

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2026



The first of four photos here, recording a happy and wonderful occasion

Our cover photo

Carole Sweet writes: We had a perfect day for our Hymns and Pimm's afternoon. We all had a most enjoyable time and raised £1000 towards our church funds. I would like to thank all my team of helpers who helped the planning run so smoothly and especially Andrew and Jane Millinchip who conducted the afternoon so well. Thank you to everyone who came for your support.



Pastoral Letter from John

As I write this I am recently back from Costa Teguisse in Lanzarote where I had a week of doing very little other than reading, walking, and enjoying the delights of several of the excellent restaurants they have there.



While walking by the Atlantic Ocean, in the sunshine, but with a nice breeze to keep it pleasantly cool, or just sitting listening to the waves lapping over the pebbles, the mind wanders to all sorts of places. Many happy memories of trips there with Alma came to mind as did the thought of how much longer I will feel able to make such trips. Quite a few more years yet, I hope. But I suppose we all wonder, particularly as we get into our autumn years, how long we have left.

Like some in our congregation I passed the “three score years and ten” mark more than a decade ago, but do you know where that came from? It is from Psalm 90 verse 10, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; And if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

Psalm 90 was written by Moses, quite possibly during his 40 years wandering with the Israelites in the wilderness, and he spends much of it contemplating the fragile nature of human mortality,

Psalm 90 is not the only bible reference to human lifespan: Genesis 6 verse 3 “Then the Lord said, ‘My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’” Some scholars dispute this and suggest that the one hundred and twenty years was the time before the flood and related to mankind in general, but against this we are told that the oldest person in the bible, also in Genesis, was Methuselah who reached 969 years of age, and Noah reached the age of 600.

At the end of the day, like so many things in our lives we have little knowledge or control over when God will call us to be with him. We can try to live a healthy lifestyle, but even that gives no guarantees, so what we have left is to try to make the best of what we have, to cope with the ups and downs which come to us all, and to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God’s creation, the diversity it offers us in so many ways, and be thankful for all that God has given us.

It is human nature to complain and feel hard done by, especially when we are hit with problems, and often looking back at the happy memories of times past can leave us feeling angry that we cannot repeat them in the future, But that makes them no less happy, and there is still joy to be found in our families and friends, in the wonderful colours of autumn. When I close my eyes I can still hear the waves of the Atlantic Ocean as they flow over the pebbles on the coastal path in Costa Teguisse, and I am very thankful.

John.

Contacts

Vicar: Our vicar has retired. During the vacancy, please contact the Churchwardens with any queries.	Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 jstopford801@btinternet.com Rev Jane Millinchip 07891 981293 revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com
Churchwardens Anne Blayney 07815 713012 Sandra Paskin 07950 125791 warden@stmaryswhitegate.org	
PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738 secretary@stmaryswhitegate.org	Children's Worker Teresa Finney 07340 086403 tivvyfinney@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurers Gary Chadwick 07590 999169 Sarah Campbell Woodward 01829 760438 treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com	Safeguarding Officer Anne Blayney 07815 713012 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com "News" coordinator Roger Wilkes 0160675738
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772 amillinchip@gmail.com	Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip mewsbookingswhitegate@gmail.com
Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239
Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642	Mothers' Union The contact role for Mothers' Union is VACANT at present. Would anyone like to take on the role?

Importantly, *please note* that the <vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com> e-mail address will *no longer be working*.

Mothers' Union. If you happen to be a member of the MU, please again note the appeal, under CONTACTS, for someone to act as the Contact person. Have a word with Eileen Lees if you are potentially interested and willing to take this on. The actual commitment is *modest*, and, if need be, *can be shared*.

Calendar for October

1	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
4	9.30 am	Harvest Festival Family Service	St Mary's
6	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
7	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
10	6.15 pm	Harvest Supper	Whitegate C of E Primary School
11	9.30 am	Trinity 19 Holy Communion	St Mary's
13	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
14	9.30 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Village, Blakemere The Mews St Mary's
15	9.45 for 10.00	Whitegate Amblers	Frodsham Woods
18	9.30 am 9.30 am	St Luke Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
20	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides Mothers' Union Planning Meeting	L.B Methodist Chapel
21	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
25	9.30 am	Bible Sunday Holy Communion	St Mary's
27	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B Methodist Chapel
28	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
November 1	9.30 am	All Saints Family Service	St Mary's

News and Notes

From the Editor. Contributions to NEWS are very welcome! Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit those items which, in any case, should not be too long – articles under News and Notes here may serve as a guide. Submissions should reach me as early in the preceding month as possible, and certainly no later than 15th. Mini-posters should appear in a size which, when reduced to A5 for the NEWS booklet, should have a completely legible text. Choice of font and size of font will be taken by the editor.

From the Churchwardens. A reminder that, until a new incumbent is in post, John Stopford will conduct any funerals and hospital visits, while Jane Millinchip will cover home visits, as well as weddings and baptisms. Any memorials will be referred to the Rural Dean. All general enquiries should go to the churchwardens. Anne and Suzi will continue to update the St Mary's website and *A Church Near You*, while Teresa is responsible for the St Mary's Facebook page.

