

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR JULY 2026



Our cover photo

Surrounded by all the vivid green hues of springtime, the picture shows some of the intrepid Whitegate Amblers on their May walk in Little Budworth Country Park. The ramble was much enjoyed by everyone in the group and some stayed on in Little Budworth to sample the delights of lunch at the Egerton Arms and to buy treats from the Village Shop, adjacent to the pub. The shop prides itself in stocking local produce and the delicious ice creams, beautiful fresh eggs and tasty sausage rolls, all were heartily recommended.

The July walk actually starts *AND* finishes at a pub, the Dysart Arms at Bunbury and the Amblers plan to have lunch there too. For details of how to join in, look on page 8.

A verse for July

Proverbs Chapter 3:v 5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In society today self-reliance is widely regarded as a worthy objective. We are told to “be yourself” and “dream your dreams”. We can aspire to anything - “it is your right”.

This verse from Proverbs could therefore be regarded as profoundly counter-cultural.

We know that there are things we may desire which are good, but that doesn't mean everything we desire is good.

Do we sometimes find ourselves trying to justify things we really want to do but know we shouldn't? Do we accept what society seems to think is OK when the Bible teaches something different. It's a “moral maze” question and even in the Church of England the answer may depend on who you ask!

Who knows best - us or God? Children learn from their parents - so we too must learn from our heavenly father. That means listening to him rather than arguing with him. It means waiting for him to reply - in his time rather than ours. His wisdom is greater than ours. He is God - he loves us but we are not his equals

Desire itself cannot be the ethical standard. Trust in God, the Proverb says. Not yourself.

JRC

July Diary

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 8</i>	The Mews
4th	1.00 pm	Wedding of Hannah and Tom	St Mary's
5th	9.30 am	St Thomas Family Service	St Mary's
7th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie	L.B. Methodist Chapel
8th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
12th	9.30 am	Trinity 6 Holy Communion	St Mary's
14th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie St Mary's PCC meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
15th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast - <i>see page 8 for details</i> Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Village Restaurant, Blakemere The Mews St Mary's
16th	2.00 pm	Mission and Giving group meeting	Chestnut Cottage, Sandy Lane, Whitegate
17th	10.00 am	Whitegate School 140 th Anniversary Service	St Mary's
19th **	9.30 am 9.30 am 2.00 for 2.30 pm	Trinity 7 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Movies in The Mews: The Salt Path, starring Gillian Anderson & Jason Isaacs - <i>see page 8 for details</i>	St Mary's The Mews The Mews ** Change to date
21st	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie	L.B. Methodist Chapel
22nd	10.00 am 10.30 am <i>Time to be confirmed</i> 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Whitegate School Leavers' Service Mothers' Union Outing: Diane Lloyd's Walled Garden, Tarporley Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's <i>Meeting point to be confirmed</i> St Mary's
23rd	9.45 am meet for 10.00 start	Whitegate Amblers - <i>see page 8 for details</i>	Dysart Arms, Bunbury (CW6 9PH)
26th	9.30 am	St James Holy Communion	St Mary's
28th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie	L.B Methodist Chapel
29th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
AUG 2nd	10.30 am	Lammastide United Benefice Holy Communion <i>Please note the time and the venue for this, Paul and Fiona's last service in our Benefice. It will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch of finger-food, in the church. Everyone is welcome.</i>	St Peter's Little Budworth

July letter from the Vicar...

On 20th March 1993 Fiona and I were shopping in Warrington with our two daughters, then aged 5 and 3. We had made an early start to avoid the crowds so were home before lunchtime. At 12.25 two bombs exploded killing two children and injuring many more, some very seriously. The devices had been placed in cast iron litter bins which created a large amount of metal fragments. The town centre was crowded with shoppers as it was the day before Mothering Sunday.



At the time I was part of the town emergency response procedure which had been tested only a few months earlier when a gas cloud escaped from a local factory. We were well trained in what to do, the initial thing was for members of the response team to stay by their telephone (there were very few mobiles back then). You were to wait for a call to tell you where to go so that the response could be co-ordinated. My duty station was Warrington General Hospital but in the case of the hospital itself being the focus of the emergency I would have been sent elsewhere.

