

St Mary's Parish Church  
Whitegate



# NEWS FOR AUGUST 2023



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[www.stmaryswhitegate.org](http://www.stmaryswhitegate.org)

## Our cover photo

Many congratulations to the ten men and women who were ordained deacon on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. In four locations across the diocese, Joe, Margaret, Ruth, Kate, Amy, Andy, Anees, Jenny, Jane, and Jill were ordained by Bishops Mark, Sam, and Julie.

Please continue to pray for the newly ordained deacons, that they may be blessed in their ministry and be a blessing to all those they meet and serve. Posting on Twitter, Bishop Mark described the services as "wonderfully encouraging".

The Bishop's Adviser for Curate Development and Clergy Transitions, Revd Jenny Bridgman, says: "It's so exciting to see another cohort of deacons take this next step in their ministry and discipleship. Responding to God's call is always a lifelong journey, and looks different for each of us. I look forward to working with them as part of the shared ministry of the whole people of God in this diocese, sharing the love of Christ and making him known."

Our own Margaret Byrne is pictured in the cover photo at the very moment of the laying on of hands by Bishop Julie. And Margaret's verdict on the Ordination Service? "A Spirit-filled day of love, joy, blessing and celebration at the beginning of this amazing journey in serving the Lord".

Margaret, we are glad to play a part in this stage of your journey.



## Archdeacon of Macclesfield to become Bishop of Thetford



Downing Street announced in June 2023 that Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield since 2011 and formerly Vicar of Middlewich and our Rural Dean, is to be Bishop of Thetford in the Diocese of Norwich.

Speaking at the time of the announcement, Ian said: "The thing that will be hardest to leave is actually the people, who are colleagues, but who have become friends."

"I have never had anything other than wonderful support from the people of this diocese and I just want to say, 'thank you'."

The Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner said, "Ian has been an outstanding Archdeacon: wise, patient, prayerful, and endlessly encouraging. I am delighted at his appointment to Thetford, although sorry to see him moving away from Chester."

Ian will be ordained as a bishop in Westminster Abbey on 29 September.

**AUGUST Diary:** N.B. During August, there are no Storytelling Services, due to annual leave.

<b>AUG 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 2.00 pm	First Thursday Café ( <i>see p 12</i> ) Mission & Giving group meeting	The Mews Marton Sands House
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Transfiguration of our Lord/Trinity 9</b> Morning Prayer	St Mary's
<b>9<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>12<sup>th</sup></b>	4.30 pm	Moody & Sankey Celebration ( <i>see p 12</i> )	Little Budworth Methodist Chapel
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 10</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	1.00 pm	Mothers' Union Picnic	Church Green/Mews
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon 6.30 for 7.00 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Movies in The Mews: "Thunderball" ( <i>see p 12</i> )	The Mews St Mary's The Mews
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 11</b> Morning Prayer	St Mary's
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	7.00 pm	Wedding rehearsal	St Mary's
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Wedding of Kieran Sweeney & Rebecca Yeomans	St Mary's
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 12</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>SEPT 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am	<b>Trinity 13</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Service in the Pits	St Mary's The Mews Oulton Park
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30 pm	St Mary's PCC meeting	The Mews
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café ( <i>see p 12</i> )	The Mews
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 – 4.30 pm	Whitegate Village Show ( <i>see p 12</i> )	Recreation Room
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	<b>St Mary's Patronal Festival</b> United Benefice Communion	St Mary's



## August thoughts from the Vicar ....

And so, dear reader, we pick up where we left off last month. But first I must ask you to pause and do something for me. Find whatever device you use to make contact with the internet and Google *The Devil's Gallop* by Charles Williams. I know the title is perhaps a little unusual for this devout publication but bear with me.

Have you listened to it? If so, then no doubt your mind will be cast back to the Adventures of Dick Barton, Special Agent. If not, then lucky you for being so young.

It was a serial adventure broadcast over the wireless by the BBC Light Programme featuring gripping tales of daring deeds that saved the nation.

So, in our own more modest way, our serial continues. Last month I introduced the Diocese of Chester's vision, beginning with a commitment to growing a braver, fuller faith. We need more Dick Barton.

This month we'll take a glance at the second part of the vision, *Blessing 1.5 million lives, one life at a time*. There is a rudimentary bit of mathematics behind that intention. Our diocese is home to around 1.65 million people. I haven't counted them all myself so I'll take the bishop's word for it. About 150,000 of those have some connection with practising faith, leaving 1.5 million with no engagement with any kind of faith.

