



HALSALL NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

JANUARY 2024

Merry Christmas

And a

Happy New Year

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

WE MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH

Next meeting 7:30pm 13th December at

St Aidans Hall, Shirdley Hill L39 8SF

PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARDS FOR DETAILS

February 2024 MAGAZINE

Closing date for Articles and Adverts :

13th January 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
Verger	Sarah Mitchell	01704 889237
		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

Classic Cars

Classic cars bought. Any Condition or Age pre 1990

Every Car Considered. Please Call or Text

Private Collector — 07493 126130



WARDENS AND SIDEPERSONS

December 2023 / January 2024

	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides persons
Dec 3rd	Pam Carr	Anne Grimshaw	Angela Webster Pam Carr
Dec 10th	Elaine Ayre	John Wroe	Bill Banks John Wroe
Dec 17th	Pam Carr	Angela Webster	Elaine Ayre Philip Banks
Dec 24th	Elaine Ayre	Colin Throp	Gwyn Williams Eileen Houlgrave
Dec 31st	Pam Carr	Angela Webster	Angela Webster Pam Carr
Jan 7th	Elaine Ayre	Anne Grimshaw	Beryl Sephton Len Davidson
Jan 14th	Pam Carr	Colin Throp	Sarah Mitchell Jacob Mitchell
Jan 21st	Elaine Ayre	John Wroe	Carol Ward Rebecca Ridley
Jan 28th	Pam Carr	Angela Webster	Eleanor Wroe Enid Banks

The Rector Writes



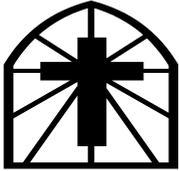
What sort of memories do you have from Christmas past? For me, as a child, the excitement certainly started when the Christmas tree, with all its baubles, lights and tinsel, was brought down from the attic. That was usually around mid-December and it marked the start of a time when everything was just that little bit different and normal routines were laid aside for a while. My parents enjoyed some time off work and family members gathered at our house for Christmas dinner. It was, of course, great to be off school as well!

Maybe that was not a very holy view of Christmas, but it does make me think now of one very important aspect of the incarnation (God being born and living with us on earth). When Jesus came into the world, he came *to make a difference*. Whether he truly understood just what an impact he would make we can only guess at, but in the end he changed things so much that the majority of the world now measures dates and seasons based on the time of his birth.

With this in mind, it seems right that the way we mark Christmas should be special, allowing us to depart from our daily routine. For some that means more partying, but even amongst the rowdiest of parties the name of Christ is uttered without shame or embarrassment (even if it is not obvious to all that he is what 'Christ-mass' is all about!). For others it might mean a trip to the local church to join in with some carols at one of our services. Even for those already committed, it means worshipping at different times and with the crib always in view, bringing home that message that "God so loved his world that he sent his only son to be born and die for each of us."

Christmas should be different, but we must go beyond simply marking it out as a special season. If Jesus came to make a difference, it is up to us to make sure that we too make a difference in the world. And the world today, more than ever, needs to hear a different message that speaks of peace, mutual respect and hope not anger, division and hopelessness.

*May the peace of Christ dwell in you this Christmas time
and be your inspiration in the coming year; Susan*



Service in the United Benefice for December 2023/January 2024

Services in the United benefice for December 2023

This month we prepare to celebrate Christmas in the season called Advent. Why not make a bit of space for Christ as you prepare for your Christmas by coming along to a service or two?

Sunday 3rd December – Advent Sunday and the start of the Church’s year

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
4.00pm	St Thomas’ Christingle Service

Monday 4th Dec

7pm	St Thomas’ Advent Quiet Service
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Tuesday 5th Dec

9.15am	St Thomas’ said Morning prayer
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Wednesday 6th Dec

11.00am	St Thomas’ said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 7th Dec

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

Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Monday 11th Dec

7pm	St Cuthbert’s Advent Quiet Service Lydiate Scout and Guide Carol Service
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Tuesday 12th Dec

9.15am	St Thomas’ said Morning Prayer
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Wednesday 13th Dec

11.00am	St Thomas’ said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 14th Dec

9.15am	St Cuthbert’s said Morning Prayer
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1.30pm	St Cuthbert’s said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing
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Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am	St Thomas’ BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert’s BCP Holy Communion (NO Messy Church)
11.00am	St Thomas’ CW Eucharist
4.00pm	St Cuthbert’s Carols and mulled wine
7.00pm	St Thomas’ Carol Service for the recently bereaved

