Halsall News



May 2024

Front cover photograph taken and provided by Noel McCarthy-Thomason

June 2024 MAGAZINE

Closing date for Articles and Adverts : 13th May 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 Electricity NW United Utilities (water / flooding) Flooding - Highway Police Contact (non urgent) Local Police Officers or PCSO's Street Lighting Fault Reporting Line Fire Safety Helpline

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 <u>7176@lancashire.police.uk</u>

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 Vice Chair Mary Lyons		07817 056145 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-Thon	nason 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			
	Jane Marshall	Cllr.Marshall@westlancs.gov.uk			
County Councillor	David O'Toole	01695 421056			
THE C	THE CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, HALSALL				

Rector Curate Reader Church Wardens

P.C.C. Secretary

P.C.C. Treasurer

Verger

Organist

The Rev Susan Salt The Rev Glen Gardner David Walker Carol Ward Pamela Carr Sarah Mitchell

Edward Carr Colin Throp Edward Carr

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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

May 2024			
	Warden	Deputy Warden	Sides persons
May 5th	Pam Carr	Anne Grimshaw	Carol Ward Rebecca Ridley
May 12th	Carol Ward	John Wroe	Sarah Mitchell Jacob Mitchell
May 19th	Pam Carr	Angela Webster	Maria Kenyon Angela Seddon
May 26th	Carol Ward	Colin Throp	Angela Webster Gwyn Williams



The Rector Writes



The newly formed Butterflies and Bees brigade at St Cuthbert's, a group gathered from across the community, have amazed and inspired me by what they have achieved in the churchyard in such a short time. The fruits of their labours are plain for all to see with wood piles to shelter invertebrates and wildlife as well as diverse plants emerging to attract insects. In mid-April I saw my first butterfly and bumble bee. As a Christian such sights remind me of God's amazing love and care for all of his creation.

May is the month of the feast of Pentecost in the church, where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Day of Pentecost comes fifty days after Easter Day. It is a time when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension.

Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of God. God's revelation of himself in creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

As Christians we believe that 'God's Spirit is always and everywhere'. So God's creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. The way we choose to live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth. How are we honouring this precious gift and being good stewards of the world and the place we call home?

There are no easy answers or quick fixes to the environmental challenges we are seeing, but together in small ways we can all make a difference. We can think about how we live more harmoniously with nature and each other. We can put aside our differences to work together to help build community, to care for the village and surrounding countryside in sustainable ways and celebrate all that we are and have.

"For God's Spirit is always and everywhere and we are, because God is"

Prayers and blessings Susan



Service in the United Benefice for May 2024

As we continue to celebrate Easter and Pentecost what acts of kindness and generosity can we share with each other and our wider community? How can we care for our environment?

Sunday 5th May Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 5 May Fifth Sunday of Easter				
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			
Wednesday 8 th May				
11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion			
Thursday 9th May Ascen				
9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer			
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers			
-	for healing			
7pm	St Thomas' Holy Communion for Ascension Day			
Sunday 12 th May Sixth S	Sunday of Easter			
8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion			
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Holy Communion			
11.00am	St Thomas' Church Parade celebrating 90 years of Girl			
	Guiding in Lydiate			
Wednesday 15 th May				
11.00am	St Thomas' said CW holy Communion			
Thursday 16 th May	·			
9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer			
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers			
	for healing			
Sunday 19 th May Pentec				
8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion			
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (with Messy Church)			
11am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist followed by Annual Meeting			
Wednesday 22 nd May				
11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion			
Thursday 23 rd May	•			
9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer			
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers			
	for healing			
Sunday 26 th May Trinity Sunday				
8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion			
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist			
11am	St Thomas' All Age Eucharist			
	C C			

Wednesday 29 th	May			
11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion			
Thursday 30 th May Celebration of Corpus Christi				
9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer			
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for			
-	healing			
7pm	St Thomas' Holy Communion			
A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us at any of our United Benefice Services.				

