

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR JUNE 2023



Our cover photo

Coronation Afternoon Tea on Church Green. What a fabulous afternoon spent in the sunshine, chatting with friends old and new and drinking a toast to H M King Charles III. The "bring and share" formula never fails and inside The Mews, tables groaned with delicious nibbles, sandwiches, cakes and pastries. The pineapple hedgehogs deserve a special mention.

Focus on Whitegate, Jane Millinchip's photo exhibition and quiz prompted many conversations – and deep thought – as the viewers tried hard to think exactly where in the parish each picture might have been taken. It's true to say that identifying just which field was sometimes tricky and no one got them all right, but it was good fun trying! Jane awarded coronation related prizes to Jo Jordan, the Balls, the Newtons, Alison Gardner & friends and to the overall and deserving winner, Elaine Campbell.

The photos have made such an impact in The Mews that Jane has agreed to let them stay on display for a while, so if you haven't seen them yet, do call in, perhaps to the First Thursday Café on 1st June, where you'll be able to have coffee, cake and company too.

A Bishop in the Benefice

We were very pleased to welcome Bishop Julie from Birkenhead to St Mary's on 30th April for our joint benefice Confirmation Service. Here she is, pictured with the seven candidates – and one small daughter and a bunny.



JUNE Diary:

JUN 1st	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
4th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Trinity Sunday Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
7th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
11th	9.30 am	Trinity 1 Holy Communion	St Mary's
12th	7.30 pm	Joint benefice standing committee	The Mews
From 13 th – 15 th June, Bishops Mark, Sam and Julie are visiting Middlewich Deanery			
13th	7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation	St John's Over
14th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
17th	4.00 pm onwards	BBQ & Bands – Whitegate Music Festival - <i>see back page</i>	Church Green
18th	9.30 am 9.30 am 7.00 pm	Trinity 2 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Strings at the Abbey – Whitegate Music Festival – <i>see back page</i>	St Mary's The Mews Vale Royal Abbey
On 20 th & 21 st June, the Royal Cheshire County Show takes place at Tabley			
20th	7.30 pm	St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting	The Mews
21st	10.00 am 12.00 noon 6.30 for 7.00 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Movies in The Mews: Downton Abbey, the New Era – <i>see back page</i>	The Mews St Mary's The Mews
23rd	2.00 pm	Whitegate School Maypole Dancing & Family Festival	Church Green & School Field
25th	10.30 am	St Peter's Patronal Festival United Benefice Service	St Peter's
26th	7.00 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner	Red Lion Little Budworth
27th	7.30 pm	St Mary's PCC meeting	The Mews
28th	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group Chester Mystery Plays – <i>see back page</i>	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close Chester Cathedral
JULY 2nd	9.30 am	Trinity 4 Family Service	St Mary's



June thoughts from the Vicar

One September morning a few years back a small boy ran the 15 yards or so from the classroom door to the toilets. He had only been in school three weeks and was probably still getting used to school routine and not being at home.

Of course the school had a rule that children shouldn't run in the corridors but one might suspect that matters were of some urgency and school rules were the last thing on the child's mind. His lapse was to have serious consequences, for the dash was observed by an Ofsted Inspector.

In the eventual report the school was deemed to be 'Requires Improvement' due to poor behaviour. The governors challenged the conclusion because in general the behaviour was very good. The outcome was justified by the single observance of a child running in a corridor.

When queried, Ofsted defended the conclusion on the basis that 'a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.' One observation of poor behaviour meant that the whole school was deemed to require improvement. The fact that the child concerned had only been at school for three weeks wasn't taken into account. Nor was the fact that this was the one and only example of poor behaviour observed.

As a sailor I am absolutely sure that there are times when you have to judge a chain by its weakest link. An anchor chain that snaps due to a single weak link is unsafe. But schools aren't chains. They are infinitely more complex. Assessing the education they provide, and their care of children, requires a more nuanced approach.

