Services 9.30am every Sunday .	Parish office 0151 526 2292
FROG Friends of Shirdley Hill Village Green	9.30am Tuesdays & Fridays	01704 840607
Jigsaw Library Its free to join and free to bor- row.	We ask for a donation of a jigsaw then you can borrow as often as you like.	Sue Charnock Facebook Page
Halsall Bees & Butterflies Brigade	Starting spring 2024 for new members	Clare Edwards cedwards1144@gmail.com
Halsall Badminton Club	Halsall School Thursday 7.30pm	Jim 01704 840908 Margaret 01704 840305
Yoga	St.Cuthbert's School Wednesdays from 7.30pm	James McLoughlin 07852 192440

If there are any community groups, social groups, sports groups or well being groups starting up let me know and I can add them to the 'What's On' section.

halsallnews@gmail.com

NEWS FROM HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

Planning Applications

2023/0491/FUL, 20 Gregory Lane, variation in condition 6 Parking

2024/0009/PNP, Gorse Hill Farm, new agricultural track

Recent decisions –all granted

2024/0008/FUL, Gesterfield Barn, Halsall Road, Removal of conditions

2023/1152/FUL, Sport Pavilion, Placement of storage container

2023/1092/FUL, Renacres Hall Farm, Renacres lane, demolition and erection of new Steel framed building

Withdrawn

2024/0003/TCA, White Lodge, The Runnell, tree pruning

Planning Appeals 2022/0328/FUL Leckwith Contracts Ltd Land To The Rear Of 84 And 86, New Street, Halsall, Erection of a one and a half storey high detached house on land to the rear of 86 New Street, Halsall

St Aidan's Hall

The **Shirdley Hill Community Association** held its first meeting. The event was well attended. Volunteers' positions were filled. The fortnightly Luncheon Club is very popular and all are welcomed to these Halsall community events.

The vacancy for a Hall Cleaner has been filled.

A contractor has been employed to maintain the car park, hedging gutters and drains and the area around the Hall.

The water leak has been fixed and refurbishment is ongoing.

St Aidan's will be a **Polling Station** for 2024 May Local and General Election.

Report from Traffic & Road Safety Group

There has been a serious accident, multiple ambulances, at Plex Moss Lane crossroads. There are no specific details available. And another minor collision as traffic was diverted down lanes causing more disruption.

PARKING

Cars double parking and parking on pavements are causing problems. Please can residents park in their driveways if possible and leave enough room when parking on pavements to allow prams and wheelchairs to get through. The Council frequently receives complaints about parents parking inconsiderately during the school run to St Cuthbert's School.

Potholes and Flooding

The common denominator here, between these issues, is that complaints to **Love Clean Streets** on this link <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/report-it-on-the-go/> have yielded some success with pothole repairs and street flooding issues. HPC has written to the Head of Highways regarding the approach to fixing potholes on Gregory's Lane.

LCC have responded with a diagram on the condition of road surface at Gregory's Lane roundabout which has identified the need for a resurfacing project.

Restoration of Ancient public footpaths in Halsall

Halsall has a large number of public footpaths, some of which have become overgrown. Volunteers are needed to help clearing them. Please contact Chris Pyne or Liz Wright if you are willing to kindly volunteer to help as if we don't use these paths we may lose them

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m. at St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane, Shirdley Hill Halsall.** We meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Parish Council Website includes agendas and minutes of meetings

<https://halsallparish.org.uk/>

Upcoming events and news are posted on Facebook Halsall Village Community Forum

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/200983146975703>

also on Facebook Shirdley Hill Hub

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Liz Wright Chair and Chris Pyne Parish Clerk.

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The Trust is currently recruiting a Trust Secretary to replace Chris Pyne who is stepping down.

The vacancy for a Memorial Hall Cleaner has been filled.

**The next tea and coffee morning will be 18th April 2024 from
11am-1pm**

The Memorial Hall will be a **Polling Station** for 2024 May Local and later General elections.

HPC will liaise with WLBC on arranging a **Community skip day** for supervised waste collection at the Memorial Hall car park.

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Halsall St Cuthbert's **April Report**

Admissions

We have had a strong demand for reception places this year. Hopefully, all those for whom Halsall was 1st choice, will be offered a place. The LEA will be contacting parents in early April regarding their application.

If any parents are not successful in gaining a place for their child and have been offered a different school, I would ask them to contact school as soon as possible after the Easter holidays. There may be opportunities to accept slightly more than our Admissions Number following consultation with the LEA. Please do not give up hope.

Sport

The school's Athletics Team recently won the West Lancs District competition and then represented West Lancs at the County Finals in Blackpool. Competing against 14 other Lancashire Districts, the team did brilliantly, finishing 5th overall. Considering that most of the district winning teams were much larger than Halsall and some with 300-400 pupils on-roll, it makes finishing 5th a much greater achievement. The children had a great time and they showed great team spirit and sportsmanship. Many thanks to Mrs Crane and Miss Schumacher for giving the children this amazing opportunity to compete at the finals.

Activity Trail

The school's play area has now been renovated and the children are really enjoying using all the new equipment, building up their strength and improving their balance and agility.

Mothers' Day Service

The children performed brilliantly at the special Mothers' Day service in St Cuthbert's Church recently. The church was packed to the rafters. There was lots of enthusiastic singing and dancing and worship and I'm sure that all the parents and visitors had a lovely time watching the children perform with such confidence and with such joy. Thanks to Rev Susan and to the staff for all their hard work in organizing the service and looking after the children so well.

