

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR AUGUST 2024



Our cover photo

Saturday 6th July 2024 – what a marvellous day it was! Elaine Campbell and John Blayney had brought together a great team around them, all of whom had been planning and working for weeks, and in some cases months, to put on the BBQ & Bands event. Then on the day, the team was out in force from early morning (in the rain) with the preparation necessary to welcome everyone from 4.00 - 9.00 pm.

There are simply too many people to mention but the enormous number of jobs included building the new, big stage, setting out seats, erecting tents and gazebos, setting up the bars, planning and doing the catering and the all important risk assessment. For weeks too, the musicians had been rehearsing and finalising their sets. By mid afternoon, the rain had moved on and the sun came through. Many people remarked that Church Green makes an excellent performance space, a natural auditorium with the delightful backdrop of the white gates and St Mary's.

From start to finish we were entertained by talented artists offering us a wide range of musical genres, and once again, it was a true community event. Huge thanks go to everyone who made it such a success. As someone commented on Facebook, **"Who needs Glastonbury when we've got Whitegate BBQ & Bands?"**.

A verse for AUGUST

Jonah Ch 2: Verse 7

When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the Lord.

When you feel hopeless you can choose to think about the one thing you know will lift your spirit, the goodness of God.

That's the answer to hopelessness! You turn your thoughts to God. You think about his goodness, his greatness, his love, his fairness and his kindness.

Corrie ten Boom, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps said, "If you look at the world you'll be distressed. If you look within you will be depressed. If you look to God you'll be at rest."

Be assured that God's purpose in your life is greater than whatever problem or loss you are facing, however big it may seem.

Even though it may be difficult, instead of focusing on your worries, you can choose to look up and turn your thoughts once more to the Lord.

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AUGUST Diary

AUG 1st	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
4th	9.30 am	Trinity 10 Morning Prayer	St Mary's
6th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
7th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
11th	9.30 am	Trinity 11 Holy Communion	St Mary's
13th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
14th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon 6.30 for 7.00 pm	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Movies in The Mews: You Only Live Twice (see p. 8 for booking details)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's The Mews
18th	9.30 am	Trinity 12 Morning Prayer	St Mary's
20th	1.00 pm 2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Bring a Picnic Bible Study at Commonsides	Church Green L.B. Methodist Chapel
21st	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
22nd	9.45 am meet for 10.00 am start	Whitegate Amblers	Sandway Village Carpark (see p.8 for details)
25th	9.30 am	Trinity13 Holy Communion	St Mary's
27th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
28th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
SEPT 1st	9.30 am 11.00 am	Trinity 14 Morning Prayer Service in the Pits followed by Mothers' Union Cake Sale and walking/running/cycling around the track.	St Mary's Oulton Park (see p.8 for details)
2nd	2.00 pm	Parish team meeting	
3rd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
4th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
5th	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
7th	2.00 pm	Whitegate Village Show (see page 8)	Recreation Room
8th	10.30 am 1.30 pm	Trinity 15 – Patronal Festival Benefice Communion Celebration of work in St Mary's Churchyard	St Mary's

August thoughts from Rev Margaret

*"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare."*



Many of us will have heard this poem, "Leisure", by William Henry Davies. Published in 1911, at the end of the industrial revolution, the poet probably dreamt of a time when technology would allow us to slow down and have more time for leisure, or simply reflect.

Technology has moved on, far more than Davies could possibly have imagined. Yet it has achieved the opposite; we seem to have far less time. We may stop and stare – at the television, a mobile phone, a tablet or laptop. Young families' lives are crammed to bursting with sporting activity, groups or clubs, with no time to be at peace, to just stand and stare.

As most of you reading this will know, along with twelve others, I had the most humbling and joyful experience of being ordained Priest on 15th June. The three days before were spent at Foxhill on pre-ordination retreat. Apart from worship, we spent the time in silence. I read the Archbishop of York's book, "On Priesthood", I prayed a lot, walked the grounds and worked on my poppy tapestry while I reflected on the nature of my calling. It was such precious time. I noticed far more the beauty around me, the birds singing, the squirrels playing, the bees in the lavender, the clover in the grass, carefully placed in creation like each stitch of my tapestry. Even food tasted different! I knew I was held and felt such an amazing sense of peace.



Jesus told his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear... Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you?" (Matthew 6:25-30)

Jesus was encouraging his disciples to stop rushing about and worrying, to just stand and stare. It's good advice for us too. We only need to stand and stare at the beauty of creation around us, at every careful detail to know that God loves us and will provide for us – including the gift of Sabbath.

Keeping the Sabbath holy is one of the Ten Commandments. Too often, it is seen as something restrictive, yet this wonderful gift frees us to spend time with family, with God and his creation. For those who must work on a Sunday, it could be another day of the week. At the end of creation, God took a day off to delight in the fruits of his labour and so should we! It is part of the cycle – to rest (rooted in trust and gratitude) and enjoy and then we are energised to do God's work. When we neglect the Sabbath, we are refusing to accept the precious gift God gives us because he loves us. We are saying that we know better than God, that we can do everything without his help and don't want to spend time developing our relationship with God. Spending that quiet time with God enables us to listen to what God is saying and bringing into being in us. Jesus often went off to "a certain place" to pray, reflect and stop and stare. As we grow as disciples, we need to do the same.