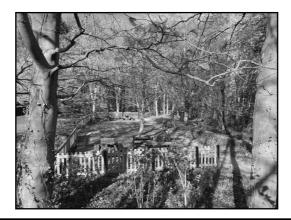
Please note that from May, Tuesday's Morning Prayer at St Thomas' is going to move to Monday mornings at 9.15am and be online. This will enable the service to be shared with parishes across the Fit for Mission Parish. More details will be made available soon.

Halsall Proud & Tidy Group

Many thanks to the merry band of 25+volunteers who gave their time, equipment & expertise to transform Bishops Walk

If you would to join in our next community event please contact

Eleanor Wroe (elliwroe@hotmail.com or 07817 55 75 33) or Enid Banks (enidbanks@aol.com or 07977 920 956)



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



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

- MAY 1st Charles P Mansbridge (Birthday) 2nd Henry Eric Kenyon (Birthday) 2nd Florrie Pilling (Birthday) 2nd Alan Georgeson Birthday) 4th **Dennis Stanley Markham** 4th Marion Chadwick (Birthday) 5th Mary Critchley Harry Blundell (Anniversary) 5th 7th Henry Serjeant (Birthday) 8th Lucy Proctor (Birthday) 9th Ian Holcroft (Birthday) 9th **George Henry Porter** 11th Doreen Porter 12th William Prescott 15th Marian Austin (Birthday) 20th John & Cissie Morris
 - 21st Harold Dean
 - 21st Gerald Musker
 - 24th Marian Austin
 - 27th Margaret Balshaw
 - 27th Annie Sumner
 - 29th Joseph Huyton (Birthday)
 - 31st John Johnson

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

Nay 2024 🦉

,	12th May	E Wroe	J Wroe	G Williams	S Richards
4	26th May	E Banks	M Webster	L Wilkinson S Roberts	M Cheetham

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(rear of Saracen's Head, Summerwood Lane, Halsall)

New Members and Visitors Welcome

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

We have several league teams for those looking to play competitively

Social Bowling is hosted twice weekly Thursdays 1.30pm - 4pm Sundays 1.30pm - 4pm We will provide the bowls and tea & biscuits!

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

Come along and give bowls a try.

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

For further information, please contact Lynda Hodge on 07435 971762

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



Welcome to Bishops Walk

How many bird boxes can you spot?

How many bee boxes can you spot?

















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> Contact Chris Pyne 01704 841467 Halsallparishclerk@gmail.com

MEMORIAL HALL and PLAYING FIELD Hire

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

£12 per hour, £10 per hour for regular users Catering service available from Bakehouse Café next door Folding Tables and Folding Chairs available to hire

> Contact 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

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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 <u>Facebook Page</u>
Halsall Bees & Butterflies Brigade	Next meeting 21st April, 2pm, St. Cuthbert's Churchyard	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

PLANNING

Planning Applications

2024/0269/PNP prior approval required for an extension at Bangor's Green Farm

2024/0232/FUL Holly Farm buildings, Velux roof windows

2024/0213/LDP 20 Linaker drive, extend the ground floor extension

2024/0142/FUL 59 Moss Road, replace garage

2024/0138/FUL Sycamore Lodge, New Cut Lane, Glazed Gable Windows 2024/0176/FUL Grainstore House, Plex Lane, Detached garage

Recent decisions – all granted

T/2024/0021/TCS/S211 White Lodge, The Runnels, tree removal

2024/0009/PNP Gorse Hill Farm, PP is required for new farm track. Dismissal of a planning appeal to build a house at the rear of 84 and 86 New Street.

To Note Planning Enforcement WLBC notified the Council that an appeal on an Enforcement action for 104 Renacres Lane is to be made to the Secretary of State. The Council will not make a comment.

<u>St Aidan's Hall</u> will be a <u>Polling Station</u> on 2nd May 2024 for Local and later General Elections. Discussions about upgrading CCTV are under way. Refurbishment is ongoing. Planters are to be purchased. St Aidan's Hall has been entered in Lancashire Best Kept Village competition.

