

Halsall News



September 2024

October 2024 MAGAZINE

**Closing date for Articles and Adverts :
13th September 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.***

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH

**Next meeting 7:30pm 11th September
at St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane L39 8SF**

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	Mary Lyons	01704 840607	
Vice Chair	Elizabeth Wright	07817 056145	
Councillors	Raymond Brookfield	07771 798167	
	Andy Timon	07979 768562	
	Melissa Schofield	07512 584644	
	Vacancy		
	Keith Wright	07507 209674	
	Noel McCarthy-Thomason	07485 151395	
	Beth Roberts	07961 697064	
Parish Clerk	Julie Ferguson	07415 099652	
	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	Carol Ward	07522 206664
	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.

Carol Ward 07522 206664

WARDENS AND SIDEPERSONS September 2024

	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides persons
Sept 1st	Carol Ward	Anne Grimshaw	Eleanor Wroe Enid Banks
Sept 8th	Pam Carr	Colin Throp	Sarah Mitchell Jacob Mitchell
Sept 15th	Carol Ward	John Wroe	Beryl Sephton Len Davidson
Sept 22nd	Pam Carr	Angela Webster	Carol Ward Rebecca Ridley
Sept 29th	Carol Ward	Colin Throp	Bill Banks John Wroe



Coffee mornings

Tuesday 3rd September and Tuesday 1st October 2024 10 -11.30am

Meet old friends and make some new ones and take the opportunity to have a quiet moment in church. If you know someone who is lonely why not bring them along? They will be assured of a warm welcome.



Christian Chatter - Tuesday September 24th and October 22nd 7.30 - 8.30pm

Following on from the successful Lent course, why not come and join an informal chat as we continue to explore the Sermon on the Mount?

The Rector Writes



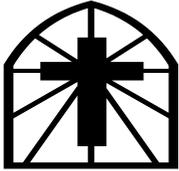
Monday 29th July 2024 is a date that will be etched in people's memories, forever associated with three young girls being stabbed to death, as they attended a Taylor Swift dance-themed event at the start of the school holidays.

That such a tragedy should happen in Southport has shocked many people. 'It couldn't happen here...' There is no way we can make sense of such a random and indiscriminate act of violence. We cannot comprehend the circumstances that left three children dead and others fighting for their lives in hospital. The fact that such an act was carried out by a 17 year old, acting alone, only adds to our confusion. And it is not for us to make sense of it, that will be for the police and the courts, as evidence and facts become apparent.

Our response as communities must be to lament the deaths of Bebe, Elsie and Alice, coming together in solidarity with all those who have been bereaved, injured or traumatised. To pray as we can, to light candles and to commit to being kind to those around us. To stand together and acknowledge all those who have seen things they should never have had to see. To applaud all those who ran into danger and who rescued and protected so many. To be alongside those for whom the events of that Monday reignite painful memories of their own stories.

We must strive to stand up for hope, overcome anger and resist all attempts to divide communities. We cannot know what caused a young man to take a knife and stab so many – but we must not let his acts divide us through fear and recrimination. Each of us needs to remain a beacon of hope and love. We must be bearers of light in a dark world. Our place is to be alongside all those across our communities who are hurting so much. And we must pray for an outpouring of God's love, to enable communities and individuals to find a peace beyond understanding; to find the strength to heal in the months and years to come.

Susan



Service in the United Benefice for September 2024

As we mark the beginning of a new academic year let us give thanks for all those who have inspired and guided us in our own lives and resolve to be good role models to those around us.

