

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



## NEWS FOR MARCH 2024



## Our cover photo

Another beauty from the camera of Jane Millinchip. Taken on one of Jane's many visits to Arley Hall & Gardens, it's the fountain in the centre of the pond in the Walled Garden. The intriguing and inspired artichoke design of this water feature means that water, pumped up through the centre, collects in the spreading leaves of the flower and gradually trickles back to source, catching the sunlight as it flows. The fountain was a gift from the Friends of Arley in memory of Elizabeth, Lady Ashbrook (1911-2002).

If you'd like to see the fountain, note that from 1<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> October, Arley Gardens are open daily from 10.00am – 5.00pm.

Life-giving and life-sustaining, water will be the subject of the second session of our Lent Series this year, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00 pm in The Mews. There are 5 sessions in the series but you don't have to sign up for all of them. Simply come along when you can. It's an opportunity to study Jane's other photos of Christian symbols too. See March Diary for details.



### A verse for MARCH

Isaiah Ch 43: verse 20

***"For I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."***

Water is everywhere you look - the sea, the lake, river, ocean, rain, snow, kitchen, bathroom. And it has a lot of different meanings for us. So it's not surprising that water is an important symbol in the Bible.

In both the Old and New Testaments, the word water is used as a symbol for salvation and **eternal life**, which God offers us through faith in his Son. Another symbolism of water in the Bible is that of **spiritual cleansing** that we undergo when we accept God's offer of salvation. Water in the Bible is used to symbolise **difficult times** in life, especially for us, God's children. Water is a symbol of **God's spirit and power**.

I wonder what Bible story comes to your mind when you think about water? And what you think its symbolic meaning might be? Is it symbolic of God's power? Or of the promise of eternal life? Of the difficult times we face? Or the cleansing power of God's forgiveness?

Is there a special story or verse about water which brings you particular comfort?

SJM

## MARCH Diary

<b>MAR 3rd</b>	9.30 am 9.30 am	<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Communion Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
<b>5th</b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>6th</b>	10.30 am 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Lent Series with Compline: 3 "Bread"	The Mews St Mary's The Mews
<b>7th</b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café ( <i>see page 11</i> )	The Mews
<b>10th</b>	9.30 am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Family Service	St Mary's
<b>12th</b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>13th</b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Lent Series with Compline: 4 "The Cross"	The Mews St Mary's The Mews
<b>17th</b>	9.30 am 9.30 am	<b>Passion Sunday</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
<b>19th</b>	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting: speaker, Reverend Margaret Byrne	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>20th</b>	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Men's Breakfast ( <i>see page 11</i> ) Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Lent Series with Compline: 5 "Fish"	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's The Mews
<b>24th</b>	9.30 am 7.00 pm	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion Strings at St Peter's: Chamber Concert ( <i>see page 12</i> )	St Mary's St Peter's
<b>26th</b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>27th</b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews 12.00 noon
<b>28th</b>	10.00 am 7.30 pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Whitegate School Easter Service Holy Communion	St Mary's St Mary's
<b>29th</b>	2.00 pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Tenebrae Service	St Mary's
<b>31st</b>	9.30 am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Holy Communion – <i>a family friendly service with Easter Egg Hunt to follow</i>	St Mary's
<b>APR 3rd</b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>4th</b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café ( <i>see page 11</i> )	The Mews
<b>7th</b>	9.30 am 9.30 am	<b>Easter 2</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews

## March thoughts from the Assistant Curate

The season of Lent is well under way. "Lent" comes from the Old English word "Lencten" meaning "Spring season" or "lengthening of days". Daylight is already three hours longer than at the start of the year. As I sit in my study writing this, I am indeed enjoying the sunshine, the bright blue sky, and the sheep in the field next to me. Warm Summer days are slowly getting nearer.



