

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR APRIL 2024



Our cover photo

Newly planted fruit trees, spring bulbs, a neatly laid hedge all around the boundary..... In recent editions of the NEWS we've kept you updated with the work going on in and around Whitehead Fields. Now here is the proof. These last few weeks, it's been difficult to capture photos with a blue sky – but all that rain will at least have helped to water in the trees.

There are more bulbs coming to follow on from the daffodils and the trees are starting to bud. It's literally a case of "watch this space".

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Our APCM will take place at 11.00am on Sunday 28th April, directly after the service. In this season, meetings like ours are taking place in every CofE church in the land. Church members come together to receive reports on all parish activities in the past year, financial matters and changes to the numbers on the electoral roll, as well as electing churchwardens and new members to the PCC and Deanery Synod. There will be several vacancies and forms for nominations are now on the notice board in St Mary's. The APCM is a major event in the church's calendar and we look forward to seeing a full house in The Mews.

A verse for APRIL

Ephesians Ch 6: verse 15

“On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong”

All levels of conflict leave you flailing for support and searching for a firm footing. That's why Paul urges believers, *“On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong.”*

Roman soldiers had hobnails on the bottom of their footwear. These little nails helped them get a better grip, like cleats for football players. Without them, soldiers would slip and slide in battle. They wouldn't be able to hold their ground.

Without putting on the peace that comes from the Good News, we too will slip and slide our way through life.

Our peace is attacked through worry. We can worry about anything – our future, our finances, our health, our relationships, what others think of us.

And it means we're shoeless. We're not letting the peace that comes from knowing God's Word take control.

The more we love and obey the Bible, the less we're offended by what others say. The more we love God's Word, the less we're offended by what happens to us and the less our walk with God will be disturbed.

TF

APRIL Diary

APR 2nd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
3rd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
4th	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see page 8</i>)	The Mews
7th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Easter 2 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
8th	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service	Christ Church, Wharton
9th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
10th	10.30 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
14th	9.30 am	Easter 3 Holy Communion	St Mary's
15th	7.30 pm	Fellowship Group (<i>see page 8</i>)	The Mews
16th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
17th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's
18th	9.45 am meet 2.00 pm	Whitegate Amblers walk (<i>see page 8</i>) Mission and Giving group meeting	The Mews Marton Sands House
21st	9.30 am 9.30 am 2.00 for 2.30 pm	Easter 4 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Movies in The Mews – West Side Story (<i>see page 8</i>)	St Mary's The Mews The Mews
23rd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
24th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
28th	9.30 am 11.00 am	Easter 5 Holy Communion St Mary's APCM	St Mary's The Mews
29th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Mews Management Committee meeting Fellowship Group (<i>see page 8</i>)	The Mews The Mews
30th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
MAY 1st	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews 12.00 noon
2nd	10.00 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see page 8</i>)	The Mews
5th	9.30 am	Rogation Sunday Rogation Service – <i>a family friendly service, outdoors if weather permits</i>	St Mary's

April thoughts from the Vicar

It is Easter. We are an Easter people. Alleluia!

I write this dressed in orange overalls and a beanie hat. To a casual observer I might be mistaken for an escapee from Guantanamo Bay prison. This has happened to me before. Once, whilst taking the Bishop of Liverpool to visit someone in prison I was wearing my habitual maroon sweater. I hadn't noticed that this was the same colour as worn by all the inmates. It was only as we were about to drive out of the prison that the alarms went off and the steel barricade came down to block our exit. There were guards rushing everywhere. One of them had spotted an inmate driving out in a car and hit the alarm.



I didn't wear that sweater next time we visited.

There is a reason why I am donned in orange overalls. Whilst doing a bit of maintenance on my motorcycle I found that the head bearings were snatching slightly in one position. This happens after high mileages and the only solution is to replace the bearings. It means a lot of disassembly including removing the front forks. I decided that whilst they were off I would overhaul them as well. This is a spectacularly messy task as no matter how much you drain the old oil out of the forks plenty always seems to remain, ready to fly out as you pull the forks apart.