Sunday 1st September Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (No Church without walls)
11.00am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist

Monday 2nd September

9.15am	Morning prayer on zoom
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Wednesday 4th September

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 5th September

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

Sunday 8th September Back to school Sunday

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Holy Communion
11.00am	All Age Communion service followed by a Teddy Bear's picnic for pre school children in the Vicarage garden. Bring your teddy bear, a picnic and something to sit on

Monday 9th September

9.15am	Morning Prayer on zoom
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Wednesday 11th September

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW holy Communion
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Thursday 12th September

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

Sunday 15th September Twentieth Sunday after Trinity and launch of Slavery and repentance exhibition

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

Monday 16th September

9.15am	Morning Prayer on zoom
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Wednesday 18th September

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 19th September

9.15am

St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer

1.30pm

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

Sunday 22nd September Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

8.00am

St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion

9.30am

St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist

11am

St Thomas' All Age Eucharist

Monday 23rd September

9.15am

Morning prayer on zoom

Wednesday 25th September

11.00am

St Thomas' said CW holy Communion

Thursday 26th September

9.15am

St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer

1.30pm

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

ers for healing

Sunday 29th September Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity & end of Slavery and repentance exhibition

8.00am

St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion

10.30am

Joint CW Eucharist at St Cuthbert's

Monday 30th September

9.15am

Morning Prayer on zoom

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

All a welcome whether you are a life-long Anglican or simply a little curious.

Use this QR code below to join in Morning prayer on zoom. It will take you to the zoom room.



HARVEST WEEKEND

To conclude our harvest celebrations there will be a Songs of Praise service in the church on Sunday 13th October 2024 at 4.00pm

We will be pleased to welcome the choirs from St Thomas' church & All Saints Rainford plus musicians from St Pauls Skelmersdale

Come along and sing your favourite hymns

YOUR CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT, HALSALL

For enquiries about baptisms or weddings or service information

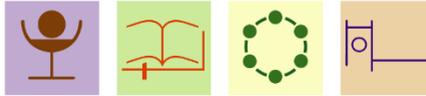
Phone: 0151 526 2292

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



SEPTEMBER

3rd Annie Smith (Birthday)
 3rd Ron Tillett
 4th Lawrence Baldwin (Birthday)
 4th Mary Baldwin (Birthday)
 7th Angela Hilton
 14th Margery Smith
 16th Raymond Lewis
 16th Annie Sutton
 18th Jennifer Kitching (Anniversary)
 18th Mary Baldwin (Anniversary)
 19th Joe Balmer
 19th Alan Georgeson (Anniversary)
 20th James Hilton (Remembrance)
 21st James Rimmer (Birthday)
 22nd Harry Core (Birthday)
 29th John Rynhart



CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

September 2024

8th Sept	E Wroe	J Wroe	G Williams	S Richards
22nd Sept	E Banks	M Webster	L Wilkinson S Roberts	M Cheetham

The Queen of Barton



Annie McCoy, who became Ann Moorcroft when she married Jack Moorcroft in September 1940 at the age of 34, had no children. She was the Superintendent of the mission church in Barton and lived in Station Road. With her brother George and his wife Marie, she encouraged the local children to attend the Sunday school in St Oswald's mission. The mission building acted like a small parish hall for the villagers and few found it necessary to go up to St Cuthbert's parish church 20 minutes walk away because services were held at the mission and Annie played all the hymns on the harmonium. The mission had its own team including a lay reader Harold Nelson, with whom Annie had a good working relationship. The children found it a great place to be with other children.

She was the main impetus behind the Rose Queen fete, the most important date in Barton's year and began organising the event in the early 1930's. It was at the Mission that Annie and the Rose Queen committee chose the Queen and her attendants and organised the dresses. Annie had a wonderful rapport with the children and taught the retinue to dance the minuet. She also taught the morris dancers and the maypole dancers and accompanied the dances on her harmonium, playing the music time and time again in the practices. She was an inspiration to the

villagers and they followed her lead in becoming involved. On the Rose Queen day, usually the first Saturday in July, she organised the refreshments and the sideshows which included tug of war and sprinting races for the adults as well as games such as 'the coconut shy and tombola'. She began to organise the next Rose Queen event the day after it took place. Annie was always very concerned that the day would be special for all the children taking part. Annie gave this commitment for over 30 years, her enthusiasm was infectious. Annie died in 1975 after a stroke and complications at the age of 69 and was buried in St Cuthbert's churchyard. In her own way she was a Queen of Barton.



