

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR JULY 2023



Our cover photo

Another grand gathering on Church Green! This time for the big BBQ & Bands event, which went down a storm in the sunshine. The assembled crowd was royally entertained with selections of toe-tapping music from 4.00 pm right through till 8.30. There was even dancing on the green. The chefs and barbecue meisters excelled themselves too with tasty burgers, sausages and salads, topped off with a delicious dessert of strawberries and cream with shortcake biscuits. And the two bars, offering a range of options that would shame many pubs, never ran dry.

The relaxed atmosphere of "lazing on a sunny afternoon" (*The Kinks, 1966*) belied the fact that many people had worked - and were still working very hard - to deliver this "life of luxury" for us. Elaine Campbell and John Blayney planned for months, rallying their spouses, friends and neighbours from around Whitegate and beyond. Church members added their talents to the mix. Nothing was left to chance.

We thank those who entertained us: Goosebumps, Bryn Llewellyn, Swamp Dogs, Mixology, Lostock Ukes, Decibells, St Mary's Singers and Paul Cronin who did the honours as Master of Ceremonies.

We thank all those - too many to number, who set out the arena with staging and seating, gazebos and serving stations; all who planned and prepared the food and everyone who served it.

And of course we thank them for packing up and clearing away when we had all gone home. What an afternoon! One big question remains..... When can we do it again?

A verse for July

"And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"

Matthew Ch 6 v27

Today we are quite rightly aware of mental health issues, and of the impact that anxiety can have on our lives, and we are offered many strategies to help us cope. It is important however to remember that being anxious is not a new phenomenon. In Matthew 6, we listen to Jesus, as he sits with his disciples in the hills away from the crowds, not only giving us advice about how to change our mindset, and how to worry less, but also reminding us of his key message that God loves us, and will provide for our every need, if we trust in him, if we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness".

SJM

JULY Diary:

JUL 1st	11.00 am	Ordination of the Revd Margaret Byrne	St Thomas, Stockton Heath
2nd	9.30 am	Trinity 4 Family Service	St Mary's
3rd	2.30 pm	Mews Management Group meeting	The Mews
4th	5.00 pm	School Governors' meeting	Whitegate School
5th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee (<i>see page 8</i>) Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
6th	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see page 8</i>)	The Mews
9th	9.30 am	Trinity 5 Holy Communion	St Mary's
12th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Men's Breakfast (<i>see page 8</i>) Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
14th	9.00 am	Bishop Mark's Boundary Ride	
16th	9.30 am 9.30 am 2.00 pm	Trinity 6 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Baptism of Harper Hancock	St Mary's The Mews St Mary's
18th		St Mary's Mothers' Union Outing	
19th	10.00 am 12.00 noon 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Deanery Chapter Meeting Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
23rd	9.30 am	Trinity 7 Holy Communion	St Mary's
26th	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
30th	10.30 am	Trinity 8 Benefice Communion Service	St Peter's
AUG 2nd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
3rd	10.30 am 2.00 pm	First Thursday Café Mission & giving group meeting	The Mews Marton Sands House
6th	9.30 am	Transfiguration Morning Prayer	St Mary's



July thoughts from the Vicar

There is a saying in Proverbs 29:18, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*"

Over the past several months the Diocese of Chester has been consulting widely about what our vision should be. There have been '*Vision Cafés*' held in various places. The last, but no means least, was held at St Peter's in March. The multitude of voices has since then been simmered down to four key themes. These were announced at a series of events held across the Diocese at the end of May. This is our first magazine and newsletter since the launch of the Diocesan Vision so I thought we could take a glance at where we are going.

The first vision is growing braver, fuller faith. Which is easy to say. But I wonder if it's as easy to do?

Let's take it back to front. Faith – what do we mean by faith?

What we don't mean is being always certain. St Paul tells us that faith is the substance of things hoped for. We live in a difficult and confusing world. Certainty would be nice, knowing things for sure would be more comfortable, but we know that's not how the world works. Faith is difficult, sometimes almost impossible.

I am always reminded that faith isn't about always seeing clearly. It is about brief glimpses that we have to hold onto. My favourite story of faith is Dick Evans, the Welsh lifeboat skipper, steering a stricken vessel home through a storm in unfamiliar waters. It was during the war when lighthouses showed a light only once every ten minutes. He said that you had to glimpse the light, then steer a course through the darkness holding onto that brief moment of light.

Fuller? Being fuller has many meanings but in this context my mind goes to holding things within. A barn is fuller when the harvest is gathered. There is a sense of bringing together, gathering, holding safe. To me that means a community of faith which embraces more people. An intentional commitment to make space for those who are outside. A drawing together of differences.

So we need to be braver. Because going outside of our usual habits, our normal tendencies, can be tricky. I was watching a YouTube channel giving tuition to motorcyclists about leaning a bike into corners. Many riders get scared when a bike leans into a corner, yet the laws of physics means it is the lean that enables a bike to corner safely.

He began with an important point. "I can't take away the fear of leaning. You need that fear to stay safe; if there is gravel or oil in the bend you need to be cautious. What we're doing is training ourselves to be comfortable with the fear so it helps us rather than stops us."

