

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR JUNE 2026

**2026 WHITEGATE
MUSIC FESTIVAL**
@ WHITEGATE VILLAGE GREEN

**SATURDAY
27 JUNE
2PM TIL 7PM**

**LIVE
BANDS
BBQ
&
BAR**

Adults £10
[£12.50 ON THE DAY]

Teenagers 12+ £5
[£6 ON THE DAY]

Kids under 12 FREE

Free Face Painting

FOR TICKETS, SCAN QR CODE OR CONTACT
JOHN BLAYNEY 07964 844642

Limited chairs available: so feel free to bring along
your own chair or picnic rug.

Note: children must be supervised at all times.

profits to fund St Mary's Church repairs.

Our cover photo

On Saturday 27th June, Church Green will welcome back the Whitegate Music Festival, now in its fourth year and bigger than ever. Starting earlier to encourage families and young children, there'll be more talent on stage, as well as the favourites, whom regulars know and love. The barbecue will be lit earlier and the bar open all afternoon, tea and cakes in abundance and there's to be a wider range of activities for children.

It's a huge event in the life of the community, so get a group of family and/or friends together and come on down. It will be open from 2.00 – 7.00 pm and tickets are just £10 if you book in advance (£12.50 on the day), Teens age 12+ just £5.00 (£6 on the day) and Children 11 & under are FREE.

It'll be TOO GOOD to miss – and after all, there's no Glastonbury this year!



A verse for June

Philippians Chapter 2:v 4

Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

If you truly want to be happy in life, you've got to care about the needs of those around you and move the focus away from yourself. Why? Because life is not all about you (in spite of what the adverts tell you).

Most people don't get up in the morning and give their first thought to how someone else is doing. They're often only concerned about their own problems. And that's why so many people are unhappy with their lives. Thinking only about yourself eventually leads to misery.

Instead of dwelling on yourself or grieving missed opportunities, spend your energy thinking about how others are doing. That's where you'll find happiness – in serving God through serving others.

TMF

June Diary

2nd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge	L.B. Methodist Chapel
3rd	10.00 am 12.00 noon 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Rural Ministry Network	The Mews St Mary's
4th	10.30 am 4.00 pm	First Thursday Café - <i>see page 5</i> Communications group meeting	The Mews The Mews
6th	2.00 pm	Little Budworth Village Fete	
7th	9.30 am	Trinity 1 Family Jam Jar Festival Service – <i>bring a jar with flowers from garden or hedgerow</i>	St Mary's
8th	7.30 pm	Parish Safeguarding Officers' Meeting	
9th	2.00 pm 5.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge School Governors' Meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel Whitegate School
10th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon 6.45 pm	Men's Breakfast – <i>see page 5</i> Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) 150 years of Mothers Union: Deanery event	Blakemere Village Restaurant The Mews St Mary's St Chad's Church, Over
11th	10.00 – 1.00pm	Ladies' Summer Brunch – <i>see page 5</i>	The Badger, Church Minshull
14th	9.30 am 2.00 pm 4.00 pm 7.00 pm	Trinity 2 Holy Communion Summer Recital – <i>see page 8</i> Deanery Songs of Praise Vale Royal Strings – Music for a Summer's Evening – <i>with a Murder ... - see page 8</i>	St Mary's St Peter's St Chad's Church, Over Great Hall, Vale Royal Abbey
16th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge	L.B. Methodist Chapel
17th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
18th	9.45 am meet 7.00 pm	Whitegate Amblers – <i>see page 8 for meet & route details</i> Archdeacon's Visitation	Bluebell Cottage Garden carpark. (WA4 4HP) All Saints, Daresbury
21st	9.30 am 9.30 am	Trinity 3 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
23rd	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge Pastoral & Fellowship Committee meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel Dairy Cottage
24th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
27th	2.00 – 7.00pm	Whitegate Music Festival <i>see pp 1&2</i>	Church Green
28th	9.30 am	Trinity 4 Holy Communion	St Mary's
29th	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner – <i>see page 8</i>	The Plough, Whitegate
30th	2.00 pm 5.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsidge School Governors' Meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel Whitegate School
JULY 1st	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
2nd	10.30 am	First Thursday Café – <i>see page 5</i>	The Mews

June letter from the Vicar...

