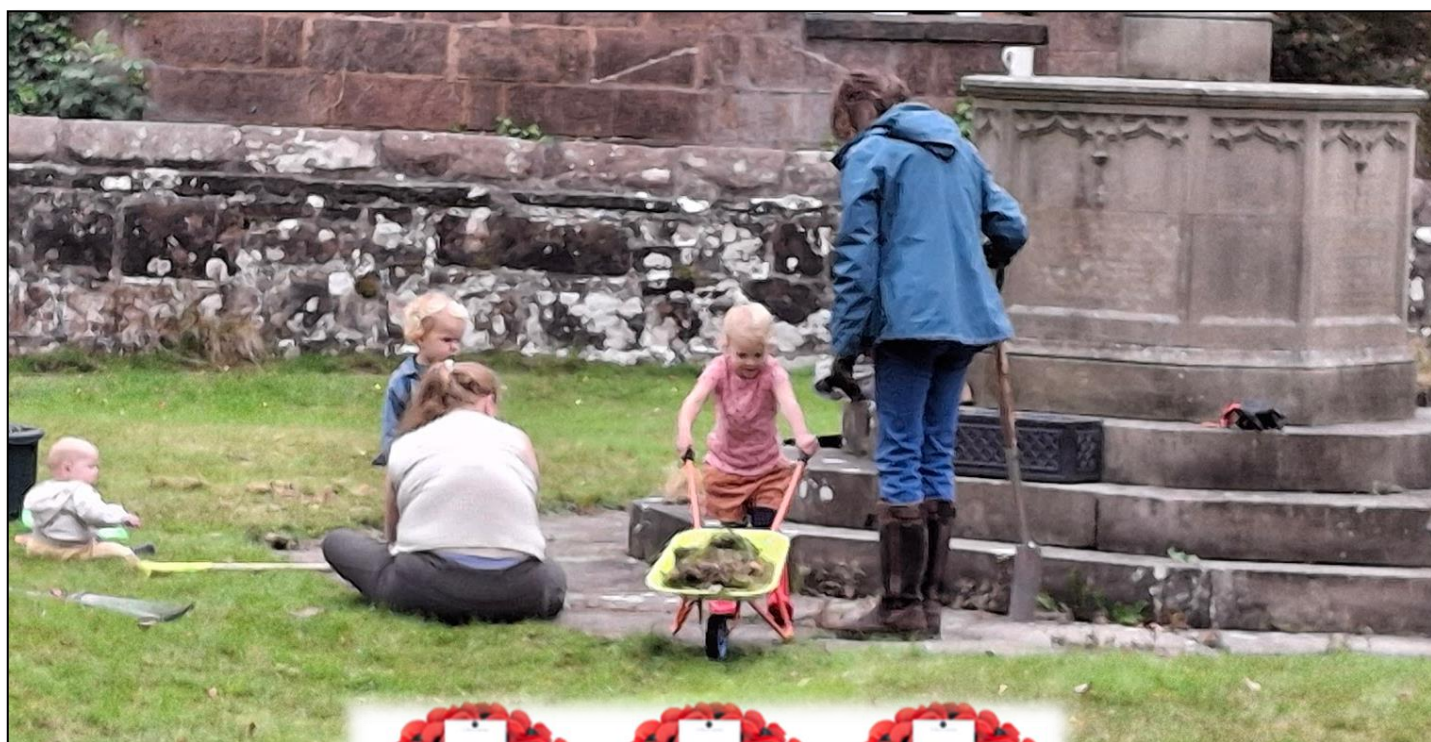


St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2025



Our cover photo

Pictured here is part of the Working Party that gathered to clean and tidy church and churchyard at the end of September, working hard to make spick and span for Remembrance the area around the War Memorial. As you will see, we are recruiting ever younger members. There was a great turn out, all of whom did sterling service inside and out and much appreciated the sandwiches and cakes laid on by the Pastoral & Fellowship group at lunchtime. Fuelled by the great lunch, some were even able to stay on and help with the Apple-pressing on Church Green in the afternoon. See more photos on page 4.

A verse for NOVEMBER

For the Fallen, by Laurence Binyon

“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.”

