

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate

## NEWS FOR JUNE 2024



## Our cover photo

This month we feature members of St Mary's Church Choir, with organist and musical director, Andrew Millinchip. The choir is busy rehearsing for the Service of Choral Evensong, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 6.30 pm. It will be the first time since the pandemic that Evensong has been sung in Whitegate and the music will include the Responses by the 18th century composer Thomas Ebdon, a rather jolly Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from the Victorian composer Caleb Simper, an anthem by Maurice Bevan and the introit 'O nata lux' by Andrew.

The service will be led by the Revd Jane Millinchip, who will preach on the psalm set for the evening, Psalm 48. We hope as many as possible will come along to experience this moment of calm reflection at the end of the day.



### A verse for JUNE

Luke Ch 24: Verses 47-48

*Jesus said to his disciples, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be preached in my name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."*

As followers of Jesus, we inherit in our generation from those first disciples the responsibility to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in his name to all nations; but the problem is that we were not actually there, we did not see and touch the risen Christ.

All that happened over 2000 years ago, so how can we testify to the gospel message with the same credibility and power as Peter and his friends did? But surely the story which we have to tell is still of immense value?

Well, let me suggest two possible ways of thinking about this. Firstly, we have the written accounts of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection in the Bible, so we read our Bible, we talk to people about what we read, and we encourage them to read it for themselves. Secondly, as Christians, we live our lives in the knowledge that we are God's forgiven people, and that should permeate everything we do and say and think, not just on Sunday morning, but all week, every week.

Our actions, our words and our thoughts should in themselves be a witness, a testimony to the truth of the gospel.

## JUNE Diary

<b>JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm	<b>Trinity 1</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Choral Evensong (BCP)	St Mary's The Mews St Mary's
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	7.30 pm	Fellowship Group	The Mews
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Concert: Friendly Voices Community Singers, in aid of Mothers' Union charities	The Mews St Mary's St Chad's Church Over
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am 12.00 noon	First Thursday Café Rural Churches Forum	The Mews
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00 am	Whitegate School Walkathon	Whitegate Way
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 2</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	12.00 noon	Deanery Chapter meeting	
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00 am 10.30 am 12.00 noon 6.30 for 7.00 pm	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Movies in The Mews (The Great Escaper)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's The Mews
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am  3.30 pm  4.00 pm	Dedication of Memorial bench (for 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Landings) Live streaming of Service of Ordination from the Cathedral Ordination of Revd Margaret Byrne as Priest	Whitegate Village Green  The Mews  Chester Cathedral
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am  7.00 pm	<b>Trinity 3</b> Holy Communion (Margaret's first celebration as Priest) Concert: Strings at the Abbey	St Mary's  Vale Royal Abbey
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30 pm	Fellowship Group	The Mews
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	9.45 am meet	Whitegate Amblers ( <i>see p. 8 for start</i> )	L.B. Country Park
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 4</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner	The Plough, Whitegate
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Pastoral & Fellowship meeting Bible Study at Commonsides	Dairy Cottage L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am 3.30 pm	<b>St Peter's Patronal Festival</b> Benefice Holy Communion Deanery Songs of Praise	St Peter's St Stephen's Moulton

## June thoughts from the Vicar

One of the groups I belong to is a gathering of those who serve in rural parishes. The diversity of experiences is remarkable with most clergy who serve in rural parishes either being part-time or covering a large number of parishes grouped together. In many cases rural churches open once or twice a month. A few open only for major festivals. For good reasons those who work in rural ministry often refer to the 'fragile church'.



Yet alongside that there is a deep resilience in rural churches. Numbers and finances may be limited but there is often a rootedness within the local community that means people still look to the church as 'our church' rather than 'the church'.

Those who attended our annual parochial church meetings in April and May may remember I have a rule of thumb about where a church stands in relation to its community. There is very simple, though perhaps rather drastic, way to tell if a church matters.

You set fire to it. Then you listen to what people say.

If they say, '*The church is burning,*' then let it burn.

If they say, '*Our church is burning,*' then it's worth saving.

(I offer this as a metaphorical example. Please don't go setting fire to our churches just to test this theory out.)

I had a first-hand example of this some years ago when someone vandalised our church by shooting an air gun through the stained-glass windows. For years the church and the community had drifted apart so when the bishop sent me there the task was to bring them together again. We did our best but broken relationships are hard to mend. No matter how hard we tried there was still a sense that the church was 'the' church, not 'our' church.

One day I was asked to conduct a funeral for George, a local chap who lived in a terraced house backing onto the railway. He'd worked on the railway most of his life. I met his wife and two daughters to make arrangements for his funeral service. They told me about his work, his mates in the pub, the park where he played bowls and his family. On the way out I noticed something they hadn't mentioned, a photograph of him in a soldier's uniform.

I asked about that photograph but they said it was something he didn't speak about. That evening I went down to the British Legion and over a pint (or two) heard his story. He'd landed on the beaches on D-Day, fought across France and Belgium, and ended up in Berlin. On the way he lost all his friends. It was something he never spoke of.

We didn't mention it at his funeral, we stuck to the story his wife and daughters had told me. But when we got into the churchyard one of the British



Legion members noticed that the Union Flag was flying. *"Hey Vicar, what's the flag for?"* he asked. I told him it was flying for a brave man who had served his country with honour.

I won't repeat his response in full for this is a family publication, let's just say it was an expression of amazement. And appreciation.

As he walked away I could hear him shouting (for he was rather deaf), *"Hey, the \*\*\*\* Vicar is flying the \*\*\*\* flag for \*\*\*\*\* George. That's \*\*\*\*\* brilliant."*

That evening I was wandering through town when the doors of a pub burst open. I was hauled inside and presented with several pints of beer. From that moment on I was known as the 'flag flying vicar'. The following day someone stopped me in the street, they pressed a handful of £5 notes into my hand, they'd heard 'our' church was being vandalised, 'that's to go towards repairs'. And that became how it was. Word got round that the flag had been flown, 'the' church became 'our' church again.