The phone never rang, and had it rung it would have been impossible to get to the hospital anyway. We learned that in the event of a disaster the first thing to collapse is the communications network. The telephone network simply couldn't cope with the volume of calls. The second thing to collapse is the transport network. The roads were gridlocked with traffic trying to get out of town.

With hindsight the new advice was not to wait for the telephone to ring but to proceed to a designated place using any form of off-road transport possible. Where we lived was an easy cycle ride to the hospital via the canal towpath.

In the days that followed the bombings (plural because Warrington was bombed twice within a month, and there were two bombs on that March Saturday, people running from the first ran towards the second) a wide range of experts descended upon Warrington. There was widespread outrage and various steps taken towards working towards an end to such violence.

Much later a service was held in Warrington Parish Church (St Elphin's) to mourn the loss of two young lives, to remember those injured, and to mark the work of the emergency services. During the service the Rector, Canon Joc Colling, climbed into the pulpit and opened an envelope. In it was a letter from President Bill Clinton sent to Joc to read at the service. In his letter President Clinton made a point which I have always cherished. He said that when the worst unimaginable tragedy happened, it was the local churches to which the people turned. They didn't need the various experts who had flown in as an emergency response, they had turned instead to the churches. The local churches who had been there year after year, decade upon decade,

faithfully, loyally, patiently, diligently. The local churches deeply embedded within the town was what people needed and we had been there.

These days local churches don't get much by way of recognition but neither did they back then. It took a tragedy to realise how important the local church is. This is something we should never give up on.

It has been a privilege in my various appointments to serve in a chaplaincy role in a number of places. I helped with the hospital chaplaincies at Warrington Hospital and at the Countess of Chester Hospital. I was also chaplain to the US Army 47th Area Support Group based at RAF Burtonwood. The word 'chaplain' means 'someone who walks beside'. That is what the local church is here for, to walk alongside people, to be there, and it needs to be done consistently, patiently, faithfully and with diligence.

These things stay with you. Some memories need to be held onto to remind yourself why you do what you do. One of the regular songs on my playlist is 'Zombie' released in 1994 by the Irish rock band The Cranberries, in protest at the bombings and the continuing cycle of violence.

Today, tomorrow and the day after that we will keep the faith, we will proclaim God's kingdom, we will fix the boiler, print the reading sheets, do our Safeguarding training, mow the grass, make music, adorn the church with flowers, provide services to mark moments of life, baptisms, weddings, funerals, we will visit the sick, comfort the bereaved, pay the insurance, mend the drains, and the list goes on.

It is not that today, tomorrow or the day after that that someone important will write a letter and acknowledge what we do, just that we know by doing so, we are keeping God's love visible. And that's enough.

Paul.

Chris & Andrew Ball

I understand that Chris and Andrew will be moving to their new home around the time of this edition being published. They have undertaken a number of very significant roles in both our parishes over the years for which we thank them and wish them well for the future. We hope they find great joy in their new home.

Paul.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ Christian Aid Week

The total raised in this year's collection at St Mary's was **£543.95**. Thank you to everyone who contributed in support of this hugely worthwhile cause.



☐ **Movies in The Mews**

Jane and Andrew Millinchip have offered to take on the running of Movies in The Mews from now on. Please note that the date of the July film has been changed. The Salt Path will be shown on Sunday 19th July at the usual time – and **not** on Sunday 12th.

☐ **Who needs vases?**

The recent Jam Jar Festival Service held at St Mary's was a great success. Contributions brought along on the day gave us windowsills amass with colour.



☐ **Mothers' Union celebrates 150 years**

Mothers' Union members and friends came together from both Deanery and Diocese for the Anniversary event at St Chad's Over last month. All were welcomed by Diana Bancroft, Middlewich Deanery leader. Dawn Colwell, our lively Diocesan Secretary gave a fascinating run down of the many, family-oriented projects supported by MU branches and "Rev Geoff", the well-known presenter from Radio Stoke offered his assessment of how and why all of us, working together, demonstrating faith in action, can achieve great things for the Mothers' Union in the next 150 years!