But before those Summer days, there are the forty days of wilderness to contend with. If Lent feels like a struggle for you, you're not alone. I grew up in a strict Roman Catholic Church and I have two ingrained memories of Lent: the first is the overwhelming guilt of being an unworthy sinner, and the second, the almost competitive nature of "giving something up". Both aspects contain an element of truth, but sadly, miss the point of Lent. At the age of six, I remember giving up milk and sugar in coffee and tea for Lent, and all my friends comparing the items they would forgo. Lent might be a time to give up that bar of chocolate or odd glass of wine, but it isn't what Lent is about.

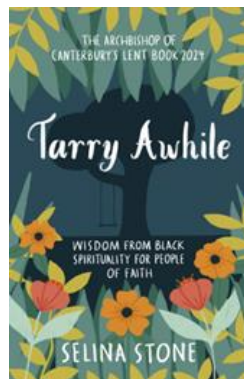
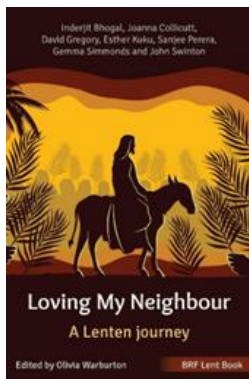
The point isn't about giving something up but, in some small way, spending time with Jesus in the wilderness. Forced into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, the only thing Jesus had was time to reflect and pray. We can never fully understand what Jesus went through, but in giving up something we can at least begin to appreciate his struggle, to share in his humanity and glimpse his great love for us.

We share also in his reliance on God. Jesus spent a great deal of time in prayer, discerning God's will and asking for strength before his ministry began – a ministry journey that would lead to the cross. The overwhelming guilt I felt as a child has gone. I know I am a sinner, but I also know that God's grace, mercy, and love is bigger! I know God has a purpose for me, for all of us. But how will we know that purpose unless we are intentional in taking the time to listen? When things get difficult, and we're tempted to give up, where do we find our strength? When Jesus faced temptation, each time he was able to rely on Scripture, correctly quoting Deuteronomy 6:13, 6:16 and 8:3 against Satan's manipulation of Psalm 91:11,12.

Michael Leyden, the Dean of Emmanuel Theological College (where I trained) insisted that, as well as regular times of daily prayer, we read the Bible cover-to-cover each year, reading a good four chapters every day. This was followed by "The day you stop doing this... go home!" I have to say, it was excellent advice. Setting aside regular time soon becomes an enjoyable habit. Now it's what gets me through the day! (That, and black coffee!)

If the thought of a regular pattern of prayer and Bible reading seems daunting, you don't have to journey through the wilderness alone. If you've not yet attended the Lent course (on Wednesday evenings in the Mews), it's not too late to join in.

Alternatively, I will be starting a new (fortnightly) fellowship group on Monday evenings in the Mews after Easter. This is an excellent opportunity to develop good habits of Bible reading and prayer while sharing fellowship and cake! Please see the advert on Page 11 for more details. I am always happy to chat, help or share resources – just ask! If you're looking for ideas, I've included the books I'm reading this Lent- all available on Amazon for super quick delivery!



Wherever you are on the journey, this Lent, I pray God will lead us through the wilderness, help us develop good habits and grow in grace.

God bless,  
Margaret.

## MARCH NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

### ☐ Pancake update

Our pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday was very well supported and raised the fabulous sum of **£345.36 for Christian Aid**. Huge thanks to everyone who supported the event, especially to Paul and Fiona Dawson who spent the evening slaving over the frying pans and who managed to keep their cool, even when the hob seemed to want to do that too!

### ☐ Volunteers needed

Can you help? On Sunday mornings after the service in Church, extra volunteers are needed to make and serve coffee/tea in The Mews. Everyone likes to congregate there for a chat and serving the drinks is a key aspect of the fellowship. Please speak to Linda Pinder or one of those on duty.

Likewise, those who clean the church regularly would value some help. With three or four more volunteers, no one would need to do it more than four times a year. If you can help, please contact Chris Ball.



## □ **Strings at St Peter's**

Vale Royal String Orchestra will be performing once again at St Peter's Little Budworth, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm.

