

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR JULY 2024

ST MARYS PRESENTS

WHITEGATE

Music Festival

SATURDAY 6TH JULY

**BBQ AND BANDS
ON THE VILLAGE GREEN**

4PM - 9PM

**MUSIC FROM LOCAL GROUPS INC.
GOOSEBUMPS, MIXOLOGY,
BEHIND THE BEAT AND MORE.....**

ADULTS £10.00 CHILDREN £5.00

**TICKETS TO BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE AND
SHOWN FOR ENTRY**

For tickets please contact:

John Blayney 07964844642 johnblayney2@gmail.com	Elaine Campbell 07896779962
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Price includes Entrance
Some chairs available; bring a picnic rug
or a folding chair if you'd like to.

**ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE
UPKEEP OF ST MARYS CHURCH.**

Children must be supervised at all times

CASH ONLY
BBQ, salads
and bar

Our cover photo

BBQ & BANDS comes to Church Green again on 6th July. Everyone is invited for what promises to be a really special event with all the excellent performers who entertained us last year and new ones too. Food and refreshments will be available of course. Please bring cash to pay for them and folding chairs or a picnic rug if you can. Tickets - £10 for adults & £5 for children - should be bought in advance from John Blayney (07964 844642) or Elaine Campbell (07896 779962).

Since all eyes will be on the village green on that day, it seems a good moment to share with you a poem given to the Vicar by a parishioner from Little Budworth. We don't know its origins, or even who F.E.W. was, but although there's perhaps a hint of poetic licence in evidence, the verses sum up how valued and loved Whitegate Green is and how it is remembered.

Whitegate Green

For rural beauty, rare, unmatched
There is an ancient cottage thatched
A school, with church and village green
Tall trees to dominate the scene.

Chance strangers who are passing by
Will stop to gaze and give a sigh
Then feast their eyes with wrapt intent
On nature's picture of content.

In days of old it must have been
A sight for royal king or queen
Just visualise the old stage coach
With fanfare sounding its approach.

It does not need a long debate
To judge the merit of Whitegate
With music from the thrush and lark
Each day from morning until dark.

This treasure of the countryside
That joy for ever to abide
In that old cottage plainly seen
Which stands so near to Whitegate green.

F.E.W.

JULY Diary

JULY 1st	7.00 pm 7.30 pm	College of Canons meeting Fellowship Group meeting	Chester Cathedral The Mews
2nd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
3rd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
4th	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (<i>see p 12</i>)	The Mews
6th	4.00 pm	Whitegate Music Festival BBQ & Bands	Church Green
7th	9.30 am	Trinity 6 Family Service <i>At this service the Parish Recorders will present the record made of the history and artefacts at St Mary's.</i>	St Mary's
8th	12.00 noon	Deanery Chapter meeting	
9th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's PCC meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
10th	9.00 am 10.00 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast (<i>see p 12</i>) Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	Tarporley G'dn Centre The Mews St Mary's
14th	9.30 am	Trinity 7 Holy Communion	St Mary's
15th	7.30 pm	Fellowship Group meeting	The Mews
16th	2.00 pm 8.50 am meet at Marton Sands	Bible Study at Commonsides Mothers' Union Outing	L.B. Methodist Chapel Foxhill Retreat House
17th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
19th	2.00 pm	Whitegate School Fair (revised date)	Whitegate Village Green
21st	9.30 am	Trinity 8 Morning Prayer	St Mary's
22nd	2.00 pm	Mews Management Committee meeting	The Mews
23rd	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
24th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
25th	9.45 am meet 2.00 pm	Whitegate Amblers (<i>see p. 12 for start</i>) Mission & Giving Committee meeting	Marton Sands House
28th	9.30 am	Trinity 9 Holy Communion	St Mary's
30th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
31st	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
AUG 1st	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
4th	9.30 am	Trinity 10 Morning Prayer	St Mary's

June thoughts from the Vicar

July brings us the feast day of St Swithun with the old rhyme;

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain.
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare.*



St Swithun was Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century. According to William of Malmesbury, at the end of his life, Swithun commanded that his body should be buried outside of the church where it would be trodden by the feet of passers by and be made wet by the rain that falls from heaven.

(It perhaps needs a note of explanation that Anglo-Saxon clergy were usually buried inside the church thus causing innumerable problems for their 21st century successors who have to install things like WiFi and central heating.)

