

Halsall News

December/January 2017



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

February 2017 MAGAZINE

Closing date for Articles: Monday 16th January

Contributions by Email only to the editor
Chris Birks at

enquiry@4cornersdesign.co.uk

Closing date for Adverts: Monday 16th January

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...

The scaffolding has been erected around the choir vestry in preparation for the vestry roof repairs. There is still access to the church up the main path.



Check out the Facebook page for latest updates.



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

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	

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

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

A new website for Halsall's St Cuthbert Church community has been launched and 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

The Reader Writes

Well, not long now! The Christmas adverts have been reminding us for ages. Any day now the Summer 2017 holiday adverts are due on TV. I do find it hard not to get all sentimental at Christmas. There is something about it (whether it is the result of clever marketing, nostalgia or the Christmas story itself – or all three) that can make us feel cosy and warm.

But Christmas has been sanitised. From the hymn that tells us “the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes” – really?? – to classical paintings and Christmas card images of animals looking lovingly on the baby Jesus looking comfortable in a clean, dry straw bed – again, really??

Surely the reality of a young, heavily pregnant Mary forced to travel about 90miles by dirt road from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey before struggling to find somewhere to give birth amidst the animals was very different?

Add to that need for his family to flee Herod’s infanticide of all boys under two years of age in and around Bethlehem to ensure the death of Jesus. This, of course, resulted in the loss of an entire generation of boys.

When ISIS invaded Mosul in the summer of 2014, Christians’ homes were marked out with a symbol – the Arabic for ‘N’ (for Nazarene, or Christian). Like the baby boys of Bethlehem, they were marked out because of an association with Jesus, because, like Herod, ISIS are terrified of Jesus’ world changing potential.

Incredibly Jesus escaped and he lived in Egypt until Herod’s death. Many Christians escaped from Mosul and fled to Kurdistan. Though part of Iraq, Kurdistan speaks Kurdish, not Arabic, and has its own distinct culture.

Like the refugees in Kurdistan, Mary and Joseph wouldn’t have known when (if) they would be able to go home. In fact when they did return to Israel, it still wasn’t safe to go back to Bethlehem, and instead they went to Nazareth. For many refugees in Iraq, this is not the first time they’ve had to run. Many came to Mosul as refugees from Baghdad in the first place. They have no idea when they will be able to go home.

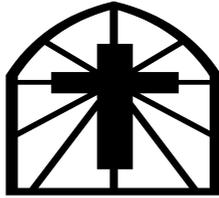
He knew what it was like to be a refugee but this part of Jesus’ life often gets forgotten. But Jesus’ early childhood will resonate with many Christians around the world this Christmas. According to the United Nations, there are over 21million refugees worldwide, and over half of them are under 18 years old. And many of these are Christians fleeing persecution.

In Matthew 25: 40 Jesus says that ‘whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

When we see news footage of the refugees from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, let’s remember the reality of their experience. How would we want the world to treat Jesus the refugee, if he were fleeing persecution today?

With warmest Christmas blessings,

David



**SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE FOR
DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017**

Sunday 4th December 2016 – Advent 2

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
11.14am	Christingle	St Thomas'
4.00pm	Christingle	St Thomas'

Sunday 11th December 2016 – Advent 3

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

Sunday 18th December 2016 – Advent 4

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	Nativity (and Eucharist)	St Cuthbert's
11.15am	Eucharist & Nativity	St Thomas'
4.00pm	Carols with Marshside Brass Band	St Cuthbert's
6.00pm	Christmas Songs of Praise	St Thomas'

FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES PLEASE SEE
SEPARATE ADVERT

Sunday 1st January 2017 -The Naming of Jesus

10.00am United Benefice Eucharist St Thomas'

