

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



## NEWS FOR JULY 2025



## Our cover photo

This month, we offer you a rescue story; one that must have been an even greater joy for the badger cub than it was for the rescuers. Early on the morning of Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Andy Thomson & Wayne Pearce arrived on Whitehead Fields. Their aim was to start setting up for that day's Barbecue Brunch, the planned celebration of the work carried out to create the beautiful haven of peace which the area within and around the new burial ground has become, for both humans and wildlife.

Andy heard scuffling and screaming behind him, and turned to see a badger cub, caught in the chain-link wire fencing alongside the mower store. Fortunately, Wayne had multiple tools with him and he and Andy were able to free the young creature. It appears he had come to no great harm, for being more terrified than injured, the animal, after posing for this photo with Andy, scuttled off in the direction of the sett.

As Andy later said, "That was one amazing way to start the day".

And the day continued well. The BBQ Brunch brought together around 50 people to explore the paths leading down to the stream and the newly dug pond, check for sightings of the ducklings, frogs and water voles, sit for a spot of meditation or reflection on the benches and enjoy drinks, burgers and hot dogs, strawberries, cream and scones, and all in great company. A group even stayed into the evening, enjoying the tranquillity, the setting and the sunshine.

If you haven't already explored the area around the new graveyard, then take a walk down. There are benches sited here and there alongside the young trees and mown paths that lead to the stream and the pond.

A verse for JULY

Psalm 23: verse 6

***"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."***

This verse from a much-loved psalm is a powerful declaration of faith, and a promise of God's unwavering love and protection, extending from our earthly life to our eternal dwelling with Him. The second line speaks of the joy and comfort of being close to God, both during this life and in eternity. It suggests a deep and abiding relationship with God, where he is the ultimate home and source of security. Whilst the verb *follow* in the first line reminds us that God is always with us wherever we go, for many of us, going into a church building is a special moment, when we have a particular sense of God's presence.

SJM

## JULY Diary

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>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	First Thursday Café ( <i>See page 8</i> )	The Mews
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Saint Thomas the Apostle</b> Family Service	St Mary's
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>9<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 G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 4</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>16<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>	9.30 am 9.30 am	<b>Trinity 5</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	8.50 meet for 9.00 departure 2.00 pm	Mothers' Union half day outing  Bible Study at Commonsideside	Foxhill House & Gardens near Frodsham L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	9.45 am meet for 10.00 am start	Whitegate Amblers walk ( <i>See page 8 for details of circuit</i> )	The Mews
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 6</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Mission & Giving group meeting	Marton Sands House
<b>AUG 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am 2.00 for 2.30 pm	<b>Trinity 7</b> Morning Prayer Movies in The Mews	St Mary's The Mews
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<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	The Mews
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 8</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's

□ **August 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> July.

## The Vicar's letter for July

I am currently trapped and can go nowhere. Men in orange boilersuits are digging up Cinder Hill and I am not allowed out. I did wonder whether referring them to the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 would grant me safe passage, but they are only doing their job. I'm not sure the provision of section 36 of the 1861 legislation is fair to invoke.



Lest by some chance you are not familiar with the Offences Against the Person Act allow me to enlighten you with regard to Section 36:

"Whosoever shall, by threats or force, obstruct or prevent or endeavour to obstruct or prevent, any clergyman or other minister in or from celebrating divine service or otherwise officiating in any church, chapel, meeting house, or other place of divine worship, or in or from the performance of his duty in the lawful burial of the dead in any churchyard or other burial place, or shall strike or offer any violence to, or shall, upon any civil process, or under the pretence of executing any civil process, arrest any clergyman or other minister who is engaged in, or to the knowledge of the offender is about to engage in, any of the rites or duties in this section aforesaid, or who to the knowledge of the offender shall be going to perform the same or returning from the performance thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years."

Mind you, I do think we ought to invoke Section 35 more frequently, it referring to "Drivers of carriages injuring persons by furious driving." The standard of driving has of late become increasingly reckless.