Whitegate Harvest Supper – Saturday 10th October – a reminder from the Social and Fundraising Committee.

This event brings together supporters from church and village, and promises a lively and delicious evening of good fun in great company. Everyone welcome!

On the menu, beef hotpot or vegetarian option, followed by apple crumble or pavlova. During the evening there'll be a game or two, and a quiz. The organisers are working hard to make it a night to remember. Don't miss it. 6.15 pm in the School Hall.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH WHITEGATE

Harvest Supper



Come and join our celebrations with a traditional 2 course Hot Pot meal* followed by tea and coffee.

also on offer are a Quiz, Games, Raffle, a Sing-along and lots of good company.

(BYO) Bring your own wine/beer. Soft drinks included.**

Saturday 10TH October in Whitegate School Hall
TICKETS £18 - 6:15pm start
(Doors open from 6.00pm)

Bookings taken from 1st September. Please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard in church or contact Elaine Campbell (07896779962) or John Blayney (07964844642) if you wish to come.

johnblayney2@gmail.com.

*Vegetarian option available
** corkage donations welcome



Whitegate Amblers

October - Frodsham Woods

Please join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the Village of Whitegate. FREE & open to all. If you'd like to come, please text, phone or just turn up on the day. If you need a lift from Whitegate please phone in advance.

Date: Thursday 15th October

Time: Meet 09:45 -Walk starts 10:00 (approx. 2 hrs)

Start: Frodsham wood carpark (old golf course carpark WA6 6HE. Take B5439 out of Frodsham, turn right onto Manley Road, then right again onto Simons Lane. Frodsham wood carpark is signposted up the hill on the left hand side.

Description: Guided walk around the Woodland Trust, former golf course with stunning views. No Stiles and little mud.

Notes: We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control at all times. No Toilets. For more Information call John (07964844642)



Singers Wanted!! Andrew Millinchip writes:

I am sure you will agree that, from week to week, the church choir does a splendid and valuable job in leading the music for our services. However, situations evolve and the responsibility for the music is resting on fewer and fewer people. In order to maintain the quality of music we are used to, we need to recruit some extra members. I am therefore asking you to consider whether you feel able to help with this. The commitment is an hour's choir rehearsal at 7 pm on Thursdays plus the Sunday morning services and occasional extra duties. Please don't worry if you cannot be there every week; no one in the present group manages that or expects it! You need to be able to "hold a tune" but don't worry if your music reading is a bit rusty as we can help you with that. We need new members in all voice parts, both male and female. Do please contact me if you would like to know more.

Experimental reintroduction of the collection plate. As readers realise, for some time a collection plate has not been circulated at St Mary's church services. At the recent PCC meeting, members discussed the possibility of circulating the collection plate for an experimental period, then to review the success or otherwise of the experiment.

It was decided therefore that, throughout the month of October and to include the Harvest Festival, the collection plate would again be circulated – and that, at the PCC meeting on 3 November, the success or otherwise of the experiment would be considered, and a final decision whether or not to re-introduce the collection plate as a feature of all or some of our services would be reached.

If you, as a member of the St Mary's congregation, would like to share your opinion in the matter, please speak to either of our churchwardens.

Dorothy Asbury's Funeral. Dorothy (née Broster) was a well-known and much-loved of the St Mary's community. It is therefore very fitting that her funeral (at St Mary's on 23 September) was extremely well attended, with every seat in the congregation occupied from a long time before the funeral service began. Members of the church choir performed an appropriate anthem ('A Lammastide Anthem') by Andrew Millinchip. Given the long-time involvement of Dorothy's family in farming, it was fitting to open the service with the hymn 'We plough the fields, and scatter'. Before the final Blessing, William Blake's patriotic hymn 'Jerusalem' was sung wholeheartedly by all present. Dorothy's son Ian presented a Eulogy, while her daughters Genevieve and Isabella contributed readings. Pam Venables read that very thought-provoking passage from Ecclesiastes (chapter 3, verses 1-8) 'To everything there is a season'. This and other elements in the service contributed to what was a very atmospheric and moving occasion: a true 'celebration of a life'.



St Mary's Presents

A Whitegate Village Pantomime

Saturday 28 November

Whitegate School Hall, CW8 2AY

Get ready to pounce on the best seats in town as rehearsals are officially underway for this year's village pantomime, **Puss in Boots!** The talented cast is already working hard behind the scenes, gearing up to bring our audience an unforgettable show packed with hilarious characters, side-splitting comedy, and a legendary storyline full of magic and mayhem. Promising pure festive joy for all ages, it's a real family treat—"Oh Yes It Is!"

Well-known local musician Keith Miller will start our Christmas fun, followed by a short intermission before the pantomime. Tea, coffee and mince pies are included in the ticket price. You can purchase other drinks, including mulled wine and beer, at the stage bar.

Ticket release date: 15 October

For tickets phone or text John Blayney on 07964844642

Make sure you don't miss this purr-fectly delightful festive outing!