Sunday 8th January 2017 – The Epiphany

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

Sunday 15th January 2017 – Epiphany 2

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

Sunday 22nd January 2017 – Epiphany 3

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

Sunday 29th January 2017 – Candlemas

10.30am United Benefice Eucharist St Cuthbert's

MID-WEEK SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

**FOR WEDNESDAY'S IN DECEMBER PLEASE SEE THE SEPARATE
'WELCOME THE MESSIAH ADVERT' (Below)**

Wednesday 4 th January	10.00am	St Thomas' Church
Wednesday 11 th January	10.00am	St Thomas' Church
Wednesday 18 th January	NO SERVICE	
Wednesday 25 th January	10.00am	St Thomas' Church

WELCOME THE MESSIAH

(No thanks I'm too busy)

Advent – A time of prayer and reflection

As we prepare once again to remember the 'Greatest Story' ever told. Let us take some time to reflect on Jesus and just who He is to us.

Each Wednesday in Advent we are encouraging people to pray and worship and reflect upon Jesus.

All services will be held in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 30th November

Jesus: The King
8.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 7th December

Jesus: The Word made Flesh
8.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 14th December

Jesus: The Light of the World
8.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 21st December

Jesus: Our Salvation
8.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

'I bring good news of great joy – A Saviour will be born'

Christingle 2016



CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4.00pm

St Cuthbert's Church

YOU are invited to this fun Service for all the family

which supports the work of



CHILDREN AND ADULTS JOIN IN THE FUN AND COME IN A
FESTIVE HAT - YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO!!!!!!

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EARLIER TIME

Christmas Services

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME FOR THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY 18th December – Advent 4

8.00am	BCP Communion	St Thomas'
9.30am	Eucharist and Nativity	St Cuthbert's
4.00pm	Carol Service with Marshside Brass Band	St Cuthbert's
6.00pm	Christmas Songs of Praise	St Thomas'

SATURDAY 24th December – Christmas Eve

8.00am	Morning Prayer	St Thomas'
4.00pm	Christingle Service	St Cuthbert's
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Cuthbert's

**The Celebrant & Preacher for Midnight Mass will be
The Rt Revd Paul Bayes – The Bishop of Liverpool**

SUNDAY 25th December – Christmas Day

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion + Carols	St Thomas'
9.30am	BCP Holy Communion & Carols	St Cuthbert's
11.00am	Eucharist and Carols	St Thomas'

(Children bring a toy to show the Rector)



Carols Round the Tree



Sunday 18th December 4.00pm
At
St Cuthbert's, Halsall

Come and Sing your favourite Carol
With Marshside Brass Band



Followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine!



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Not too late to join in with the Christmas Tree Event. Thought it would be an idea to have a tree in each window as well, maybe decorated to represent a Christmas carol. Your choice. We would really appreciate as many people, organisations and businesses to join in as possible. I am aware it is a busy time of year for everyone but adults and children thoroughly enjoyed it last year, so let's see what we can come up with this year!!!!

Church will be open for the festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9th, 10th and 11th December 1pm – 6pm each day. Come and see the church in all its festive glory.

The trees will be in situ throughout the Christmas season.
(Dismantle probably 2nd Jan-7th Jan 2017)
Everyone is welcome to take part. Fresh or artificial trees or other materials, no height restriction. Battery lights please if you are illuminating your tree. Also a card with a title and who is exhibiting the display if possible makes it all the more interesting.
Last year we had such a vast selection of trees, quirky and traditional ideas, so again your choice.
You can google CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVALS if you want some inspirational ideas.
For more details contact Enid on 07977920956 / 01704567654
email: enidbanks@aol.com

Chalice Rota



December 2016 / January 2017

4 th December	Gwyn Williams	Ann Throp
11 th December	Ann Cushion	Lynda Bramwell
18 th December	Diane Comfort	Lynda Bramwell
25 th December	Beryl Sephton	David Jessop
1 st January	Ann Cushion	Lynda Bramwell
8 th January	Elaine Ayre	Sarah Mitchell
15 th January	Tara Kenyon	Stephanie Hilton
22 nd January	Colin Throp	Lynda Bramwell
29 th January	Gwyn Williams	Ann Throp

WARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS



December 2016

	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides Persons
4th	Stephen Henders	Ann Grimshaw	Eleanor Wroe. Stephanie Hilton
11th	Lynda Bramwell	Colin Throp	Tina Roberts. Polly Tomlinson
18th	Stephen Henders	Elaine Ayre	Jim Critchley. Len Davidson
25th	Lynda Bramwell	David Jessop	David Jessop. Ann Cushion

January 2017

	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides Persons
1st	Stephen Henders	Ann Grimshaw	Christine Jones. Rebecca Trearich
8th	Lynda Bramwell	Elaine Ayre	Elaine Ayre. Philip Banks
15th	Stephen Henders	Colin Throp	Bill Banks. John Wroe
22nd	Lynda Bramwell	David Jessop	Beryl Sephton. Bill White
29th	Stephen Henders	Elaine Ayre	Eileen Houlgrave. Ann Critchley

ST CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS FAIR



Saturday 3rd December
from 2.00pm
In St Cuthbert's Church Hall

A fun event for all the family.

Grand Draw,
vegetable stall, cake stall, tombola,
Christmas wreaths and plants, Christmas
cards and decorations,
refreshments and much more.



This event is to raise money for the
church spire appeal so please come
along and support your church.



NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

2016/1089/FUL – Malt Kiln Barn - Extension and remodeling of domestic ancillary outbuilding - re-submission of 2016/0627/FUL

2016/1145/FUL – 10 Moss Rd - Two storey side extension to residential property

2016/1152/FUL – 14a New Cut Lane - Variation of Condition No. 10 of planning permission 2014/0301/FUL to read "No development shall take place until a surface water drainage scheme and means of disposal has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The surface water drainage scheme must be restricted to existing run-off rates. The development shall be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved details"

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.

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall.

Please note: If you wish to make audio or video recording, or take photographs of the meeting please phone Dave Bond, Parish Clerk on 01704 534090 or email davebondhpc@aol.com in advance of the meeting so that this can be arranged in an organised manner in order to minimise any disruption.

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 St Cuthbert's Sunday School



The next meeting of the Sunday school will be on the 11th Dec at 9.30am, meeting in church for a blessing, and then going to the Parish Centre to prepare for the Nativity service. This performance will take place on the 18th Dec during the 9.30am service.

We were all so proud of Hannah and Ben who laid their poppies at the monument on Remembrance Sunday. So we say a big thank you to them both.

Wishing you all peace and joy at Christmas.

Tara Kenyon and Ann Cushion

**(Dates for Jan - 8th and 22nd,
Feb -12th and the 26th for a Family Service.)**

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

December 2016

January 2017



11th Dec	A Critchley	P Waterworth C Moss	S Waterworth E Robinson	K Twist M Mills
25th Dec	P Carr	E Houlgrave E Parry	E Carr A Webster	A Grimshaw

8th Jan	E Wroe	J Wroe J Rawsthorne	K Mudd B Knowles	S Jessop
22nd Jan	E Banks	N Donaldson S Roberts	M Webster	L Wilkinson
5th Feb	A Critchley	P Waterworth C Moss	S Waterworth E Robinson	K Twist M Mills



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR CAROL SINGING

This year we will be carol singing at Tesco's in Kew on Thursday 8th December from 7pm to 8pm and at Booth's in Burscough on Thursday 15th December from 7pm to 8pm.

A sign up sheet will be available in church for volunteers who wish to help out with the singing and a short rehearsal will be arranged nearer the events.

This event is to raise money for the church spire appeal so please come along and support your church.

Any further information please contact Mr E Carr on 01695 423817

Halsall Village Community Group



Come and deliver your letter to Father Christmas on Saturday 10th December at the Saracens Head, following on from last year the format has changed slightly.

Father Christmas will be joining us and children can come and drop off their letters in person and receive a gift. This will be on a ticket basis from 1 pm and you will be given a time slot.

