

St Mary's Parish Church
Whitegate



NEWS FOR MAY 2023



Our cover photo

The King's Arms. This painting on wood, set high above the Baptistry at St Mary's was introduced in 1660, at a cost of £3 10s 6d to replace a previous version that was almost certainly destroyed during the Commonwealth. The artist who created it was Richard Bankes, who was awarded his fee "*for drawing the Kinges Armes and for bringing them to the church*".

The church in Whitegate owes its existence of course to the monarchy: to the fact that Edward I chose to build here the great Cistercian Abbey of Vale Royal, and the small chapel outside the white monastery gate ultimately became St Mary's Church. King Edward, his wife Queen Eleanor and their son, Alfonso, came with a huge entourage to Vale Royal and laid the foundation stone in August 1277. One wonders if any other monarchs have visited, or even passed through the parish during the 746 years that have elapsed since that time.

Just as Edward I, his 20x great-grandfather was, King Charles III is to be crowned in Westminster Abbey and as you see on page 7 of the newsletter, from 4th – 7th May there are plans to celebrate here in Whitegate. Everyone is invited.

A verse for May

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke Ch.15 v20.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of a strong-willed young man who turns his back on his family to make his own way in the world, but who eventually realises that he has messed up, and goes back home to his father, who welcomes him with open arms.

At some point in our lives, we too have messed up, "through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault". We can't imagine that God could ever be interested in us when he knows the sort of people we are.

But the good news is that we don't have to (and can't) earn God's love. Just as the wayward young man came home to say sorry for what he had done, so all God asks of us is that we turn to him in repentance and faith. God's unconditional love is called grace, the amazing grace which "saved a wretch like me".

SJM

MAY Diary:

MAY 3rd	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group: <i>A confused minister</i>	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
4th	10.30 am	First Thursday Coronation Café (<i>see page 12</i>) Opening of "Focus on Whitegate" photo exhibition & quiz	The Mews The Mews
7th	9.30 am 2.30 pm	Easter 5 – Coronation Weekend Holy Communion Celebrate the Coronation with our Bring & Share Afternoon Tea & Focus on Whitegate Photo Exhibition & quiz	St Mary's Church Green & The Mews
9th	9.00 am 7.30 pm	Working party in Whitegate Churchyard St Mary's PCC meeting	St Mary's The Mews
10th	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
11th	2.00 pm	Mission & giving group meeting	Marton Sands House
14th	9.30 am	Rogation Sunday Rogation Service	St Mary's
16th	2.00 pm 5.30 pm	St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting: Good Reads Whitegate School Governors' meeting	The Mews Whitegate School
17th	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group: <i>A desperate woman</i>	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
18th	7.30 pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion	St Mary's
21st	9.30 am 9.30 am	Easter 7 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
24th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
28th	9.30 am	Pentecost Sunday Holy Communion	St Mary's
31st	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group: <i>A needy crowd</i>	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
JUNE 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

May thoughts from the Vicar



I hope you have been finding the Daily Prayers preparing for the Coronation of King Charles III helpful. In the days running up to Saturday 6th May the daily themes are Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. These are gifts of the Spirit and, God willing, hallmarks of our life as a nation. They are also of course marks of authentic Christian living which we aspire to as individuals. It is people who make community.

There is much going on within our communities to mark and celebrate the Coronation. Thank you to those who have given of their time, skill, energy and commitment to make these events possible.

Our benefice diary has been adapted to reflect the events of this month, so please check the details as services have been changed from our usual pattern. The Sunday following the weekend of the Coronation is Rogationtide. There is a connection between these events.

The word Rogation comes from the Latin *rogare*, meaning 'to ask'. We ask God's blessing on the soil, the seed, the growing crops, and those who work the land. Just as we ask God's blessing on our King and our nation. King Charles has often trodden a fine line between remaining neutral and speaking his mind. We know that he has a strong concern for, and commitment to, a sustainable agricultural economy.

So I want to focus on two hallmarks of authentic Christian living which pertain to our asking for God's blessing. But first just a note of what 'blessing' means. At its most fundamental level 'blessing' means to 'speak well of', or to 'do good to'. A blessing isn't something magical that makes life better. To bless someone is to think well of them, speak well of them, do good for them.