There has been much written recently calling for an overhaul of the system, or indeed for its abolition. Yet this is in itself also a complex and nuanced matter and simple one-word solutions simply won't do.

Perhaps what is most worrying is that there is nothing that has happened recently, or been said and written, that hasn't already happened before and been said for over a decade.

Our children deserve better. Our teachers deserve better. Those who give of their time and skill as governors and other supporters of schools deserve better. I'm not holding my breath. I have served in school governance for over 30 years and there is little good that has been achieved by imposing top-down initiatives on schools. When governance changed in the 1980's it was labelled as 'Local Management of Schools'. The outcomes have been anything but that.

So in June I find some encouragement in the lives of Samuel and Henrietta Barnett. As a newly married couple in 1872 the Barnetts had the offer of a nice parish near Oxford. Instead Samuel accepted the invitation to become Vicar of St Jude's in Whitechapel, a parish which had earned the reputation of being the worst parish in London. In those days that was saying something!

One cold wet January day, just prior to their wedding, the young couple stood before the church in the midst of gloomy squalor and decided that was where God was calling them to be.

Their work together, for it was a genuine partnership, was transformational. Their methods were unorthodox but effective. People recognised their generosity and commitment. They laboured under continual criticism from above and those who knew better. But they prevailed and lives were made better. Samuel died on 17th June 1913, Henrietta On 10th June 1936. The Church of England remembers their lives this month with thanksgiving.

God loves a cheerful rebel.

Paul

For your prayers this month: please pray for Margaret Byrne, who is to be Ordained Deacon in the Church of God to serve in the United Benefice of St Mary's, Whitegate, and St Peter's, Little Budworth. Remember also her family, husband Gavin, and sons Bill, Ted, Jack and Tom.

We look forward to Margaret's ministry amongst us. She is to be Ordained on Saturday 1st July, 11.00am, at St Thomas, Stockton Heath.

JUNE NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

□ Home Group

Home Group continues in June, meeting at 7.30 pm on 14th and 28th, at 59 Carnoustie Close, Winsford. Newcomers always welcome. If you have any questions, just call John Duthie on 01606 889836.

□ Movies in The Mews

Downton Abbey: A New Era (2022), will be shown here in Whitegate on Wednesday 21st June. See back page for details. Note change of date from that advertised last month.





□ **Gentlemen's Dinner**

Another great evening of good food in good company for the gentlemen of Whitegate & Little Budworth will take place on Monday, 26th June, 7.00 pm at The Red Lion, Little Budworth.

Sign up and choose your meal on the lists in Church or ring John Stopford to get the details and book your place. His number is 01606 558802.

□ **WHITEGATE MUSIC FESTIVAL: BBQ & BANDS**

On Saturday 17th June from 4pm you can enjoy our relaxed live music concert on The Green outside Church. We have a great line up of local musicians performing a wide range of music from Elton John and Oasis to folk music, from gospel to sing-along and from blues to American country.

On the day you can buy burgers and hotdogs (vegetarian options available) and a range of home-made salads. Beer, wine and soft drinks, tea and coffee will be on sale, but remember to keep your entrance ticket to show as this gives you your complimentary strawberries, cream and home-made shortbread. You can also bring your own picnic rug, folding chair and refreshments and all the money raised will be for the upkeep of our beautiful church.

We like to think nothing has been left to chance. Should the weather turn bad we have even arranged to move into the school hall. There's a maximum number we can cater for and so ask everyone to buy tickets at £10.00 in advance. Contact John Blayney 07964844642 / johnblayney22@gmail.com or Elaine Campbell 07896779962. Please buy early to avoid disappointment.

A verse for June

Many people don't see the value in getting enough rest. But God knows that without proper rest you'll struggle. God even put it in the Ten Commandments:

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God" (Exodus Ch 20 v8)

The prophet Elijah needed rest after a confrontation with the prophets of Baal. Elijah asked God to send down fire to consume a sacrifice and prove he was the one true God.