Also on the same afternoon is the Christmas tree festival at Halsall church which I think is a lovely idea to visit Santa and then pop off to the church and view the beautiful Christmas trees where you will also receive a warm welcome.

If you would like to visit Santa on Saturday 10th December, the cost per child is £1.50 please message Louise or ring 07734452323 to book. Thank you.

Massams Christmas Tree Barn

T: 01704 840265

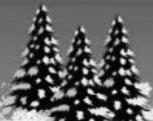
WIDE RANGE OF TREES 3FT TO 25FT
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- FRASER FIR
- NORWAY SPRUCE
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- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- CHRISTMAS DECS
- ACRYLIC LED FIGURES
- INDOOR & OUTDOOR



100'S OF TREES TO CHOOSE FROM ALL INSIDE
OPENING HOURS MON - SUN 9:00AM TILL LATE

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AT MASSAMS



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NOW OPEN!

GROTTO IS
WEEKENDS ONLY
3-4TH, 10-11TH,
17-18TH DEC

Santas Grotto



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Church

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Or visit www.phoenix-trading.co.uk/web/sarahmitchell



SANCTUARY LIGHTS

DECEMBER

- 2nd Joyce May Core (In Memoriam)
- 2nd Jennifer Kitching (Birthday)
- 6th James Hilton (Wedding Anniversary)
- 6th Albert Pilkington (Birthday)
- 7th Margaret Stopforth
- 8th Jane Grimshaw
- 9th Nellie Sutton (Birthday)
- 13th Kenneth Alan Bailey
- 14th William Maxwell Boardman
- 15th Cecil Rhodes
- 16th Jessie Grimshaw (Anniversary)
- 17th Lily Gaskell
- 20th Harold Gaskell
- 25th Harold Dean
- 25th Joseph Balmer
- 28th Barbara Brookfield
- 29th Doreen Porter (Birthday)
- 31st James William Bailey (Birthday)



JANUARY

- 1st Elizabeth Rhodes
- 3rd R J Critchley
- 7th Joan Aindow (Birthday)
- 7th John Marshall (Birthday)
- 8th Edward Shacklady
- 9th Gladys May Core (Remembrance)
- 11th Margaret Haldane (Anniversary)
- 12th Marjorie Dunbavand (Birthday)
- 14th The Mercer Family
- 15th Jack Huyton (Birthday)
- 20th Henry Serjeant
- 25th Tom Dennett (Birthday)
- 26th Jack Huyton (Anniversary)
- 27th Albert Pilkington
- 27th George Gaskell
- 27th Rose Mary Bailey Anniversary)
- 28th John Johnson (Birthday)
- 29th Richard Bolton Ainscough (Anniversary)

Report from Halsall St Cuthbert's

Bonfire and Fireworks

The Bonfire Night was another big success considering there was so much local competition from events in Southport and Ormskirk. The PTFA raised over £2500 whilst other local groups such as the Rotary Club, Church Spire Group and the Learning Tree Nursery, also raised much needed funds. And once again, the fireworks were amazing!

Many thanks to all the parents and friends who came along to help with the organisation. Without their hard work and commitment, this fabulous and village event wouldn't be able to go ahead.

Many apologies if any local residents have been inconvenienced in any way. We have tried hard to keep disruption (inconsiderate parking) to a minimum.

Hopefully things are getting a little better.

Christmas Concerts "The Head Teacher Cancels Christmas"

Both staff and children have been busy with rehearsals for several weeks now. There's so much to do and so many songs and dances to learn. And the children are really looking forward to performing for their parents and family. It should be brilliant.

We have a performance on the following days :

Tuesday 13th 10-00am

Wednesday 14th 2-00pm

Thursday 15th 7-00pm

Friday 16th 9-30am (Reception Nativity)

If anyone would like to watch the Tuesday show, please let us know.

Tickets are £3 and all monies raised will be donated to Claire House and the Tom Church Foundation.