Annie directing children during the Crowning of Rose Sephton 1947

Stephen Henders

A | R

0151 433 8820

INFO@ANDREWROUGHLEYFUNERALS.COM
WWW.ANDREWROUGHLEYFUNERALS.COM



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



Slavery and Repentance Exhibition, free and open to all.

Sunday 15th September to Sunday 29th September 2024,
St Cuthbert's Halsall

The Church will be open for you to view the exhibition:

Thursday from 11am to 1pm

Friday and Saturday from 11am to 4pm

Sunday 2-4pm (and other times by appointment.)

The exhibition was first held in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral earlier this year and is made up of stands displaying the views of people from several backgrounds about the transatlantic slave trade and its ongoing legacy.

Come and watch the film "After the flood"

on Saturday 21st September in St Cuthbert's School Hall at 6.30pm.

St Thomas' Lydiate - Organ recital with Professor Ian Tracey.

Saturday 28th September at 7pm

Tickets £10 including a glass of wine and some cheese in the interval. Concessions £5.
Under 18s free. Money raised is going to St Thomas' funds.

Pearl of Africa choir will be performing at St Cuthbert's Church

Wednesday 9th October 2024 6-7.30pm.

Don't miss this opportunity to see this amazing and inspirational choir of young people sing and dance. Free entry but donations to the work of the choir would be welcome. There will be a craft stall and a raffle.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

Another musical evening with The Hoghton Players
who will perform
HMS Pinafore & The Zoo



Friday 18th October
St Cuthbert's Church
7.30pm



Tickets £8.00

Please Contact Pam Carr on 01695 423817

Or

Email

edward.pamela176@gmail.com

HARVEST SUPPER

We will be holding our annual

Hot Pot Supper

On

Saturday 12th October

At 7.30 pm in the school hall

Supper, quiz, raffle & entertainment

Tickets £12.00

Please Contact Pam Carr on 01695 423817

Or

Email

edward.pamela176@gmail.com

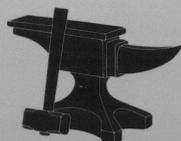


DONATIONS FOR

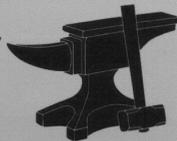
Alder Hey
Children's Hospital

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**Sat 21st September 2024
11am til 4pm**



ANVIL DAY



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John Parkinson - Farrier

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LES - 07702 527872

Email: lesrynhart@yahoo.co.uk

Shirdley Hill Lunchtime Club

NO LUNCHTIME CLUB IN SEPTEMBER

**Meal, hot drink and cake £7.00
Come and meet old friends and make new ones**



St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane, Ormskirk L39 8SF

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Halsallparishclerk@gmail.com

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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 John Ferguson on 07935 657880
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

MLS INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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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	Meeting once a month See article for details	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 HASALL PARISH COUNCIL

Halsall Parish Council does not meet in August. The previous meeting of the Council was 10th July. The next meeting is 11th September at 7:30pm St Aidan's Hall, Renacres Lane.

PLANNING (full details available at Westlancs.gov.uk)

Planning Applications

2024/0088/TPO North Moor Lane: reduce branches on two mature Ash.

2022/0554/CON 58 New Street: Change of materials

2024/0555/LDC Moss View: continuation of residence with an agricultural residency condition.

2024/0547/FUL MillBrow Farm, 98 New Street : change of use from agricultural to commercial premises.

2024/0529/LBC La Mancha, Renacres Lane: change to internal doorways.

2024/09080/TPO Hollybrooks Farm, Moss Road: Fell diseased Hornbeam.

2022/1095/FUL 58 New Street: Change to wall railings.

2024/0382/FUL 98 New Cut Lane: Rebuild bungalow (subsidence).

2024/0692/FUL 71 Segars Lane: Demolish & replace house (subsidence).

2024/0680/PNP Gorse Hill Farm: new farm tracks and field exits.

Recent decisions

2024/0039/TPO 69 Renacres Lane: Fell Sycamore (Refused).

2024/0175/FUL 18 Summerwood Gardens: Rear Extension & Front Porch.

