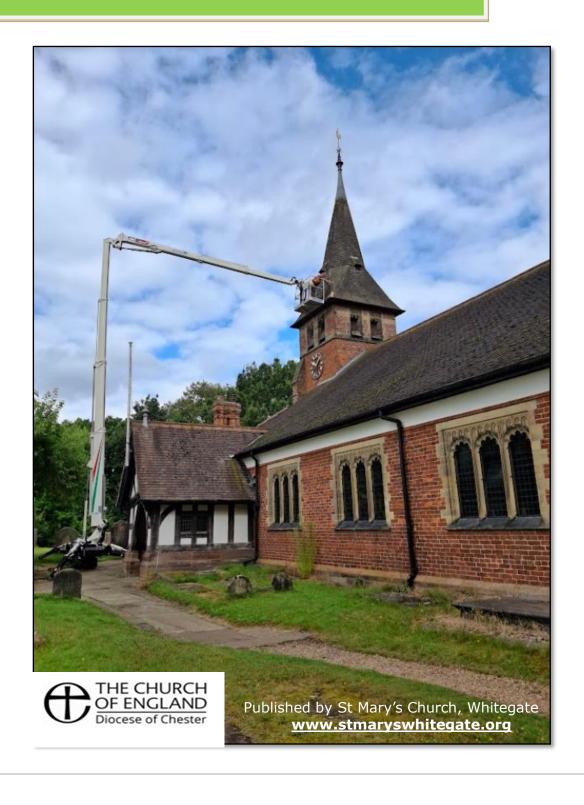
# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate

## NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024





#### Our cover photo

Giant Spyder™ in churchyard! In recent months, several of the wooden shingles from the steeple at St Mary's have fallen to the ground, leaving gaps where water could enter. Closer inspection and repairs were essential but not easy, given the height and the shape of the building. Quotes were obtained for scaffolding but then a Spyder™ was suggested. This ingeniously designed piece of kit comprises a remotely controlled vehicle, which travels on caterpillar treads to spread the load. The base carries a high, articulated cherry picker, enabling the vehicle to be moved into place to allow access to otherwise inaccessible spots. The name "spider" comes from the jointed legs which, when outstretched, stabilise the machine. On 6th August, the Spyder™ and handlers arrived at 8.00 am and left again by midday, repairs completed. Look up when you are passing and spot the new shingles before they weather and darken to blend with the old ones.

Another change to look for in the churchyard is the new handrail alongside the tarmac path leading to Whitehead Field. The path can become slippery in the winter and with the slope down to the gate, it was deemed necessary to put in a handrail. It has been designed, made and installed for us by Steve Simpson of Little Budworth, with help from Tony Hall. We thank them both very much.

#### A verse for SEPTEMBER

John Ch 20: Verses 15-16a

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary."

I wonder if you know why your parents gave you the name they did, and how you feel about having that name. I am called Jane (which is my middle name in fact) after Jane Eyre and Jane Austen. Both Janes, albeit one fictional and one real, are powerful independent-minded women, and I am quite contented to have them as my namesakes. Our names mean a lot to us. They are a core part of our identity. They are very often the first thing we ever learn to write. And other people use them in so many different ways. Our name can be a reprimand or a warning or the most tender expression of love or sympathy depending on the other person's tone of voice.

Do you ever try to imagine Jesus' tone of voice as he turns and speaks to Mary on I that first Easter morning? Gentle and reassuring perhaps? Telling her that I everything is going to be all right?

SJM I

**SEPTEMBER Diary** 

<u> SEP I</u>	EMDEK DIGI	у		
<b>SEPT</b>		Trinity 14		
1st	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's	
1	9.30 am	Storytelling Service	The Mews	
	11.00 am	Service in the Pits (see page 11)	Oulton Park	
	11.00 am	Margaret leads worship at Holy Trinity	Castle	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00 pm	Parish team meeting		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel	
4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Crafty Coffee	The Mews	
	12.00 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café (see page 11) The Mews		
7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Whitegate Village Show (see page 11) Recreation Room		
8 <sup>th</sup>		St Mary's Patronal Festival		
	10.30 am	Benefice Communion	St Mary's	
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Middlewich Deanery Chapter Quiet Day		
	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel	
	7.30 pm	St Mary's PCC Meeting	The Mews	
11 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Men's Breakfast (see page 11)	Tarporley G'dn Centre	
	10.00 am	Crafty Coffee	The Mews	
	12.00 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
15 <sup>th</sup>		Trinity 16		
	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's	
	9.30 am	Storytelling Service	The Mews	
	11.00 am	Paul leads worship at Holy Trinity	Castle	
16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner (see page 12)	Alvanley Arms, Cotebrook	
17 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel	
	2.00 pm	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee meeting	Dairy Cottage	
	7.30 pm	St Mary's Mothers' Union meeting	The Mews	
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Crafty Coffee	The Mews	
	12.00 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 am meet for 10.00 am start	Whitegate Amblers (see page 12)	Anderton Boat Lift Visitor Centre	
22 <sup>nd</sup>		Trinity17		
22	9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's	
	11.30 am	Baptism of Thomas and Harriet Porter	St Mary's	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Paul Dawson on duty at Chester Cathedral all day			
24 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel	
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Crafty Coffee	The Mews	
	12.00 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Bishop Sam to dedicate the new classroom building	Whitegate Primary School	
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Whitegate Church & Churchyard working party with lunch in The Mews		
29 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 18				
	10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	St Peter's	
	10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion	St Peter's	

#### **HARVEST EVENTS**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm, Harvest Songs of Praise and Supper at St Peter's Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Harvest Festival, 9.30 am at St Mary's & 11.00 am at St Peter's Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 7.00 pm, Harvest Supper at Whitegate

#### September thoughts from the Vicar

Both our parishes have open churchyards which are deeply valued by many. They take a deal of maintenance and at this time of year we have working parties of volunteers who help us tidy things up and carry out much needed work. Look at the diary to find dates in September and October when we will be working in our churchyards. Please join us if you can and bring some gloves and tools. As ever we are at the mercy of the weather so we may need to reschedule.