The Shirdley Hill Community Association The fortnightly Luncheon Club continues to be very popular and all are welcomed to these Halsall community events. Future events include a Quiz Night (3rd May) and the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on Village Green (6th June). The Fire Service has approved the Risk Assessment for the event. Cllr Brookfield is arranging a WW2 display in his garden and will attend the event to read the Roll of Honour. A beacon will be lit here.

<u>Report from Traffic & Road Safety Group</u> It was agreed that Plex Lane bus shelter is beyond economic repair and with the expired lease for the land then the best option is to dismantle it. Cllr McCarthy-Thomason has a contact with a suitable van and the firewood will be distributed.

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

Potholes and Flooding Concerning these issues, complaints to **Love Clean Streets** on this link <u>https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/</u> <u>report-it/report-it-on-the-go/</u> have yielded some success with pothole repairs and street flooding issues. Halsall residents are encouraged to use this app themselves as they identify potholes. Poor pavement surfaces are also an issue, notably along New Cut Lane and around Shirdley Hill. **Restoration of Ancient public footpaths in Halsall** Halsall has a large number of public footpaths, some of which have become overgrown. Volunteers are needed to help clearing them. Please contact Chris Pyne or Liz Wright if you are willing to kindly volunteer to help as if we don't use these paths we may lose them

Environment & Biodiversity Working Group Clerk to obtain details on costs of signposts and footpath markers for publication to landowners.

<u>Healthy Halsall</u> Cllr Schofield has been working with a local Farmer to write a letter in support of British Farming. The Council Agreed to send the letter to local MP and to circulate to other Parishes.

Parish Council Meetings Annual General Meeting will be on 15th May 2024 at Memorial Hall.

The Parish Council Website includes agendas and minutes of meetings <u>https://halsallparish.org.uk/</u>Upcoming events and news are posted on Facebook Halsall Village Community Forum<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u>groups/200983146975703 also on Facebook Shirdley Hill Hub <u>https://</u>www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081833388874

Liz Wright Chair and Chris Pyne Parish Clerk.

HALSALL WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD AND HALL TRUST

Halsall Parish Council is sole Trustee of the Trust which is a self-funding Charity no 521111 regulated by the Charity Commission. Donations received via the Gift Aid Scheme enable us to recover an additional 25p in the £1 from HMRC. Secure Donations boxes and envelopes are situated in the Hall. Already the scheme has yielded sufficient for a claim.

The Trust welcomes our **<u>new Trust Secretary</u>** John Ferguson who replaces Chris Pyne who stepped down on 31/03/2024.

The next tea and coffee morning will be 16th May 2024 from 11am-1pm

The Memorial Hall will be a **<u>Polling Station</u>** on 2nd May 2024 for Local and later General elections.

HPC will liaise with WLBC on arranging a **<u>Community skip day</u>** for

supervised waste collection at the Memorial Hall car park.

Land drains on the playing field have been jetted and work is ongoing.

Liz Wright Chair and John Ferguson Trust Secretary.

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH

Next meeting 7:30pm 15th May (one week later due to elections) at Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, L39 8RN

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The service includes:-

- removal of dead flowers and plants, etc and replacing with fresh cut seasonal flowers
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<u>Halsall St Cuthbert's</u> <u>May Report</u>

Halsall St Cuthbert's Update : May

September Intake.

We expect to accept 25-30 new reception children this coming September.

If there are any parents who were not initially offered a place for their reception child this coming September and are still interested in their children attending St Cuthbert's, please contact school as soon as possible.

Likewise, if any parents are considering an in-year application for their child, please contact school for further information. There are spaces in selected year groups.

We will be soon be setting the class structure for the new academic year 24/25 and it's important that we have confirmed numbers for each year group.

Kenyon Shields

These were our Kenyon Shield Winners for the half-term before the Easter break.

