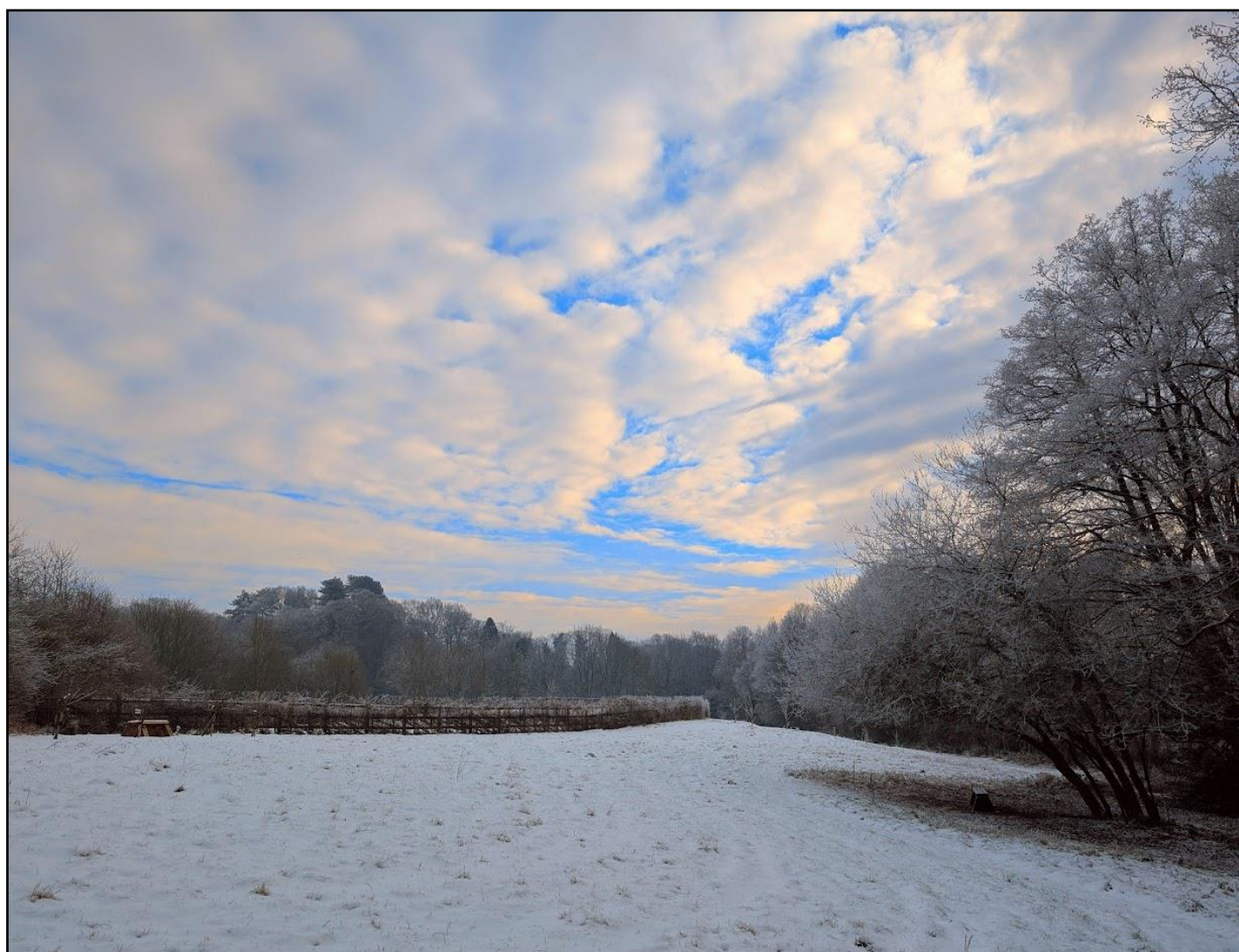


# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



## NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2025



## Our cover photo

"A winter's day, in a deep and dark December. I am alone". Many will recognise the Simon & Garfunkel song – but it wasn't December, it was January and it was bright and white, not deep and dark. As you can see, the sky held such promise. And I wasn't alone; as John Stopford's verse for February reminds us, we aren't alone.

It was a glorious walk down to Whitehead Fields and New Pool, with the snow crunchy underfoot and the hoar frost on trees and bushes sparkling in the sunshine. Despite the low temperatures, there are already signs of new growth with green shoots of snowdrops and daffodils bursting through and offering a foretaste of spring. I know that in his letter on page 3, the Vicar says he hasn't seen them, but I am writing later in January and the evidence is here.