Braver doesn't mean making life easier, it means accepting life is complex and difficult, but not letting the complexity and difficulty prevent you from tackling what needs to be tackled.

So yes, a faith which is fuller and braver, sounds good to me. But what about growing? Growing means starting from where we are and accepting that where we want to go is gradual and may be slow. We're not looking for instant results. Vision needs patience, it needs to be nourished, it needs to be deeply rooted.

So there's our first vision. Growing braver, fuller faith.

What about the other three? Next time dear friends, next time. I have some corners to practise. I convene a group of Christian motorcyclists called *The Sons of Jehu* (from 2 Kings 9:20) of which Bishop Mark is an occasional member. On 14th July we have a ride round the boundaries of the diocese, fortified no doubt by bacon butties and tea.



Paul.

JULY NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ Mid Cheshire Foodbank

The Mission & Giving group at St Mary's recently sent a donation of £552 to the Mid Cheshire Foodbank to help them purchase groceries or other items in short supply. Pam & Mike Venables continue to deliver



regularly the donated goods deposited in the box at the back of church, and they have asked us not to forget the foodbank when we do our shopping, for as the cost-of-living crisis bites ever harder there are more families needing this support. Items needed at the moment include tinned rice pudding, potatoes and custard and liquid laundry detergent.

☐ Home Group continues in July

The group will meet at 7.30 pm on 12th and 26th, at 59 Carnoustie Close, Winsford. Newcomers always welcome. If you have any questions, just call John Duthie on 01606 889836.

□ Ordination of Margaret Byrne

Regular readers will remember that Margaret will be ordained deacon on Saturday 1st July at the church of St Thomas, Stockton Heath and that thereafter, she will start her ordained ministry with us, in Whitegate & Little Budworth.



She has sent us this short “pen portrait” and photo, to introduce herself. We look forward to your time with us, Margaret.

I live in Moulton and I am married to Gavin. I used to be a primary school teacher before having four wonderful boys: Bill (18), Ted (17), Jack (15) and Tom (12). In my spare time, I enjoy reading, puzzle books, quizzes, listening to music, knitting, sewing, and walking Thorin, our cairn terrier.

Nurtured over the years at St. Stephen’s, Moulton, I experienced the deep and unconditional love of God – God knows all my faults, but he is patient, and I am loved and accepted. As my love of God and sense of calling grew, I enjoyed leading Junior Church, Little Gems (toddler group) and Messy Church, as well as being Churchwarden. I was blessed in training at Emmanuel Theological College, Liverpool, and placement with the wonderful people at St. John’s, Sandiway. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all, please come and say “hello” to me!

□ Whitehead Fields

On the land around the Burial Ground, our valiant volunteers continue their programme of cutting back brambles, undergrowth and overgrown trees, making good use of the cut branches to reinforce the boundary fences. Hedges alongside the Burial Ground, which were laid in the winter, have sprouted afresh and thickened up nicely this season. A couple of narrow paths have been mown in the long grass and a bench made and placed under a tree further down towards the stream, making it a delightfully tranquil spot to sit and contemplate. Thankyou to the team; your work is much appreciated.

□ NEWS by e-mail

If you would like each month’s NEWS to arrive in your Inbox, then just send a request to chrisball2022@outlook.com Please note Chris’s different address for newsletter requests and new contacts.

□ AUGUST NEWS

Comments and items for the next edition are always welcome. Please send to chrisball2022@outlook.com by 15th July.

Contacts

Please note that only e-mail addresses for the Vicar, 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.

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Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802	Treasurer John Duthie 01606 88986
Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293	PCC Secretary This post is vacant at present
Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311	Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 01606 516225	"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com
Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302	Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com
Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239

WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month; 7.15 pm for a 7.30 start, in Whitegate Recreation Room. The next meeting is on 5th July, when Kath Reynolds will give us: Bringing up Baby, a light-hearted look at child rearing in the 50s and 60s. Visitors are always welcome. Contact Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com



Men's Breakfast

Once a month, at
Tarpowley Garden Centre

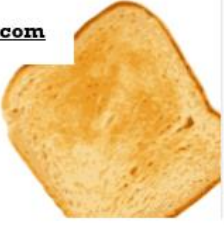
Join us for a great value
breakfast in friendly
company.

9.00 am
on

Wednesday
12th July

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

or contact Alan Newton on
01829 769239
acnewton513@gmail.com



First Thursday Café

At The
Mews on
Church
Green
Whitegate



Thursdays,
6th July & 3rd August



Come down to meet
friends and chat over
tea / coffee and
delicious cake.

Open 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.



St Mary's Church Crafty Coffee Group

meets in
The Mews, Church Green
on Wednesdays
from 10.00 am-12.00 noon

We do various crafts and would like
to welcome new members, whether
you come for crafting or for coffee!

It's a good time for fellowship along
with a cuppa and biscuits.



For two weeks, but only every 5 years!

DON'T MISS this epic theatrical spectacular, staged in
the stunning nave of Chester Cathedral.

Biblical tales of love, death, betrayal and redemption,
performed by a cast of hundreds.

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