So, this August, take every opportunity to just stop and stare, to hear what God is saying to you and to enjoy the stunning countryside around us.

God bless,

Margaret.

AUGUST NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

□ Update on Whitehead Fields

Thank you to the Church Wood Conservation group, who with friends recently carried out more work to enhance this beautiful wildlife haven behind St Mary's. Maintenance and upkeep continue in the form of mowing and strimming, thinning trees and creating brash hedging. More new trees have been planted and further benches built and installed. As Margaret has urged, go down and stop, sit and stare.



□ **Whitegate doesn't close for the holidays!**

Our primary school and pre-school have broken up for the traditional six-week break, but not everyone is away and as you'll see from the August Diary, it's "service as usual" at St Mary's and in The Mews, so if you aren't going away yourself, you'll see there is a range of options, both social and spiritual.

First Thursday Café opens the month, on 1st, then there's Crafty Coffee each Wednesday morning, the Men's Breakfast on 14th at Tarporley Garden Centre and Movies in The Mews that evening. "You Only Live Twice" was the fifth James Bond film so we're into our 5th year of Movies in The Mews.

On Tuesday 20th, St Mary's Mothers' Union will be holding a Bring your Own Picnic on Church Green at 1.00 pm. Drinks will be available but do bring your own food. Everyone is welcome, whether Mothers' Union or not! If the sun doesn't shine, we'll eat in The Mews.

What's more, Whitegate Amblers offer you the chance to discover Sandiway Quarry, with a walk from Sandiway Village Carpark on Thursday 22nd.

As for St Mary's Church, there is of course a service every Sunday morning and the usual service of Holy Communion at 12.00 noon on Wednesdays.

If you should need to speak to one of our clergy at any point during the holiday period, just ring the vicarage and if the Vicar isn't available, you'll be directed to someone else in the team.

□ **"Are we nearly there yet?"**

Just a reminder that Jane Millinchip is inviting us all to submit photos for the winter exhibition in The Mews. On the theme of journeys, the title is "Are we nearly there yet?" Jane is seeking photos of different means of transport, roads and paths, bridges and gates, inviting everyone to think about this over the summer when they are out and about. She will need your photos by the end of September. Send them to her by email: revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com

□ **Advance diary date for the Gentlemen**

A Gentlemen's Dinner is planned for Monday 16th September. No other details available at present but check the board in church and the September edition of the NEWS which will be out for August Bank Holiday weekend.

Whitegate WI - 70th birthday

On Wednesday 7th August, the WI will celebrate 70 years in Whitegate, with a Ploughman's Supper and Line-dancing at the Recreation Room. 7.15 for 7.30 pm. Contact whitegatewi@outlook.com for more details.

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.

Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com	Churchwardens Anne Blayney 01606 74020 Sandra Paskin 01606 882031 PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738
Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970	Treasurer John Duthie 01606 889836 Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311
Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com	Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895
Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com	"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239
Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833	Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642

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

Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate

Wednesday 14th August 2024

Refreshments from 6.30 p.m.

film starts at 7.00 p.m. prompt.



YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE (1967)

"FIVE GOLD STARS"

"FULL OF INTRIGUE, EXCITEMENT AND HUMOUR"

Directed by Lewis Gilbert and starring Sean Connery, Donald Pleasence, Akiko Wakabayashi, Mie Hama & Bernard Lee

A disaster in space pushes humankind toward World War III, and only James Bond can prevent it. In this movie spectacular, Sean Connery returns as Agent 007, and travels to Japan to stop the evil SPECTRE organisation from sparking global warfare.

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 Ball:
01606 593260 mob: 07786 132938 chrisball2015@gmail.com

Whitegate Village Show 2024

Horticulture



Flower Arranging



Saturday
7 September
2 - 4.30 pm

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

Photography



Art

The Recreation Room

(CW8 2BL)

Afternoon Teas,
Raffle & Cake Stall

Produce



Craft

Organised by Whitegate Women's Institute Registered charity 1021683

Enquiries: tel. Alison 07719184747

Email: whitegatewi@outlook.com

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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Service in The Pits 11.00 am - 12.00 noon
followed by

WALK, RUN, CYCLE
around

OULTON PARK RACING CIRCUIT

Sunday 1st September

12.30 - 2.45pm



£10 for adults, £5 for Under 12s

Sponsorship forms also available

Light refreshments available + BBQ + Ice Cream

This promises to be a great day for all the family!

SORRY, MSV DO NOT ALLOW DOGS INSIDE THE GROUNDS

For more details (and sponsorship forms) contact

Steve 01829 760377/07810 893456 or Anne 01829 760592/07973 139304



By kind permission of MSV, In aid of St Peter's Church, Little Budworth



Whitegate Amblers

Please join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the Village of Whitegate. If you'd like to come, please text or phone or just turn up on the day.

Date: Thursday 22nd August

Time: Meet 09:45 - walk starts 10:00 (approx 1 1/2 hr)

Start: Sandiway Village Car Park, Weaverham Road, Sandiway CW8 2YH. (by the primary school)

Description: Walk over road down muddy track towards Sandiway Quarry - views across Cheshire - longish gentle descent on good track, wet around pond - long ascent on track back to carpark.

Notes: We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control all the times. No toilets on site. If you bring a drink or a snack there is some seating in school carpark at end. If you can't find a lift from church please phone me.

Information call John Blayney (07964844642)