Monday 18th Dec

7pm	St Thomas’ Advent Quiet Service
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Tuesday 19th Dec

9.15am	St Thomas’ said Morning Prayer
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Wednesday 20th Dec

11.00am	St Thomas’ said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 21st Dec

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

Sunday 24th December fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

8.00am	St Thomas’ BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert’s CW Eucharist followed with refreshments after the service
11am	St Thomas’ All Age Eucharist
4pm	St Cuthbert’s Christingle Service

11pm St Thomas' Midnight Eucharist for Christmas
 11.30pm St Cuthbert's Midnight Eucharist for Christmas
Monday 25th December Christmas Day
 9.00am St Thomas' BCP Communion for Christmas
 9.30am St Cuthbert's Eucharist for Christmas
 11.00am St Thomas' All age Eucharist for Christmas
Thursday 28th Dec
 St Thomas' 7pm Quiet Service for Holy Innocents to remember babies and children

Sunday 31st December First Sunday of Christmas and fifth Sunday of the month

8.00am St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
 10.30am St Cuthbert's Joint Benefice service

Services in the United benefice for January 2024

Come and give thanks for the gift of Jesus and the good news he brought. (There will be no mid-week services for the first two weeks in January)

Sunday 7th January Epiphany

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

Sunday 14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
 9.30am St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist
 11.00am St Thomas' CW Eucharist (no Church Parade)

Tuesday 16th Jan

9.15am St Thomas' said Morning prayer

Wednesday 17th Jan

11.00am St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion

Thursday 18th Jan

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

Sunday 21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
 9.30am St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (with Messy Church)
 11.00am St Thomas' CW Eucharist

Tuesday 23rd Jan

9.15am St Thomas' said Morning prayer

Wednesday 24th Jan

11.00am St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion

Thursday 25th Jan

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

Sunday 28th January 4th Presentation of Christ

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

Tuesday 30th Jan

9.15am St Thomas' said Morning prayer

Wednesday 31st

11.00am St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion

Thursday 1st Feb

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

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

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)
27th Harry Blundell (Birthday)
28th John Johnson (Birthday)
29th Richard Bolton Ainscough (Anniversary)



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

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.**

Warm Spaces Coffee Morning

Thursday 21st December

11:00am - 1:00pm

Halsall Memorial Hall

Come enjoy a Christmas movie,
mince pie & Christmas cheer!



Following Coffee Morning
Thursday 18th January 2024



KIDS Christmas MOVIES



Halsall Memorial Hall

SATURDAY 16TH DEC

10AM & 1:30PM



*Refreshments available
Donations to Halsall War Memorial
Playing Field & Hall Trust
greatly appreciated*

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If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Makers Market by My Sweet Retreat



Halsall Memorial
Hall
Halsall Road
Halsall
L39 8RN



We'll have some very talented local artisans showcasing their goods. So for that extra special gift, or treat for yourself, this market is ideal.



Come and join us for our Christmas Makers Market on Saturday 9th December from 11am - 4pm.



Free Entry Dog Friendly



Halsall Bees and Butterflies Brigade

A big thank you to all those of you who joined our meetings during the autumn to take action for nature! In November we planted early-flowering crocus and dainty species tulip in the grassy area of St. Cuthbert's Memorial Garden, aiming to help bees find nectar as they emerge from hibernation next year. Exciting plans are already being laid for 2024 and we are keen to get more of the local community involved, so please watch out for details of our next meeting in future issues.

Sadly, the need to help nature is urgent. Many of the well-loved insects, birds and mammals of our British countryside are in desperate trouble. Song thrushes and hedgehogs are classed as vulnerable and in danger of extinction. Our bees and other pollinating insects are in serious decline and our rivers are polluted. But all is not lost yet – nature can recover if we all play our part and give it a helping hand.

So, what can be done to be kind to nature at this time of year? I know it's wet and blustery, daylight is scarce and it's the season to be in by the fire. Well, if you have a garden (and I know many of you have lovely gardens in Halsall) you are totally justified in leaving it alone for the winter months – in fact, all the little creatures that hibernate in the fallen leaves and plant stems will thank you for being left undisturbed until spring.