"Consider the lilies of the fields...."

June begins with our Family Service Jam Jar Flower Festival. We invite everyone to bring a simple flower arrangement in a jam jar to place around our churches. June is the month of the longest day, it is a time for us to take a longer look at ourselves and our world.

There is a story in the commentary on the Rule of St Benedict about two monks. I shall tell it as it is written.

It is a Zen story of two monks walking down a muddy, rain-logged road on the way back to their monastery after a morning of begging. They saw a beautiful young girl standing beside a large deep puddle unable to get across without ruining her clothes. The first monk, seeing the situation, offered to carry the girl to the other side, though monks had nothing whatsoever to do with women. The second monk was astonished by the act but said nothing about it for hours. Finally, at the end of the day, he said to his companion, "I want to talk to you about that girl." And the first monk said, "Dear brother, are you still carrying that girl? I put her down hours ago."



Our Jam Jar Flower Festival reminds us of Jesus words about the things we carry in our hearts and minds. The burdens we impose upon our souls. Benedict tells his community that the things we cannot let go of poison and corrode our souls. We blind ourselves to the beauty that is around us, we hold onto things that so fill our hearts, hands and minds, that we cannot grasp gifts set before us.

The song goes, "Don't worry – be happy." But it is not as simple as that. Letting go of things doesn't just happen and is not easy to do. It takes a conscious effort to set down things we cannot change, to look at ourselves anew, to

see God's presence in our world and in those around us.

One of Benedict's principles is that sometimes a member of the community may be given a task they feel is completely beyond them. What should they do? His advice is to accept that maybe someone else has seen in you a capacity you have not recognised in yourself. So, he says, in humility, gentleness and obedience, get on with it.

An old Jewish proverb says, "When you have no choice, don't be afraid." This may sound hard but think of the times in life when we have drawn back from something because we doubt our abilities. How often is it the case that as young people we dared to try something just because a teacher, a parent, an employer, a Scout or Guide leader, a friend, thought we were more capable than we saw of ourselves? God sees our best possible selves, and calls us towards his vision of us.

In the simplicity of flowers Jesus told his friends to look for the beauty within themselves. "You," he said, "are worth so much more."

Paul.

PS – Thinking of flowers, the flower arrangers' shed at St Mary's has succumbed to an excess of anno domini and has reached the end of its days. A new shed will be delivered (flat packed) during the first week of June.

On Thursday 4th June we need a small team of volunteers to dismantle the old shed and erect the new one. Starting from 9.00am please. We will join the First Thursday Café for refreshments.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ Ladies' Summer Brunch

Thursday 11th June 10.30 – 1.00 pm

The Badger, Church Minshull

£18.00 per head

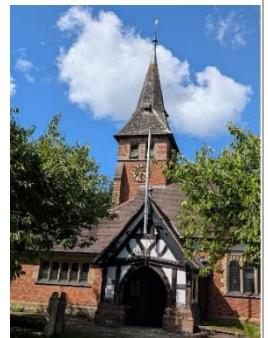
To book, sign up in St Mary's & pay Chris Newton or Pam Davies

☐ Men's Breakfast

A great number of regulars gathered in May for the first breakfast at Blakemere Village Restaurant. It was much enjoyed by all and, as a result, the next Men's Breakfast will be held there, on Wednesday 10th June, meeting at 9.00am for a delicious full English. Book your place by signing the list at St Mary's or St Peter's, or email acenewton513@gmail.com

☐ First Thursday Café

With so many events in and around the parish this month, we are tight for space and can't put the usual First Thursday poster on the back page – but rest assured, the Café will be open from 10.30 – 12.00 on Thursdays 4th June and 2nd July. Don't miss this opportunity to catch up with friends old and new, and a choice of scrumptious home-made cakes.



□ **New “NEWS” Coordinator needed**

As many readers will know, Chris & Andrew Ball are set to move away so the Monthly NEWS, as prepared and published for the last four years, can't continue unless someone steps in to take on the job.

