

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



## NEWS FOR JUNE 2025

**WHITEGATE VILLAGE GREEN**

**LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**• BBQ & BANDS •**

 **SATURDAY 28 JUNE**  
**2.45 PM TIL 8 PM**

 **Adults £10**  
[£12.50 ON THE DAY]  
**Children £5**

**FOR TICKETS, SCAN QR CODE OR CONTACT  
JOHN BLAYNEY 07964 844642**

Limited chairs available: so feel free to bring along  
your own chair or picnic rug.  
Note: children must be supervised at all times.

Profits to fund St Mary's Church repairs.



## Our cover photo

Front and central this month is the poster for the third, annual Whitegate **Live** Music Festival – BBQ & Bands. Word is spreading and this event promises to be bigger than ever, with entertainment, refreshments and food to nourish body, mind and spirit throughout the afternoon and well into the evening. So get your tickets and come on down to Church Green with your deck chairs and picnic rugs and whether you sit back and relax or leap up and trip the light fantastic, just enjoy the music.

And there's more! Whitegate's Music Festival runs throughout June, starting on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> in St Mary's Church with an informal concert of light music by our local handbell choir, DeciBells and featuring Andrew Millinchip with specially chosen items for the organ. Then on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, Vale Royal String Orchestra brings us Strings at the Abbey, a programme of fabulous music for a summer's evening in the Great Hall of Vale Royal Abbey. Great music, of all genres, without even leaving Whitegate. We shall truly have cause to sing 🎵🎵🎵 "Thank you for the music."

### A verse for JUNE

Psalm 46: verse 1

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."*

Johann Andreas Rothe a 17<sup>th</sup> Century theologian and hymn writer wrote:

"Through waves and storms go o'er my head, though strength and health be gone, though joys be withered all, and dead, though every comfort be withdrawn, on this my steadfast sole relies, - Father! Thy mercy never dies."

As many of you know, earlier this year I was rather unwell, feeling pretty rotten but not knowing, initially, what the cause was. It turned out to be a perforated appendix which required surgery. I admit to being somewhat nervous about the surgery and in the period waiting for it spent some time in prayer. When the time came and I was wheeled on the bed through the hospital to the theatre suite, prepared for the surgery and given the anaesthetic, I was surprised that a feeling of calm was with me.

The surgery went well and, despite the aftermath of the mess the perforation had caused, requiring several courses of antibiotics, my recovery was fairly straightforward.

After that the first verse of Psalm 46 will always have more resonance with me.

JTS

## JUNE Diary

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	9.30 am 3.00 pm	<b>The Sunday after Ascension</b> Family Service DeciBells Concert ( <i>See page 8</i> )	St Mary's St Mary's
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am 7.00 pm	First Thursday Café Archdeacon's Visitation Service	The Mews St Mary's
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 2.00 pm for 2.30	<b>Pentecost</b> Holy Communion Movies in The Mews: The Best of Men ( <i>See page 8</i> )	St Mary's The Mews
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides Joint Standing Committee meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>N.B.</b> On Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> , the Vicar is on duty all day in Chester Cathedral			
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	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
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am 7.00 pm	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Strings at Vale Royal Abbey ( <i>See page 8</i> )	St Mary's The Mews Vale Royal Golf Club
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting: Kate Blakemore, on Ada Nield Chew	L.B. Methodist Chapel Marton Sands House
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	9.45 am meet for 10.00 am start 2.00 pm	Whitegate Amblers walk ( <i>See page 8</i> )  Fabric & Churchyard Committee meeting	Little Budworth Country Park Marton Sands House
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 1</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides Pastoral & Fellowship Committee meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel Dairy Cottage
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	2.45 – 8.00 pm	<b>Whitegate Live Music Festival</b> <b>BBQ &amp; Bands</b> ( <i>See pages 1 &amp; 2</i> )	Church Green & The Mews
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	<b>St Peter's Patronal Festival</b> Joint Benefice Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner ( <i>See page 7</i> )	The Alvanley Arms, Cotebrook
<b>JULY 1<sup>st</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 3</b> Family Service	St Mary's

## The Vicar's letter for June

June begins with a Jam Jar Flower Festival. Each first Sunday (apart from January and August) we offer a simple service which explores a variety of themes. Some follow the calendar of the Church year, so in February we mark Candlemas. Others are based on rural festivals; in April we held a Harrowing service. This year we have expanded our range of services and June is one of the new ones.



We invite everyone to make a simple Jam Jar flower display and bring it to church. We will put the jam jars around the church to fill our worship with beauty and colour. This kind of flower festival happens when everyone brings a simple jam jar containing whatever flowers are available. The service celebrates things we often take for granted.