If you have a garden and you feel the need to do something constructive over the winter, the best thing you can do is plant a tree. Bare-rooted trees are available from now until March and can be cheaper to buy than potted trees. Hawthorn, Crabapple and Rowan (Mountain Ash) are three of the best types of tree for small-to-medium gardens and they are all fantastic for wildlife, bearing both blossom and fruit. If you're not sure where to buy trees, drop me a line at the email address below and I'll be able to give you some pointers.

If you have an established garden, use the winter months to think and plan.

Could you make one simple change to your garden- or the way you garden - to help some wildlife to thrive? If you are keen to make changes but need ideas to move forward, have a look at The Lancashire Wildlife Trust's website. Click "Get Involved" and you'll find loads of ideas and information to help you get started. Remember you don't have to do everything you read about – just one small action will make a huge difference to nature.

Finally, if you'd like to make your garden more wildlife-friendly but can't decide how to make a start, 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 so that we can make a difference! With best wishes to you all,

Clare Edwards

Email Clare: cedwards1144@gmail.com



Friends of Shirdley Hill Green

Shirdley Hill Green was the winner in the 'public garden' category of Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition 2023. Needless to say, we were delighted to win. Vincent Williams and Mary Lyons proudly attended the presentation ceremony on 16th October to pick up our certificate.

During this past year we have made considerable progress on the Green. We now have two sheds, which have proven invaluable for storing tools and having tea and coffee in when then the weather turns inclement. The beds and pots all looked spectacular this year, including a new raised bed for the shrubs that will reduce risks from flooding and a new corner plot.

We bought a couple of new ducks for the pond, but unfortunately, they disappeared after a few weeks, so we will just enjoy the company of the frogs, fish and moorhens for now.

We could not have done any of this without the support of the Shirdley Hill community and Halsall Parish Council. Many have donated time, money and gifts in kind, others provide encouragement when they stop for a chat whilst walking the dog. There are too many people to mention, so a big thank-you to everyone who has supported the Friends of the Green (FROGs) during 2023.

We hope you will join us when we turn on the Christmas lights and sing a few carols round the tree in early December.

We are looking forward to continuing, so that our Shirdley Hill Green remains the best in Lancashire in 2024.

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Halsall Proud & Tidy Group

The results of Lancs Best Kept Village Competition are in and we are pleased to announce that we have two runner-up awards in the outstanding features section. The village bakehouse was praised for their floral displays and was just beaten to first place by Henshaws butchers in Aughton. The cricket grounds were praised for being very well kept and were beaten to first place by Mawdesley cricket club. Congratulations to both entries and our thanks for putting in the effort for making such a difference to our village.

We were placed 5th out of 8 in whole village champion class, the winners being Elswick and Blacko. Here are the 2 sets of judges reports –

Judge 1

OVERALL IMPRESSION Halsall is a village with mature roadside trees and residential houses which are well maintained with tidy gardens and hedges which give an overall well cared for impression. Entering the village from both directions you are greeted with colourful and well maintained planters. These are also found throughout the village along with the hanging baskets. The roadside gutters were clear of weeds and there were no signs of graffiti or litter within the village. The hedges were trimmed back from the pavements to allow easy movement for pedestrians. This is obviously a village which takes pride in it's appearance and community involvement.

WHAT MAKES IT BEST KEPT The entrance and pathway to St. Cuthbert's Church and the War Memorial had been enhanced with the planting of red flowers which made them striking features. The children's painted stones around the memorial hinted at the involvement of the children of the village.

The Bishops Walk Nature Reserve is a thriving haven for nature and St. Cuthbert's School was well maintained with exciting activities for the children. The notices (including a Best Kept Village notice) were clear and up to date. The post box was painted as was the telephone box and we particularly enjoyed seeing the telephone box gentleman! The seating area within the village was tidy and welcoming.

The cricket ground, Memorial Hall and Village Bakehouse were well cared for. Notices were up to date and showed their community use. The planters and hanging baskets enhanced the setting of the buildings and particularly the Bakehouse displays. The cricket ground itself was well maintained as were commercial premises opposite the church.

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT As an outstanding feature we felt the Sarcen's Head could be improved by removing the weeds from the pavers around the entrance and also the removal of dead plants from their planters and replacing with new ones. The children's play areas showed signs of rotting wood and this may well need addressing. There was a broken bench and signage at the entrance was faded and would benefit from being replaced.

The notice board within the bus shelter was faded and the surface was cracked. It may be possible to get in touch with the bus company to have this replaced.