Anyway, back to my forced idleness, which is a good thing. The principle of the Sabbath comes from Genesis, that God worked six days and rested on the seventh. That society had a day of rest allowed for re-creation. It was time that could not be spent doing all the things that are done on the other six days. One of the greatest acts of vandalism foisted upon this nation was the introduction of Sunday trading. We lost a day when the default position was a day of enforced rest. In the many years that have followed no clear benefits have emerged and much has been lost.

You will be aware that from July to September I shall be taking a sabbatical which comes from the same principle as the Sabbath. In theory clergy are meant to take a sabbatical every seven years. I have been remiss as my last one was in 2005. Amongst the many benefits of taking time out is a reminder that no-one is indispensable. Clergy live 'on the job' and some fall into the habit of thinking the world would come to a standstill if they aren't available. This can be disastrous when the time comes for them to retire. As a former



rural dean I had to sometimes pick up the pieces when a newly retired priest moved into a parish and forgot they had set their responsibilities aside. For good reasons the Diocese of Chester will not grant a retired priest permission to officiate for at least six months.

Some time ago I read an article by a Baptist minister (who I later bumped into during one of my days as duty chaplain at Chester Cathedral) who advised clergy to take a sabbatical a year or so before they retire. It is good for the vicar to step aside and discover the sky doesn't fall down. It is a chance for parishes to discover the skills they need to learn before a vacancy begins.

I have undertaken a couple of sabbaticals over the past forty years. One took me to Zambia to do some work for USPG. Another was spent studying the Old Testament using the rich resources at the Gladstone Library at Hawarden. They were busy, this time it is letting go of busy-ness.

I am immensely thankful for this opportunity and for those who will cover all that needs to be done over the next three months. The summer months are usually (but not always) the quietest time in parish life. I know things are in good hands.

Sometimes days of enforced idleness feel like an imposition. People get cross when the road is dug up and you can't get out. But if we feel that way we need to step back and realise they can be a gift. Especially when you have a letter to write for the parish magazine.....

Yours

*Paul.*



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

### **☐ Changes at the Treasury**

You may have noticed that contact details recently changed for the Treasurer at St Mary's. Gary Chadwick and Sarah Campbell-Woodward were appointed at the PCC meeting that followed the APCM and will go forward sharing both the role and the treasurer's email address. We thank them for taking it on and will support them in every way we can as they get used to the system.

John Duthie had managed the job expertly for several years but needed to step down as, with his new wife, Sue, he is leaving the parish for pastures new. We thank him very much for all he did for us, not only during his time as treasurer but in all the other jobs he took on during more than 35 years in Whitegate. Over the years, Churchwarden and Organist were his other big title roles and he executed them with dedication and skill, but more than that, with his late wife, Ann, he has been a huge supporter of St Mary's in every way and we wish him every happiness in the future.

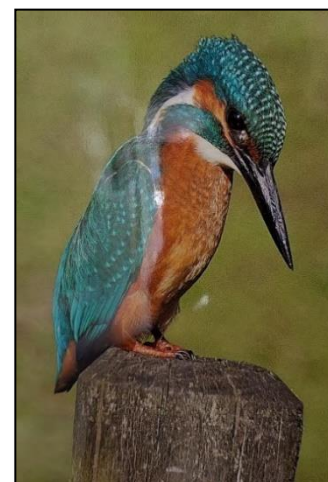
## ❑ **Christian Aid update**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the recent Christian Aid Week campaign. We collected £334.76 which has been sent in from St Mary's Whitegate. As you can imagine, through war, tyranny, climate change and uneven distribution of wealth in the world, the need is ever present and we are confident that Christian Aid will use our contributions wisely.



## ❑ **Advance warning - Photos needed**

I hope that you are enjoying the exhibition of bird photos in The Mews. It will be in place until the end of November. From Advent onwards there will be a new exhibition entitled "The House of the Lord". We are looking for photos of churches or cathedrals, inside or outside, in this country or across the globe, and we are hoping that as many members of the local community as possible will be able to contribute.



