

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR MAY 2024



Our cover photo

This month's delightfully whimsical picture is another beauty from Jane Millinchip. It's one of those featuring in the current exhibition in The Mews, The Flower Garden. The Mews is always open on a Sunday morning and of course you can call in for coffee, cake and a viewing when the building is open for First Thursday Café on 2nd May, from 10.30 till 12.00 noon. The whole of one wall boasts a display of vibrant blooms of every hue. A border to rival those at Arley Hall.

And don't forget that Jane is planning a winter exhibition for us, on the theme of "Are we nearly there yet?" She invites us to contribute our photos of different means of transport, road and paths, bridges and gates. Think about it over the next couple of months, take new photos or dig out old favourites. Jane will need your photos by the end of September but no need to wait till then. Email your contributions to her whenever you can.

A verse for MAY

Mark Ch 16: verse 19

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."

The date of Easter varies but is consistently during March or April. With the exception of 2011, this century Ascension Day has been in May and will be up to 2030 at least, which is as far as the list I looked at goes. But whenever it falls the message is the same, it is a reminder that Jesus did live with us on earth in human form but at this point returned to Heaven.

Also often in May, but not as consistently, we celebrate Pentecost when the ascended Jesus sent down the Holy Spirit to be with us here on earth.

Our celebrations of these events may not compete with Easter and Christmas, but they are just as important in God's plan for us and in many ways more important for us, who only have the reports of the life of Jesus which occurred so long ago.

It is Ascension and Pentecost which complete the package so to speak. God created the world; it started to go off track so God sent Jesus to show us the way. Having left the rules with us he returned to the Father but sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always to help us through. All we have to do is accept that help. Sadly it seems that over time more people in our world are not doing that.

JTS

MAY Diary

MAY 1st	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
2nd	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see page 12</i>)	The Mews
5th	9.30 am	Rogation Sunday Rogationtide Family Service, outside on Church Green, <i>weather permitting</i> .	St Mary's Church Green
7th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
8th	10.30 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
9th	7.30 pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion	St Mary's
12th	9.30 am	Easter 7 Holy Communion	St Mary's
13th	10.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Parish Safeguarding Officers' meeting Parish Ministry Team meeting Fellowship Group (<i>see note on page 6</i>)	The Vicarage The Mews
14th	12.00 noon 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Deanery Chapter meeting Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's PCC meeting	St Helen's Witton L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
15th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast (<i>see page 12</i>) Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's
18th	12.00 noon for 12.30 procession	Whitegate School May Fair, with procession & dancing.	Church Green & School Field
19th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Pentecost Holy Communion Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
21st	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting, with Kate Blakemore, CEO & Founder of Motherwell Cheshire Bible Study at Commonsides	Marion Sands House L.B. Methodist Chapel
22nd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
23rd	9.45 am	Whitegate Amblers walk (<i>see page 10</i>)	Meet at The Mews
26th	9.30 am 11.30 am	Trinity Sunday Holy Communion Baptism of Humphrey Shepherd	St Mary's St Mary's
28th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
29th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews 12.00 noon
JUN 2nd	9.30 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm	Morning Prayer (<i>not Family Service, as the School is on holiday</i>) Storytelling Service Choral Evensong (<i>see pages 8 & 12</i>)	St Mary's The Mews St Mary's

May thoughts from the Vicar

Mention John and Charles Wesley and most people will think of Methodism. Yet both men were Anglicans, Charles in particular being very keen that the early Methodist fellowships should remain loyal to Anglicanism. The separation of Methodism from Anglicanism says more about the Church of England's unwillingness to be generous to an expression of faith embraced by working people.



It was during the evening of Wednesday 24th May 1738 that John Wesley went, as he says, 'unwillingly' to a meeting in Aldersgate Street for a conversation about the Epistle to the Romans.

It had already been a long day and maybe John was tired, but in that meeting he describes how at around a quarter to nine "I felt my heart strangely warmed." That was to be a life changing moment from which an extraordinary life and ministry were to follow.

The faith of the Wesleys has given us some of the greatest hymns which speak today as clearly as they did then. Whenever we sing 'Love divine, all loves excelling' I am captivated by the genius of Wesley's final verse.