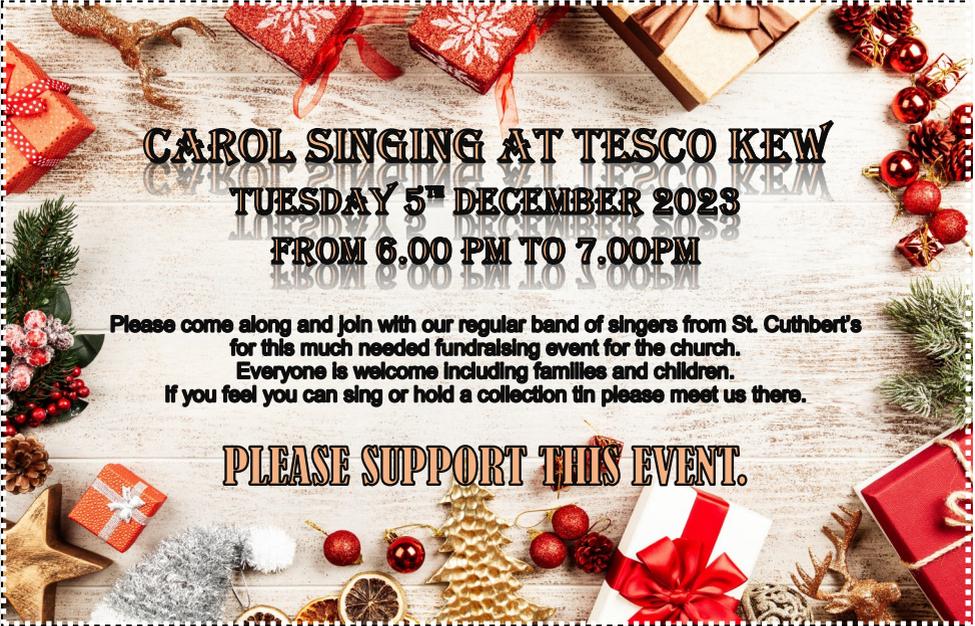
Judge 2

Overall Impressions *It was very evident that this is a vibrant village where the residents take a great deal of pride in it's appearance and welcome. On the first visit it was very difficult to find anything negative to say as it was immaculate and comes across as a very happy place to live. Unfortunately on our second visit we did spot some isolated pieces of litter which sadly impacted a perfect score.*

What makes it Best Kept *Some great local amenities including very well kept fields/cricket grounds and excellent well equipped and maintained children's playgrounds. The village hall was obviously very well used and maintained to a high standard. We were particularly impressed with Bishops Walk Nature Area adjacent to the school.*

Areas for improvement *Keeping litter free and clearing roadside weeds would improve the overall score*

We think the marks must have been very close indeed for us to be placed 5th when the judges remarks were very good on the whole. Bring on next year!!



CAROL SINGING AT TESCO KEW
TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2023
FROM 6.00 PM TO 7.00PM

Please come along and join with our regular band of singers from St. Cuthbert's for this much needed fundraising event for the church. Everyone is welcome including families and children. If you feel you can sing or hold a collection tin please meet us there.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT.

The Village Bakehouse

Halsall Playing Fields, Halsall Road, Halsall

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NOV

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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 07449 217034

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 Applications

2023/0863/LDC Gesterfield Barn, Certificate of Lawfulness
2023/0888/PNP Lower Crantum Farm, Agricultural Storage Building
T/2023/102/TCA Halsall Road, Prune and fell trees
T/2023/0168/TPO Cross Lane, Prune Trees

Halsall Bees and Butterflies Brigade

Clare Edwards gave an introduction on this new environmental group and the Council offered its support.

Best Kept Village Competition

The Council would like to thank everyone who contributed to these efforts and congratulate the Friends of Shirdley Hill Village Green (FROG) on their 1st Place Award and the Village Bakehouse and Halsall Cricket Club on their Runner Up awards.

Report from Traffic & Road Safety Group

Contacting LCC for advice on applying for a pedestrian crossing for St Cuthbert's School and on renewal of white lines on village lanes.

Please park on your drives if have one. If you have to park on the road then consider partially parking on the pavement. **Only if it is wide enough not to obstruct pedestrians/prams and not force them into the road.** Ensure the road is wide enough for agricultural and emergency vehicles to pass.

Parish Council Grants

Halsall has a small grants available to local charities and voluntary organisations that "*bring direct benefit to the area or to some or all of its inhabitants*" (S137 Grant). Applications forms are available from Clerk@halsallparish.gov.uk. The Council agreed a grant of £100 to Halsall Cricket Club for repairs to the Groundsman Hut.