The two hallmarks in my mind are Faithfulness and Gentleness.

Faithfulness is always about being resilient and steadfast through life's ups and downs, its joys and sorrows. To be faithful doesn't just mean believing when believing is easy. We all have good days. Days when the sun shines and we sense God's presence with us. Times when things go well and we are free from anxiety or trouble. These are the 'mountain top days'. Days when we stand high and see everything clearly.

But not every day can be a mountain top day. We go down from the mountain into the valleys, where the way is shadowed, the path isn't clear, there may be darkness and uncertainty.

Faith is about holding fast to that which we glimpsed from the mountain top, remembering the direction we saw, and steering our path through the darkness holding onto that which we glimpsed.

It is like the lifeboat skipper steering his crew through the storm remembering where he'd seen the lighthouse flash and holding that course through the ensuing darkness and chaos.

Faithfulness is something we glimpse on special days, but live every day. Faithfulness is about tenacity and resilience.

Then Gentleness. One of my heroes is Edward King who was Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College, then Professor of Pastoral Theology at Oxford before being made Bishop of Lincoln until his death on 8th March 1910. One of his favourite texts was Psalm 18:35, "*Thy right hand supported me and thy gentleness made me great.*"

The Psalmist, looking back over his life, realised that it was not through his own cleverness, strength or ingenuity by which he had achieved anything, but rather through the gentleness of God. God's 'gentleness' is otherwise translated as 'help', or as King often reflected, 'loving correction'.

Francis de Sales wrote, "Nothing is so strong as gentleness – nothing so loving and gentle as strength." When King spoke at his brother's funeral he used this text 'thy gentleness has made me great' to reflect upon the strength and courage displayed in his brother's life.

This strength and courage had enabled his brother to live with fearless independence doing his duty with indifference to public opinion. It enabled a life which made time for the needs of others with disregard for personal ambition or gain. A life which was alert to those in trouble or disadvantaged, for no other reason than a genuine care for their wellbeing and welfare.

King pointed out that the same word 'gentleness' can be read as 'loving correction'. The Psalmist reminds us that we know our potential to be better, to hold to a higher standard, to aspire to walk closer with God.

In the values of life spoken and represented in the Coronation of a King, and in the asking for God's blessings on our land, the toil of our hands, in the shaping of policy and furtherment of research, we are opening ourselves to gentleness, God's loving correction. It is in striving to be better that goodness happens and greatness emerges.

Paul

MAY NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ Please pray for Margaret Byrne

as she prepares to be ordained Deacon to serve in the United Benefice of St Mary's, Whitegate, and St Peter's, Little Budworth.



We shall be pleased to welcome Margaret who is to be ordained Deacon on Saturday 1st July. Margaret will join us as her training Benefice. She will live in the family home in Moulton and share in ministry within our parishes. I hope Margaret will be able to write a few words introducing herself for our June Magazine and Newsletter.

Paul

☐ Whitegate Field

Work has been completed on the planting of a native species hedge alongside the fence on the farthest side of the burial ground. 250 plants of hazel, hawthorn, holly and field maple were put in recently by a valiant group of volunteers, in beautiful sunshine. We shall need to keep the young



plants watered as they put down roots. Work continues on the planning and preparation of the ground for fruit trees in the land behind and shrubs to enhance the consecrated ground.

☐ Home Group

Home Group starts again on Wednesday 3rd May, with a series of 7 fortnightly meetings planned. We meet at 7:30pm at the home of Peter and Pauline Hayward, 59 Carnoustie Close, Winsford. All are welcome, and it is not expected that everyone will make all the sessions. No advance preparation is required, just come along.

Our theme this session is 'Introducing Jesus: Life-changing encounters from the Gospel of John'. If you have any questions, please contact John Duthie on 01606 889836 or ask anyone who you know who already goes. The individual sessions in May will be: 3rd May - A confused minister; 17th May - A desperate woman; 31st May - A needy crowd.