All of this fitted rather well with my book for Lent. Perhaps a slightly unorthodox choice but one I'd been meaning to read for years, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig. It is a fictional autobiography of a 17-day journey on a Honda CB77 Super Hawk, a 305-cc twin cylinder bike capable of over 100mph which was quite good for a 1960's machine. It is the same bike as Elvis Presley rode in the film *Roustabout*.

In the book, Pirsig refers to a time when the engine on his bike seized. He took it to a workshop where they repaired it. He duly ran it carefully for the next 1,000 miles before opening it up. It promptly seized again. He took it back to the workshop who mended it, then ran it themselves. It seized up on them. Eventually he took it to bits himself and found a pin in the engine had sheared restricting oil flow to the cylinder head. On an air-cooled engine running at 9,000rpm in temperatures of over 100 F (the book is set in America) a lack of oil means no cooling and no lubrication.

His reflection on the experience was that the guys in the workshop failed to focus on the job they were doing. They were larking about with the radio blaring away. Pirsig comments that if you're listening to the radio you're not focused on the job before you. This leads to sloppy work.

A colleague who took on a challenging job regularly referred to a simple objective, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." His job was complex and difficult. He worked with a team that faced numerous problems most of which they couldn't fix. The potential for discouragement was significant. So he kept coming back to those words – the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. It helped the team focus on what really mattered and avoid getting distracted by a host of other issues.

Easter is the great fifty days leading towards Pentecost (or Whit in old money). We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. We move towards the gift of the Holy Spirit, sending the huddle of disciples out onto the streets. Over 2,000 years later we await Christ's second coming and continue the work of those first Christians. We live in a complex and bewildering world. At times the Church itself seems to get bogged down with initiatives and agendas.

We would do well to reflect on the task before us, to worship God and proclaim Good News. That's the main thing. That's what we need to focus on.

This has been a time of waiting as well as a time of being active. Having stripped the front end of my motorcycle, I found I needed spare parts not readily available locally. They had to be sent off for. When the new seals and bushes came the forks needed to be dismantled, then cleaned and then allowed to dry. It's not a job you can rush. Do it right. Do it once. Someone once told me there are no difficult jobs, either things take time or they don't.

This is the time of year when we hold our Annual Parochial Church Meetings and elect people to manage the multiplicity of complex tasks necessary to run a church. In my annual report I have reflected on the "burden of carefulness" each person carries on our behalf. There are many tasks that need to be done, and done well. I am grateful for all those who take into their hands the tasks of the Kingdom. These tasks are a burden of carefulness. They need our attention. They need our energy. They need our time. They need to be done right.

Please give some careful and prayerful consideration to the task God places into our hands. It is a serious undertaking. We are thankful for those who respond to God's call.

Paul

APRIL NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ New display in The Mews

When the photo wall in The Mews was first installed last May with photos of Whitegate and a "Where is it?" quiz, little did we know that it would be the first of many displays. The exhibitions, all masterminded and hung by Jane Millinchip, have brought life to the interior and provide a real talking point.



From Easter, Jane promises a new exhibition, The Flower Garden, which will run throughout the summer, till Advent. It's sure to delight us and prompt many more conversations.

The winter exhibition will be on the theme of journeys, with the title "Are we nearly there yet?" Jane is looking again for community participation, with photos of different means of transport, roads and paths, bridges and gates. She invites everyone to think about this over the summer when they are out and about. She will need your photos by the end of September.

□ **Two fresh initiatives in April**

On Monday 15th April, at 7.00 pm in The Mews, our Assistant Curate, Margaret Byrne will host the first meeting of Fellowship Group. The group will meet fortnightly to explore the Bible and discuss issues and questions arising from it. All are welcome. See page 8 for Margaret's invitation.