St Aidan's Luncheon Club

13th December Christmas Dinner £10.00 per ticket
10th January 2024
24th January 2024

St Aidan's Hall Venue

The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers and those who donated to the recent refurbishment of St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane, Shirdley Hill. The Hall now has access to the Internet for Wi-Fi, a sound system and big screen projector. The venue is available for social and recreational bookings for up to 50 people.

Paris Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7:30pm Wednesday 13th December at St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane.

Liz Wright Chair

Chris Pyne Halsall Parish Clerk (clerk@halsallparish.gov.uk)

HALSALL WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD AND HALL TRUST

Halsall Parish Council is sole Trustee of the Memorial Hall which is a self-funding charity, no 521111 regulated by the Charity Commission.

If you are looking for a venue for a social or recreational event then please get in touch. The Hall can seat up to 60 people with Wi-Fi and big screen projector.

The Parish Council held a reception for Remembrance Sunday. Thanks to the Church for the service and for all the guests who came back to the Hall for refreshments provided by the Bakehouse Café. Howard Smith was presented with his Runner Up certificate in the category of Best Village Shop/Café in Lancashire Best Kept Village competition.

The Halloween Children's Film Show was very successful and raised £70 in donations for the Hall's funds. On Saturday 16th December there will be a Children's Christmas film with 10am and 1.30pm showings.

There will be a Maker's Christmas Craft Fair on Sat 9th December.

Our next 3rd Thursday Coffee Mornings will be on 21st December with a Christmas Film and a 4th coffee morning will be held on the 18th January 2024.

Liz Wright Chair

Chris Pyne Trust Secretary (halsalltrust@gmail.com)

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We now offer a grave tending service to ensure the good maintenance of graves when loved ones are absent or no longer able to do it themselves. The service can be provided as often as required and to fit in with notable dates.

The service includes:-

- removal of dead flowers and plants, etc and replacing with fresh cut seasonal flowers
- cleaning of the memorial and vase pots
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Halsall St Cuthbert's

December/January Report

School Concerts

Monday 11th December 9-30am Reception Nativity

Tuesday 12th December 10-00am Shrek

Wednesday 13th December 2-00pm Shrek

Thursday 14th December 7-00pm Shrek

Friday 15th December 9-30am Key Stage 1 Nativity

Any proceeds will be donated to charities nominated by the School Council.

Fireworks Night

Fireworks night was another wonderful community occasion. Despite the poor weather, many people braved the cold and rain, grabbed their waterproofs and wellies and popped along to meet their friends. A big, big thanks to those who managed to attend. Profits on the night were obviously much reduced but everyone seemed to have a lovely time.

To organize the fireworks night, takes a massive commitment from lots of people. Thanks to the school's PTFA, its volunteers, the school staff, the church, the young farmers and other community groups.

Hopefully, any disruption or congestion was kept to a minimum.

Scouting and Cycling

Every Saturday, our school playground is used by British Cycling coach Dave for 'learn to ride' bike lessons? Dave offers bike coaching for children of all ages so they can ride their pedal bike independently! All the lessons are 1 to 1, lasting about 40 mins.

Dave has already helped lots of children at this school to ride their bikes! If you would like more details please WhatsApp Coach Dave on 07764 255211

Cinema Night

The children recently had a super time at the Cinema Night. They watched a fabulous film, they had hot dogs and drinks, popcorn and sweets and they all left with a lovely chocolate Father Christmas or selection box. What a great start to Christmas. Many thanks to the PTFA and staff for organizing this really popular event for the children.

Football Success. (West Lancashire Primary Schools Football Competition)

The school football team recently competed in 2 tournaments.

In a local league tournament, the team played 8 matches altogether, finishing top the of league table with a record of 7 wins and only 1 loss. A brilliant effort.

- The team also played in the West Lancashire Primary Competition for small schools and once again the boys returned with Gold Medals.

Well done to the everyone, we are so proud of you all. A big thanks to Mr Greenough, our dad/coach and to Mrs Crane, our teacher and PE coordinator. This was another wonderful opportunity for the children to shine, and they did.

Admissions

If there are any prospective parents who would like a tour around Halsall St Cuthbert's, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Applications for admission to the reception class in September 2024 are completed online and the closing date is 10th January 24.