Join us
to celebrate the Coronation
of
King Charles III



From 4th May, here in Whitegate



Thursday 4th May, 10.30 12.00 noon

First Thursday **Coronation Café** in The Mews,
with the opening of



FOCUS ON WHITEGATE

An exhibition of photos & quiz to set you thinking, by
Jane Millinchip.
How well do you know the village?



Sunday 7th May, 9.30 at St Mary's Church

Holy Communion with National Anthem and
prayers for the Royal Family.



Sunday 7th May, 2.30 on Church Green & in The Mews

Coronation Afternoon Tea

Bring & share.

*Sign up in church or contact chrisball2015@gmail.com
to tell us what you can bring to the feast.*



FOCUS ON WHITEGATE continues

Exhibition and quiz open on Sunday morning and
throughout Afternoon Tea.

☐ **Easter Thanks**

The festival of Easter is the biggest date in the church calendar and we are enormously grateful to all who made the events so meaningful and enjoyable. The members of the Ministry Team prepared and led services of great impact, enhanced by beautiful music from our choir and organist – and tuneful, strong singing from the congregation! All that in the delightfully decorated church, full of Easter flowers.

Sincere thanks also to the foot soldiers who delivered our Easter Greetings card to homes throughout the parish, enabling us to get news of the planned services and activities out to everyone. We can't prove cause and effect, but the events were very well attended!

☐ **The Mews**

More thanks, this time to the gang who turned out at the end of April to give everything in the building some TLC and extra sparkle. Many hands really did make light work.

Andrew Millinchip has recently taken over the Mews diary and anyone wishing to make a booking to hire the room should contact him by email: amillinchip@gmail.com

☐ **WHITEGATE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Save the weekend of 17th & 18th June, for plans are all set now for a great musical extravaganza here in the village with events on both the Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday 17th, from late afternoon to mid evening Church Green will be the venue for BBQ & Bands with live music throughout with cash bar & great food available. Tickets just £10 and must be bought in advance. See page 12 for details of how to get yours.

On Sunday 18th, 7.00 pm at Vale Royal Abbey, it will be the turn of Vale Royal String Orchestra, under the baton of Stephen Threlfall with a programme of music for a summer evening not to be missed. Tickets £15 and again, for more details, see page 12.

☐ **Movies in The Mews**

And as if all that musical excitement isn't enough, on Wednesday 14th June, 6.30 for 7.00 pm, we'll be showing "Downton Abbey – The New Era". The list for booking will go up mid-May.

☐ **Gentlemen's Dinner**

Monday 26th June. 7.00 pm. Red Lion Little Budworth. See June NEWS.



Stories from the Churchyard

Rupert Oscar "Jack" Newall

(16.06.1921 – 24.03.1945)

Having lived all his life in Whitegate, Tony Newall is very well known in the village. He attended Whitegate School and has a long-standing association with Whitegate Rovers Football Club, formerly as a key player and now as President. A few years ago, Tony was Guest of Honour at the village fair when he gave a very interesting talk on his memories of the village, particularly during the 1940s and 50s. He recently told me that St Mary's Church has been the hub of his entire life. A few years ago, after I had read out the Whitegate Roll of Honour during our Remembrance Service, Tony told me that he believed one of our Fallen, LCpl Rupert Newall, Airborne Division, was related to him. I promised to look into it and research Rupert's history. It turned out that Rupert was the cousin of Tony's father. What follows, is the story I uncovered...



Martin Allen

Born in 1921, Rupert Oscar "Jack" Newall lived with his parents, Frank and Ethel, and younger brother Douglas, in a house provided by the Salt Works at Knights Grange Works, a small cluster of houses which was in close proximity to Meadowbank, opposite the Salt Works War Memorial. Frank was employed as a shipwright in one of the Salt Works boat houses on the River Weaver where the building and maintenance of their barges was carried out. By 1939, Rupert had followed his father into the boat house as an apprentice joiner. Over the same period, he was a popular member of the Meadowbank Methodist Church, where he was both organist and Sunday school teacher.

Shortly after the outset of WW2, Rupert joined the Corps of Military Police, just as I did 20-odd years later. After training in Aldershot, Rupert volunteered for airborne forces and in 1943 attended parachute training at RAF Ringway. His course report described him as "exceptionally keen and hardworking".