Swithun's body was initially buried according to his wishes. However, his holiness in life led to people venerating him in death so the new bishop, Ethelwold, decided to move his shrine inside the cathedral. The plans to do so were confounded by the outbreak of a terrible storm lasting 40 days. Hence the legend about the weather.

The meteorological records are a bit ambivalent about the accuracy of St Swithun's legend. Since records began there has never been a dry spell lasting 40 days over July and August. But on the other hand, British summer weather being what it is, there have been plenty of times when we have had 40 days of rain, 2023 being a classic example.

Is there a glimmer of truth in the legend? St Swithun's day falls on 15th July, at a time when the jet stream usually settles into a more constant pattern. If it settles north of the UK then high pressure can move in bringing us warmth and sunshine. If it settles to the south then Artic air and Atlantic weather systems bring us cooler air and wetter weather. So perhaps.....

*"St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days, relatively unsettled there's a fair chance it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days, a northerly jet stream might result in some fairly decent spells
But then again it might not"*

For most of us rain is welcome when the garden needs watering and a minor inconvenience when it prevents us going out. The biblical narrative takes rain rather more seriously. It acknowledges the destructive power of water. Early in Genesis we have 40 days of rain flooding the earth and destroying all life save that preserved in the ark. But even before that the very story of creation itself identifies water as the primordial chaos from which life emerged:

"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters."

The biblical narrative also takes rain seriously when it brings life. Isaiah uses the image of a river springing up in the desert as a sign of God doing new things. He points to the hard barren place as the source of new life. In the story of Joseph it is the gift of rain that provides years of plenty, and the lack of rain that creates years of famine.

Water is valued and takes on symbolic use in most world faiths. At baptism services I often comment that whenever the biblical narrative comes to water it is hint that the story is about to take a whole new turn. For example, the people of Israel come to the sea which they pass through. On one side they are slaves fleeing from an army, on the other side they are free. Later they cross the river Jordan. On one side they are refugees, on the other people coming into a land promised as a new home. Water marks a new creation.

When Jesus, as an adult, left home to begin his ministry, his first step was to seek baptism. To sink beneath the waters, so ending one life, and emerging to begin anew. Water always means change.

Rain and flooding are signs of our changing climate. My last church was built in 1887 with a rainwater system that worked perfectly well for over 100 years. Since the beginning of the 21st century we found it necessary to install much bigger rainwater hardware due to the increasing levels of rainfall. This is a relatively modern phenomenon and one which seems to be increasing. The vicarage we live in was built 30 years ago. This year we are installing deeper gutters and wider downspouts because the current ones can't cope any longer.

The impact of increased rainfall on agriculture is now a year on year challenge. Fields cannot be planted, crops cannot be harvested, when the land is waterlogged. Food prices will rise as shortages become more frequent.

In rural churches July is a month when we reflect on water. It is something we take for granted. It is the foundation of life on our planet. It is present in gas clouds surrounding stars. St Swithun's legend probably has something to do with us liking to know what comes next. We are reminded that water brings life, cleansing, healing. It can also destroy and sweep away. It is an agent of change and a sign of change. Most of the time we don't know what comes next. We live in a fragile and precarious world. Faith is not a crutch to protect us from the uncertainties of life. Faith is that thread of hope which connects us to God, on the one hand knowing He is always with us, on the other knowing that His fragile and precarious creation is placed into our hands to be treated with care and respect.

Paul.



JULY NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

□ Margaret's Ordination

Our Curate, Reverend Margaret Byrne, was ordained priest in a moving service in Chester Cathedral on 15th June.

She was one of a group of 13 Deacons being ordained on that day, and all of them had supporters, friends and family in the congregation to witness the event that brought together the Bishops of Chester, Stockport and Birkenhead, the Archdeacons of Macclesfield and Chester and clergy and parishioners from all over the Diocese.



With music from the Cathedral Choir and Organist and enthusiastic singing by

all, the service was rich in tradition and yet modern in outlook as it explored the vocation of priests and the many ways in which they are called to serve. Members from both St Mary's and St Peter's were in the congregation and 21 more were in The Mews to see the service livestreamed direct from the Cathedral. They boasted that they had the better view!



As you will see from the photo here, Margaret's proud family were out in force to support her too.

□ A message from Teresa in Ireland

Here is an update on why the Storytelling Services have been suspended for the moment. I am staying in rural Ireland, (County Leitrim near Lake Glencar for those who want to look it up,) due to family illness.