2024/0176/FUL Grainstore House, Plex Lane : Garage

2024/0142/FUL 59 Moss Road: Garage

2024/0587/FUL 58 New Street: Change to Wall railings

2024/0088/TPO North Moor Lane: reduce branches on mature Ash

2024/0554/CON 58 New Street: change of materials

2024/0341/FUL North Moor Cottage: Change conservatory roof to tiles

St Aidan's Hall

The Council will change to Aviva insurance to save £600 per year and fix this price for 3 years.

The Shirdley Hill Community Association

The fortnightly Luncheon Club at St Aidan's Hall continues to be very popular and all are welcomed to these Halsall community events.

THERE WILL BE NO LUNCHTIME CLUB IN SEPTEMBER

**Halsall Parish Council is advertising a vacancy for a
Parish Councillor (see page 26)**

Report from Traffic & Road Safety Group

The damaged chevron sign at the junction of Heathey Lane and Jacksmere Lane has been replaced. Complaints about street cleaning, potholes and blocked road drains should be reported directly to Lancashire County Council Highways. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/report-it-on-the-go/>

The Parish Council Website includes agendas and minutes of meetings. The external audit of the Council has been approved. Details are on the website and notice boards .

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

Upcoming events on Facebook Halsall Village Community Forum
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/200983146975703>
also on Facebook Shirdley Hill Hub
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081833388874>

Mary Lyons Chair and Chris Pyne Parish Clerk.

HALSALL WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD AND HALL TRUST

is a self-funding charity responsible for the management of the Memorial Hall and playing fields, supported by Halsall Parish councillors.

White lines and disabled car parking lines have been repainted in Memorial Hall Car park. Please park considerately and do not park on the left hand side of the entrance, this is Cross Lane and needs to be kept clear for residents' access.

A new information board on the history of interesting locations in Halsall has been installed on Memorial Hall wall, organised by Halsall Proud & Tidy group and supported by a grant from the Council.

The Council & Trust has approved a permanent display of the D Day Anniversary information collated by Halsall History group commemorating the histories of the 10 Halsall servicemen/women who were killed in WW2.

The Trust will be organising a free buffet in the Hall on Sunday 10th November after the Remembrance Sunday event. Everyone is welcome.

Mary Lyons Chair and John Ferguson Trust Secretary.

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mtwignall@clara.co.uk



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Grave Tending Service

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
- trimming and edging grass and pruning shrubs where necessary
- full condition report and photographic evidence

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Halsall St Cuthbert's September Report

Kenyon Shields

These children really impressed the staff in the summer term. Well done to them. They should be proud of themselves. Congratulations.

Reception : Dominic Walker

Year 1 : Malachy Evers O'Reilly

Year 2 : William Roberts

Year 3 : Annabella Tierney

Year 4 : Isla Tedham

Year 5 : William Singleton

Isaac also won the Eden Smerden Achievement Award in Key Stage 1. Well done to him.

SATS

The year 6 children did wonderfully well in their SATS last May. All the children who took the tests in Reading, Grammar and Mathematics, reached the Expected Level or above and many achieved "**Greater Depth**" in all areas. This was an amazing achievement and it was the best a cohort has performed for many, many years. It would not have been possible without the children's strong work ethic, excellent parental support and more importantly, the phenomenal efforts of Mrs Galley, Mrs Dunne and Miss Schumacher. They worked so incredibly hard, in helping each child to reach their individual potential. The year 6 can now move on to secondary school full of confidence.

Leavers' Service

At the Leavers' Service, the following children were presented with the awards -

Adam Dunning Friendship : Ayda Crilly (voted by their peers)

Sports Award : Oliver Madden and Ayda Crilly

Reading : Hettie Brodie

Maths : Fraser Grey and Poppy Bedwell

Staff Prize : Eva Gill

Whole School Achievement : August Rankin

Governors' Shield : Harvey Banks

Christian Character Award : Bronte Massam

Autumn Term

For your information, the school re-opens on Wednesday 4th September at 8-55am.

There will be a Breakfast Club from 7-30am.