Special Days

To keep the children enthused and excited we continue to organise lots of wonderful events in school and we've lots to come. Here's just a few :

- NSPCC talk and workshop – Wear Something Green Day
- Reception Balanceability Course – this is amazing for the little ones!
- Pantomime - Babes in the Wood
- Character Dress Day and Book Week (Shakespeare)
- Children in Need Day – Wear Something Spotty!
- Fire Service visit
- Cinema Night (PTFA)
- Confirmation Service at St Cuthbert's Church (Sunday)
- School Eucharist
- Toast Week
- Concerts and Nativity
- Talent Show
- Christmas Party
- Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day
- Christingle Service

LEA Annual Summary

The Annual Summary Report from the LEA makes excellent reading. It acknowledges the particularly high attainment in both Reading and Mathematics across the school (compared to the National Average) and the successes of the reception pupils achieving a Good Level of Development. (GLD) The report is just reward for all the fantastic work that the staff do here at Halsall St Cuthbert's and the opportunities that they provide for the children. A big thanks to them all.

Calendars 2017

School calendars 2017 are presently being compiled and these should be distributed to parents in the next few weeks. Containing the birthdays of all children and staff and highlighting important events and term-times throughout the year, the calendars can be a great help. Again as last year, all school families will receive a free copy. This is to say thank you for all the support and generosity towards the PTFA and our charity fund-raising initiatives in school.

There will be an opportunity for non-parents to purchase a copy from church with all proceeds donated to the Spire Renovation Fund.

Admissions

Demand for places continues to be very strong. If you are interested in sending your child to Halsall St Cuthbert's, please refer to the school's Admissions Criteria.

Applications should be made online through the LEA website.

Blythswood Christmas Boxes

We collected over 90 boxes to distribute amongst the deprived and disadvantaged children in Eastern Europe. This year the boxes are actually being sent to Ukraine and hopefully we'll receive a report about the impact they had, during an assembly early in the New Year.

D Scholes (Head Teacher)

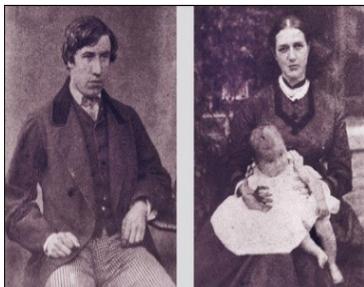


Children from Class L with their Christmas Box donations to Blythswood Care.

From all at Halsall St Cuthbert's.

**Have a Wonderful Christmas and a very
Happy and Healthy New Year. God Bless.**

Halsall Christmas 1863 and Arthur Vaughan-Williams



Arthur and Margaret with
Ralph

Christmas was but two days away, on a grey morning, as Arthur Vaughan-Williams stood in the churchyard of Halsall church. Exposed on an outcrop, it took the full force of gales which roared from the Irish Sea across the flat open plain and today the wind was icy. He shivered in such a cold wind, a searching wind; that cut through the darning of Arthur's threadbare cassock. Life as a curate was not profitable. The earth was cold to the touch as he threw some frozen crumbs of soil onto the lid of the coffin of little Will Swift age 3.

The boy had brought joy to his mother's heart, he was so fond of music, singing along to folk songs and he even copied notes his dad had played on a penny flute. Such a loss, but this was the 11th youngster Arthur had buried since his arrival in Halsall in July 1863. Arthur was invited to be curate on the retirement from Halsall of the rector Richard Leigh. The new Rector Thomas Hollinshead-Blundell had made it clear that the curates do all the funerals and baptisms. The rector would officiate at the weddings, it was more in keeping with the squire like duties of a country vicar. These were usually pleasant occasions and often there was an invitation afterwards, some fine wines, food and plenty of country talk about hunting and shooting.

No, burials were a miserable business, but a chance for a curate to add to their meagre income and Arthur already had experience of that and it disturbed him that within his first few months he had to bury so many infants under 5 years of age.