The flag, of course, was a catalyst. Everything that could be done, that should be done, was already in place. But it took something to symbolise it and the flag just happened to be the thing that got the message across.

**Paul**

### **This June brings several key moments:**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June our choir at St Mary's is offering a service of choral evensong starting at 6.30pm. That is also my mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday so I shall be in Liverpool at a family celebration.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June I shall be joining several hundred motorcyclists riding from the Ace Café in London to Carlisle to celebrate the life of Dave Myers, one of the Hairy Bikers. You might want to avoid the M6 that day.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June which is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day we have our First Thursday Café in the Mews. On 15<sup>th</sup> June we shall be dedicating a memorial bench on Whitegate village green to mark the anniversary of D-Day. If you can please join us for both.

Also on 15<sup>th</sup> June Margaret is to be ordained as Priest at Chester Cathedral. She will preside at services of Holy Communion in both our churches on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> June. This will be a turning point in Margaret's life and we rejoice at the ministry she shares amongst us. For those who can't get to the Cathedral, we shall live-stream the service in The Mews. Please arrive between 3.30 & 3.45 pm.

The following week is the Cheshire Show which is both a celebration of the rural economy and showcases the tenacity of those working in the farming community.

There is a men's dinner at the Plough on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> we mark Petertide and gather for a Benefice Patronal Festival at St Peter's, Little Budworth. A reminder that the service on this special Sunday starts at 10.30am rather than our usual 9.30 and 11.00am. Please join us to celebrate our parish church.

Paul Dawson

## JUNE NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

### □ New Churchwarden

At the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sandra Paskin was elected as our new warden. She replaces John Duthie, who stood down after 4 years. John has also been our Treasurer for the last couple of years and will continue in that role. Our other warden is of course Anne Blayney, who has already completed 3 years but was willing to continue. We wish Anne and Sandra well as they carry us forward for the next year. Please support them in any way you can.



### □ BBQ & Bands, Saturday 6th July

As well as our favourite groups, this year we also have an exciting new local band - "Behind the Beat". Lynn, Rich, Ben, Keith & Tony promise to entertain us with Jazz, Latin R&B with a bit of Blues and generally lots of great music to dance to. They love performing a vast array of styles of music and have lots of great experience with many bands across the Northwest and Europe. They will be a real treat to see. For tickets, see below.



**ST MARYS PRESENTS**

# WHITEGATE

*Music Festival*

**SATURDAY 6TH JULY**

**BBQ AND BANDS**  
ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

**4PM - 9PM**

**MUSIC FROM LOCAL GROUPS INC.**  
GOOSEBUMPS, MIXOLOGY,  
BEHIND THE BEAT AND MORE.....

**ADULTS £10.00** **CHILDREN £5.00**

**TICKETS TO BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE AND SHOWN FOR ENTRY**

For tickets please contact:

John Blayney 07964844642  
Elaine Campbell 07896779962

Price includes Entrance  
Some chairs available; bring a picnic rug or a folding chair if you'd like to.

**ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE UPKEEP OF ST MARYS CHURCH.**

Children must be supervised at all times

**CASH ONLY**  
BBQ, salads and bar

## Gentlemen's Dinner

**THE PLOUGH**  
Beauty Bank  
Whitegate



Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
6.30 pm

Join us for a delicious meal in convivial company.

To book, contact Alan Newton  
[acenewton513@gmail.com](mailto:acenewton513@gmail.com)  
01829 760239  
or sign up on the board in church

## Contacts

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

<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 01606 74020 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>Treasurer</b> John Duthie 01606 889836  <b>Children's Worker</b> Teresa Finney 01606 889311
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Sue Whitehead 01606 852302 <a href="mailto:safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com">safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</a>	<b>Mothers' Union</b> Eileen Lees 01606 786895
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<b>Musical Director</b> Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772	<b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b> Alan Newton 01829 760239
<b>Church Flowers</b> Pam Davies 01606 557833	<b>Social &amp; Fundraising Group</b> John Blayney 07964 844642

❑ **JULY NEWS:** Comments and contributions for the next edition of the Monthly NEWS are always welcome. Please send copy to [chrisball2022@outlook.com](mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> June.



Join us for

# CHORAL EVENSONG



Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
6.30 pm

at  
St Mary's  
Whitegate

## Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Refreshments from 6.30 p.m.

film starts at 7.00 p.m. prompt.



## THE GREAT ESCAPER (2023)

"A RUNAWAY HIT"

"SUPERB, HEARTWARMING &  
POWERFUL"

Directed by Oliver Parker and  
starring Michael Caine, Glenda  
Jackson and John Standing

Inspired by a true story, Bernard Jordan escaped from his  
care home to attend events commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the D Day Landings, in Normandy.

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 the Abbey

Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate, CW8 2BA

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

7.00 pm

Vivaldi. Overture, Olimpiade

Elgar. Serenade for Strings

Holst. St Paul's Suite

Bartok Transylvanian Dances

Webern. Langsamer Satz

Haydn. Symphony No 12

Mark Lansom  
Conductor

**making  
music**

For further information use the QR code  
to go to our website  
Tickets £15.00 (school age £7.00)  
07398 295239 and on the door



For the Improvement of Facilities at St Mary's Church, Whitegate  
[www.valeroyalstringorchestra.co.uk](http://www.valeroyalstringorchestra.co.uk)



## 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.  
\*\*\*\*\*NOTE CHANGE OF START\*\*\*\*\*

Date: Thursday 20<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 time.  
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)