Life here is a different pace entirely. Neighbours are spread out with fields of sheep in between, and as I have no car I can only go as far as my legs will carry me (thank goodness for Tesco home delivery).



My days are spent trying to corral five very naughty goats, walking the blind dog and feeding and cuddling the ten cats. The cottage is small so housework is not a long chore and being Ireland you have to select your washing days according to the weather.

I'm used to a busy home and work schedule so it feels very quiet here but sitting in the garden reading and listening to the birds and sheep is deeply relaxing.



A verse for JULY

1 Timothy Ch 2: Verses 1-2

I urge then that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live quiet lives in all godliness and holiness

Praying for our leaders and each other is part of our DNA as 21st century Christians and it predates the modern concept of democracy. We take having a vote for granted now but it is only 55 years ago that everyone over 18 in UK first had a vote in parliamentary elections. Many Christians in other countries don't yet have that privilege.

Since Paul wrote these words to Timothy some 2000 years ago, democracy has given power to the people in a way that neither Paul nor Timothy could have foreseen. Then Christians were urged to pray for the leaders they had no say in appointing - now we are urged to pray for leaders whom we may have had some part in choosing. Whilst our individual votes do not guarantee we will get the leaders we personally want, failing to vote when we have the opportunity suggests an indifference on our part which may devalue our later prayers for those who represent us and lead our community.

The forthcoming General Election comes at a time when many of us may feel disillusioned with the political processes and the society in which we live, but it is an opportunity for us to pray for the right candidates to be elected, for a fairer and more caring society to materialise, for grace and truth to prevail. It is also an opportunity to use our vote.

JRC

❑ **Collection for Christian Aid Week**

Many thanks to everyone who supported our appeal for Christian Aid Week in May. The collection raised **£342.45** and that sum has of course now been sent to the charity, helping to support those who live on the very brink of survival.

❑ **Choral Evensong**

Choir, organist and congregation much enjoyed the recent Choral Evensong at St Mary's, the first since Covid. It has therefore been decided to hold another - on Sunday 27th October. Full details will be in the NEWS nearer the time.

❑ **Rest awhile on Church Green**

Passers-by and serious walkers will not be the only ones to appreciate the new seat on Church Green. Why not make it a destination in itself? It's the perfect place to sit, watch the world go by and contemplate – or as the poem on page 2 suggests, "feast your eyes".

The fine wooden bench, with inscription "Lest we forget, 6th June 1944", was donated and installed by Whitegate & Marton Parish Council to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy. It was dedicated by our vicar, Reverend Canon Paul Dawson, on 15th June and following the dedication, Keith Rayner, Chair of the Parish Council, duly cut the bunting and declared it "open".

The photo below shows three of those who installed it, Robert Matthews, Chris Leech and Keith Rayner, who had the honour of being the first to sit on it. Two others who had helped with the installation, Peter Baldini and Carl Ellis, weren't able to be there on the day.





W&MPC News

Read about all the recent planning issues and local concerns in the June newsletter, available on the Parish Council website, www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk

This month it mentions an application to fell trees in a garden in Sutton Field and one for a two-storey extension to a house on Cassia Green.

Under Road Safety, concerns were raised by residents about traffic problems caused by parking around the school. A meeting has been arranged between the Parish Council, the residents and the Headteacher to discuss it. The council is glad to confirm that the speed limit on Chester Lane Brook has at last been reduced to 40mph.

We are urged once again to report problems on the highways and byways (potholes and surface defects, footpaths blocked by encroaching hedges, broken stiles, etc.,) via the CWAC online reporting tool, [Report-It](#). The more things are reported, the better chance there is of them being mended or dealt with.

Contacting Cheshire Police is also becoming easier with their new online Report a Crime service: [Report | Cheshire Constabulary](#). It is a valuable alternative to phoning 101.

Finally, our local PCSO, Lewis Railton, will be holding a Police Surgery at Whitegate Station Café on Saturday 6th July, from 1.00 – 2.00 pm. Do take the opportunity to go and talk to him there if you have any concerns.

WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month; 7.15 pm for 7.30 start, in Whitegate Recreation Room.

The subject for 3rd July is "Life of a Beekeeper", with our guest, Yvonne Matthews.