Halsall was not a poor parish, its arable farmland was of the highest quality and its fine medieval church dating back to 1320 was testimony to a prosperous past. The poverty and hardship amongst the labouring folk in this area seemed so much less; relative to the squalor and disease of the slums in nearby Liverpool and Manchester. The crops from the farms in Halsall and the local market in Ormskirk provided fresh food, but despite this, infant mortality was high amongst farming workers. Almost half the children under 5 in farming families died of diseases such as influenza, scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria. Moreover there were frequent epidemics of smallpox and measles. At this time there were no vaccinations and merely keeping sanitary conditions was hard enough with most water in the area coming from wells.

Arthur wanted to be a vicar in his own parish, being curate was in effect serving an

apprenticeship. As well as his clerical duties Arthur taught Scripture in the school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Arthur also had a love of music and the church had a pedal organ, housed in a hastily erected gallery at the west end; however it had no trained choir and hymns were not sung with any great passion. Arthur attempted to put together a choir, to sing the many new hymns which were available from recent editions of 'Hymns Ancient and Modern', but there were few takers. The problem was commitment, harvest in Halsall was a long drawn out process which stretched from cereals in July to root crops in December.

It was difficult to compete with demands on time and the church became so cold in the autumn nights for practice. Coupled to this Arthur knew his time at Halsall was limited, perhaps 12 months or more, but then he must move on, he did not want to be a perpetual curate. A good reference from Rector Blundell could help him to have his own parish. While the gravediggers moved in to close the grave on that 23rd of December 1863, Arthur wiped the dirt from his hands and gazed into the hollow eyed grief of the parents. As he watched them depart he thought of his own family far away in Bayswater London and was sad that he would not be spending this Christmas with them. Instead he would spend Christmas in Halsall and there would not be very much merriment at the big old rectory where he lodged with the rector. Thomas Blundell was single, but was due to wed in the new year, he had a couple of servants but it would be a quiet time. In previous years there had been much festive fun at the rectory when it was occupied by Rector Richard Leigh, he knew how to keep Christmas. Richard Leigh had a

family of ten and also employed ten servants and a German governess , he gave plentiful invites to villagers, who came in to wonder at the curious sight of a fir tree, decorated with candles and coloured ribbon, so popularised by Prince Albert.

Arthur trudged back into the church to extinguish the candles. He would occupy his time in the next few days rehearsing a small group of youngsters to sing carols at the Christmas service. A respite he hoped before the heart-breaking burials of infants began anew with the severity of the coldest months in the new year.

.....
Arthur Vaughan-Williams left Halsall in July 1864, four years later he became Vicar of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. He married Margaret Wedgwood in 1866 a great grand daughter of Josiah Wedgwood. His son Ralph became a gifted musician and arguably Britain's greatest composer since Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) with whom he made a crucial link across centuries in one of his greatest works*. Arthur died when Ralph was just 3.
In Halsall between July 1863 and August 1864 Arthur had officiated in 42 funerals of which 24 were children most under 5. He also performed 41 baptisms and 3 marriages.

.....
William and Ellen Swift lived in Trundlepye Lane and farmed 40 acres. After losing their son Will age 3, they lost James age 3 in 1874, Ann age 5 in 1874, Alice age 2 in 1876, Mary age 10 in 1877 and Margaret age 26 in 1888. William himself died 1890 age 61 and his wife Ellen in 1899 age 62. Their grave is close to the church path.

References

(Ralph Vaughan-Williams Wikipaedia)

(Lancashire on line Parish Clerks, Registration of Burials, Halsall 1854-1863)

**Variation on a theme by Thomas Tallis 1910.*

Halsall school log1863/4

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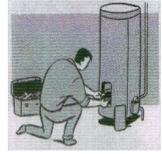
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Club/Group	Meetings	Contact
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Badminton Club Over 16's	Thursday 7.30pm St Cuthbert's School	Margaret 01704 840305 Jim 01704 840908
Bootcamp	Monday 6.30-7.15 Wednesday 6.30-7.15 Halsall Memorial Hall	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.