Please send the photo digitally as an attachment to Jane Millinchip by email: [revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com](mailto:revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com)

Please ensure that the definition of the photos is high enough to allow them to be enlarged to A4. The deadline is the end of October.

Jane Millinchip

## ❑ **Mid Cheshire Foodbank**

Please don't forget the foodbank collection in church. As the school holidays approach, it would be good to boost our donations of biscuits, fruit squash, tinned meats, long-life fruit juice and long-life milk. Just pop your groceries in the box by the choir vestry. Thank you.



## **WHITEGATE WI**

The WI is once again organising the **Whitegate Village Show** – this year on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Entries are welcome from everyone in the community. There's a poster with details on page 8 and the schedule of classes you can enter is available in the Church Porch, Station House Café or from [whitegatewi.weebly.com](http://whitegatewi.weebly.com)

There are classes for gardeners, artists, photographers, bakers, flower arrangers and all types of crafty people. At just 50p per class to enter (entries by children are FREE), it doesn't cost a lot to show off your talent. Which classes will you enter this year?

## Contacts

**N. B. Our vicar, the Reverend Canon Paul Dawson, will be on sabbatical leave between 01.07.25 and 30.09.25. During this time please contact our curate, the Reverend Margaret Byrne. See contact details below.**

<b>Vicar</b> Rev Canon Paul Dawson The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH	<b>Churchwardens</b> Anne Blayney      07815 713012 Sandra Paskin      01606 882031 <b>PCC Secretary</b> Roger Wilkes      01606 75738
<b>Curates</b> <b>Rev Margaret Byrne      07368 375970</b> <b><u>revmargaret1@hotmail.com</u></b> Rev Dr John Stopford      01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip      07981 981293	<b>Church Flowers</b> Pam Davies      01606 557833 <b>Children's Worker</b> Teresa Finney      01606 889311
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Anne Blayney      07815 713012 <u>safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com</u>	<b>Mothers' Union</b> Eileen Lees      01606 786895
<b>Mews Lettings</b> Andrew Millinchip <u>amillinchip@gmail.com</u>	<b>"News" coordinator</b> Christine Ball      01606 593260 <u>chrisball2022@outlook.com</u>
<b>Musical Director</b> Andrew Millinchip      07821 810772	<b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b> Alan Newton      01829 760239
<b>Treasurers</b> Gary Chadwick      07590 999169 Sarah Campbell Woodward      01829 760438 <u>treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com</u>	<b>Social &amp; Fundraising Group</b> John Blayney      07964 844642

Please note that in this online edition of the NEWS, many contacts prefer us only to show their phone number. If you need to e-mail them, please call them first to ask for the address.



# FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews  
Church  
Green  
Whitegate  
CW8 2AY

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Come to The Mews, catch up with old friends & meet new ones. Chat over tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes.



Everyone welcome!  
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  
9<sup>th</sup> July**

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)



## Whitegate Amblers

Come and join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around Whitegate Village. You can let us know you are coming by text or phone or just turn up on the day. This month we have two walks in one. Both with no stiles. You can decide on which to do when you arrive.

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

**Time:** Meet 09:45 - walk starts 10:00 (approx. 2 ½ hrs)

**Start:** Church Mews at Whitegate Village Green (CW8 2AY)

**Description:** 2 separate walks A and B, both start & finish at the Mews and meet up half way for drinks at Whitegate station.

A) Shorter walk is 2.5 miles. We share cars to village recreation room then walk Sandy lane to Whitegate station and time for a coffee before return to Rec room for car share to Mews.

B) Longer walk for fast walkers is 5 miles - Start Mews and walk via Grange Lane and Whitegate way to Whitegate station and return Sandy Lane to Mews.

**Notes:** We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control all the times. Toilets at Whitegate station carpark. Some may like to have a coffee at the station cafe. For more Info call John Blayney (07964844642)



## Whitegate Village Show 2025

Horticulture



Flower Arranging



**Saturday  
30 August  
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 07719184747

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)