☐ **"NEWS" Coordinator still needed**

This July edition of the monthly NEWS will be the last, at least for the time-being. As yet, no one has offered or even enquired about preparing a monthly news sheet once Chris goes. Members of the Communications group will endeavour to put together a calendar each month showing key events and services and will update the website with as much information as possible. During the coming vacancy, church members will need to be kept informed

But those in the Communications group already do other jobs as well. The load must be shared and it's hoped that someone will offer to put together a parish bulletin.

Until that happens, for information, do look at the website, www.stmaryswhitegate.org or follow St Mary's Church Whitegate on Facebook

☐ **www.easyfundraising.org.uk**

Don't forget that St Mary's Church Whitegate is registered with easyfundraising. If you sign up, then each time you buy online, from many different shops and businesses, St Mary's will receive a small donation AT NO COST TO YOU! Sign up to support us at <https://tinyurl.com/mubythrp> or scan this QR code.



Contacts:

In this online edition of the NEWS, many contacts prefer us only to show their phone number. If you need to e-mail them, please call them first to ask for the address.

<p>Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com</p>	<p>Churchwardens Anne Blayney 07815 713012 Sandra Paskin 07950 125791</p> <hr/> <p>PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p>
<p>Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07891 981293</p>	<p>Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833</p> <hr/> <p>Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>
<p>Safeguarding Officer Anne Blayney 07815 713012 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</p>	<p>Mothers' Union The contact role for Mothers' Union is VACANT at present. Would any of the members be prepared to do that job?</p>
<p>Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip mewsbookingswhitegate@gmail.com</p>	<p>"News" coordinator This post also now VACANT. To find out more, please contact Anne Blayney, Suzi Miller or Julie Webb</p>
<p>Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772</p>	<p>Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>
<p>Treasurers Gary Chadwick 07590 999169 Sarah Campbell Woodward 01829 760438 treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com</p>	<p>Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642</p>

☐ **Weekly Reading Sheets: www.stmaryswhitegate.org/**

Readings and prayers for July services are on the website. Each service sheet contains the readings and prayers specific to that Sunday. If you don't see the sheets straight away on the Home page, click on the Blog button, top right.

FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews
Church Green
Whitegate
CW8 2AY

Thursdays 2nd July & 4th August

Come to The Mews, catch up with old friends & meet new ones. Chat over tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes.



Everyone welcome!
10.30 am to 12.00 noon

Men's Breakfast

Once a month, at the
Village Restaurant
Blakemere

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

9.00 am

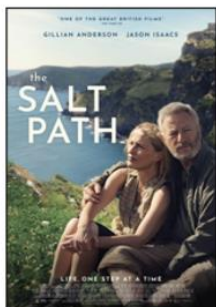
Wednesday
15th July

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

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

Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate
Sunday 19th July 2026
Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.
film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



THE SALT PATH (2025)

"Great acting by both leads"
"Sublime photography"

Written by Rebecca Lenkiewicz and Raynor Winn. Directed by Marianne Elliott. Starring Gillian Anderson & Jason Isaacs.

Adapted from the best seller by Raynor Winn, which later became highly controversial; a couple lose their home and later discover that the husband has been diagnosed with a terminal illness as they embark on a year-long coastal trek.

Sub-titled for the hard of hearing.
Suggested donation £5.00 per person

Book by signing up on the board in church, or
contact **Jane Millinchip: 07891 981293**

Whitegate Amblers

July - Bunbury walk / Lunch - All are welcome to join us for our monthly local walk. Some are staying for a social lunch at the Dysart Arms after. If you are coming for the walk you can just turn up or text or phone. If you want lunch please let us know so we know numbers to prebook a table. Also anyone needing a lift for the walk from Whitegate, let me know.

Date: Thursday 23rd July
Time: 09:45 for walk starting 10:00
Start location: Dysart Arms, Bunbury (CW6 9PH)

Description: Guided walk around 3 miles long via Spurstow with views of Beeston Castle. There is one small stile and expect some mud
Notes: Toilets open in Dysart Arms from 10am. Park at the pub or church. For more info contact John Blayney (07964844642)