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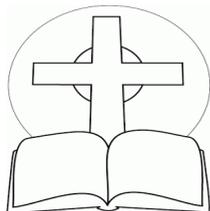
The Parish Centre is available for private lettings

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Gardener`s Corner

December & January at-a-glance

The garden is magical in winter. The colour palette is limited, but the strong shapes & skeletal framework provide its own kind of beauty & don't forget the garden can be a great source of home-grown material for a natural feel to Christmas decorations in & outside the home. Happy Christmas & Happy Gardening.

General garden tasks

Continue winter digging if soil is workable.

Plan & begin any landscaping jobs.

Clear away any debris to prevent harbouring slugs & snails.

Rake up the last of the leaves.

Send off for seed catalogues to browse through on darker rainy days.

Carry out lawn repairs if weather conditions allow.

Move or plant deciduous trees or shrubs if the soil is workable.

Prune ornamental vines.

Cut shoots for indoor decorations.

Organise your Christmas tree.

Sow seeds of hardy plants.

Plant seasonal outdoor tubs & hanging baskets for Christmas.

Plant fruit trees & bushes.

Continue to check stored fruit.

Tidy plants in the greenhouse & continue to water sparingly.

Check any bulbs in store.

Check tubs planted with bulbs for mice disturbance.

Make provisions to prevent pond from freezing over.

Clear up the shed, clean tools, wash pots & trays – spring will be here before you know!

Watch out for

Chilled pot plants – pot plants that have been standing in the open outside shops may have come straight from a warm & sheltered greenhouse.

Poinsettias are especially vulnerable.

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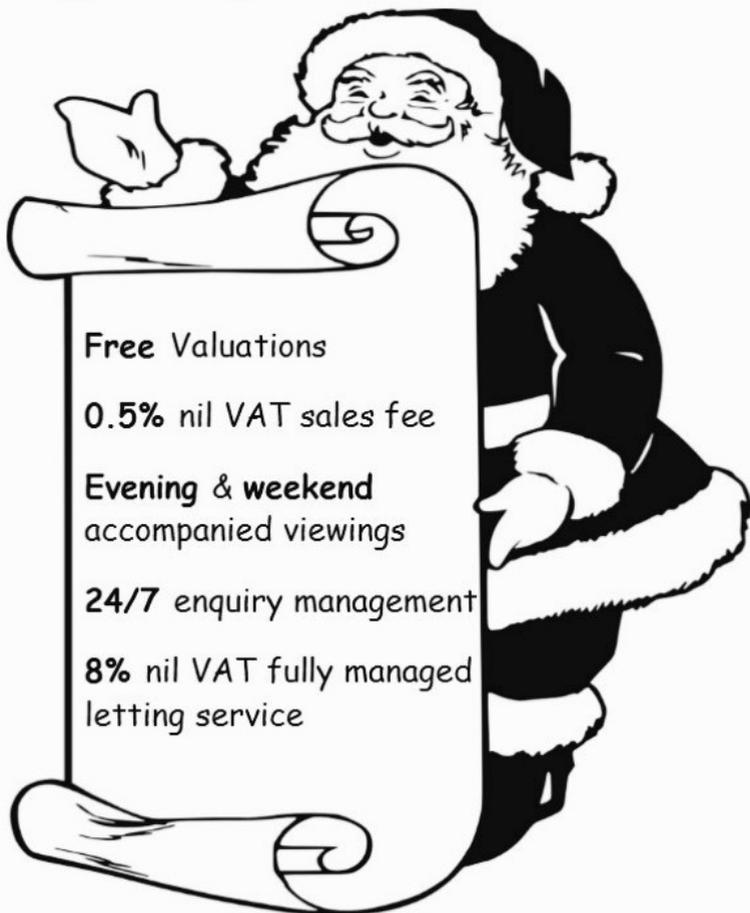
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