### A verse for FEBRUARY

Psalm 23: verses 2-3

*He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

From H E Manning (1808 - 1892)

*“Out of obedience and devotion arises an habitual faith, which makes Him, though unseen, a part of all our life. He will guide us in a sure path, though it be a rough one: though shadows hang upon it, yet He will be with us. He will bring us home at last. Through much trial it may be, and weariness, in much fear and fainting of heart, in much sadness and loneliness, in griefs that the world never knows, and under burdens that the nearest never suspect. Yet He will suffice for all. By His eye or by His voice He will guide us, if we be docile and gentle; by His staff and by His rod, if we wander or are wilful: anyhow, and by all means, He will bring us to His rest.”*

For me Psalm 23 is one of the most comforting parts of our scripture and I think Cardinal Manning has captured the essence, not only of Psalm 23, but of where God and His son Jesus fit into our lives.

JTS

## FEBRUARY Diary

<b>FEB</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	7.00 for 7.30 pm	Little Budworth Race Night ( <i>see page 8</i> )	Jubilee Village Hall L.B.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30 am 2.00 for 2.30 pm	<b>Candlemas</b> Family Service Movies in The Mews: Keeping Mum ( <i>see page 8</i> )	St Mary's The Mews
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am 2.00 pm	First Thursday Café ( <i>see page 8</i> ) Mission & giving committee meeting	The Mews Marton Sands House
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Fourth Sunday before Lent</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	12.00 noon 2.00 pm	Deanery Chapter Meeting Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast ( <i>see page 8</i> ) Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Tarporley Grd'n Centre The Mews St Mary's
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am	<b>Third Sunday before Lent</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service The Vicar is at Holy Trinity Castle today	St Mary's The Mews
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting: Nostalgia Quiz	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>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	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>MAR</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Sunday before Lent</b> Family Service	St Mary's
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 4.00 – 7.00 pm	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b> Bible Study at Commonsideside Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.30 pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes	The Mews St Mary's St Mary's
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Lent 1</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's

As seen in the Diary above, we reach the beginning of Lent. Look out for posters and see the March NEWS for details of our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party on 4<sup>th</sup> March and also about the special Ash Wednesday service the following evening.

## **A message from the Vicar...**

### **February – the Tupperware month**

I really do not like February. As someone once said, living in Britain in February is like living inside a Tupperware box (other brands of food storage products are available). The skies are usually dull, the weather is cold and damp. It is the end of a long cold winter but spring seems never to come.

I am particularly miffed this year because whilst we had a brave snowdrop out at the east of St Mary's in December, and even some foolhardy daffodils flowering outside the school in the third week of Advent, all of the daffodils and snowdrops at the Vicarage seem to have drowned in the wet autumn weather. Where we would usually be seeing shoots emerging from the grass there is nothing at all.



The one redeeming factor for February is that it brings us to the Feast of Candlemas, one of my favourite festivals in the Church's year. The story is well known. Mary and Joseph go to the temple taking their newborn son to fulfil the traditions of the time. Their gift was modest, but represented Joseph's profession as a skilled craftsman, whose products were valuable in an agricultural economy. Whilst there they encounter two old people, Anna and Simeon, whose words foretell the destiny of this child, and his mother. It is a bittersweet festival. Our last look at the Crib, our first glimpse of the Cross. In our Candlemas services we dismantle our Cribs and put them away for another year. The year turns full circle once more and we mark the passage of life.

I am always mindful when we put the Crib away that some of us won't be here when it is brought out again next Advent. Part of our journey of life is to acknowledge our mortality, and to cherish the love of those with whom we have shared our days on this earth.

Simeon and Anna are fascinating people. We know very little about them, simply that they spent time in the Temple watching and waiting, trusting in God's promise of one who is to come. They got to see the Messiah, recognising in this child that which no-one else yet saw. One of my duties as a Canon of Chester Cathedral is to spend a day each month as a chaplain in the Cathedral. It is a job best described as 'loitering with intent'. Sometimes it can be a busy day with lots of conversations and people to meet. At other times it can be much quieter and there is time to idle. Idling is important. God often breaks into our lives when we are not rushing about being self-important.

Two reminders:

Firstly, our Lent series this year will be on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, in the Red Lion, Little Budworth. The theme will be hymns and their authors. I will offer a reflection on five hymns. The first one is the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, i.e. 12th March. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Secondly, please remember that our Electoral Rolls need to be renewed this year. Every six years the old Roll is closed and everyone needs to apply to be on the new Roll. If you are on the current Roll and do not apply then you will not be on the new Electoral Roll. To be a member of the Electoral Roll you need to reside within the parish (and hopefully be active in the life of the church) or if you live outside of the parish then you need to have been attending at least once a month for a period of no less than six consecutive months. Where someone is prevented from attending for good reason they can apply to join the Roll giving the reason why they are prevented from attending. Simply wanting a lie on a Sunday morning is not a good enough reason! My thanks to Jenny Marshall and Eileen Lees who are our Electoral Roll Officers. Copies of the application form are available in church. The deadline for submission is 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours

*Paul.*

## Electoral Roll



**Belong**



**Participate**



**Contribute**



## NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

### ☐ Christmas Flowers

Many thanks to everyone who gave donations towards the Christmas flowers and decorations. This year, the Christmas trees came out of Church Wood and we are grateful to Graham and Carole for their help. Jo and I were pleased to have Martine and Elaine to help with decorating the windows so beautifully.

