

St Mary's Parish Church
Whitegate



NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2023



Our cover photo

In Sweden, it's "semlor", in France, "crêpes", in Italy, "fritelle", in Germany, "Berliner", in Poland, "paczki", in Russia, "блины". Here in England, 47 days before Easter, we eat pancakes.

Shrove Tuesday, a moveable feast, is on 21st February this year. It is of course the last day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, and in many countries, Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras is marked with a Carnival. Here in Britain, we are more restrained, but we do eat pancakes, traditionally with lemon or orange and sugar but these days also with chocolate spread, jam or a savoury filling. How do you like yours?

Lent 2023 at St Mary's & St Peter's

In the Christian Church on Ash Wednesday we use ash, which comes from burning the palm crosses from the previous year, to mark the sign of the cross on the foreheads of churchgoers. This symbolic act will take place during the service of Holy Communion at St Mary's at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 22nd February.

During the weeks that follow, the Vicar is planning a Lent Series of reflections on "The Difficult Words of Jesus", followed by the short service of Compline. These will take place weekly, on Wednesday evenings starting on 1st March. Venue to be confirmed. Check in Church or in the next edition of the News.

A Verse for February

Jesus said: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

John 10 v 10

Jesus wants us to live life to the full. He was so insistent about this that he described himself as the good shepherd. At that time there were two sorts of shepherds - the hired shepherds for whom it was "just a job" - they were paid to mind the sheep but could be expected to run for it if they were attacked by wolves. The good shepherd was dedicated to the sheep and, if there was trouble he would look after them and do his best to protect them - even to the extent of sacrificing his own life if things got bad enough.

That of course is what Jesus did for us. The life he wants us to enjoy to the full is eternal life - although I'm sure he has no objection to our enjoying our earthly lives on the way, as long as we obey his commandments and love our neighbours as ourselves in the process.

JRC

February Diary: Please note that the Vicar's usual day off is Friday, with a monthly 48 hours off duty on Thursday and Friday.

FEB 1st	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee (<i>see p.8</i>) Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
2nd	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see p.8</i>)	The Mews
5th	9.30 am 12.00 noon	Candlemas Family Service Baptism	St Mary's St Mary's
6th	7.00 pm	Safeguarding training	The Mews
7th	5.00 pm 7.30 pm	School Governors' Meeting Deanery Synod Vision Café	Whitegate School Sandiway
8th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast (<i>see p.8</i>) Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's
9th	2.00 pm	Mission & Giving group meeting	Marton Sands House
12th	9.30 am	Second Sunday before Lent Holy Communion	St Mary's
15th	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
N.B. The Vicar is taking part in a Vocations Panel this week and will be unavailable Wed. – Fri.			
19th	9.30 am 9.30 am 2.00 pm	Sunday before Lent Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Movies in The Mews, "Belfast" (<i>see p.8</i>)	St Mary's The Mews The Mews
21st	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting: Mosquito Drive	The Mews
22nd	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	The Mews St Mary's St Mary's
26th	9.30 am 11.00 am	First Sunday in Lent Holy Communion Baptism	St Mary's St Mary's
MAR 1st	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Home Group	The Mews St Mary's 59 Carnoustie Close
2nd	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see p.8</i>)	The Mews
5th	9.30 am	2nd Sunday in Lent Family Service	St Mary's

February thoughts from the Vicar

I am writing this on New Year's Day and it will be a short letter. We are in the midst of preparing for my father's funeral service which with both Christmas and New Year falling at weekends has been a difficult process. We are also in the middle of looking after my mother following her long stay in hospital. The past few months have been extraordinarily difficult and I have a sense that somehow life has been in a void.



I know we share these trials with others who have similar but also unique burdens to carry. Life can sometimes be hard.

I want to make an opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to members of St Peter's and St Mary's who have reached out to support us through these difficult times. When my mother fell in October and had to go into hospital my father came to stay with us. He attended the Autumn Fair at Little Budworth and joined us for coffee in the Mews at Whitegate. Having that time with him over the eight weeks my mother was in hospital was a blessing. He found a warm welcome in our churches.

When he died, suddenly and unexpectedly, the week before Christmas, the messages and practical support we received from members of our church family carried us. We have received so many cards and messages which have been a huge source of comfort.

My letter this month is simply to say Thank You. Your kindness has helped us through a difficult and sad time.

The order of service for my father includes this poem, written by his father:

The passing of a friend and valued companion

Through the conflicts and the trials
And triumphs by the way.
He has bravely faced the journey
Of this life's little day.