God sent the fire but the experience left Elijah emotionally and physically drained, so he ran away and hid in a cave. Elijah became so discouraged that he asked God to kill him.

What was God's solution to Elijah's depression? God gave him food and let him go to sleep. Then God woke him up, fed him some more, and sent him back to sleep.

Do you need some rest today?

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Receiving the monthly NEWS by e-mail

If you would prefer each month's NEWS to arrive in your Inbox, then just send a request to chrisball2022@outlook.com Please note Chris's different address for newsletter requests and new contacts.

JULY NEWS

Comments and items for inclusion in the next edition of our newsletter would be welcome. Please send them to: chrisball2022@outlook.com by 15th June.

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.

Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com	Churchwardens John Duthie 01606 889836 Anne Blayney 01606 74020
Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802	Treasurer John Duthie 01606 88986
Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293	PCC Secretary This post is vacant at present
Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311	Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 01606 516225	"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com
Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302	Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com
Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239

ST MARYS PRESENTS

WHITEGATE

Music Festival

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

BBO AND BANDS
ON WHITEGATE VILLAGE GREEN
(OR IN SCHOOL HALL IF WET)

4PM - 8.30 PM **CASH ONLY**
BBQ, salads and bar

MUSIC FROM LOCAL GROUPS INC.
GOOSEBUMPS, MIXOLOGY,
LOSTOCK UKES & ST MARY'S SINGERS

£10.00

TICKETS MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE
For tickets please contact:

John Blayney (07964844642)	Elaine Campbell (07896779962)
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Price includes Entrance Plus Strawberries, cream & homemade shortbread.
Some chairs available; bring a picnic rug or a folding chair if you'd like to.

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE UPKEEP OF ST MARYS CHURCH.

VALE ROYAL STRING ORCHESTRA

Strings at the Abbey

Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate, CW8 2BA

Sunday 18th June 2023, 7.00 pm

Part of the Whitegate Festival Weekend



Stephan Threlfall
Conductor

Schreker- Intermezzo for String Orchestra, Op8
Alwyn- Concerto Grosso No 2 in G for String Orchestra
(The Orchestra is grateful to the William Alwyn Foundation for a grant towards this performance)
Johann Straus II- Pizzicato Polka,
Abel- Sinfonia Concertante in B flat for Clarinet, Oboe and Violin
David Stockill, Clarinet; Jane Holmes, Oboe; Edward Holmes, Violin
Respighi- Suite No 3 Ancient airs and dances.



For further information use the QR code to go to our website
Tickets £15.00 from Andrew Ball, 07398 295239 and on the door



For St Mary's Church, Whitegate
www.valeroyalstringorchestra.co.uk

Movies in The Mews

Wednesday 21st June 2023
Refreshments from 6.30 p.m.
film starts at 7.00 p.m. prompt.

DOWNTON ABBEY: a New Era (2022)

"It's 1929 and the Crawleys are back!"


Screenplay by Julian Fellowes and starring the original cast with some exciting new additions; the film is packed full of exuberant moments, excitement, mystery and humour.

A movie crew arrives at Downton Abbey, whilst the members of the family go on a grand adventure to the South of France – to uncover a mystery about the Dowager Countess.

Sub-titled for the hard of hearing.
Suggested donation £5.00 per person
Book by signing up on the board in church, or contact
Chris: 01606 593260 or chrisball2015@gmail.com

CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS 2023

28 JUNE - 15 JULY 2023
CHESTER CATHEDRAL



For two weeks, but only every 5 years!

DON'T MISS this epic theatrical spectacular, staged in the stunning nave of Chester Cathedral.

Biblical tales of love, death, betrayal and redemption, performed by a cast of hundreds.

Directed by John Young, with music composed and directed by Chester's own, Matt Baker.

For tickets, go to chestermysteryplays.com/tickets
or call the Cathedral Box Office, 01244 500959