November is a month to remember, to remember all those who gave their lives for us in wars close to home and far away. Sadly wars continue and people continue to die, not just combatants but civilians, even children. They too should be remembered.

The other emotional message at our cenotaph at remembrance is “When you get home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrows we gave our today.”

That is so true in so many situations known to us, but often the result of war has not always meant a bright and free future for those left behind. Now, more than ever, it is important that we keep that message alive as with each passing year there are fewer and fewer left with first hand memories of the two great wars that directly affected us in this country. It may seem that our current situation and immediate future is not as bright as we would like, but when we look at others in our world we should remain grateful for the life we have.

But November is not only a time we remember wars and their effects, on the very first day of the month we remember all those whom we call saints, those martyred for their faith, and on the second day of November we remember all those who have died, especially those we knew and were close to.

Each of these remembrances tend to have negative feelings attached to them relating to the loss we feel but, not just in November, but I hope on every day there is another remembrance of which we are reminded in the Gospel of John, chapter 3 verse 16. “So God loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

JTS

NOVEMBER Diary

2nd	9.30 am 6.30 pm	All Saints Family Service All Souls Service	St Mary's St Peter's
4th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's PCC meeting	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
5th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
6th	10.30 am 4. 00 pm	First Thursday Café Communications Group meeting	The Mews The Mews
7th	11.00 am	Act of Remembrance (Compass Minerals)	Winsford Salt Mine
9th	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Remembrance Service All Souls Service, <i>see page 12</i>	St Mary's St Mary's
Please note that this week is the triennial clergy conference held at Swanwick. Paul and Margaret will be attending so will not be available this week.			
11th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
12th	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
16th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Second Sunday before Advent Morning Prayer Storytelling Service The Vicar is leading services at Holy Trinity, Castle today	St Mary's The Mews
18th	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides St Mary's Mothers' Union: with June Wilkinson, from Great Budworth Ice Cream	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
19th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
23rd	9.30 am 3.00 pm	Christ the King Holy Communion Chocolate Workshop	St Mary's St Peter's
24th	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner, <i>see page 12</i>	Alvanley Arms Cotebrook
25th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsides	L.B. Methodist Chapel
26th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
27th	2.00-4.30 pm	Ladies' Festive Afternoon Tea, <i>see page 12</i>	The Badger, Ch.Minshull
On 27 th & 28 th , the Vicar is attending a Diocesan event			
30th	10.30 am 2.00 for 2.30 pm	Advent Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Movies in The Mews: The Hundred-Foot Journey, starring Helen Mirren, <i>see page 12</i>	St Peter's 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 4.00 pm	Festive First Thursday Café, with Andrew Millinchip leading carols from the piano	The Mews The Mews
7th	9.30 am	Second Sunday of Advent Family Service	St Mary's

Big clean, lunch and apple & grape pressing

There was a real buzz all day around Church Green, for together with the activities of church and churchyard volunteers with all their kit, members of the Pastoral group setting up for lunch and others laying out the fruit pressing gear, there were cohorts of Cheshire Scouts passing through. Church Green was that day one of the checkpoints on the Cheshire Hike. It's an annual event during which the young people camp out at night and during the day, walk between 30 and 50 miles, depending on their age.



Harvest Festival: the Service and the Supper



November letter from the Vicar

My subject this month is very easy, I want to say THANK YOU. Thank you for the warmth and generosity sharing in the celebration of 40 years of ordained ministry back in June. I deeply appreciate the many messages and gifts which marked this milestone.

Amongst the many cards and messages of support were two gift vouchers from our parishes. One for books and the other for garden centres. I'll come onto the garden centre one in a bit because there's news to tell....

The books - During the summer I had a morning in Chester so wandered into Waterstones and came out clutching a treasury of writing.

Woodston – The biography of an English Farm, by John Lewis-Stempel. He is of my favourite authors, described as a farmer (Herefordshire), historian and Britain's favourite nature writer. But in my view he isn't an author you can fit into any category, his writing ranges over such a wealth of topics. The one thing you can say about him is that he is passionate about the lives of farming communities who have shaped our landscape and how our wider community lives. (I have nearly finished it but it is one of those books you don't want to finish so I am rationing myself.)