I'm assuming the bishop doesn't intend us to get in touch with all 1.5 million of them or else we'd be like the guy in *Jaws* – 'We're gonna need a bigger church.' The intention is captured in the third and fourth parts of the vision.

- *Transformative loving service (in practice) &*
- *Engaged locally, working together in loving generosity.*

I think there's something good in that. It is a commitment to being the local church, something which many other dioceses have shied away from in these difficult times. Most large organizations facing difficult times tend to centralize and become very controlling. The Church of England has certainly suffered from that tendency over the past thirty years.

Our diocese has a long history of supporting the local church and maintaining the parish system. We still believe in providing a place of worship and Christian ministry in every community. The shape of that may change, how it is resourced may change, but the commitment remains firm.

In aiming to bless 1.5 million lives we are reminding ourselves that we can only do it one life at a time. Most of us, most of the time, can only make small differences. We can only be there for a limited number of people. It is like the story of two people walking on a beach after a storm. The sand was littered with starfish washed up by the storm, stranded far from the water. It was a sad sight. One person picked up a starfish and carried it back to the water. Their friend was overwhelmed by the number of dying starfish. "Why bother? You can't make a difference."

"Well, it made a difference to that one," was the response.

Sometimes we just have to do what we can do. We must not allow the fact that we can't fix all the problems, stop us from fixing one problem.

The church is a serial adventure. Each generation faces different challenges. I have a suspicion what we do, day by day, week by week, won't ever be broadcast. But they are tales of courage and daring, and they make a difference that matters.

***Paul.***

### **A verse for August**

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Ephesians Ch 4: v 29

Everyone likes to feel listened to. We all have a need to unburden ourselves to others who we feel will not judge us harshly, and as a church family we are privileged to have people we know care about us and will listen to us lovingly.

For a large part of this academic year, I have been holding 'Here to Listen' sessions in Whitegate Primary School. Any child can come and spend some time with me and just tell me anything that is worrying them or share some good news. Any concerns are documented by me and passed onto staff for action. Thankfully most worries seem centred around friendships and the children are encouraged to resolve these for themselves. Anything more serious and the staff would be alerted.

Just the act of listening to someone's concerns can be very helpful to that person. As they verbalize the problem they also think about the solutions for themselves and our part is to just listen in a non-judgmental way, loving the person as they work through the problem, just as God loves us in the midst of our own problems.

Teresa Finney, Children's Worker



# AUGUST NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

## ☐ Christian Aid

Our Christian Aid Week Campaign at St Mary's raised £447.60, which we were able to send to the charity in June. Through collections like ours from parishes all over the country they are able to support communities all over the world, struggling with the impact of extreme weather events. For example, Cyclone Freddy in Malawi has been devastating. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. With local partners, Christian Aid is there when disaster strikes and will still be there when the flood waters recede, helping families to build back what they have lost and to grow new crops, better adapted to the effects of our changing climate. Many thanks to everyone who participated.



## ☐ Movies in The Mews

Our programme of films continues in August; on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> we shall be showing "Thunderball", the next in our series of 007 classics, starring Sean Connery. Doors open and refreshments from 6.30 pm. The film will start at 7.00 pm prompt. See back page for more details.

## ☐ Men's Breakfast

Held at Tarporley Garden Centre, this popular monthly get-together will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 9.00 am. All are welcome and good company is guaranteed but you must book through Alan Newton. Sign up on the noticeboard in church. If that's not possible or to find out more, then contact him by email: [acnewton513@gmail.com](mailto:acnewton513@gmail.com) or phone 01829 760239.



## ☐ Position vacant - St Mary's Social committee

Do you like throwing a party? Would you like to get more involved? Are you new to St Mary's and would like to get to know more people? Do you like organising? Are you artistic? Do you like helping people?

If you can answer yes to any ONE of these questions... WE NEED YOU! You will be very welcome to join our small friendly and enthusiastic group that makes things happen.

For more information phone: John Blayney (07964844642) or Elaine Campbell (07896779962), or email: [johnblayney2@gmail.com](mailto:johnblayney2@gmail.com)

## □ Chamber concert at Vale Royal Abbey

Readers will know from the July News, that thanks to combined efforts of St Mary's Social Committee and friends, Whitegate Festival Weekend in mid-June was a resounding success. We reported last month on the fabulous BBQ & Bands event on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> but there was more.....

On the Sunday evening, Vale Royal String Orchestra gave us a hugely enjoyable concert in the grand setting of the Great Hall at the Abbey.