On this occasion they'll be offering us A Journey Through Time, music from across five centuries featuring works by ten composers. The melodies evoke all manner of different emotions and conjure up pictures from central Europe, through Scandinavia and Britain and across to the States. It's a captivating programme. Tickets on the door. See page 12 for details.

## □ **Whitegate Field in bloom**

Bulbs planted last Autumn are starting to bloom now around the Burial Ground and at the end of February, a selection of fruit trees was delivered for planting in the land around Whitehead Field itself; there are several varieties of plum, apple, pear and a walnut too. They are a true investment for the future. The planting volunteers would welcome help with their job. If you can spare some time to plant, then please contact Elaine Campbell (07896 779962) or Andrew Ball (07398 295239). Whether planting or not, do take a walk down there to see how the fields are flourishing thanks to the work that's been put in. We are so lucky to have that space.

## □ **Guest Editor needed for July NEWS**

Chris Ball will be away in mid-June leading a group trip to France and Belgium. St Mary's is therefore seeking a Guest Editor for the July edition of the Monthly NEWS. Would you like to take up the baton – or the blue pencil - for that month? There is plenty of support available. If it sounds like a job for you, or if you'd like to know more about what's involved, get in touch with Chris by email: [chrisball2022@outlook.com](mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com) or by phone 01606 593260.

## □ **Lilies for Easter**

St Mary's floristry group would very much welcome donations towards the cost of purchasing the Easter lilies. Over the next few weeks, there will be a bowl at the back of the church to receive contributions. Thank you.

## □ **Advance dates for your diary**

- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April:** First meeting of the newly formed Fellowship Group. See page 11 for more details.
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Whitegate Amblers' first walk. See page 11.
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April:** Movies in The Mews screens West Side Story. Note change of date, from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. More details in April NEWS.
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Whitegate School Fair on the School Field. More information next month.
- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July:** BBQ & BANDS on Church Green, following on the success of last year's great event. More news will follow.



## □ Hedge layers take a break!

Those who read last month's NEWS will remember that we thanked the volunteer group who have spent two winters working on our behalf to ensure that the hedge boundaries around the churchyard and Whitehead Fields will thicken up and grow on healthily for some years to come. Scott Campbell recently sent in this super photo of the group on a lunch break around the campfire. The fire of course enabled them to clear the cuttings and dead wood that are an inevitable by-product of the hedge-laying process but it was also vital for warmth, for the group worked on in the coldest and roughest of weathers.

Officially known as Conservation Volunteers, they turn their hands to many other outdoor jobs as well as hedge-laying. The work is supported by CWAC and the volunteers are managed by Countryside Ranger, Chris Moseley. Chris has written saying that if anyone is interested in joining his merry band of volunteers, then they can phone him on 07946 400675 or email: [chris.moseley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:chris.moseley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)





## WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month; 7.15 pm for 7.30 start, in Whitegate Recreation Room.

On 6th March, we'll enjoy a visit from David Payne, who will tell us "They don't write them like this anymore".

Visitors and new members are always welcome. There is a small fee for visitors, which includes refreshments. To find out more, contact Alison: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)



Do keep an eye on the Parish Council website. There you'll find news from the latest meetings and discussions.

[www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk)



Currently on the Home page, there is a link to the summary of results of the Road Safety Speed Survey. As you'll read, whilst speed is indeed a concern on roads throughout Whitegate & Marton, parishioners who responded raised a whole range of other issues of concern, including blind spots, verge damage and the need for more warning signs, as well as the particularly poor state of the road surface on key thoroughfares. Don't forget that potholes and fissures, fly tipping and missed waste collections, can and should be flagged up via the CWAC "Report it" site.

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it)

The most recent Whitegate & Marton newsletter posted on the website, outlines an idea to commemorate on 6<sup>th</sup> June the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy, when allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed.

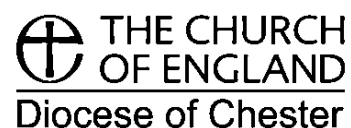


**D•DAY80**

In 1944, Operation Overlord saw around 4000 ships and landing crafts set down about 132,500 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation. It's felt that a permanent reminder would be appropriate,

perhaps in the form of a bench, sited in the village. Suggestions are invited so if you have an idea about it, get in touch with Julie Ellis, the Parish Clerk. Her contact details are on the top of the Home page.