The rabbis taught that "the first time a thing occurs in nature, it is called a miracle; later it becomes natural, and no attention is paid to it." How often we overlook the wonder that surrounds us and forget to marvel in it. If we stopped to look closely and deeply at the fragility of a flower we might remember to pay attention to how precious life is. We may be more aware of how fragile our planet is. A flower is not to be taken for granted. It relies on good earth, a sufficient supply of clean water, nutrients, insects. Each flower reminds us that life is interconnected. How we live affects others. If, as the rabbis say, we pay no attention to these miracles we lose sight of something important.

In worship we often make the same mistake. We roll up to church, or kneel in prayer at home, and forget that first time of encounter with God. Our prayers become dulled, we lose the sense of wonder and awe. This is why doing new things in our services matters.

At weddings I always ask couples to take one of the many photographs taken during the day and stick it on their fridge. They will have a wedding album of course, but after the first few weeks that gets put in a drawer and looked at less frequently. Eventually you get to the stage where you don't even remember where it is. But the photograph on the fridge is seen every day.

That photograph captures the miracle of a new relationship. In it is all the hope, excitement, happiness, adoration and nervousness of a wedding day. This is a moment of vision, we let our visions fade too easily.

By looking daily at that photograph there is a moment each day of recapturing that first miracle and recalling that new relationship. This can be an anchor which prevents us drifting too far from our visions.

Over the past forty years I have spoken of that photograph at countless weddings. What has been interesting is how often someone has come up to



me saying how those words reminded them of something important in their life which they had let go of. They tell me they dig out an old photograph of something important to them, a moment of new beginning, and it has helped them recapture a vision.

Please join our Jam Jar flower festival on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Bring a bit of miracle and put it on a window in church. And maybe have a look through your old photos and see what miracle in your life needs to be remembered.

Yours

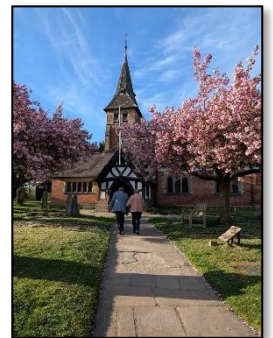
**Paul.**

*P.S. I will be on sabbatical leave from July to September. Several years ago I read an article by a Baptist minister saying how clergy who live 'on the job' find it hard to let go when they come to retire. He recommended all clergy taking a sabbatical a year before retirement just to remind them that this is a way of life they need to let go of. It is also a good opportunity for parishes to have a trial run of what needs to be done when clergy move on, so that after the sabbatical we can work together to prepare for the next stage.*

## **NEWS FROM ST MARY'S**

### **□ Our striking clock**

Attentive attenders at the 9.30 am service on Sunday 18th May will have heard the church clock strike 10.00 during the sermon. The clock is striking the hour once again after a silence of more than five months. The clock itself was restarted more quickly but the striking mechanism presented more of a challenge. Specialists from the Cumbria Clock Company have carried out a full service, stripping everything down and adjusting the mechanism. This work should ensure smooth running for some time to come. We thank them for their help. Thanks also to Deryck and Keith, who wind the clock for us and make sure it keeps very precise time.



### **□ Update from the APCM**

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11th May, Churchwardens Anne Blayney and Sandra Paskin were both re-elected for the coming year. You will have read here in previous editions that both of them, for different reasons, had considered standing down this year but when several people came forward to support them with offers of covering for absence etc., both of them had agreed to stand for another year. We thank them warmly.

Also at that meeting, Eva Neill was elected to the PCC and John Blayney was re-elected, both for a term of three years. We welcome them and say a heartfelt thank you to Eileen Lees and Chris Newton who had stood down after three years.

## □ Archdeacon's Visitation

At this time of year, C of E churches all over the land hold their annual meetings and elect, or re-elect Churchwardens, PCC members and Sidespeople (the latter are our "meeters and greeters", the friendly face often seen first when you step inside the church for a service). These meetings are always followed in June by an Archdeacon's Visitation.

Our archdeacon is the Archdeacon of Chester, The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson, otherwise known as Archdeacon Mike. The dictionary definition of a visitation is "the appearance of a divine or supernatural being", but the Church of England uses the expression to signify a special service during which the archdeacon welcomes, encourages and prepares the new church officers for the coming year and highlights developments of particular relevance. There will be 8 such services taking place in the Chester Diocese this month and on Thursday 5th June, at 7.00 pm Archdeacon Mike will be coming to lead one of them here at St Mary's Whitegate. Wardens, sidespeople and members of other churches in Middlewich and Great Budworth deaneries will attend to dedicate themselves to the service of Christ and his church in their community.