Some of the music was new to us all, but Stephen Threlfall, the conductor, has an engaging way of involving the audience, pointing out, with the help of the orchestra, musical phrases we should listen for later and what they represented. Strauss's Pizzicato Polka is pretty well-known, but there again, we were treated to a Masterclass involving lively and enthusiastic audience participation. We shall all be ready to star in the next New Year's Day Concert from Vienna.



## □ ADVANCE NOTICE

Coming up in September, please make a note in your diary of the following items and check next month's NEWS for more information:

- **Gentlemen's Dinner:** at the Plough Inn, Beauty Bank, Whitegate on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30 for 7.00 pm. Booking essential through Alan Newton. [acenewton513@gmail.com](mailto:acenewton513@gmail.com) or 01829 760239.
- **St Mary's Harvest Clean:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, from 9.30 am onwards. A light lunch will be provided. All offers of help appreciated.



## Whitegate Village Show

Preparations are already well underway for our annual Village Show taking place this year on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

It was originally an event for members of Whitegate Women's Institute (WI) and was held on a WI meeting night with classes in just produce (ie. preserves and baking), craft and flower arranging.

Twenty plus years ago it was moved to a Saturday and classes added for members' children. For example old favourites such as, 'a garden on a plate', 'the biggest weed' and 'a vegetable animal'! Having it on a Saturday meant the children could come along and see their entries displayed and enjoy receiving the cup and medals if they'd won, and receive the sweets given to everyone for taking part. More sections for adults were added to make it a proper village show - with classes in photography, art and horticulture. There is now a class for everyone to enter, whether you bake, knit, sew, paint, draw, arrange flowers, create any craft, grow fruit and veg or take photos!

Still organised by Whitegate WI, this fun event for the whole community and surrounding area has grown into a popular annual activity, only stopping for a couple of years during the Covid pandemic.

Our first year back, last year, was as busy as ever with twice as many non-WI entrants as WI entrants. A pleasing half of the total number of entrants were first timers, which was great to see. There were 176 individual entries in total, 40 of those being in the produce class - that's a lot of jam, chutney, cake, bread and biscuits for the judge to taste!

Our judges are specialists in their area of expertise - some are WI trained and also judge at county shows, others are from specialist societies like our photography judge, this year from Winsford Camera Club. They are well aware that ours is a village show, so don't let it put you off entering - it's all very relaxed and good fun!

This year we have an extra, fun class - Blooming Boots & Flowery Footwear - you just need to plant-up a shoe, boot or welly etc. and the judging will be by public vote, with the most popular winning a prize. Voting entry monies will be donated to charity.





The Show is easy to enter - no prior application form is needed, you just bring your entries along on the morning and pay and display! (adults 50p a class/kids free).

Once judging has taken place the show opens to the public and you can visit to see how you've done and enjoy delicious WI home baked cakes and tea/coffee..... and perhaps take home a trophy!

The schedule with full details is attached to emailed copies of the News, is available on the WI website [www.whitegatewi.weebly.com](http://www.whitegatewi.weebly.com) or paper copies are available from the Church porch or Whitegate Way Station Cafe.

Do come along and visit us in September but better still have a go at entering too!

Alison Gardner, Whitegate WI



Keep an eye on the parish council website for all manner of information on local affairs. The agenda and minutes for each monthly meeting are published

there and followed up by a résumé in the form of a monthly newsletter.

The local election in May was uncontested, and the six councillors standing were therefore re-elected. Two, Iain Ransom and David Roston, chose not to stand again and they have been warmly thanked for their service. David, in particular has been active on the parish council for more than 25 years. It's a remarkable record and he deserves thanks from us all for the time he has devoted to Whitegate & Marton affairs and activities.

The two spaces have been filled by candidates who were happy to be co-opted onto the parish council. They are Clare Heath and Lynn Campbell. We wish them well in their new role.

The other six councillors continuing to serve us are Chris Leech, Val Cotterill, Peter Baldini, Robert Matthews, Sue Haigh and Keith Rayner (Chairman). Your Parish Clerk is Julie Ellis.

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

**SEPTEMBER NEWS:** Comments and items for the next edition are always welcome. Please send to [chrisball2022@outlook.com](mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> August.

## THIS SUMMER IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL

- ❖ Making Tracks returns: from 26<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> September, join Pete Waterman and his Railnuts for the third and final instalments of Making Tracks at the Cathedral.