Plans are well advanced for the annual Village Show in the Recreation Room on Saturday 7th September. (See advert on back page. of this edition of the NEWS). If you receive the Monthly NEWS by e-mail, you'll also receive the Schedule for the Village Show. Printed copies can be picked up in the Church porch or Station House Café and you can also download one from the WI website, <https://whitegatewi.weebly.com/> Make sure you get one, so that you can start planning your entries now!

Visitors to our meetings are always welcome. To find out more, contact Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com



What's on in July at Chester Cathedral?

The answer to that question really is, "Something for everybody".

In addition to the regular services of Morning Prayer, Holy Communion, Choral and Said Evensong and Compline too, the cathedral is holding or hosting a range of events and activities this month for people of all ages and interests.

No need to book for services, Organ Recitals or Family Activities, but booking essential for the other events.

<https://chestercathedral.ticketsolve.com/>

- ❖ On Thursday 4th July, 6.45 pm in Café 1092, the Refectory, there is an event in the ASSEMBLE series where people gather to hear engaging speakers and discuss the BIG topics of our age. This one is on the subject of Artificial Intelligence: AI – Good or Bad for Humanity? Panellists include AI Ethicists, digital media specialists and an AI chatbot. Refreshments from 6.15 pm
- ❖ Organ Recitals – every Thursday at 1.10 pm
- ❖ Cathedral Discovery Tours – every day except Sunday. To check times and book, look on <https://chestercathedral.com/events>
- ❖ Tower Tours – every day except Sunday. As for Cathedral Tours, look at the events link above.

Music by candlelight series

- ❖ Friday 5th July at 7.30 pm - Music of Adele
- ❖ Saturday 6th July at 7.30 pm – Music of Pink Floyd
- ❖ Friday 12th & Saturday 13th July at 7.30 pm – Music of ABBA
- ❖ Friday 19th & Saturday 20th July at 7.30 pm – Music of Elton John

Other concerts

- ❖ Friday 26th July at 6.30 pm – The Princess Concert
- ❖ Saturday 27th July at 7.30 pm – Libera in Concert: Celestial Sounds to Lift the Soul

Creative events for the School Holidays

- ❖ Tuesday 30th July at 11.00 am & 2.00 pm – Family Activities in the Nave
- ❖ Wednesday 31st July at 11.00 am & 2.00 pm – Family Activities in the Nave

All this, and August sees the return of Pete Waterman and the Railnuts, bringing Making Tracks IV – Up to the Junction.

To find out about times of services and for more information about all these events, look at the cathedral website: chestercathedral.com

Contacts

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

Vicar Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com	Churchwardens Anne Blayney 01606 74020 Sandra Paskin 01606 882031 PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738
Curates Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970	Treasurer John Duthie 01606 889836 Children's Worker Teresa Finney 01606 889311
Safeguarding Officer Sue Whitehead 01606 852302 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com	Mothers' Union Eileen Lees 01606 786895
Mews Lettings Andrew Millinchip amillinchip@gmail.com	"News" coordinator Christine Ball 01606 593260 chrisball2022@outlook.com
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Alan Newton 01829 760239
Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833	Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642

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



Whitegate Amblers

Please join us for our monthly walk discovering the beautiful countryside around the Village of Whitegate. If you'd like to come, please text or phone or just turn up on the day.

Date: Thursday 25th July

Time: Meet 09:45 -walk starts 10:00 (approx. 1 1/2hrs)

Start: Park on the road beside The Leigh Arms, Warrington Road, Acton Bridge, CW8 4QT

Description: Canal & River walk, approx. 2.7 miles. Easy walk with one low stile and a sloping steps with handrail. Can be muddy

Notes: We welcome well behaved dogs who can be kept under control all the times. Toilets in pub. Some may like to have a snack in the pub after. If you can't find a lift from church please phone me.

Information call John Blayney (07964844642)



FIRST THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews
Church Green
Whitegate
CW8 2AY

Thursdays, 7th July & 1st August

Come down, meet friends & chat over tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes

Open 10.30 am
to 12.00 noon



Whitegate Village Show 2024

Horticulture



Flower Arranging



Saturday
7 September
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

Schedules from St Mary's Church porch or the Station House Cafe or online at www.whitegatewi.weebly.com

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Men's Breakfast

Once a month, at
Tarpoxley Garden Centre

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

9.00 am

Wednesday
10th July

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

or contact Alan Newton on
01829 760239
acenewton513@gmail.com