Personal Statement

I would just like to say a massive thank you, to everyone who has supported me over the years. I couldn't have done it without you.

It only seems like yesterday when I took over as head teacher at Halsall St Cuthbert's.

I've been fortunate enough to have appointed some incredibly talented and committed staff, many of whom are still here. It is they that have made the school what it is today, a very popular and high-achieving school with a fantastic reputation across West Lancashire. Being judged "Outstanding" in the last two OFSTED inspections is testament to that.

It is with great sadness that I leave Halsall, but time moves on. I feel that I am leaving the school in a very strong position. In addition to wonderfully committed and stable staff, I leave an exceptionally healthy budget, excellent facilities, fabulous children and many wonderfully supportive parents. I leave with thousands of wonderful memories of Halsall St Cuthbert's and I will miss it immensely.

I'm confident that Miss Hampson will prove to be a very capable replacement and she'll continue to move the school forward in the years ahead.

Finally, I'd like to thank the church for my leaving gift, Rev Susan for her kind awards at the Year 6 Leavers' Service and a huge, huge thanks to the staff, for making my last 2 weeks at Halsall St Cuthbert's so memorable and emotional.

I must admit, I have also been so overwhelmed with the amount of presents and e-mails, letters and cards (many from past parents and staff) wishing me well in my retirement and thanking me for my commitment to the school over the past 2 decades and more. It has been an incredibly humbling experience.

Thanks again and God Bless.

Doug Scholes

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Halsall Proud & Tidy Group

Lots of effort has been put in by many residents over the last few months to improve areas all around the village. Many thanks to all concerned. Your help has been invaluable in both improving our surroundings and also in strengthening the sense of community spirit in our beautiful village. Long may it continue and grow - (except for the weeds of course)



Let's hope the Lancashire Best kept Village judges agree!
We won't know any results until October but fingers crossed until then.

You may have seen a new notice board which has been put up at the Memorial Hall depicting the history of Halsall. The story of each feature is told in a very engaging way in the character of a past resident who lived in the village. In addition, there is a QR code for each image so the topic can be explained further for those who are interested.

Our group applied for funding from our Parish Council to help pay for the project and with a great deal of help from our Halsall History Group the idea became reality. A second copy will be put up at the Saracens Head for all to see.

Yes - we have a village to be proud of both historically and right up to the present day.



The Bees and Butterflies Brigade (September 2024)

The Bs have had a productive summer working on the canal bank near The Saracens Head. In June we cleared the bank of brambles and discovered the existing sandstone rockery which had been hidden beneath the undergrowth – a real bonus to our plans. New planting has helped to make the rockery attractive again, and we have extended the planting into the front garden of the pub. We have used pollinator-friendly garden plants combined with a few ornamental grasses, which add texture and movement to the design. Most of the plants will flower in shades of blue, yellow and white – colours that bees find very attractive.

If you look carefully when you are passing, you'll see that we have added a house for solitary bees in the border. As their name suggests, solitary bees don't live in colonies like bumblebees or honeybees. They don't make honey and don't serve a queen, meaning that they aren't aggressive (in fact most of them do not have a sting at all). The role of the males is to mate with a female, who then works alone to build her own nest. She will search for a crevice in soil, walls or wood and create up to forty individual cells. Into each cell she will place food and then lay a single egg, sealing up the cells as she goes. The young larvae will then develop and overwinter within the cells, to emerge as the next breeding generation the following spring.



Adding a bee box like these to a sunny, sheltered wall or fence near plenty of flowering plants and trees can really support our precious solitary bees as nesting holes become harder to find. We have made our own and have some to spare so if you'd like one in your garden please contact Conor or myself on the email address below – we'd be delighted to hear from you.

We are excited to be doing some more bee-friendly planting during our September meeting, **Sunday 22th September at 2pm**, when we'll be back in St. Cuthbert's Memorial Garden. It's a lovely place of dappled shade and shafts of sunlight – come and enjoy it, make friends and help nature at the same time. Please join us if you can – new members are always welcome.

Clare Edwards cedwards1144@gmail.com



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