*"Changed from glory into glory
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise."*

Members of the Salvation Army have a saying that when one of their members dies they have 'been promoted into glory'. That is rather good. But Wesley goes further. He knows the glory that is to come, beyond our expectation, beyond our comprehension, beyond our wildest imaginings. Yet, he says, this glory is rooted in the things of this world. The best things of this world are a foretaste of that which is to come. But they are still glorious and we must recognise this glory where we find it. Friendship, love, loyalty, persistence, tenacity, gentleness, perseverance. These best hallmarks of human relationships are glory, and they give us a foretaste of that which awaits us.

My first parish as a vicar was a joint Methodist /Anglican church in Warrington. It was in the New Town area so in reality we attracted people from a wide range of backgrounds. I was fortunate to be Recognised and Regarded on the Methodist Circuit and shared in Circuit meetings as well as Anglican Deanery gatherings. My Methodist colleagues were good friends.

One of the highlights of my week, shared I know with others, is on a Tuesday afternoon when a small group meet to study passages from the bible at Commonside Methodist Church. We are not terribly good at staying on topic and sometimes our conversation ends in places we have no idea how we got there. But just being together with friends is reason enough to make this time a priority.

There is parking in the field adjacent where you will be greeted by group of Alpacas. They assure me they are good Methodists but I have my doubts. Everyone is welcome, we start at 2.00pm and always finish by 3.00pm prompt.

Paul.

MAY NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ Rogation Sunday

On Sunday 5th May, we mark Rogation Sunday. The word rogation comes from the Latin, "rogare", to ask, and traditionally, church congregations pray for the land and all who work to grow crops for a plentiful harvest. In some parishes, the ancient tradition of "beating the bounds" is still carried out, with a procession of clergy, parishioners, banners, tractors and tools of the farmer's trade walking all around the parish boundary. Our boundaries stretch too far – about 18 miles, but our service of prayer and praise will be outdoors that morning, on Church Green, weather permitting. Bring a folding chair if you have one.



☐ Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May

This big campaign week for Christian Aid will soon

be upon us and we'll be advertising it both inside and outside St Mary's. The charity's website, christianaid.org.uk gives us plenty of evidence of just how our support can make a huge difference, especially to those living from the land in countries where climate change is making life hard.

We shall have envelopes to give out in church, hoping everyone will feel able to take one on 12th and bring it back with a donation inside the following week. There will be envelopes available in the church porch too. Any donations can be put through the Vicarage letter box.



□ **Whitegate Amblers**

The fledgling walking group, Whitegate Amblers, got off to a flying start recently when 18 humans and 3 dogs met at The Mews and set out on the inaugural walk. As the photo shows, the weather was for once fine and sunny when John Blayney and Elaine Campbell led the group up Vale Royal Drive to the locks and back on the path, across field, wood and golf course, to Church Green. There were points along the way where those preferring a shorter walk could cut back. Part of the joy is of course being out, getting exercise in the fresh air, but with a group, there is also the pleasure of chatting whilst walking, to a range of different people. All are welcome; the walk for May is already planned. See page 10 for details.



□ **Fellowship group**

The newly formed Fellowship Group meets again on 13th May (not on 27th due to bank holiday) to explore Mark's gospel and share fellowship. All are welcome, speak to Margaret Byrne for more information.

□ **Whitegate School May Fair – Saturday 18th May**

Friends of Whitegate School will be hosting our annual May Fair on Saturday 18th May. We have made the decision to move back to the Saturday this year.

As many of you are aware we have for several years had concerns over child safety during the dancing. We have investigated moving the dancing onto the field but we are unable to do this due to the potential hazard caused by the fixings which would have to be in the middle of the playing area. So to make it as safe as possible we have changed the format slightly. Gates will open at 12 noon, with the procession and traditional Maypole Dancing starting at 12.30 pm on Church Green.



Once the dancing is complete (approximately 1.30pm), we will move down to the School field for the Fair, with stalls including tombolas, lucky pouches, deal or no deal, games stalls, books and toys, sand bottle crafts and refreshments and of course soak the teacher. We are looking forward to bringing this back to being a real community event.

Replacement of the mobile classrooms

As many of you are aware Whitegate School will be having the mobile classrooms replaced with a whole new build over the summer break this year. The school is giving everyone to opportunity to sponsor the new build in a "buy a brick" style for £250. As the building will not be brick built however, names of contributors will be inscribed on a plaque on the new building. If you feel you can help and would like more information please email fows@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk

Rachel Hough – Chair of Friends of Whitegate School

□ **Two important dates in June**

On Saturday 15th June there are two events to put in your diary. At 10.00am we shall be dedicating a new bench on the village green. The seat has been purchased by Whitegate & Marton Parish Council to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.



