

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2024



Our cover photo

The original owners of Church Wood, Paul and Betty Harrison, have been remembered with a plaque on the newly made wooden bench which was made and installed, at the top of the wood, by Church Wood members.

The photograph has members of the group and three generations of the Harrison's family in celebration of the new bench and plaque for the woodland.

The Church Wood Conservation Group always welcomes new volunteers to come along and join their working party. They meet on the second Saturday of each month. Contact Rob Woodall for more details: robwoodall@icloud.com

A verse for OCTOBER

Mark Ch 12: verses 14-15

Is it right to pay the Imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?

If ever there is an obviously God-given resource then surely it is rain. But water can be a good or bad thing - good water falls on catchment areas, flows into reservoirs, gets treated and we end up paying for it to come out of our taps - or even in bottles in shops.

But there is also the water that falls everywhere else, waters our gardens and crops, helps the sale of umbrellas, ruins some people's holidays, swells our rivers, causes floods and brings even more temporary traffic lights onto our roads. This water is free at the point of delivery - even if there is a charge to remove the excess which may not be popular.

Jesus was asked - to whom should people pay their taxes? It was like us asking: to whom we should pay our Water charges. Here we pay them to United Utilities who also charge us for disposing of an equivalent volume of waste - but the water companies have a very poor reputation for that.

In Jesus' time taxes were paid to the Romans, who were the unpopular occupying power, as well as to the Temple. Jesus' response was to ask for a coin. On one side was the head of Caesar and on the other a Latin inscription. He asked his questioners: "Whose portrait is this?" and "Whose inscription?" to which they replied "Caesar's". Jesus replied, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's".

For us it is more complex. In both cases God and man are working together - even if we do not realise it. So we can happily thank God for our water, and pray for and pay those who treat and deliver it to us.

JRC

OCTOBER Diary

1st	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge	L.B. Methodist Chapel
2nd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
3rd	10.30 am 1.00 pm 2.00 pm	First Thursday Café Setting up for Harvest Fabric & Churchyard Committee meeting	The Mews St Mary's Marton Sands House
4th	7.00 pm	Harvest Songs of Praise	St Peter's
6th	9.30 am	Harvest Sunday Harvest Festival Family Service	St Mary's
7th	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Whitegate School Harvest Service Joint Standing Committee meeting	St Mary's The Mews
8th	12.00 noon 12.00 noon 2.00 pm	Deanery Chapter meeting Rural Ministry meeting Bible Study at Commonsidge	L.B. Methodist Chapel
9th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
11th	7.15 pm	Harvest Supper at Whitegate (<i>see page 8</i>)	Whitegate School Hall
13th	9.30 am 2.00 pm for 2.30 start	Trinity 20 Holy Communion N.B. Vicar at Holy Trinity Castle today Movies in The Mews: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (<i>see page 8</i>)	St Mary's The Mews
14th	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod	Davenham
15th	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
16th	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
20th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Trinity 21 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service N.B. Vicar at Holy Trinity Castle today	St Mary's The Mews
22nd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge	L.B. Methodist Chapel
23rd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
24th	Meet 10.30 am for 10.45 start	Whitegate Amblers (<i>see page 8</i>)	The Plough, Beauty Bank
27th	Clocks go back 9.30 am 4.30 pm	Last Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion Choral Evensong (<i>see page 8</i>)	St Mary's St Mary's
29th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge	L.B. Methodist Chapel
30th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
31st	2.00 pm	Mission & Giving committee meeting	Marton Sands House
NOV 3rd	9.30 am	All Saints Family Service	St Mary's

October thoughts from the Vicar

As we moved into the autumn summer seems to fade away. One of my enduring memories of summer 2024 was cycling around Norfolk. There were some wonderful discoveries. A colony of seals on a quiet section of beach well away from places where cars could get to. Woodforde's Brewery where they make Nelson's Revenge, a particularly wonderful pint (though they had actually run out of beer the day we went ☹️). A couple on a beautiful sailing boat up Horsey Windpump; they had spent years building it at home and were on their maiden voyage. And the many rural churches scattered across the landscape.



All of the churches were open which was a pleasant surprise. Just before Covid we were moving to keeping our churches open. This is something we haven't come back to largely because of reduced capacity since the pandemic. The Norfolk rural economy used to be very healthy which accounts for the large number of small (and some not so small) churches often situated miles from anywhere.

Most of the churches were only used for public worship once a month and sometimes less. Some were clearly loved and were kept in very good condition. There is something wonderful about a small simple church that people cherish and keep in good order. One of the things that always interests me is the stone step at the church door. We call the step at the door a threshold from the days when the threshed stalks from the harvest were scattered on the floors. There was a raised lip at the door to keep the stalks in place, hence the term 'threshold'.

It is the deep curve of a worn step that always intrigues me. It speaks of countless generations of people who have used that church and walked through the doorway. Each person, each step, leaves a mark. Imperceptible by any one individual but as a community over time their feet tell a story.

We are moving towards a season of remembrance. In November we hold our annual Remembrance Sunday services remembering those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy. How we hold those services changed over the pandemic. We are still rediscovering how best to meet the needs of the wider community in marking remembering the fallen.

It is also the time when we hold our All Souls service. At St Peter's it is on 3rd November, at St Mary's 10th November. Both at 6.30pm. We will read out the names of those who have died over the past year. We also invite people to include the names of family and friends. These are the company of saints whose lives leave impressions. Like the many feet whose passage is told in a worn stone threshold each life makes a difference.