Not yet read (perhaps the best kind of book).

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton – shortlisted for the Women's Prize for 2025 non-fiction.

The English Soul by Peter Ackroyd – an exploration of how English Christianity has developed over the past 1,400 years.

These Silent Mansions by Jean Sprackland – about graveyards, those places which matter so much and need so much commitment to preserve, yet which are so often overlooked, not least by the leadership of the Church.

Kilvert's Diary – by, of course, Francis Kilvert. A 19th century rural clergyman whose diary I read many years ago in a borrowed edition and which deserves revisiting. I'm not sure he'd get on too well in the modern church. (If you've read it you'll understand.)

Hedgelands by Christopher Hart – Hedges are not just part of the landscape, they are a critical habitat and also have a story to tell of how our society has changed. Having lived in houses with large hedges that need to be maintained I have a love/hate relationship with hedges. (In Woodston John Lewis-Stempel has much to say about hedges, how the Enclosure Acts affected rural people, how to age a hedge by the species growing in it, what may be found in hedges from generations preceding us.)



The Moneyless Man by Mark Boyle – essential reading for anyone tied into the Church of England Pension Scheme!

Such riches. THANK YOU.

And the garden voucher...

Well, one of the objectives of my sabbatical was to sell a rental house near the university in Chester and buy a house for us to live in ourselves. The rental was a three-bed terrace with no garden, parking or garage. We were looking for a three bed with a garage and, because we have friends and family who need one, a downstairs loo. To be honest, thinking we could do both within twelve weeks seemed a bit optimistic but by the grace of God we have done both. After many, many hours scouring Rightmove, more than several viewings which were eye-opening and at times rather disconcerting, and a couple of really frustrating near misses, we have found a house which ticks all the boxes. It just so happens to be almost halfway between both our daughters as well. Ten minutes one way, fifteen the other.

Our new home needs a little TLC, not least the garden. Let's just say the previous owners weren't outdoor people. So the garden voucher will be put to very good use. THANK YOU.

Yours

Paul.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ Harvest Festival

More thanks, this time to everyone who brought produce and jam-jar window decorations to church for our Harvest Festival and of course to those who did the displays. The church looked beautiful and that setting, together with the words, music and the pizza-making demo, gave us a truly meaningful and memorable service.



Thank you also to everyone who planned, prepared and took part in the delicious Harvest Supper, held in the School Hall six days later. What an evening of fun and games we enjoyed – and the raffle prizes just kept coming! The team who had put it all together had worked so hard and thought of everything. We want them to know just how much it was appreciated.

❑ Shop online..... and donate to St Mary's for free!

We all need to shop, from essentials like food to luxuries like foreign holidays. Now you can shop online at over 8000 retailers and every time you do St Mary's will receive a donation.



That's because we have registered with www.easyfundraising.org.uk

By registering and using this website you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

<https://tinyurl.com/mubythrp>

Or use this QR code



How easyfundraising works

- Register your name and email address

Every time you shop, do so via the easyfundraising website. You can shop at retailers such as Tesco, Marks and Spencer, Argos, Currys, Dunelm and thousands of others.

These brands pay a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and that is turned into a donation.

To register is quick and simple, just your name and email address. Plus, anyone can help to donate so pass the link on to friends and family. With lots of us acting together, these small donations will soon add up.

❑ Winter draws on...

With the clocks changing, we enter the season of floodlighting. During the winter months, St Mary's, lit up against the dark sky, makes such an impact on those who drive past and for those walking through the churchyard the floodlighting is gloriously atmospheric as well as being a real safety bonus. Would you consider sponsoring the floodlighting for a week between now and the end of March? Perhaps in memory of a loved one who has died?

The approximate cost per week is £30. There is a list to sign up at the back of church. All sponsorship money will go into general church funds. Cash and cheque donations should be put in a yellow envelope marked Floodlighting and placed in the dish at the back of church. Alternatively, you can donate by BACS (use your name/floodlights as a reference) into the church's planned giving account with NATWEST. Account name: Whitegate PCC Appeal Fund. Sort code: 60-15-29. Account N°91376149.