With many a noble action
He has marked this pilgrim soil.
His strength has lent to others
The will to strive and toil.

And now he lays his burden down,
And claims a heavenly peace,
He journeys on to God's own realm
Through ways of righteousness.

So we commit his friendly soul
To the keeping of the Lord,
Whose works are wrought to make us whole,
Sure promise of his Word.

The Revd Harold Dawson 1901-1977

Paul

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM ST MARY'S



□ Storytelling Service

This new service for families and young children met with great approval last month. The next one is on Sunday 19th February, so note the date and come along with your little ones to join in the Bible story, songs and crafts – not forgetting the juice and biscuits. 9.30 am in The Mews.

□ HOME GROUP continues in February

This informal group will meet again at 7.30 pm on 1st & 15th February, to talk about current issues and topics in the Bible and to pray for local concerns. Newcomers are always welcome to 59 Carnoustie Close, Winsford, home of Peter & Pauline Hayward. If you would like to know more, contact John Duthie.

□ Movies in The Mews – new season!

On Sunday 19th February, (Doors open 2.00 pm, film at 2.30 prompt), we'll be showing Kenneth Brannagh's great film, "**Belfast**". See back page for more details. The Sunday afternoon screening is a new idea whilst it's still dark in the evenings. Do join us if you can. It's an outstanding film.

□ **Barbecue & Blues on Church Green**

Advance notice that there are plans afoot for a midsummer music event for all the community, pencilled in for mid-June. Our small Social Committee has big plans for a lively and entertaining early evening gathering with food, drinks and entertainment. For that they need volunteers – stagehands, caterers, performers and those able and willing of all trades, to help the occasion go with a swing. Could you help? Please contact John Blayney (07964 844642) or Elaine Campbell (07896 779962).

□ **Gaia at Chester Cathedral**

From 7th February to 5th March, Chester is hosting this touring artwork by Luke Jerram. Measuring six metres in diameter, the fabulous representation of our planet, featuring detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface, will float on high inside the Cathedral. A specially written, surround sound composition by Dan Jones is played alongside the sculpture.

□ **Receiving the monthly NEWS by e-mail**

If you would prefer 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 the newsletter.



www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk

The Parish Clerk's report for January is available on the W&MPC website, and amongst many other items of interest you'll find details of the Cheshire West & Chester **Report-it** page, where you can let them know about fly-tipping, potholes, missed waste or recycling collections and much more.

There are few who haven't suffered damaged tyres or blow-outs caused by the state of our road surfaces at the moment, so take this opportunity to let the authority know just where the potholes are.

WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Whitegate Recreation Room. The next meeting is on 1st February, when members will be entertained by Eric Newton, recounting "The Life and Times of a Busker". Visitors are always welcome. Contact Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com

Contacts

Please note that from now on, only e-mail addresses for the Vicar and the News coordinator will be 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.

<p>Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com</p>	<p>Churchwardens John Duthie 01606 889836 Anne Blayney 01606 74020</p>
<p>Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802</p>	<p>Treasurer John Duthie 01606 88986</p>
<p>Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293</p>	<p>PCC Secretary Linda Dutton 01606 862733</p>
<p>Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>	<p>Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p>Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 01606 516225</p>	<p>Mews Lettings Role vacant. Could you undertake this job? Call Deryck Petty for details: 07974 447776.</p>
<p>Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302</p>	<p>"News" Coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com</p>
<p>Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833</p>	<p>Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>

MARCH NEWS

Comments and items for inclusion in the next edition of our newsletter would be welcome. Please send them to: chrisball2022@outlook.com by 15th February.

Movies in The Mews Sunday 19th February 2023

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.
Film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.
(finishes around 4.45 p.m.)



BELFAST (2022)

"Beautiful, personal and moving"

Written & directed by Kenneth Branagh, starring Jude Hill, Catriona Balfe, Jamie Dornan, Judi Dench & Ciarán Hinds.

Inspired by Branagh's childhood in Belfast. The poignant story of a young lad struggling to understand the turmoil of the late 1960s. With sub-titles.

Suggested donation £5.00 per person

Sign up on the board in church, or contact Chris:
01606 593260 or chrisball2015@gmail.com

First Thursday Café

At The
Mews on
Church
Green
Whitegate



Thursday 2nd February

Come down to meet friends and chat



over tea / coffee and
delicious cake.
Open 10.30 am
to 12.00 noon.



Men's Breakfast
Once a month, at
Tarpoley Garden Centre

Join us for a great value
breakfast in friendly
company.

9.00 am
on

**Wednesday
8th February**

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

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

**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.