School Enrichment

Apart from providing before at the start and end of the school day, we also organize a wide range of activities at lunchtime and from 3-30pm to 4-30pm. We have a Coding Club and a Chess Club. We have an Art Club, a Dance Club, a Lego Club, an Environmental Club, a Gardening Club and various sports activities throughout the year, such as football, benchball, rounders, cheerleading, gymnastics, orienteering, tennis, etc.

A big thanks to the staff for their commitment to provide these opportunities.

Parking in the Halsall Area

Congestion around both the school and the church at certain times of the day is always going to be high. The vast, vast majority of parents and visitors park responsibly and considerately. A small number however do not. This is mainly because they only want to walk as short a distance as possible to get to the church or the school playground. We have had reports of people parking across driveways (so residents can't go out until they return) people double-parking and narrowing the road so that large vehicles (buses and tractors) cannot pass through and have to turn around and find an alternative route through. Sometimes people park in the private car parks of local businesses such as Bambers Solicitors (taking both staff and client spaces), they park on blind bends, they park in the disabled spaces in school (and they are not even disabled) they park in the bus layby or in the time-restricted areas along Carr Moss Lane. Unfortunately, it is now easy to monitor and control parking throughout the area. We have to rely and peoples' good nature and good will.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and we will continue to send out reminders about considerate parking.

Doug Scholes (Head Teacher)



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

Warm Spaces Coffee Morning

Thursday 18th April
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Halsall Village Proud & Tidy Group

It's time to start thinking about our entry in the 2024 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition. We are once again in the Champions Class having won the Large Village Class previously. Last year we came 5th out of 8 behind Elswick Blacko and Bretherton. Let's see if we can improve on that this year.

Hopes are high because improvements have been made in Bishops Walk, the Churchyard and the Memorial Playing Fields which will all boost our overall score. Full details will be in the May newsletter.

Eight bird boxes have been put up in Bishops Walk and the children from the Church Without Walls group have added to the bug hotels there.

Work continues on planting and tidying around the two entrances and the steep bank at the lower end and flowering plants are being added to attract more wildlife.

If anyone is getting their garden tidied up for Spring and digging up or dividing any unwanted bee-friendly shrubs then please get in touch. They may be just what we need in Bishops Walk.

Next month it will be time to plant up the Church borders along the pathway and Brian's planters around the village.

Yes - Spring is on the way! Hurrah!

If anyone else has some time to spare there are further plans we would like to put in place and we'd very much appreciate your help to achieve what we have in mind so please get in touch if you'd like to join our merry band of helpers.



For further information about our work please contact -
Eleanor Wroe (elliwroe@hotmail.com or 07817 55 75 33)
or Enid Banks (enidbanks@aol.com or 07977 920 956)

Bees and Butterflies Brigade

Thank you to all of you who helped to get our churchyard planting off to a great start in March! Spring will help our new plants establish and bear colourful, bee-friendly flowers! April is a busy time of year for our pollinating insects as they seek to build up their strength after hibernation and look for suitable places to rear their young. Gardens play a vital role in their success so, if you are thinking of re-stocking your garden this April, please spare a thought for special creatures like honey bees, bumble bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths – your choice of plant is important.

One of the most helpful things we can do in our gardens is fill them full of flowering plants. These provide nectar (carbohydrate) and pollen (protein) to beneficial insects and, like us, they need a balanced and varied diet to be healthy. So, the key to your plant choices should be “variety”. Choose to plant a range of different plants in your garden and try to include plants that have different shapes and sizes of flower. This will provide a choice of pollen and nectar for insects and encourage a wide variety of visitors. So, for example, the tubular flowers of foxglove favour bumblebees – it’s amazing to watch them disappear inside – whilst the flattish heads of yarrow favour hoverflies. Some plants, such as the open, saucer-like flowers of geranium “Rozanne”, attract both small bumblebees and honey bees and they are long-flowering into the bargain. Avoid plants with overly-frilly or double flowers as these make it hard for bees to access the center of the flower and little nectar is gained for their effort.

Try to make sure that there is something in flower in your garden during each season of the year. This means that insects will keep coming back, knowing that they can find food. Oriental hellebores and lungwort (in a shady spot) are fantastic food plants for bees in the spring; aquilegias, catmint, geranium and poppies flower in early summer, echinacea and verbena are magnets for bees and butterflies in mid-to-late summer and ice-plant or michaelmas daisies are vital late sources of nectar for many insects. Include key plants like these in your gardens and you will help beneficial insects to thrive through the year.

If you are a novice gardener and plant names are daunting, please don’t give up – plants in garden centers are usually labelled and there is a handy little bee logo to look out for on the labels, which indicates a pollinator-friendly plant. Try planting up a few pots with bee-friendly plants and place them in a sunny, sheltered spot – passing bees may well use these as a pit-stop!

If you’d like support with your plant choices, I’d be more than happy to help with ideas, advice or a visit to have a chat with you. Please do get in touch. Alternatively, come along to the next meeting of “The Bs” in St. Cuthbert’s Churchyard, 2pm on Sunday 21st April – we’ll be sowing wild flower seed!

Clare Edwards

Email Clare: cedwards1144@gmail.com



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WE MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH**

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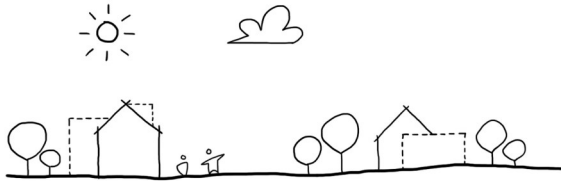
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