At 3.00pm that afternoon, our Assistant Curate, Margaret Byrne will be ordained as a priest at Chester Cathedral. We shall announce details of tickets for this service once we have received details.

Margaret will preside at Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday 16th June at St Mary's and St Peter's.

Paul Dawson

□ Choral Evensong

On Sunday 2nd June our church choir is excited to be singing the first Choral Evensong at St Mary's since the pandemic. We have already begun to practise some of the music and our preparations will grow in intensity over the next few weeks.

On the day we are planning an afternoon choir rehearsal followed by tea in The Mews (any excuse for cakes!) and the Evensong itself at 6.30pm.

The music will include the Responses by the 18th century composer Thomas Ebdon, a rather jolly Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from the Victorian composer Caleb Simper, an anthem by Maurice Bevan and the introit 'O nata lux' by Andrew.

The service will be led by the Revd Jane Millinchip, who will preach on the psalm set for the evening, Psalm 48. We hope as many as possible will attend to experience this moment of calm reflection at the end of the day.

Andrew Millinchip

□ BBQ & Bands, Saturday 6th July: preparations continue!

We are very grateful to Steve, Pete and their team for constructing a bigger stage for this year's Whitegate BBQ and Bands Festival. After last year's success we needed to expand the space available for the live bands who now want to play for us. The photo below shows Scott, taking a well-earned rest.



Last year the tickets sold out and we don't want to disappoint the people of the locality this year. We have music for everyone covering music genres such as fun folk and honkytonk, blues and bluegrass, jazz and indie and there will be lots of music to get up and dance to! Like last year we are expecting many groups of friends and families to come and enjoy a relaxed picnic afternoon on the village green. Save the date and watch this space for the launch of ticket sales.

John Blayney

MORE DIARY DATES FOR JUNE



Movies in The Mews: Wednesday 12th June

Tying in with the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings, we'll be showing "The Great Escaper", starring Glenda Jackson and Michael Caine. It's the story of the WWII veteran who risked the wrath of the nursing home manager and "escaped", making his own way to Normandy to take part in the 70th anniversary events. Refreshments 6.30 pm, film starts promptly at 7.00 pm



Strings at the Abbey: Sunday 16th June, 7.00 pm

Vale Royal Strings and their conductor, Mark Lansom, have put together a glorious programme of music for a Summer evening in the Great Hall at the Abbey. Further details of the music and the ticketing arrangements will appear soon on notice boards and the church website and will follow in the June edition of NEWS.



WHITEGATE WI

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

Our subject for 1st May is "Resolutions and Green Week Ideas".

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



whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk

The latest newsletter on our Parish Council website highlights the work of our PCSO, Lewis Railton, who is supporting the parish with a number of matters at present including, parking obstruction on Grange Lane and speed of tractors on Sandy Lane. Lewis will be attending our Annual Village Meeting on 29th April, and also holds regular surgeries at Whitegate Station, the next one being on Saturday 4th May, 1.00 – 2.00 pm.



Whitegate Amblers

Come and join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the Village of Whitegate. You can let us know you are coming by texting or phoning or just turn up on the day.

Date: Thursday 23rd May

Time: 09:45 meet for walk starting at 10:00 and lasting approximately 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hour.

Start: Meet 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 times. There are toilets in the Mews hall.

Information call John Blayney (07964844642)



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

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> <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> <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>



Join us for
**CHORAL
EVENSONG**

**Sunday, 2nd June
6.30 pm**

at
**St Mary's
Whitegate**

Men's Breakfast
Once a month, at
Tarpoley Garden Centre

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

9.00 am

**Wednesday
15th May**

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

or contact Alan Newton on
01829 760239
acenewton513@gmail.com

**FIRST
THURSDAY
CAFÉ**

The Mews
Church Green
Whitegate
CW8 2AY

Thursdays, 2nd May & 6th June

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

Open 10.30 am
to 12.00 noon



**St Mary's Church
Crafty Coffee Group**

meets in
The Mews, Church Green
on Wednesdays
from 10.00 am-12.00 noon

We do various crafts and would like
to welcome new members, whether
you come for crafting or for coffee!

It's a good time for fellowship along
with a cuppa and biscuits.