

St Mary's Parish Church
Whitegate



NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022



Back to School...



Published by St Mary's Church, Whitegate

Our cover photo

September marks the start of the new school year, so it seems appropriate to put the spotlight on St Mary's CofE Primary School, with some of the pupils seen here at one of their monthly gatherings for Collective Worship in church. Our Children's Worker, Teresa Finney, tells us below a little about her work, in School, in Church and in the Mews.



"The work of a Children's Worker is varied and not just carried out on a Sunday morning, although all that I do is aimed at encouraging families to attend St. Mary's, where they will be warmly welcomed with their young ones.

Little Fishes is our Sunday School where we introduce them to Bible stories through craft activities. We also have activity bags available in church to help keep little ones occupied, as well as baskets of baby toys. I am always on hand to welcome families and to reassure them that we can all cope with a little bit of noise from our younger congregation!

Family Services are held on the first Sunday of the month, each with a different theme and with involvement from Whitegate School in the form of children being invited to read the prayers and Bible readings. This reinforces the already strong links we have with our Church school and involves families who don't normally attend our Church.

I have been a Governor at Whitegate Church of England Primary School for many years, this again helps strengthen the links between Church and school and helps foster understanding between the two. I spend Tuesday mornings in school when Whole School Collective Worship is held, taking my turn to lead this. I also run the Ethos Group for the KS2 children at lunch time, together with running Christian Club as an after-school club for Foundation and Key Stage 1(Infants). The children take part in bible stories, prayer activities and crafts each week. I work hard to link these into our school Collective Worship, Little Fishes and Family Service themes.

Minnows, our baby and toddler group is held in The Mews on Thursdays during term time. This group is small but reflects our rural setting and is a good place to make connections with our school and baptism families. We have many meaningful conversations and time amongst all the play to share Bible stories with the little ones."

SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

St Mary's now has a Facebook page

where details of Church and local activities can be found.



If you already have a Facebook account, search for **St Mary's Church Whitegate**. If you don't have a Facebook account, then search for:

www.facebook.com/whitegatechurch

If you need any help, please contact Teresa Finny:

tivvyfinney@hotmail.co.uk

□ Mews maintenance

It's hard to believe but it's now five and a half years since The Mews re-opened after that fabulous renovation project and the outside paintwork has suffered in the weather. We are pleased to report that Tom Payne, painter and decorator from Weaverham, has just completed the repainting of all the windows and exterior woodwork. The windows now need a good clean both inside and out. If that's a job you can help with, then please contact Deryck Petty – 07974 447776 or email deryck.petty@gmail.com

The interior is still looking good but to make sure it stays that way in the future, we have a plan to redecorate in 2025.

□ Harvest donations

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 2nd October. We are supporting the Mid Cheshire Foodbank, so please bring donations of non-perishables for them to that service. We would also like fresh produce to decorate the church porch on Saturday morning, 1st October. If you can help, contact Pam Davies on 01606 557833.

□ Do you make a good cake?

Regulars will know that our First Thursday Café is making a name for itself offering delicious home-made cakes. If you can volunteer to provide one from time to time, please contact Chris Newton on 01829 760239.

□ Concert for Ukraine: Chester Cathedral, Saturday 1st Oct, 7.30pm

Chester Philharmonic Orchestra and regional choirs are getting together and invite you to a charity performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, The Choral, in aid of the DEC Ukraine appeal. Tickets from the Cathedral website: www.chestercathedral.com

September Diary:

1st	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
2nd	2.30 pm	Ladies' Afternoon Tea	The Fishpool Inn
3rd	10.00 am	Wedding rehearsal	St Mary's
4th	9.30 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm	Trinity 12 Morning Prayer St Peter's Service in the Pits Wedding	St Mary's Oulton Park St Mary's
5th	2.00 pm	Ministry Team meeting	
8th	7.00 pm	Wedding rehearsal	St Mary's
10th	12.00 noon	Wedding	St Mary's
11th	(NB time) 10.30 am 2.00 pm	St Mary's Patronal Festival Joint Benefice Holy Communion Baptism Preparation Course	St Mary's The Mews
13th	7.30 pm	St Mary's PCC meeting	The Mews
14th	9.00 am	Men's Breakfast	Tarporley Garden Centre
18th	9.30 am	Trinity 14 Morning Prayer	St Mary's
19th	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner (<i>See page 8</i>)	Red Lion, Little Budworth
20th	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union meeting with Alan Newton: A life farming in Cheshire	The Mews
21st	6.30 for 7.00	Movies in The Mews (<i>See page 8</i>)	The Mews
22nd	8.00 pm	Fabric & churchyard committee	The Mews
25th	9.30 am	Trinity 15 Holy Communion	St Mary's
OCT 2nd	9.30 am	Harvest Festival Family Service	St Mary's
6th	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
7th	7.00 pm	Harvest Supper (<i>See page 8</i>)	The Mews
9th	9.30 am	Trinity 17 Holy Communion	St Mary's

WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Whitegate Recreation Room. Visitors are always welcome. The next meeting is on 7th September and will feature Lostock Ukes, with Graham Edgeley.

"The Vicar calls....."

My grandfather was a clergyman in the Diocese of Manchester. He served in city centre parishes which were densely populated. One of his habits was to write poetry in Lancashire dialect, the collection is named after one of his longer poems, ***The Vicar calls***.

The first verse goes

*Ah'm glad to see yo' Vicar
Reight fain ah am yo'n come,
Neau sit asahd o' t' feigher,
Un mak' yersel' awhoam.
Ah'll make a sup o' tay,
Un wi' con 'ave a chat,
There's nobody'll say nay
Nobbut eaur tom cat.*

The eight verses are a monologue delivered by a Lancashire housewife who claims to be shy with men but nevertheless talks incessantly until the poor parson grabs his hat and makes good his escape.

