

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2024



Our cover photo

November brings the season of Remembrance. At our All Souls service, we think of our loved ones who have died, and at commemorative services on and around Armistice Day on 11th November, we give thanks for the service of all those killed whilst fighting for our country in wartime.

Our cover portrait is of Sir Muirhead Bone, a man who did a great deal to ensure that we do not forget those who fought in World Wars 1 & 2.

Bone was an official war artist in World War 1 and for a short time also in World War 2. Born in Glasgow in 1876, he died in Oxford in 1953 and was buried here in Whitegate churchyard. The story of his life and of how he came to lie at rest at St Mary's has been researched by Martin Allen. It's a fascinating account. Read the story and look at some of the artist's wartime sketches on our church website:

www.stmaryswhitegate.org/blog/sir-muirhead-bone/

A verse for NOVEMBER

1 John Ch 1:verse 5

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

November is the month when the dark nights really seem to take hold, but it is also the time when we remember the darkness of another sort, the darkness of war and the sacrifice so many have made for others.

Sadly it seems that throughout the centuries there has always been war somewhere in our world and it is right that we particularly remember those who wore the uniform of our country and fought on our behalf.

In recent times most of us, thankfully, have not had the direct experience of war but we have seen on our TVs and the media in general the impacts it has, not only on those who wear the uniform but on ordinary men, women and children, killed, injured or displaced as a result of war.

There may be some among us who remember the blitz or saw the destruction left for many years after the conflict of World War 2 ended. I am sure that we all hope and pray that wars will cease, so let us look to the light, but in doing so remember the darkness that war causes to so many, wherever it occurs.

JTS

NOVEMBER Diary

3rd	9.30 am	All Saints Family Service	St Mary's
5th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
6th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
7th	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
8th	11.00 am	Act of Remembrance at Winsford Salt Mine	Bradford Rd Meadowbank
10th	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Remembrance Service All Souls Service	St Mary's St Mary's
11th	12.00 noon	Deanery Chapter meeting	
12th	10.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Parish Safeguarding Officers' meeting Bible Study at Commonside St Mary's PCC meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
13th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's
17th	9.30 am 9.30 am 3.00 pm	Second Sunday before Advent Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Chocolate Workshop	St Mary's The Mews St Peter's
19th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonside St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting: Graham Sweet on Church Wood	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
20th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
24th	9.30 am 11.30 am	Christ the King Holy Communion Baptism of Tobias Buchanan	St Mary's St Mary's
26th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
27th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
DEC 1st	9.30 am 2.00 pm for 2.30 4.00 pm	Advent Sunday Family Service Movies in The Mews: Thomas Kinkade's Christmas Cottage Christingle Service	St Mary's The Mews St Peter's
2nd	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Gentlemen's Christmas Dinner Christmas Wreath Making	The Plough, Whitegate Whitegate School Hall
4th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
5th	10.30 am	Festive First Thursday Café, with Andrew Millinchip at the keyboard for carol singing	The Mews
7th	5.15 pm	Whitegate Christmas Lights Switch-on, with carols on the Green and refreshments in the School Hall. Hosted by W&MPC.	Church Green
8th	9.30 am	Advent 2 Holy Communion	St Mary's

November thoughts from the Vicar

Warning – the following letter contains difficult facts and may upset readers of a nervous disposition.



In Matthew chapter 5 we find what is often referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. In reality it is probably a gathering together of things Jesus said on a variety of occasions rather than a record of a single event. These were clearly significant teachings that were recognised as central to how Jesus thought and taught. Near the end of the 'sermon' Jesus said, "Blessed are you when men (and I suspect women as well but they were a bit less inclusive in those days) revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you..... Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men (and ladies) persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Anyone who takes on a role of leadership within the church needs to heed those words. Because if you never make people cross then you're probably not doing your job.

So, sisters and brothers, I may need to make you cross.

Another of Our Lord's sayings is that to those who have more will be given, and from those who have not even what they have will be taken from them. When he said this Jesus wasn't thinking about how churches are run. He wasn't saying that someone with one job should be given more. Yet we seem to be in an age when those who already have jobs get landed with doing all the other tasks no-one else wants to do. This is not good.

Firstly, we are overwhelming those who are already carrying significant burdens.

Secondly, we create an atmosphere where people see that anyone who offers to take on a job is then landed with all the other jobs nobody wants to do. This results in fewer and fewer people doing more and more. I believe the church should be different.