This year's 64-foot-long track is modelled on Milton Keynes railway station with some very special, never seen before features and trains.

"I am really excited to bring this new even better layout to Chester again this year – after being set the challenge of building a station, I can honestly say it's going to be something very special and we will be offering the chance to adults and children alike to drive the trains." – Pete Waterman.

Making Tracks 3 will run from 10am to 5pm Mondays through Saturdays.

Tickets £3 per person with free entry for children 5 and under.

To guarantee swift entry, pre-book your summer entry tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/Making-tracks-3>

- ❖ Tom Connell is a transport illustrator who has produced the main picture for Making Tracks 3. There will be an exhibition of his work on display in the South Transept alongside the railway. Tom Connell has masses of experience producing highly finished work for major ad agencies, design groups, publishers, vehicle manufacturers, transport companies and all sorts of others who have commissioned illustrations.
- ❖ Café 1092 in the Refectory: situated in the 13<sup>th</sup> century monks' dining hall, Café 1092 is the obvious place to stop for coffee or lunch; the perfect spot to restore body and spirit at the same time, as you savour a delicious slice of cake with your coffee and take in the glories of the beautiful Creation window.
- ❖ Book a guided tour, or a Thursday organ recital: guided tours or talks on a range of subjects such as Gothic Architecture, Myths & Legends, Stained Glass, and Medieval Quire Stalls are available on various dates, together with an Organ Recital each Thursday at 18.45. Check the website: <https://tinyurl.com/cathedral-whatson>
- ❖ Relax in the Cathedral Garth, the peaceful, courtyard garden in the midst of the cloisters.



## 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.*

<p><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></p>	<p><b>Churchwardens</b> John Duthie 01606 889836  Anne Blayney 01606 74020</p>
<p><b>Curates</b> Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> John Duthie 01606 88986</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary</b> Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p>
<p><b>Children's Worker</b> Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>	<p><b>Mothers' Union</b> Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p><b>Musical Director</b> Andrew Millinchip 01606 516225</p>	<p><b>"News" coordinator</b> Christine Ball 01606 593260 <a href="mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com">chrisball2022@outlook.com</a></p>
<p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Sue Whitehead 01606 852302</p>	<p><b>Mews Lettings</b> Andrew Millinchip <a href="mailto:amillinchip@gmail.com">amillinchip@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Church Flowers</b> Pam Davies 01606 557833</p>	<p><b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b> Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>

## WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month; usually, 7.15 pm for a 7.30 start, in Whitegate Recreation Room. However, the next meeting, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, is an outing to the Bickerton Poacher, for a meal, followed by a traditional game of skittles. Pre-booking is essential, so for that, contact Alison: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)



# First Thursday Café

At The  
Mews on  
Church  
Green  
Whitegate



Thursdays,  
3<sup>rd</sup> August & 7<sup>th</sup> September



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

Open 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.



# Little Budworth Methodist chapel Moody & Sankey Celebration Saturday afternoon

12th August 4.30pm

Soloist: Rev David Hill

Organist: Margaret Done

*Come along and sing some  
good old favourite hymns*

FOLLOWED WITH REFRESHMENTS  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
NO CHARGE - DONATIONS IF DESIRED

## Movies in The Mews

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Refreshments from 6.30 p.m.  
film starts at 7.00 p.m. prompt.



### THUNDERBALL (1965)

*"Peak Bond, loaded with slick action,  
great stunts and beautiful scenery"*

Written by Ian Fleming, directed by Terence Young and  
starring Sean Connery, Claudine Auger, Bernard Lee,  
Adolfo Celi & Lois Maxwell.

James Bond heads to the Bahamas to recover two nuclear  
warheads, stolen by SPECTRE agent Emilio Largo in an  
international extortion scheme.

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: 01606 593260 or [chrisball2015@gmail.com](mailto:chrisball2015@gmail.com)

## Whitegate Village Show 2023

Horticulture



Flower  
Arranging



Saturday  
9 September  
2 - 4.30 pm



(Everyone is welcome to enter - entries to be brought  
between 9 - 11 am)

Photography



at  
The Recreation Room  
(CW8 2BL)

Afternoon Teas,  
Raffle & Cake Stall

Produce



Craft

Organised by Whitegate Women's Institute Registered charity 1021683

Enquiries: tel. Alison 01606 888359

Email: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)

Schedules from St Mary's Church porch or the Station House Cafe  
or online at [www.whitegatewi.weebly.com](http://www.whitegatewi.weebly.com)