In those days vicars would spend Monday morning giving their several curates lists of houses to be visited and the clergy would go from door to door visiting parishioners. Parishes were not large geographically but in streets of terraced houses a small area would be home to several thousand people. At one time there would be one member of the clergy for every one hundred parishioners.

These days the average is more like one member of the clergy for ten thousand parishioners. My first parish had a population of some 25,000. Our benefice has a much smaller population but covers a much larger area, somewhere near twenty square miles. The spread of members of our electoral rolls is much larger, as over half our members live outside of both parishes.

Which makes visiting quite a different thing from my grandfather's day. He never saw the need to learn to drive, he could visit everyone without walking more than a mile from the Vicarage.

Post-pandemic, though as we are reminded, not post-Covid, we find ourselves in a different place. Add to that the huge rise in fuel costs and it is clear we need to look at pastoral visiting differently. I can easily cover over 30 miles a day travelling around the benefice and often the people I have gone to see have been out. Hence, we have been saying for some time that visiting will be arranged differently.

The clergy are glad to visit anyone who would wish to be visited for whatever reason. Some people receive Holy Communion at home. Some would like a chat

about something. Some just want to keep in touch. There are no criteria, just the invitation.

This seems odd to me as it overturns many years of just being free to call on people unannounced but the cost to the parishes of travel expenses is something we must take into account. So please bear this in mind as we move into autumn and know winter lies ahead of us. We are pleased to visit, but it would be helpful to know who would like a visit and to make sure people are in when we call. Just ring the vicarage and we can make a convenient arrangement.

Now if I may digress a little, the mention of fuel costs reminds me that it is not just petrol that is so expensive. We are aware that gas and electricity costs are soaring. One of my grandfather's other habits was to smoke a pipe and to hold the bowl near the church thermometer, so that when the Church Wardens complained it was cold and they wanted to turn the heating on he would point out that the thermometer was reading a much more comfortable temperature.

A midweek service?

In March 2020 we had to forego public worship including our midweek service. We have been able to reinstate our morning services but so far there hasn't been much enthusiasm for restarting our midweek service. It is something I have been giving much thought to and have raised it at our PCC meetings.

There are a couple of things worth bearing in mind. Firstly, one point of midweek services is to offer something for those who cannot attend on a Sunday morning. I know people who struggle to get to St Mary's at 9.30am on a Sunday and were equally unable to attend the Wednesday service which was also at 9.30am. I think we need to offer a later time.

Secondly, I believe we ought to offer Book of Common Prayer services as well as Common Worship. The Book of Common Prayer remains a key part of our Anglican identity and whilst it might not be suitable for Sunday mornings these days, those who attend midweek services are more likely to have grown up learning the old service by heart.

Having looked at possible days and times the best suggestion seems to be Wednesday at around midday. It could be held at either church or alternate between the two. Much depends on who would actually attend such a service.

So this is really asking how many people would attend a midweek service, and if there is sufficient support we will try it and see how it goes. Please let us know. You can speak to one of our Churchwardens or to me.

Thank you.

Paul

Contacts

We are not able to publish the list of contacts on this web version of the Newsletter. To make contact, please refer to the church website: www.stmaryswhitegate.org or pick up a printed copy of the Newsletter from church, church porch or from The Mews. They are also available at Whitegate Station Café, at The Plough or in the Recreation Room.

Vicar	Churchwardens
	Treasurer
	PCC Secretary
Children's Worker	Mothers' Union
Pastoral Worker	Mews Lettings
Musical Director	"News" Coordinator
Safeguarding Officer	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee
Church Flowers	

www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.co.uk

Looking for updates on planning issues, new initiatives and other local items? Take a look at the Parish Council website where you'll find a wealth of interest in the reports from recent meetings.



Whitegate Village Show 2022

Horticulture



Flower
Arranging



Saturday
10 September
2 - 4.30 pm

(Everyone is welcome to enter - entries to be brought
between 9 - 11 am)

Photography



at

The Recreation Room

(CW8 2BL)

Afternoon Teas,
Raffle & Cake Stall

Produce



Craft

Organised by Whitegate Women's Institute

Enquiries: tel. Alison 01606 888359

Email: whitegatewi@outlook.com

Schedules from St Mary's Church porch or the Station House Cafe
or online at www.whitegatewi.weebly.com



Gentlemen's Dinner

Join us for a delicious
meal in convivial
company



Monday 19th September

Red Lion,
Little Budworth

6.30 for 7.00 pm

To book,
contact



Alan Newton
01829 760239

acenewton513@gmail.com

Movies in The Mews

Wednesday 21st September

2022

Refreshments from 6.30 p.m.

film starts at 7.00 p.m. prompt.

(Will finish around 9.00 p.m.)



WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY

(2014)

"An enormously entertaining heart-
warmer"



Directed by Andy Hamilton & Guy Jenkin and starring Billy
Connolly, David Tennant and Rosamund Pike.

A family of five heads to Grandad's big birthday party at an
uncle's estate in rural Scotland. The parents are separated
and hope the 3 kids won't mention it! The kids adore
Grandad - and would do anything for him.

Sub-titled for the hard of hearing.

Suggested donation £5.00 per person

Book by signing up on the board in church, or contact
Pauline: 01606 591766 - pauline@broomhay.co.uk

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH WHITEGATE

Harvest Supper



Join us for a 2 delicious course meal followed
by tea or coffee along with an autumnal
quiz and entertainment to complete the
evening

To book sign up on the sheet provided on the
noticeboard in church or contact Danniella
on 07763231956 or
danniellareid@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2022 • 7:00 PM TO 10:30 PM

The Mews, Church Green, Whitegate