

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



# NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2023



## Our cover photo

There but not there. Passers-by will remember that this is the season when Tommy, our soldier figure, makes his appearance to stand guard on Church Green until after Christmas. His black, outlined shape means that he blends in with the background; it's excellent camouflage as he keeps watch. He's been with us since 2018 when we commemorated the end of World War I and as always, we'll be honouring those who died in that and other wars on the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> November with Acts of Remembrance at the Salt Mine in Meadowbank and at St Mary's.

Sadly, that "war to end all wars" has been followed by many more. Robert Palmer, killed in action in Mesopotamia (now, Iraq) wrote this poem, a plea from the heart, a prayer for peace, just months before he died. It is as apt today as it was then.

### HOW LONG, O LORD?

How long, O Lord, how long, before the flood  
Of crimson-welling carnage shall abate?  
From sodden plains in West and East the blood  
Of kindly men streams up in mists of hate,  
Polluting Thy clean air: and nations great  
In reputation of the arts that bind  
The world with hopes of Heaven, sink to the state  
Of brute barbarians, whose ferocious mind  
Gloats o'er the bloody havoc of their kind,  
Not knowing love or mercy. Lord, how long  
Shall Satan in high places lead the blind  
To battle for the passions of the strong?  
Oh, touch Thy children's hearts, that they may know  
Hate their most hateful, pride their deadliest foe.

### A verse for November

1 Kings Ch 18: vs 11-12

*Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go, stand in front of me on the mountain. I, the Lord, will pass by you." Then a very strong wind blew. The wind caused the mountains to break apart. It broke large rocks in front of the Lord. But that wind was not the Lord. After that wind, there was an earthquake. But that earthquake was not the Lord. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But that fire was not the Lord. After the fire, there was a still small voice.*

Elijah was running away. Elijah was afraid. Things were not going well for him.

Often we run away too. We avoid the deep and difficult things of life. We fill our lives with absolutely anything which can disguise our need for stillness and space. We avoid difficult interactions. We speak too much, too soon and too often, and this stops us from listening properly to those around us.

If we value silence, experiment with it, and eventually love it, we, like Elijah, begin to hear the whisper of God's still small voice of wisdom and peace, and we begin to be attentive to those we meet.

SJM

## NOVEMBER Diary

<b>NOV</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion BCP	The Mews St Mary's
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>All Saints/All Souls</b> Family Service	St Mary's
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Wedding rehearsal	The Mews St Mary's St Mary's
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	1.00 pm	Wedding of Dane Walker & Sarah Anderson	St Mary's
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Act of Remembrance	Winsford Salt Mine
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am  6.30 pm	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Parade, Service & Act of Remembrance  All Souls' Service	St Mary's & War Memorial  St Mary's
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's PCC Meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>15<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>19<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am 11.30 am	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Baptism of George Houghton	St Mary's The Mews St Mary's
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's Mothers' Union: Christmas decorations, with Pam Davies & Jo Jordan	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 3.00 pm	<b>Sunday before Advent</b> Holy Communion Children's Advent Workshop	St Mary's The Mews
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>DEC</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	3.30 pm	Whitegate School Fair	School Hall
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	5.15 pm	Whitegate Christmas Lights Switch on & Carols	Church Green & School Hall
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am 4.30 pm	<b>Advent Sunday</b> Christingle themed Family Service Christingle Service	St Mary's St Peter's
<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	Festive First Thursday Café with carols	The Mews

## November thoughts from the Vicar...

November brings us to a time rich in meanings. It is a Season of Remembrance. We mark the time of All Souls when we give thanks for the lives of the faithful departed. We come to Remembrance Sunday and stand at our War Memorials to remember the fallen. This is a public duty and one that the Church of England does well.



I was talking recently with a Naval Chaplain who was telling me how he'd fared on a training course for naval padres. Part of the course was being thrown into deep cold water and hauling themselves into a boat. My friend had struggled, twice failing to get himself out of the water and into the boat. They only got three chances for a pass.

He recalled a grim looking Marine scowling down at him clearly unimpressed by his floundering. In a broad Scottish accent he was told in no uncertain terms; "You sir – you get your \*\*\*\*\* posterior (or words to that effect) out of that \*\*\*\*\* water and into this \*\*\*\*\* boat."

It worked. Somehow he found himself sloshing about in the bottom of the boat. Battered, cold, wet, humiliated, but passing out successfully.

I asked him why he wanted to put himself through it all. His answer was quick. He valued the place a padre has in the Navy. In the Navy a chaplain holds the same rank as whoever they are speaking to. If you're talking to a stoker then you're a stoker. If you're speaking to an admiral then you're an admiral. And every rank in the Navy knows that the chaplain is there for them and what they can expect of them. The place of the padre as the representative of a different reality is valued.

On Remembrance Sunday the Church of England stands on the street in a public place and remembers those whose sacrifice kept our freedom. It is a sacred trust and a public trust. It is a time when people know what the Church is for and it is our duty and privilege to walk between two worlds.

When I was a newly ordained curate we had to attend training sessions at Liverpool Cathedral. A mad old canon told us that people come towards the church "sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying." He told us the Church's job was to give them a glimpse of heaven, and let them go back into the world with a glimmer of hope.