And we are literally not standing still this spring, for Thursday 18th April marks the first walk of Whitegate Amblers. It's an opportunity for a short walk with a group around the many lanes, tracks and by-ways which criss-cross Whitegate. Meet at The Mews at 9.45 am. Again, there are more details on page 8.

□ **BBQ & Bands: Saturday 6th July**

Given the great success of last summer's first BBQ & Bands, our Social Committee has even greater ambitions this year and is planning a larger event, with a bigger stage and waterproof coverings to protect, if necessary, both audience and performers and musical instruments. Plans are well advanced, so keep reading the Monthly NEWS for updates.

□ **Mews Management Committee seeks new Chair**

After several years of sterling service chairing the MMC, Deryck Petty is standing down and because of other responsibilities, none of the existing members of the MMC is able to take on the role. Therefore someone outside that committee is needed: ideally, someone with some basic practical skills – not maintenance skills as such, but someone at least able regularly (say, once per week) to check on the premises, and to ensure that all is well with it. We ask everyone to think about this and if you feel you could step in, please speak to the Vicar or one of the churchwardens.

Whitegate and Marton Parish Council Annual Assembly

This annual gathering will take place on Monday 29th April at 7.30 pm in Whitegate School Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and hear updates and reports from both the Parish Council and other groups in the parish.

Contacts

Please note that only e-mail addresses for the Vicar, the Safeguarding officer, the News coordinator & the Mews Lettings officer are shown in the online version of the monthly News. If you need the e-mail address of one of the other Contacts, please phone them to ask for it.

<p>Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com</p>	<p>Churchwardens John Duthie 01606 889836 Anne Blayney 01606 74020</p> <hr/> <p>PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p>
<p>Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970</p>	<p>Treasurer John Duthie 01606 889836</p> <hr/> <p>Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>
<p>Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</p>	<p>Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p>Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com</p>	<p>"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com</p>
<p>Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772</p>	<p>Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>
<p>Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833</p>	<p>Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642</p>

MAY NEWS: Comments and contributions for the next edition of the Monthly NEWS are always welcome. Please send copy to chrisball2022@outlook.com by 15th April.

FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews
Church Green
Whitegate
CW8 2AY

Thursdays, 4th April & 2nd May

Come down, meet friends & chat over tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes

Open 10.30 am
to 12.00 noon



Whitegate Amblers

Come and join us for our first walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the village of Whitegate.

Date: Thursday 18th April

Time: 09:45 meet for walk starting at 10:00 and lasting approximately 1 hour.

Start: Meeting outside The Mews at St Mary's Church, Whitegate. CW8 2AY.

Description: Fairly easy but expect mud.

You may like to bring a drink and a snack to enjoy at the end of the walk. We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control all the time. There are toilets in the Mews.

If you have any questions, please call John Blayney on 07964844642



Fellowship group

You're warmly invited ...
to our new, fortnightly, Fellowship group

Starting on Monday 15th April, we'll meet in The Mews on alternate Monday evenings at 7.30 pm.

To begin, we will explore St Mark's Gospel.

Our sessions are suitable for all – you don't need to be a Bible boffin to join in. There'll be time for discussion and no question is a silly question!

Each session will include a brief time of prayer but there will be no pressure to speak up or pray aloud if someone isn't comfortable doing so.

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who wants to develop a good habit of Bible reading and prayer, while sharing fellowship with wonderful people and enjoying tea and cake!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Reverend Margaret

Save the dates: 15th April, 29th April, 13th May, 3rd June, 17th June, 1st July, 15th July.

Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate
Sunday 21st April 2024

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.
film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.
(finish around 4.40 p.m.)



WEST SIDE STORY (2022)

"Spielberg's great new film adaptation of a classic stage musical"

Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Rachel Zegler, Ansel Elgort, Rita Moreno & Ariana DeBose

Manhattan Upper West Side, 1957. The famous story of forbidden love in the midst of the battle for supremacy between the Jets and the Sharks.

Sub-titled for the hard of hearing.

Suggested donation £5.00 per person

Book by signing up on the board in church, or contact
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