If you have names you would like to be read, please let us know in good time. You can post or email them to me at the vicarage. Just make sure you do so before 19th October as I shall be away from the desk between then and the first All Souls service.

Thank you

Paul.



OCTOBER NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

□ Harvest Festival

As the Diary shows, St Mary's will celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October. Those decorating the church and porch would like to receive donations of fresh fruit and veg, together with tinned, longlife groceries, on Saturday morning, 5th October, from 9.30 onwards. After the weekend, some of the goods will be put into baskets, delivered to those in the parish who don't get out to shop. The groceries will be donated to Mid Cheshire Foodbank. They are at present particularly short of: **jam, long life fruit juice and milk, coffee, jelly, rice pudding, custard, tinned/mashed potatoes & instant noodle meals.** Please keep these items in mind when shopping for your donations. Thank you.

□ Whitegate Amblers

In September, the walkers had an excellent outing from Anderton, along the canal and through Marbury Park, all in glorious sunshine. Some of us even found time to finish with a drink at the Spinner & Bergamot.

The October walk (details on back page,) will be the last until April. Walkers are invited to meet at The Plough on Beauty Bank and head off from there. The plan is to round off this very successful first season of Whitegate Amblers with lunch at The Plough at the end of the walk. Walkers who are lunching can park at the pub. Anyone not



able to stay for lunch is asked to park across the road in the overflow car park behind the former Methodist Chapel. New walkers are always welcome. It's a great chance for a breath of fresh air, some exercise and a good chat!

□ Choral Evensong

Evening services at St Mary's have not featured regularly in the calendar since before Covid but the tradition of Choral Evensong is a glorious one and a well-loved feature of our Anglican heritage. The service held in June was much enjoyed by musicians, clergy and congregation, so Andrew Millinchip and the choir have begun rehearsals for another, on 27th October at 4.30 pm.

O nata lux de lumine (O light born of light) is a Latin text that has been set to music by many composers over the centuries. Evensong in October will feature that Introit, set to music composed by our organist and choirmaster, Andrew Millinchip, as well as an anthem, Be Thou My Vision, by Bob Chilcott and other fine music. Do put the date in your diary and join us for this service.

□ Exhibition at Chester Cathedral: 7th October – 8th November 2024

Trena Cox: Reflections 100 is an exploration through exhibition and art of the legacy of one of Chester's unsung heroines.

Trena Cox (1895-1980) made an enduring commitment to Chester, living and working in the city throughout her long career as a professional female stained-glass artist. Her designs can be found at over 60 venues in the Northwest and North Wales and at a number of locations further afield.

Visit this exhibition to learn about her incredible life and to see her art in situ, in Chester Cathedral.

WHITEGATE WI

On Wednesday 2nd October, 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start, we meet in the Recreation Room for a Bullrush Weaving Demo, with Paula Madej.

Visitors to our meetings are always welcome for a taster session. We just ask for a small fee, to cover refreshments. Come along, or get in touch first with Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com



We featured last month an item about the parish council's special newsletter, urging us all to make contact with CWAC, our local councillors and our MP to voice our concerns about the state of the road surfaces and the speed of traffic through the village.

The latest report on the W&MPC website states that a meeting was scheduled in September with the newly elected MP for Mid Cheshire, Andrew Cooper. We look forward to hearing feedback from the meeting.

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>Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com</p>	<p>Churchwardens Anne Blayney 01606 74020 Sandra Paskin 01606 882031</p> <p>PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p>
<p>Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970</p>	<p>Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833</p> <p>Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>
<p>Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</p>	<p>Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p>Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com</p>	<p>"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com</p>
<p>Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772</p>	<p>Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>
<p>Treasurer John Duthie treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com</p>	<p>Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642</p>

November NEWS: Comments and contributions for the next edition of the Monthly NEWS are always welcome. Please send copy to chrisball2022@outlook.com by 15th October.

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH WHITEGATE

Harvest Supper



Join us for a delicious 2 course meal followed by tea or coffee along with musical entertainment and a raffle

Friday 11TH October in Whitegate School Hall
TICKETS £17 - 7:15pm start
(Doors open from 7.00pm)

To book, please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard in church or contact Elaine Campbell (07896779962) or John Blayney (07964844642) johnblayney2@gmail.com.

Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate
Sunday 13th October 2024
Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.
film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023)

"A REMINDER THAT YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO TAKE A CHANCE"
"A BRILLIANT, GENTLE FILM"

Adapted from the best-selling book by Rachel Joyce and directed by Hettie Macdonald. The film stars two "greats" of British stage and screen, Penelope Wilton and Jim Broadbent.

An unremarkable man sets off on a remarkable journey, driven on by the belief that he really can make a difference. It's a story of rediscovery – and transformation.

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

Join us for CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, 27th October

4.30 pm at
St Mary's Whitegate



Whitegate Amblers

October - The Plough Inn -Whitegate

Please join us for our monthly walk starting from and returning to The Plough Inn. You may like to join us afterwards there for a light lunch and a chat as it is our last walk this year. We restart in April. If interested please text, phone or just turn up on the day. If you need a lift from Whitegate Church please let me know. ***Note the later start time***

Date: Thursday 24th October

Time: Meet 10:30 -Walk starts 10:45 (approx 1 ½ hr)

Start: The Plough Inn, Beauty Bank, Whitegate, Northwich ,CW8 2BP.

Description: Easy Walk along lanes and possibly muddy tracks returning along the Whitegate way. No Stiles.

Notes: We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control at all times. Toilets in pub. For more Information call John Blayney (07964844642)