□ New Hymn Books

And talking sponsorship, the new hymn books have arrived. Book plates are already being prepared for those who have made a donation in memory of someone special, but it's not too late to add other names to the list. If you would like one of the new books to bear, inside the front cover, the name of a person special to you, then please give a donation of £15, once again in a yellow envelope but marked Hymn Books or as for floodlighting, a payment by BACS to the account already mentioned (but with name/hymnbooks as a reference).

□ Whitegate Amblers

Sad to say that the 2025 season is over for Whitegate Amblers. But what a finish it was! Not only did they enjoy a delightful walk in the countryside around Bunbury and on the canal path, but they also were given an excellent tour of St Boniface's Church, by the Vicar, Revd Tim Hayward. All that was rounded off on this occasion by a convivial lunch at the Dysart Arms.

The question now on everyone's lips? Will there be a Season 2026?



And the answer is yes! Amblers can look forward to 23rd April, St George's Day.

Many thanks to John Blayney & David Johnston for the photos.

□ Weekly Reading Sheets

All the sheets for Sunday readings in November are on the website now. <https://www.stmaryswhitegate.org/> If you cannot see the sheets straight away on the home page, click on the Blog button, top right. They are all there.

□ December dates for your diary ...



Thursday 4th December: **Festive** First Thursday Café with seasonal refreshments and with carol singing led by Andrew Millinchip on the piano.

Saturday 6th December: Whitegate Christmas Lights switch on. 5.15 pm on Church Green and afterwards refreshments in the School Hall and carols from DeciBells.

Tuesday 16th December: Christmas Concert at Vale Royal Abbey on Tuesday 16 December 7.30pm, this year has to be BY TICKET ONLY.

Tickets are £10 per adult and £5 per child. Payments in CASH ONLY.

Tickets will be available from Sunday 27th October either

- at the back of St Mary's after church services or
- from **Press** Coffee Shop 281 Chester Rd, Hartford

Their opening times are: Monday – Friday 7.30am – 5.00pm, Saturday 8.00am – 5.00pm, Sunday 8.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday 17th December: St Mary's Choir sings carols at The Plough at 7.00 pm.



The foodbank is hugely grateful for all the donations given at our Harvest Festival. They provide not only food, but other essential items for use in the home, such as cleaning products, deodorant, toothbrushes & paste, sanitary pads, nappies etc. to help individuals and families in times of crisis.

Let us not forget them now that harvest is over. Let's help them build stocks of the seasonal items that make Christmas a bit special: mince pies, chocolates & sweets, selection boxes for children. Pam and Mike Venables will be delighted to deliver our donations. Leave yours in the box at the back of church.



Take a look on the W&MPC website: www.whitegatemarton-parishcouncil.org.uk/

There, you'll find the October newsletter, with the latest updates on Planning, Road Safety, Climate Action and more – including news on the planned implementation of a 20-mph limit through the village.

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 01606 882031 PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738
Curates Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970 revmargaret1@hotmail.com Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 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 Eileen Lees 01606 786895
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

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

Join us for our
**SERVICE
FOR
ALL SOULS**

Sunday, 9th November
6.30 pm at
St Mary's Whitegate



**Gentlemen's
Dinner**

THE ALVANLEY ARMS
Cotebrook

Monday 24th November
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

**LADIES'
FESTIVE
AFTERNOON
TEA**

At the Badger Inn
Church Minshull

DATE: 27th November

TIME: 2.00 – 4.30 pm

COST: £21
to be paid in advance on
booking

Contact:
Pam D 01606 557833
Chris N 01829 760239

Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate
Sunday 30th November 2025
Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.
film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



**THE HUNDRED-
FOOT JOURNEY
(2014)**

"Bursting with flavour, passion & heart"

"Rich in diversity. A clash of cultures – set in Southern France"

Directed by Lasse Hallström, starring Helen Mirren and Om Puri.

Two worlds collide when an Indian family opens a restaurant just across the road from an establishment run by a snooty French proprietress.

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