The first Military Policemen to land in Normandy dropped by parachute with 6 Airborne Division across the Orne River on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and Rupert was one of them. The MPs' duties were mine detecting, clearing barbed wire, collecting the wounded and rounding up prisoners of war. Latterly, they manned traffic and information posts, often in isolated locations, to direct vehicles and foot soldiers to their forward objectives. Not glamorous tasks, but dangerous and vital. 47 MPs were killed during the Normandy campaign.

6 Airborne Division was withdrawn to UK after 3 months to regroup and recruit. Despite this period of intense training, Rupert was given leave to marry Winifred Dyer in Salisbury on 7 December 1944.

Rupert's next action was Operation Varsity, which involved 16,000 paratroopers and was the largest airborne operation in history to take place on a single day in one location. The aim was to help surface assault troops to secure a foothold across the River Rhine by landing 2 airborne divisions on the eastern bank of the Rhine near Hamminkeln and Wesel, in Germany. Their orders were to capture the villages of Schnappenberg and Hamminkeln, clear part of the Diersfordter Forest and secure 3 bridges over the River Issel. Rupert and 8 other Military Policemen jumped into action with 5 Para Bde (6 Airborne Div) in broad daylight during the early morning of 24 March 1945.

According to the war diary, after landing in the drop zone in an area north of Wesel, the paratroopers were met with intense gun, shell and mortar fire from German troops. Sadly, Rupert was killed during the ensuing battle. He was only 23 years old. Whilst the operation was a success, by the end of the day, 6 Airborne Division alone had suffered around 1,400 killed, wounded or missing.

Rupert Newall was initially given a field burial at Hamminkeln, but was re-interred with a military funeral service on 12 November 1946, along with many other soldiers of 6 Airborne Division, at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany.



On Sunday 8 April 1945, the congregation at Meadowbank Methodist Church stood in tribute to their former friend and church member. Unfortunately, Rupert never got to see his son John who was born in September of that same year.



Local Elections

Don't forget that we have elections in this area on Thursday 4th May and the government has introduced a requirement for us to show photo ID. For a full list of all the accepted documents, check on the Parish Council website, or enter this link <https://tinyurl.com/329e9fyp>

WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Whitegate Recreation Room. The next meeting is on 3rd May, and the theme of the session is "Resolutions plus..." Visitors are always welcome. Contact Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com

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.

JUNE 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 May.

Contacts

Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com	Churchwardens John Duthie 01606 889836 john.duthie@btinternet.com Anne Blayney 01606 74020 whitegatechurch.anneb@gmail.com
Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 jstopford801@btinternet.com	Treasurer John Duthie 01606 889836 treasurerwhitegatePCC@outlook.com
Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com	PCC Secretary Post vacant. If you feel you might be able to bring your skills to this role, please contact the Vicar, who will be pleased to outline what's needed.
Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311 childrenswork2@gmail.com	Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895 elees1940@gmail.com
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 01606 516225 amillinchip@gmail.com	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239 acnewton513@gmail.com
"News" Coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com	Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302	Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833

First Thursday Coronation Café



Thursday 4th May

At The Mews, Church Green 10.30 – 12.00 noon

With the delicious cakes and convivial company
you've come to expect
and...

FOCUS ON WHITEGATE

The photographic exhibition and quiz by Jane Millinchip



Men's Breakfast

Once a month, at
Tarporely Garden Centre

Join us for a great value
breakfast in friendly
company.

9.00 am
on

Wednesday
10th May

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

or contact Alan Newton on
01829 769239
acnewton513@gmail.com



VALE ROYAL STRING ORCHESTRA

Strings at the Abbey

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)

Percy Grainger- Molly on the Shore,

Abel- Sinfonia Concertante in B flat for
Clarinet, Oboe and Violin

David Stockhill, Clarinet; Jane Holmes, Oboe; Robert Anderson Violin

Massenet- Last Sleep of the Virgin

Respighi- Suite No 3 Ancient airs and dances.



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



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

ST MARVS PRESENTS

WHITEGATE

Music Festival

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

BBQ 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)
-------------------------------	----------------------------------

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 MARVS CHURCH.**