

Vacancies at St Mary's:

We have vacancies for the following:

3 PCC members

Parish Magazine Editor

Providing and assisting with flowers

Setting up the altar before services of Holy Communion

Sidespeople

Sunday refreshments

Please speak with the Vicar or Churchwardens for details.

Vacancy for a cleaner at the Mews - We are looking for someone to clean the Mews on a regular basis. It is likely to be for 1.5 hours a week, £12 per hour. Please speak to one of the Churchwardens, Deryck Petty or the Vicar.

Parish Magazines

St Peter's magazine will be published again this month.

St Mary's magazine is not being published at the moment as we need someone to be Editor. It may be that this is an opportunity to rethink how we communicate with everyone. As more people use our website maybe that is where information needs to be rather than in printed format?

**The United Benefice of
St Mary, Whitegate
&
St Peter, Little Budworth**

DECEMBER 2021



**Advent
&
Christmas**

Contact information:

The Revd Canon Paul Dawson - Vicar
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The Revd Dr John Stopford
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The Revd Jane Millinchip
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Children's Worker
 Mrs Teresa Finney
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Pastoral Worker
 Mrs Pauline Hayward
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Musical Director
 Mr Andrew Millinchip
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St Peter, Little Budworth

Church Wardens
 Dr John Scott 01829 760604 johngvscott@tiscali.co.uk
 Mr Steve Simpson 01829 760377 steve@s-simpson.com

Treasurer
 Dr John Scott 01829 760604 johngvscott@tiscali.co.uk

PCC Secretary
 Mrs Diane Robinsons 01829 760445 diane.pds@btinternet.com

please invite people who might value just getting out for a cuppa and a chat.

Benefice Diary – December 2021

1	10.30am	Coffee at St Peter's
	6.00pm	Governing Body Meeting, Whitegate School
2	10.30am	Café in the Mews
4	5.30pm	Whitegate Christmas lights
5	Advent 2	
	9.30am	Morning Prayer at Mary's
	11.00am	Morning Prayer at St Peter's
	4.30pm	Christingle at St Peter's
6	6.00pm	Men's Dinner at The Plough
8	2.00pm	Mother's Union Advent Service at St Peter's
12	Advent 3	
	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	11.00am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's
15	10.30am	Coffee at St Peter's
17	9.30am	School Carol Service in St Mary's (time to be confirmed)
19	Advent 4	
	9.30am	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	11.00am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at St Peter's
24	4.00pm	Crib Service at St Mary's
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion at St Peter's
	11.30am	Midnight Communion at St Mary's
25	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	11.00am	Holy Communion at St Peter's
26		There are no services on Boxing Day
28	1.00pm	Wedding at St Peter's – Sarah Kirwan & Stuart Smith

Information as known at time of preparing the details.

Christmas Cards that make a difference

A suggestion how to share Christmas greetings and spread the good news as widely as possible is that instead of sending many cards to various people in church we place one card on a window ledge in church and make a donation to Christian Aid Present Aid. At the end of Christmas we can use the donations to buy gifts such as a pair of chickens - £8, seeds and tools - £15, a goat -£35, clean water -£30, schooling -£15, 10 cocoa saplings £9.00, a sustainable business start up -£100, juice make - £80.



These gifts can change lives for Christmas and beyond.

Pastoral Visiting

To enable us to work in a safer way and use travel distance more economically the clergy will resume pastoral visiting by prior arrangement. If you would like a member of the clergy to visit please contact the Vicar.

Minnows

Our Minnows meets in the Mews on Thursdays 1.00-3.00pm.

St Peter's events

Coffee and chat in church every 1st & 3rd Wednesday morning 10.30 – 12.00. All welcome.

Ladies Lunch at the Red Lion every 2nd Wednesday.

First Thursday Café

St Mary's is starting an open time of welcome and hospitality in the Mews on the first Thursday of each month. This will be from 10.30am to 12.00pm.

The current dates are 2nd December and 3rd February. (Not January due to Christmas and the New Year.) All are welcome so

Mothers' Union

Mrs Diana Bancroft 01606 552213 dianaandmartin@hotmail.com

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Cora Cowap 01829 760868 coseyathome@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

Mr Andy Martell 01829 760904 andy.martell@icloud.com

Magazine Adverts

Mr Chris Chrimes 01892 760632 chris.chrimes@uwclub.net

St Mary, Whitegate

Church Wardens

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Mrs Anne Blayney 01606 74020 anneblayney2@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mrs Martine Petty 01606 888653 whitegatetreasurer@broomhay.co.uk

PCC Secretary

Mrs Linda Dutton 01606 862733 linda@etasalarms.plus.com

Mothers' Union

Mrs Eileen Lees 01606 786895 or Mrs Chris Ball 01606 593260

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Sue Whitehead 01606 852302 johnandsuewhitehead@talktalk.net

Magazine Editor

Vacant

Mews Lettings

Mr Deryck Petty 01606 888653 deryck.petty@gmail.com

Church Flowers

Mrs Pam Davies 01606 557833

From the Vicar

Advent is a time of many things, preparation, waiting, watching, expecting. Our services begin with lighting the Advent candles, calling to mind God's journey with his people.

We remember the people from what we call the Old Testament, those who began this journey, people who heard God's word and gave it voice, often a voice that went against the grain.

We remember those who to whom the child was announced, Mary and John the Baptist. This waiting is not passive, it is expectant, it is about making ready.

Too often we skip over the waiting. I hear people asking why we can't sing carols before Christmas. Well we can, just as we can put up our Christmas tree in September, have Easter eggs in January, be given our birthday present three months in advance. We can, but should we? Like children we sometimes cannot wait, and then when the time comes there is nothing left. Having things early isn't always best.

But it's more than that. If we skip over Advent we fail to notice important things. This is a season of watching and waiting. The waiting gives us the time and space to watch.

I am old enough to remember Fry's Five Boys Chocolate. The faces of the boys showed Desperation, Pacification, Expectation, Acclamation and Realization. It is not accident that as society moved towards more instant

gratification Five Boys Chocolate was withdrawn from sale. The assumption that we can have what we want when we want it made it commercially unviable.

The wrapper makes a promise that chocolate will be given. Advent makes a promise that Jesus will be given. But this year I am more aware than ever of those in our world who watch and wait with no certainty things will be given. Not all waiting ends with receiving. Not all expectation ends with realization. This is another reason we need to stick with Advent. If we rush to receiving we fail to hear the voice of those who do not receive as we receive.

We have planned our Advent and Christmas services as best we can under the current circumstances. I am hopeful that all will proceed as we hope for and am grateful to those who work behind the scenes to make everything possible.

The message of Christmas is that God gives us a Saviour, the long expected Messiah. But of course the gift isn't what everyone was expecting. Christmas is a surprise, God enters our lives as we least expect. That's why we don't celebrate Christmas beforehand. That's why waiting on God's time matters.

Paul.