- Reception : Ollie Webster
- Year 1 : Oscar Ashton
- Year 2 : Penelope Duran
- Year 3 : Theodore Shakespeare
- Year 4 : Lucas Shalliker
- Year 5 : Imogen Edwards
- Year 6 : Delilah Richardson

Congratulations and well done to these wonderful children. They've been brilliant.

New School Secretary/Bursar

After 24 years of dedicated service at Halsall St Cuthbert's, Mrs Rankin has now retired from her post. We thank her for all her hard work, we wish her all the very best for the future and we pray that she has a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Leonie Green has now been appointed as her replacement. Initially, Mrs Green will be working similar hours through the week. She'll be in school each day (8-45am - 1-00pm) and on Friday afternoon to 3-15pm. I'm sure that Mrs Green be a great asset to the school for many years to come.

Big Book Swap

The children loved the recent Book Swap Day. Most children brought books into school and selected others that they really enjoyed reading over the Easter holiday period. Thanks to Mrs Galley for organizing this event and for raising the profile of story books and encouraging a love of reading.

Rock Steady Initiative

The children who were involved with the Rock Steady initiative at school, performed for their parents in the last week before Easter and they were absolutely amazing. They enjoyed it enormously and showed so much confidence in their performance. It was lovely to see. Each group of children actually played as part of band. They had to work as a team, to keep in-time and coordinate what they were doing. Some children were singing, some played the keyboard, some played guitar and some played the drums. What a great experience for them. Thanks to Mrs Galley for initiating and then coordinating, this super opportunity for everyone in school.

Orienteering Competition (Spring Term)

We sent a team of six children to an Orienteering Competition in April. (Harvey Banks, Poppy Bedwell, Isla Maitland, Lucy Blackhurst, Kenny Greenough and Tom Murphy) They were split into 3 teams of 2 and each pair had to use their orienteering skills and visit a number of designated posts/features. The pairs had to do this in the shortest possible time. They had to run as fast as they could whilst being really careful on all the wet grass and mud.

They group performed amazingly well and finished 1st out of 10 local schools.

A special mention to the pairing of Poppy Bedwell and Harvey Banks. They completed the route in the shortest time of all the pairings in the whole event. What a great achievement. Well done to them. A big thanks to Miss Schumacher for giving them this fabulous experience.

<u>Dates</u>

PGL Week Yrs 4 / 5 : 29th April - 3rd May SAT Week (Year 6) : 13th -17th May Year 6 Leavers' Service (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral) : Tuesday 11th June Strawberry Teas Afternoon : Thursday 13th June Year 6 Llandudno Holiday : 17th - 21st June Summer Carnival : Saturday 6th July Sports Day : Wednesday 10th July Leavers' Service and Prize-Giving : Thursday 18th July Break-Up for summer : Friday 19th

Doug Scholes (Head Teacher)



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

Coffee Morning

Every third Thursday of the month Halsall Memorial Hall 11:00am - 1:00pm 18th April/16th May/20th June/18th July

Everyone welcome! We need your support to keep it going!











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ANIMAL CARE: Town Vets 01704 535233	OFFICE SPACE: Halsall Business Park. Orchard House, Summerwood Lane. 01704 841831 or 07739 863785	
ANIMAL PORTRAITS: Spurwood Studio. Call		
Chris on 01704 841593. Facebook Spurwood Studio	PAINTING & DECORATING: SPL Painting & Decorating. 07866 767977	
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BUILDER: D J & J Wignall Construction and Maintenance 01704 841136	POST OFFICE : Monday and Thursday after- noon. 2pm –4.30pm.Massams Supplies Ltd, Renacres Lane. 01704 840265	
CAFÉ : Bakehouse Café 01704 840916 Halsall Playing Fields, Halsall Rd, Halsall		
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Halsall Scarecrows

We would like to invite all our residents to join in with the creation and enjoyment of our scarecrows again this year.

There will be no theme this year in the hope that your ideas can run wild!