Jesus also said, "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.... For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Also from St Matthew, chapter 11 verses 28 & 29) I fear our churches are not living according to that teaching.

Nelson famously sent a message to the British fleet before the Battle of Trafalgar – "England expects every man to do his duty." (He omitted to recognise that many of the ships would also have women on board, from which we get the phrase, "Son of a Gun", but that's something for another occasion. Ask me over coffee one day.)

Nelson knew that a sailing ship could only function as an effective unit if every single member of the crew did what was needed at just the right time. It didn't matter how brilliant the captain was, or how skilled the gunner, if the yardarm jacks didn't trim the sails or the powder boys didn't keep the cannons supplied then the whole ship was useless.

I remember the First Officer of a nuclear submarine saying that it took every single member of the crew doing their bit at just the right time in order for a missile to be launched. Apparently that even included the chap whose job it was to make sure all the toilet seats were down. (I jest not.) If it had ever come to a real launch of a live nuclear missile he very much doubted it would have happened. Someone would have doubted the wisdom of starting a nuclear war. It would only take one person to not do a single task and the launch would fail.

Churches are fortunately not in the business of firing cannons (though I have witnessed the firing of a canon) but Nelson's signal holds good all the same. We need a lot of people all doing their bit for a church to exist.

In both our parishes people have stepped down from tasks they have done well and loyally for many years. We rejoice in their commitment and thank them for it. These are often what we call 'engine room jobs'. Unseen and unsung but essential to the life of our church community.

All jobs are important. Some are essential. There are certain tasks which are legal requirements. For example, as I have said on many occasions, you can have a parish without a church, you can have a parish without a vicar, but you can't have a parish without churchwardens. Churchwardens are the bishop's officers and without them a parish is not a legal entity.

There are other roles which are essential for reasons of management and compliance. Most notably a treasurer and a safeguarding officer. If a parish doesn't have a treasurer and can't handle its financial commitments then it cannot function. Both our treasurers have recently indicated they will be relinquishing their roles.

Over the past few years we have experienced a sharp decline in the number of people willing to take on important and essential tasks. I hear the same in many places, not just churches. Both during and after the Covid pandemic a significant number of people stepped down from jobs. In the main those tasks have been absorbed by people already carrying existing responsibilities. We have a situation where fewer and fewer people are being asked to do more and more. This isn't healthy and it isn't sustainable. It is a nettle we need to grasp.

There is no magic wand that will find new people to take on these tasks so I have to risk making you cross and say that we have a responsibility not to overburden those who are already serving faithfully and loyally.

We must protect them and value what they are doing. When I see a parish where the same name appears next to several jobs I know that is a parish heading for closure.

For that reason I want to make it clear that we will not run our churches by overloading a few. One of the signs of a healthy church is that it does a few things and does them well. An unhealthy church tries to keep everything going by overwhelming those who show willing. I am committed to allowing things to stop if nobody wants to do what is needed to keep them going.

This is not an arm-twisting exercise. If something has come to an end then it has come to an end. We will not try to make everything carry on just for the sake of it. Maybe we need to look at how trees shed their leaves heading into winter. There is a season to let things go.

I often find that people get grumpy when something stops. They ask why someone doesn't do it. This often results in a heroic few trying to keep people happy by keeping everything going. That never works.

To be sure this is not an easy process. Letting go of things is always hard. But we cannot continue to ask fewer and fewer people to do more and more. If roles become vacant we will advertise them. If someone feels able to take them on that is great and we will support them. If no-one feels able to take them on they will stop.

This might make some people cross but we will value those who offer their time and skills and energy and we will not abuse their generosity.

Paul.

Vacant roles at St Mary's

- Treasurer (this role may be shared by more than one person)
- Sunday coffee rota
- A foundation governor at Whitegate school
- A correspondent for our church insurance
- A correspondent for our church energy contracts
- Vestry supplies (ordering of bread, wine, candles)

To find out more about what's involved in any of these roles, please speak to the Vicar or one of the Churchwardens.

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

□ Harvest Festival

Both the services and the supper were very well attended and much enjoyed by everyone who participated. None of the events could have happened without the enormous effort put in by so many people: those who decorated St Mary's and the School Hall, all the musicians, both in the services and at the supper, the ministry team and school children who prepared and delivered such a meaningful service (long live the Cheshire potato!), all who brought offerings of groceries and fruit and veg and those who delivered baskets to people in the community and to the Mid Cheshire Foodbank, and everyone who catered for, served or attended the fabulous Harvest Supper. Thank you one and all.