## NEWS FROM CHESTER DIOCESE



Bishop Mark recently announced that the Reverend Jane Proudfoot has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

Jane is currently the Rector of Grappenhall, Priest in charge of Daresbury, and Rural Dean of Great Budworth in this Diocese. Since September, she has been serving as Assistant Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

Jane follows Bishop Ian Bishop, Bishop of Thetford who served as Archdeacon of Macclesfield from 2011 to 2023, and we continue to pray for him as we pray for her.

She will be licensed in a service in Chester Cathedral on the afternoon of 28th April with a welcome service in the Archdeaconry to follow.

## AND FROM CHESTER CATHEDRAL

During March, there are a number of music events planned in the Cathedral, which together with the Services, Tours and Talks (in particular in this season, the Lent Bible Talks each Wednesday at 13.10) that take place there week by week, make up a rich programme of opportunities on offer in the lead up to Easter.



- ♪ Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March brings James Bond by Candlelight, an incredible evening of best loved Bond themes, in this series of candlelit concerts in the beautiful setting of Chester Cathedral.
- ♪ On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30 pm Chester Philharmonic Orchestra, Chester Bach Singers and Cantiones Choir, with a host of dazzling soloists will be performing Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, under Conductor, Martin Bussey.
- ♪ On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, there's an opportunity for all to take part in A Royal Sing with Paul Mealor. You can book to enjoy a day of singing with this composer, one of the 12 who were asked by the King to compose a new work for the Coronation last year.
- ♪ On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Chester Music Society offers a concert of Music for Passiontide, with their conductor, Graham Jordan Ellis, and Graham Eccles at the organ.
- ♪ In addition, every Thursday at 1.10 pm the Cathedral hosts a Recital of the Grand Organ, with each week a different organist and repertoire.

Details of how to book for all these events and many more, can be found on the Cathedral website: [chestercathedral.com/events/](https://chestercathedral.com/events/)

❑ **APRIL NEWS:** Comments and contributions for the next edition of the Monthly NEWS are always welcome. Please send copy to [chrisball2022@outlook.com](mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## Contacts

*Please note that only e-mail addresses for the Vicar, 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.*

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

# FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews  
Church Green  
Whitegate  
CW8 2AY

Thursdays, 7<sup>th</sup> March & 4<sup>th</sup> April

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

Open 10.30 am  
to 12.00 noon



## Fellowship group

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

Starting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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:** 15<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May,  
3<sup>rd</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> July.



**Men's Breakfast**

Once a month, at  
**Tarporley Garden Centre**

Join us for a great value  
breakfast and chat in  
friendly company

**9.00 am**  
on

**Wednesday  
20<sup>th</sup> March**

Sign up at St Mary's Whitegate  
or St Peter's Little Budworth,

or contact Alan Newton on  
01829 760239  
[acenewton513@gmail.com](mailto:acenewton513@gmail.com)



## Whitegate Amblers

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

**Date:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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





# VALLE ROYAL STRING ORCHESTRA

## Strings at St Peter's A Journey Through Time

**BIBER (1644-1704) TO ELLIS (1933-2023)**

**BY WAY OF**

**BACH, MOZART, SCHUBERT (KEVIN FLYNN, VIOLIN),  
TCHAIKOVSKY, SIBELIUS, GRIEG, BARBER AND  
BRITTEN**

**ROBERT CHASEY CONDUCTOR**

**St Peter's Church, Little Budworth,  
CW6 9BY  
Sunday 24 March 2024, 7.00 pm**

For St Peter's Little Budworth

**Tickets: Adults £18.00 School Age  
Children £8.00**

**Pay at the door, Contactless or Cash  
Andrew Ball, 07398 295239  
martonsands@gmail.com**



[www.valeroyalstringorchestra.co.uk](http://www.valeroyalstringorchestra.co.uk)