Some of you may wish to use the inspiration of the Euro's 2024, the Paris Olympics, or the D-Day anniversary. Perhaps you have a favourite character, pet, hobby, role model or interest that you can fashion a scarecrow on?

As with previous events, we would encourage you to place your scarecrows on display by the **beginning of June** so they can be viewed throughout the month.

Our team is organising a **Scarecrow Trail Weekend** on the **15th& 16th of June** where maps can be purchased for a minimal fee of £2. There will be a Trail Quiz, Name the Scarecrow, and a vote for the 'Best Scarecrow'. Return trail quiz entries will be drawn for raffle prizes.

All Halsall residents, businesses and community spaces are encouraged to join in. We will photograph your scarecrow for the competition vote and, if you wish, we can even help move your scarecrow to a central spot in the village for the Scarecrow Trail weekend. It will be fantastic to get as many scarecrows as possible so get thinking about your creations!

Further details will be available at <u>https://www.facebook.com/halsallscarecrows</u> in our June edition of Halsall News and on social media via Halsall Community page.

Any questions or offers of raffle prizes can be directed to Tara or Roy Kenyon on 01704 840176 or via the Scarecrow Facebook page.

The Bees and Butterflies Brigade

May is the time to give your garden a real colour boost, using annuals that will flower with gusto until the first frosts. The good news is that lots of annuals are brilliant for bees and other pollinating insects, providing plenty of nectar and pollen. Here are a few easy ways you can use these plants in your garden to help our precious insects.

Sow seed directly on to prepared soil in your garden borders - it's a great way to fill gaps, as annuals grow and flower within two or three months. "Love-in-a-mist" (Nigella), Cosmos, Californian Poppy (Eschscholzia) and Poached Egg Plant (Limnanthes) are all easy to grow like this. When choosing seed varieties, read the packet carefully to learn the height of each flowering plant and whether it can be "sown direct". Look for the bee logo, too, which tells you that seeds will grow into a pollinator-friendly plant.

Why not use plug plants to make up a bee-friendly container for your garden? Choose a large container with a drainage hole and put some crocks or pebbles in the bottom. Make your container up with peat-free compost - this protects our precious peatland and keeps carbon locked in the ground. Choose your plants thoughtfully, as not all "container plants" are good for bees. One idea is to source bee-friendly plants online – there are lots of reputable companies out there who will send you plug plants through the post.

Cosmos, nasturtium, pot marigolds, snapdragons and zinnias are all great choices as long as you avoid double varieties. You can combine any of these with one or two perennial plants to create a beautiful display. How about planting an orange-flowered pot marigold (Calandula officinalis) with an orange-red flowered nasturtium (Tropaeolum majus) trailing over the front of the pot and a bronze-leaved heuchera (Coral bells) to provide stunning foliage contrast. The heuchera will throw up dainty stems of tiny, bell-like flowers in mid-summer which are perfect for smaller insects. If you prefer a less intense display, substitute the heuchera for the pretty Scabious "Butterfly Blue" (Scabiosa), or an alpine bellflower (Campanula) which will form a mat of blue flowers. Water your pots regularly throughout the year, aiming for consistently moist compost. Add some liquid feed to your watering can occasionally when watering, which will help to keep your plants blooming and the bees buzzing!

Finally, you could use a small patch of lawn to create a mini-meadow for bees. Just add a few plug plants of clover in a sunny, out-of-the-way spot and allow the grass to grow around them. You'll be feeding the bees and also making your lawn more drought tolerant – try it, you'll be amazed at the insects that visit your meadow.

If you'd like to learn more about bee-friendly plants please come along to our plant sale on Saturday 18th May, 2-4pm in St Cuthbert's churchyard. Buy locally grown plants and seeds for your garden, have a look at the new churchyard planting and our beautiful historic church, and enjoy delicious refreshments. All the money raised will help to buy plants for future projects in the churchyard and around Halsall village. We really look forward to welcoming you!

Clare Edwards cedwards1144@gmail.com

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