He may have been mad, indeed the bishop sacked him soon afterwards, but in that moment he imparted a priceless lesson. The Church is not here for the Church. The Church is a fragile and often failing institution which exists

to stand on the street pointing towards glory. It is a sign, pointing beyond itself, towards a reality not of this world.

Of course most of the time most of the people are too busy to notice that towards which we point. So forgive me if I make my annual plea as we draw towards Advent. In a world that contains so much suffering and sadness we are quick to rush towards messages of joy. So Christmas trees go up in November and we want to sing carols as soon as it is December. But if we rush towards Christmas we forget about Advent. If we do so we miss something important.

We need a season of waiting, of watching, of making ready. This is of course difficult. Our instinct is usually to avoid the difficult things. Sometimes we need to hear the voice of an irate Scottish Marine, just because it's difficult doesn't mean we ought to give up.

Paul.

PS I remember being on duty at HMS Excellent and coming to the end of parade. We saluted, turned and marched smartly off. A short while later a message came down from on high. "A reminder, gentlemen – that in the Navy, padres never march off parade. They glide."

## **NOVEMBER NEWS FROM ST MARY'S**

### **☐ Spiders homeless following the BIG Clean**

Thank you to everyone who turned out to wash, scrape, dust, polish and trim in the church and churchyard recently. It was a great team effort, with many long-lost items uncovered along with the spiders, that hadn't seen the light of day for years. Particular thanks also to Chris Newton and Pam Davies, who had prepared a delicious lunch for all, bringing everyone together in The Mews at the end of their labours. Do not feel sorry for the arachnids, who will doubtless already have found new accommodation.



## □ **Spring forward, fall back**

The clocks have gone back and from now until the end of March St Mary's Church will be floodlit in the evenings. Not only does it make a glorious focal point in the centre of the village at night, but it makes walking through the churchyard much safer in the dark. Would you like to help St Mary's by



sponsoring the floodlighting for one of the winter weeks, perhaps in memory of a loved one? The cost is £30 per week and there's a list of dates on the board in church; just sign your name against one of the weeks and put your donation, marked "floodlighting" into the collection plate. Alternatively, just contact Alan Newton: [acenewton513@gmail.com](mailto:acenewton513@gmail.com) or phone him on 01829 760239.

## □ **Update on Whitehead Fields**

Volunteers from church, school and parish have prepared the ground and are planting around 3000 bulbs that will offer a burst of colour through the spring and early summer. Saplings are arriving shortly, to fill in gaps in the hedgerows. It's a work in progress and we thank everyone who has given their time so willingly. If you feel you could help, then contact Elaine Campbell: [banksnbraes@gmail.com](mailto:banksnbraes@gmail.com) or phone 07896 779962.

## □ **Children's Advent Workshop**

In The Mews, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00 pm. There'll be a story, crafts and tea for young ones – and their supporters! Book with Teresa Finney: [tivvyfinney@hotmail.com](mailto:tivvyfinney@hotmail.com) or phone 01606 889311.



## □ **Early December dates for your diary... (for more detail, see page 8)**

- Whitegate Christmas Lights Switch-on: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Movies in The Mews: **Nativity 2**, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2.00-for 2.30pm.
- Gentlemen's Dinner: Red Lion Little Budworth, Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, 6.00-for 6.30pm.
- Festive First Thursday Café: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am.
- Men's breakfast: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

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

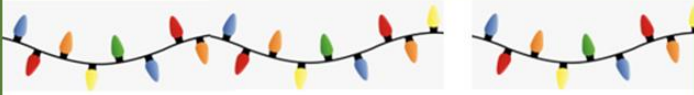
## ☐ Contacts

*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>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>Treasurer</b>            John Duthie 01606 889836</p> <p><b>Children's Worker</b>            Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>
<p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b>            Sue Whitehead 01606 852302</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>Church Flowers</b>            Pam Davies 01606 557833</p>	<p><b>Social &amp; Fundraising Group</b>            John Blayney 07964 844642</p>

## WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month; 7.15 pm for 7.30 start, in Whitegate Recreation Room. On 1<sup>st</sup> November we'll be holding our AGM & Supper. To know more, contact Alison: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)



## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**5.15 pm on Church Green**

Whitegate & Marton Parish Council invite you to

- ★ Switch on Christmas Tree lights
- ★ Carols round the tree
- ★ Refreshments in School Hall



## Movies in The Mews

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.

Film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



## NATIVITY 2

(2012)

*"A funny, feel-good, festive treat"*

Written & directed by Debbie Isitt and starring David Tennant, Marc Wooten, Jason Watkins, Joanna Page & Jessica Hines

A worried new teacher has to juggle a pregnant wife and a class of children on a road trip to the National 'Song for Christmas' Competition.

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)



Join us for a Christmas special

## Festive First Thursday Café

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
10.30 am - 12.00 noon

For coffee & mince pies and  
carols & Christmas cheer!

The Mews, Church Green,  
WHITEGATE

## Gentlemen's Christmas Dinner

Join us for  
**festive** fare  
in  
**convivial**  
company

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

The Red Lion  
Little Budworth

6.00 for 6.30 pm

To book,  
contact



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