□ Revd Antony Dutton

The following notice was published recently on the website of Chester Diocese:

DUTTON Antony John: Currently Vicar of the parish of St John the Evangelist, Great Sutton, in the Deanery of Wirral South, to be Rector of the parish of Chester St Mary Without-the-Walls (Handbridge), in the Deanery of Chester, with effect from 18 November 2024.



Some parishioners will know that Antony grew up in Winsford and attended our primary school here in Whitegate, before moving on to Hartford High School and then Sir John Deane's College. A member of St Mary's Choir throughout his childhood, and cricifer too in his teens, he went to Newcastle University and studied Ancient History. He then went on to study for an MTh at Liverpool (via Chester), and finished a PGCE, before completing a year as a chaplaincy assistant at Liverpool Hope University.

Antony's theological training took place at Ripon College Cuddesdon where he did more studying at Oxford.

Antony married Vicky at St Mary's in 2009 and they have a daughter, Lizzy aged 13 who attends Wirral Grammar School for Girls. She hopes to carry on there after moving to Chester.

Antony's journey in faith started here and we are proud to call him one of our own. We wish him a very happy and fulfilling ministry in Handbridge and hope that all the family will enjoy this new chapter in their life.

□ We will remember them

Here in our parish there are three special opportunities this month for giving thanks for those who have died, both in war and peace time.

- Friday 8th November, 11.00 am at the War Memorial at the entrance to Winsford Salt Mine, Bradford Road, Meadowbank: Act of Remembrance.
- Sunday 10th November, 9.30 am at St Mary's Church Whitegate: Service for Remembrance Sunday, followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard.
- Sunday 10th November, 6.30 pm at St Mary's Church: Service for All Souls, during which we remember all those we have loved and lost.



□ First Thursday Café

As shown in the Diary on page 3, the November get-together takes place on 7th, from 10.30 in The Mews. Come down to meet and chat with friends new and old and choose from the glorious selection of delicious cakes.

□ Ladies' Festive Afternoon Tea

And still on the subject of cakes (with much else besides) the ladies are planning Afternoon Tea at The Badger, Church Minshull on 28th November. See page 10 for more details.

□ Christmas Wreath Making with FOWS

Friends of Whitegate School invite you to a wreath-making workshop in Whitegate School Hall on Monday, 2nd December from 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

Tickets are £40 and include all materials. Since it's an adult only event, there'll be a small bar and snacks available and also a raffle to win a meal at a local pub/restaurant.

You can book a ticket by scanning the QR code here, or by following this link:



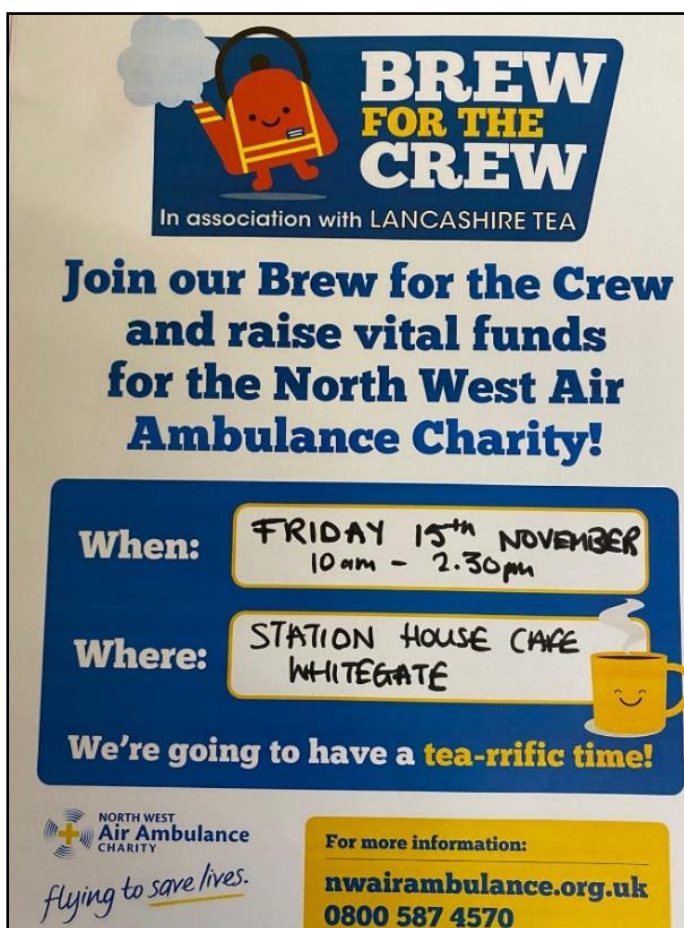
<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1197460871>