## □ Coming Soon – situations vacant

Many readers will have seen the Coming Soon for sale signs on Cassia Green and already know that the Balls are planning to move to Robin Hood County. Their departure will leave vacancies in the roles of NEWS Editor and Chair of Fabric & Churchyard Committee. Andrew and Chris have done these jobs for some time, but nothing stays the same – and no job is ever done in the same way by any two people. If you feel you could step into one of those roles or could do a part of it, or would simply like to know more about what's involved, then do speak to Chris or Andrew, to the Vicar or to Anne Blayney or Sandra Paskin.

## □ Mid Cheshire Foodbank

Please continue to support our collection for the foodbank by bringing donations to church. Items always needed but often in short supply are toiletries: shampoo, deodorant, soap, shower gel & shaving cream and toilet rolls.



[www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk)

We held our annual village meeting on 24th April with approximately 30 people in attendance including our local PC and PCSO and representatives from various community groups including WI, Church Wood, St Mary's PCC, Whitegate Café, Whitegate football club and Scouts. For a small parish there is a lot going on! The WI confirm that the date for the Village Show is 30th August this year at the Recreation room. Schedules are available from the WI website, [www.whitegate.weebly.com](http://www.whitegate.weebly.com) and on the notice board in the Church porch.

## Contacts

*Please note that only e-mail addresses for the Vicar, Treasurers, Safeguarding officer, 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.*

<b>Vicar</b> Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH <a href="mailto:vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com">vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com</a>	<b>Churchwardens</b> Anne Blayney 07815 713012 Sandra Paskin 01606 882031 <b>PCC Secretary</b> Roger Wilkes 01606 75738
<b>Curates</b> Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970	<b>Church Flowers</b> Pam Davies 01606 557833 <b>Children's Worker</b> Teresa Finney 01606 889311
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Anne Blayney 07815 713012 <a href="mailto:safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com">safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</a>	<b>Mothers' Union</b> Eileen Lees 01606 786895
<b>Mews Lettings</b> Andrew Millinchip <a href="mailto:amillinchip@gmail.com">amillinchip@gmail.com</a>	<b>"News" coordinator</b> Christine Ball 01606 593260 <a href="mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com">chrisball2022@outlook.com</a>
<b>Musical Director</b> Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772	<b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b> Alan Newton 01829 760239
<b>Treasurers</b> Gary Chadwick 07590 999169 Sarah Campbell Woodward 01829 760438 <a href="mailto:treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com">treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com</a>	<b>Social &amp; Fundraising Group</b> John Blayney 07964 844642

**THE ALVANLEY ARMS**  
**Cotebrook**

***Gentlemen's Dinner***

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June - 6.30 pm**

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





An informal concert of music on handbells  
with Andrew Millinchip on the Organ.



**Sunday, 1st June 2025**

**3.00pm**

**St Mary's Church Whitegate**

Donations for St Mary's

Further information: Andrew Ball (07398 295239)

## Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.  
film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



## THE BEST OF MEN (2012)

**"a really high quality production from the BBC about the remarkable life of Ludwig Guttman."**

**"A gem of a film"**

Written by Lucy Gannon and directed by Tim Whitby, the film stars Eddie Marsan, Rob Brydon, George MacKay & Niamh Cusack.

In 1943, Dr Ludwig Guttman, a refugee from Nazi Germany uses new methods to rehabilitate those with spinal injuries in Great Britain. The heartwarming true story that gave birth to the Paralympic Games.

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](mailto:chrisball2015@gmail.com)



## VALE ROYAL STRING ORCHESTRA

Strings at Vale Royal Abbey  
Whitegate, CW8 2BA

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 7pm**

**Purcell:** Virtuous Wife Suite

**Bridge:** 3 Idylls

**Coleridge Taylor:** Novelletten

**John Ireland:** Concertina Pastorale

**Richard Adamson** Conductor

Buy your ticket at the door  
Adult £18 Concession £8

For the improvement of facilities at  
St Mary's Church, Whitegate

[www.valeroyalorchestra.co.uk](http://www.valeroyalorchestra.co.uk)



**making music**



## Whitegate Amblers

Come and join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the Village of Whitegate. You can let us know you are coming by texting or phoning or just turn up on the day.

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 09:45 meet for walk starting at 10:00

and lasting approximately 1 ½ hours

**Start:** Little Budworth Country Park in the Coach Road Car Park, at the end near Oulton Park. Follow signs for Oulton Park from the A49 or A54

**Description:** Walk is easy and dry.

You may like to bring a drink and a snack to enjoy at the end of the walk. We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control all the times. The toilets in the carpark are often open but not guaranteed. If you can't find a lift from church please phone me.

Information call John Blayney ( 07964844642)