Wonderful Day at Lancaster Castle

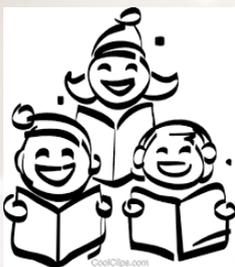
On Thursday 2nd November Class G had a tour around Lancaster Castle. We had a lovely tour guide who was called Eleanor and she kindly showed us around. Did you know that the castle's prison was still in use in 2011 and the courtroom is still used today? After the tour, we went up to the school room and had a lesson with a strict Victorian teacher. It gave us a taste of what it would be like to be a student in the Victorian period. If you didn't go to class in school, you would be training to be an efficient servant. Thankyou so much Lancaster Castle, we had an amazing time.
By Rose Stevenson and Bronte Massam.

Christmas Message

From the governors, staff and children at Halsall St Cuthbert's Primary School.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a **Happy and Healthy New Year 2024**

School Re-opens on Monday 8th January



**St Cuthbert's Carol Service
Sunday 17th December at 4pm
with Marshside Brass Band**

Come and sing all your favourite Christmas carols.
Followed by mince pies and mulled wine.



Christian Chatter

No meeting in December.

Why not come to an Advent Quiet Service instead.

Next meeting Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Then every 4th Tuesday of the month

7.30-8.30pm Millenium Centre, St Thomas Lydiate

All welcome



**Christingle Service for all the family
Sunday December 24th at 4pm
St Cuthbert's Halsall**

Come along as we think about the true meaning of Christmas and raise funds for the Children's Society

Make your own Christingle,
create your own Christmas prayers and memories.
All are welcome.
All we ask is a donation towards the work of the



www.childrensociety.org.uk



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ANIMAL CARE: Town Vets 01704 535233	PAINTING & DECORATING: SPL Painting & Decorating. 07866 767977
ANIMAL PORTRAITS: Spurwood Studio. Call Chris on 01704 841593. Facebook Spurwood Studio	PLUMBING AND HEATING: Michael Wignall 01704 841136
ARCHITECTURE: J7 Architecture. 078 5097 3249. j7architecture@gmail.com	POST OFFICE: Monday and Thursday afternoon. 2pm –4.30pm.Massams Supplies Ltd, Renacres Lane. 01704 840265
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GARDENING: Simon Bounds. Garden Maintenance. 01704840480 07832291080	
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This 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)

Christmas Bin Collection Changes 2023

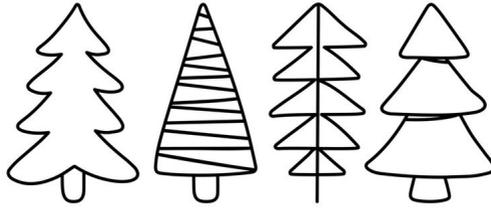


These changes affect refuse and recycling collections.



No brown bin collections during the weeks commencing 25 December 2023 and 1 January 2024

USUAL Collection Day	REVISED Collection Day
Tues 26th Dec 2023	Weds 27th Dec 2023
Weds 27th Dec 2023	Thurs 28th Dec 2023
Thurs 28th Dec 2023	Fri 29th Dec 2023
Fri 29th Dec 2023	Sat 30th Dec 2023



Come and start your Christmas celebrations with a visit to
St Cuthbert's Christmas tree festival.

All are welcome to come and see the lovely displays,
find crib figures hidden amongst the trees,
and enjoy the peace of quiet of our beautiful church.

Church will be open each weekend until Christmas.

Sunday 3rd December 1pm-3pm

Saturday 9th December 11am-3pm

Sunday 10th December 2pm-3pm

Saturday 16th December 11am-3pm

Sunday 17th December 1pm-3pm

Saturday 23rd December 11am-3pm

Shirdley Hill Lunchtime Club

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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.

Plants in their prime

Prunus `Autumnalis`. Viburnum. Mahonia. Japonica. Cotoneaster. Fatsia. Malus. Photinia. Pyracantha. Skimmia. Clematis `freckles`. Jasmine varieties. Winter flowering pansies.



Tina Lloyd www.mosshousecottageplants.co.uk

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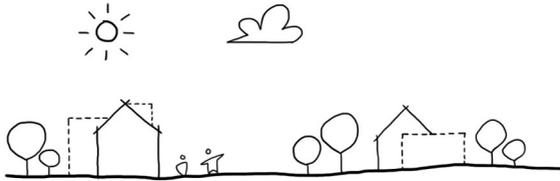
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