It doesn't have to be in the same format; it doesn't have to look exactly the same as it does now. But as we found after COVID, there is a need for a regular bulletin of some sort, to keep everyone up to date with events and developments in the parish. That will be all the more important in the vacancy that will commence when Paul Dawson retires and he and Fiona move away.

Could you consider pulling the NEWS together? If so, or if you'd simply like to know more about it, please speak to Chris or to Anne Blayney or Sandra Paskin.

□ **Mothers' Union celebrates 150 years**

It is 150 years since Mary Sumner founded this remarkable organisation. Not always well understood, it is a member-led Christian, global organisation that exists to transform lives, through faith, community and action. The members do much more than simply meet once a month to chat over a cup of tea, important though that is for fellowship.



To celebrate this 150th anniversary, members here in Middlewich Deanery are organising on Wednesday, 10th June, an Information Evening at St Chad's Church, Over, Winsford. Members, friends (male or female,) and all who are interested in finding out more about just what Mothers' Union achieves, in Chester Diocese and much further afield are invited to attend. The event will start at 6.45 with refreshments on arrival. There'll be informative talks from members of the Trustees and a Guest Speaker, Rev Geoff, known to many as a former Radio Stoke presenter. Look out for our posters on notice boards at church and The Mews.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Don't forget that St Mary's Church Whitegate is registered with easyfundraising. If you sign up, then each time you buy online, from many different shops and businesses, St Mary's will receive a small donation AT NO COST TO YOU! Sign up to support us at <https://tinyurl.com/mubythrp> or scan this QR code.



□ **Weekly Reading Sheets: www.stmaryswhitegate.org/**

Readings and prayers for June services are on the website. Each service sheet contains the readings and prayers specific to that Sunday. If you don't see the sheets straight away on the Home page, click on the Blog button, top right.

Contacts:

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.

Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com	Churchwardens Anne Blayney 07815 713012 Sandra Paskin 07950 125791 PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738
Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07891 981293	Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833 Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311
Safeguarding Officer Anne Blayney 07815 713012 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com	Mothers' Union The contact role for Mothers' Union is VACANT at present. Would any of the members be prepared to do that job?
Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip mewsbookingswhitegate@gmail.com	"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239
Treasurers Gary Chadwick 07590 999169 Sarah Campbell Woodward 01829 760438 treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com	Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642

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



VALE ROYAL STRING ORCHESTRA



Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate CW8 2BA
Sunday 14th June 2026 at 7 pm

A Programme for Summer, with a murder.... music by

Debussy, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Grieg and Herrman

Bethan Conway Harp

Richard Adamson Conductor

Buy your ticket at the door, cash or contactless:

Adults £18, Children & students, £8

www.valeroyalstringorchestra.co.uk



St Peter's Church Little Budworth



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S AFTERNOON

with

Andrew Millinchip (piano)

+ Emma Morley (mezzo-soprano/flute)

Sunday 14th June 2026 2.00pm

followed by tea + cakes

Free admission

Retiring collection in aid of

North West Air Ambulance Charity



Whitegate Amblers

June - Bluebell Cottage Gardens/Plant Nursery

Come and join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the Village of Whitegate.

You can let us know you are coming by texting or phoning or just turn up on the day.

Date: Thursday 18th June

Time: Meet 09:45 -Walk starts 10:00 (1 ½ -2 hrs)

Start: Bluebell Cottage gardens carpark, Lodge Lane, Dutton (WA4 4HP) Go north on A49 from Acton Bridge, turn left onto A533 towards Runcorn at the Applegreen filling station. After a mile turn left onto a narrow lane. There is a good signpost to "Bluebell Cottage Gardens" which is 500 yds down the lane on the right.

Description: Guided canal & river walk. Two easy stiles and little mud. 2 ½ miles

Notes: We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control at all times. Café with cakes, savoury scones & toilets at nursery. For more information call John (07964844642)



Gentlemen's Dinner

THE PLOUGH INN
Whitegate

Monday 29th June
6.30 pm

Sign up & pre-order on the notice boards in St Mary's and St Peter's or contact Alan Newton:

acenewton513@gmail.com

01829 760239