□ Station House Café Whitegate

Our friendly community café continues to champion new initiatives. It's a Not-for-Profit organisation, relying heavily on the kindness and support of volunteers. With their help, the Station Café provides an opportunity for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to learn new skills, gain confidence, focus on wellbeing and thrive. This community hub offers a welcoming space for friends, family and all using the Whitegate Way to meet up and enjoy quality refreshments, supporting a worthwhile cause.

The Station House team have recently been successful in pitching for funding at the Soup on the Go crowdfunding event, and also through crowdfunding, raised £13,735 to renovate the toilet block in Whitegate Station carpark. The café does not have its own toilets so improvements to the facilities in the carpark will benefit Station House customers and all those walking on the Whitegate Way and on the many footpaths which cross it in that area.

Not content with raising funds to support their own causes, the Station House team help other charitable causes too. On Friday 15th November, from 10.00 am – 2.30 pm they are hosting a Brew for the Crew to raise vital funds for the North West Air Ambulance Charity.




BREW FOR THE CREW
In association with LANCASHIRE TEA

Join our Brew for the Crew and raise vital funds for the North West Air Ambulance Charity!

When: FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER
10 am – 2.30 pm

Where: STATION HOUSE CAFE
WHITEGATE

We're going to have a tea-rrific time!

 NORTH WEST Air Ambulance CHARITY
flying to save lives.

For more information:
nwairambulance.org.uk
0800 587 4570

WHITEGATE WI

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th November when we'll be holding our AGM and Social. 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start, in the Recreation Room.

Visitors to our meetings are always welcome for a taster session. We just ask for a small fee, to cover refreshments. Come along, or get in touch first with Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com

Join us for our
**SERVICE
FOR
ALL SOULS**

**Sunday, 10th
November**

**6.30 pm at
St Mary's Whitegate**



**LADIES'
FESTIVE
AFTERNOON TEA**

At the Badger Inn
Church Minshull

DATE: 28th November

TIME: 2.30 pm

COST: £21
to be paid in advance on
booking

Contact:
Pam 01606 557833
Chris 01829 760239



Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate

Sunday 1st December 2024

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.

film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



**Thomas Kinkadee's
CHRISTMAS
COTTAGE (2008)**

**"CAPTURES THE HEART OF
CHRISTMAS"**

**"A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE BY
PETER O'TOOLE"**

Directed by Michael Campus and starring Peter O'Toole,
Jared Padalecki, Aaron Ashmore & Marcia Gay Harden

Inspired by a true story, the film recounts the events behind
artist Thomas Kinkadee's painting, "Christmas Cottage"; a
tale in which necessity is truly the mother of invention.

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

Men's Breakfast

Once a month, at
Tarporey Garden Centre

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

9.00 am

**Wednesday
13th November**

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

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

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

Contacts

Please note that only e-mail addresses for the Vicar, the Treasurer, 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	Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833 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
Treasurer John Duthie treasurerwhitegatepccoutlook.com	Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642



Wreath Making

Come and join us in Whitegate Primary School hall
for this fantastic, adult-only event

Monday 2nd December, 7.00 pm

Tickets
£40 each


Scan the QR code to purchase



Gentlemen's Christmas Dinner



**THE
PLOUGH**
Beauty Bank
Whitegate

 **Monday 2nd December
6.30 pm**

Sign up & pre-order on the notice boards in
St Mary's and St Peter's or contact Alan
Newton: acenewton513@gmail.com
01829 760239



Join us for a Christmas
special

Festive First Thursday Café

**Thursday 5th December
10.30 am – 12.00 noon**

For coffee & mince pies and
carols & Christmas cheer!

The Mews, Church Green,
WHITEGATE



**Saturday
7th December**

5.15 pm on Church Green

Whitegate & Marton Parish Council invite you to

- ☆ Switch on Christmas Tree lights
- ☆ Carols round the tree
- ☆ Refreshments in the School Hall