Pam Davies

### ☐ Mid Cheshire Foodbank

Collections in church have diminished recently. If you can, please help us to support the much-valued work of the foodbank by bringing your donations down to St Mary's. The 5 items most needed at present are **tinned ham, cordial, longlife fruit juice and milk and household cleaning products**. Pam & Mike Venables will be delighted to deliver them to the warehouse. Thank you.

## □ Church Clock

Keen eyed villagers and passers-by will have seen that our church clock has been at a standstill since early in December. Those of us in the parish who wind and maintain the clock were unable to find the reason for the problem. We therefore asked the experts to come and take a look.

The engineer from The Cumbria Clock Company visited on Friday 17th January and found nothing damaged or broken. He was able to restart the clock and it continues to run. However, the striking side of the clock does not work without manual intervention.

The engineer is puzzled by this as the mechanism for making the clock strike is robust steel work. The adjustment needed is very small, approximately 1mm and until we receive his report, we don't know how this is to be achieved, nor the likely cost. I'm hoping the report will arrive by the end of January.



Deryck Petty



## Road Safety

We are pleased to report that CWAC Highways have now agreed to implementing a 20mph limit outside the school and to the installation of permanent interactive signs on Cinder Hill. It has taken a great deal of effort by many people over many years to reach this outcome and is likely to be implemented in the spring.

## Two dates for Police Surgeries

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January & Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, our PCSO, Lewis Railton will be at the Station House Café from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon to speak and answer any questions. If you have concerns, then do go along to talk to him.



## Whitegate WI

We meet at Whitegate Recreation Room (CW8 2BL) on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 start. Visitors and new members are always welcome. There is a small charge for visitors, to include refreshments.

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, we'll welcome Wendy Norway, whose talk, entitled "What's up Doc?", is about Liverpool Docks.

To see more of what we do, look at our website: [whitegatewi.weebly.com](http://whitegatewi.weebly.com)

## Contacts

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

<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>            Anne Blayney 07815 713012            Sandra Paskin 01606 882031</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary</b>            Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p>
<p><b>Curates</b>            Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802            Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293            Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970</p>	<p><b>Church Flowers</b>            Pam Davies 01606 557833</p> <p><b>Children's Worker</b>            Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>
<p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b>            Anne Blayney 07815 713012  <a href="mailto:safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com">safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>Mothers' Union</b>            Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p><b>Mews Lettings</b>            Andrew Millinchip  <a href="mailto:amillinchip@gmail.com">amillinchip@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>"News" coordinator</b>            Christine Ball 01606 593260  <a href="mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com">chrisball2022@outlook.com</a></p>
<p><b>Musical Director</b>            Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772</p>	<p><b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b>            Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b>            John Duthie  <a href="mailto:treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com">treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>Social &amp; Fundraising Group</b>            John Blayney 07964 844642</p>

**March 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> February.

# Race Night

**Saturday**  
**1<sup>st</sup> February**  
**2025**

An evening of fun, laughter & fundraising  
in Little Budworth Jubilee Village Hall

**Gates open: 7.00pm First race: 7.30pm**

Admittance by ticket only tickets: **£5.00** Children under 12 free

**licensed Bar – cash only**

Horse and race sponsorship available

Wooden horses, not videos of races!

For tickets & info please contact Anne Hall 01829 760592  
or Steve Simpson 01829 760377 [steve@s-simpson.com](mailto:steve@s-simpson.com)



In aid of St Peter's Church

## Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**  
Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.  
film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



## KEEPING MUM (2006)

**"BRITISH COMEDY AT ITS VERY BEST"**

**"SOME FAMILY SECRETS ARE BEST KEPT..... BURIED"**

Directed by Niall Johnson and starring Maggie Smith, Rowan Atkinson, Kristin Scott Thomas & Patrick Swayze.

In the country parish of Little Wallop, family life changes at the vicarage when Grace Hawkins, the new housekeeper, takes the reins.

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)

## FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews  
Church Green  
Whitegate  
CW8 2AY

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February

Come to The Mews, catch up with friends old and new & chat over tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes



10.30 am to 12.00 noon

## Men's Breakfast

Once a month, at  
Tarpoley Garden Centre

Join us for a great value  
breakfast and chat in  
friendly company

**9.00 am**

**Wednesday**  
**12<sup>th</sup> February**

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

or contact Alan Newton on  
01829 760239  
[acenewton513@gmail.com](mailto:acenewton513@gmail.com)