Speaking of the weather I have just got in from wandering around St Peter's churchyard in the pouring rain picking up abandoned flower arrangements and pots of dead flowers. I was meeting a couple to plan their wedding and afterwards had some time to spare. Churchyards in the wet are never at their best. St Peter's PCC are looking into how often we can afford to strim the grass to keep the churchyard looking neater. With the grass too long, not only is it untidy but the strimmed cuttings make more of a mess.

Some churchyards leave areas where grass is not cut. The aim is to create greater biodiversity and provide wildflowers to support insect life. Not everyone appreciates this, thinking the churchyard has just been left to run wild. But it can be part of a careful management strategy.

One issue St Peter's churchyard faces is that there are very few spaces left for new graves. We are looking at how to create space for one more full row but doing the work needed comes at a cost.

Whitegate churchyard is most certainly not short of space! The work of local members of the community planting trees and bulbs around the Whitehead Field section has been very much appreciated and we hope we can continue to develop this area as a community resource and place of natural beauty. We shall be holding an event in the future to thank the volunteers who have given their time and skill so generously.

You will know that I quite regularly get cross with bishops. I was told recently of a bishop (who shall remain nameless) who told newly ordained clergy to hope that they are never appointed to a parish with a churchyard. In contrast I remember a former Bishop of Warrington, Michael Henshall, who in a clergy gathering said, "Thank God for clergy willing to take on churchyards. It's a massive task and we need people willing to do it, and do it well." When Bishops of all people advise clergy to dodge the difficult jobs it's no wonder people lose faith in the Church of England. We hold sacred spaces in trust and I continue to lament that as a nation we expect these public spaces to be funded by local congregations with no contribution from the public purse. Other countries recognise that churches, and churchyards, belong to the wider society and provide some public funding for their upkeep.

Our churchyards are special places. They are where we remember those whom we love but see no longer in this world. They are havens for wildlife. They are sacred space where we can pause and be still. It is very rare for me to be in either of our churchyards and not meet someone who values time to talk and allow their story to be heard. You can do a lot worse than loiter in churchyards and enjoy chance encounters.

Of course, like all shared space, churchyards have to have rules and sometimes people don't like following the rules. Or they want others to be the same as them and get cross when people do things they don't like. Which is why I take the view that it's no good trying to please everybody because that just isn't going to happen.

The rules published Diocesan are on our website; qo www.chester.anglican.org, click on 'Support and Information' / 'Church Buildings' / Churchyards and then on the link for the Churchyard Regulations. We try to apply them gently but fairly. Perhaps I could just remind everyone that if you want to add anything to a grave you need written permission to do so. Glass, ceramic and plastic items added to graves are liable to be removed. Balloons and strings of lights which wildlife can get tangled in are removed immediately.

One issue which troubles me is the amount of plastic and non-recyclable waste that is left in our churchyards. Today I filled half a wheelie bin with plastic pots. After Christmas we fill several wheelie bins with plastic and oasis from wreaths. At funerals florists often create elaborate arrangements containing large amounts of plastic and oasis. These are left on graves and subsequently abandoned. We recycle what we can but there is a huge quantity of material which goes into landfill. I can only urge families arranging funerals to be mindful of floral tributes and try to make them as environmentally friendly as possible.

Before signing off for September, those present (physically or via the magic of YouTube) at Margaret's ordination in June may remember the preacher referring to 9<sup>th</sup> September as a sacred and holy day.

I did some research on the internet (so it must be true) and found this:

"International Buy a Priest a Beer Day occurs on September 9<sup>th</sup>. It isn't officially commemorated by any Christian denomination. However, it is still a day when Catholics build relationships with their priests by taking them out for a beer, showing appreciation, and sharing how their ministry has been important to them. Even if you aren't a Catholic, you could still buy a priest a beer. Or, you could buy a beer for your pastor, rabbi, or another spiritual leader. This tradition apparently goes back to the time of St. Hopswald of Aleyard, the first man to take his priest out for a beer!"

www.internationaldays.co/event

Paul.

#### SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

#### □ Extra responsibilities for our clergy

During September and October we shall be supporting Holy Trinity, Castle, who are currently without a vicar. On 8th September Margaret begins



her secondment to St Stephen's, Moulton, who are also currently without a vicar. She will be sharing her time 50/50 between St Mary's and St Peter's, and St Stephen's.

#### □ Mothers' Union at Foxhill

In July, members of our branch at St Mary's were welcomed to Foxhill House and Woodlands. The house, near Frodsham, was gifted to the diocese in 1968 and became the Chester Diocese Retreat and Conference Centre.

With coffee on arrival, we were shown into a sitting room set aside for us and during the first session we talked about the poem, passage from literature, hymn or article we had each brought with us, sharing a little of ourselves as we explained the importance those texts held for us. Later, we were joined by Revd Lucy Brewster, who together with her husband David, is Director of Foxhill. In the delightful circular chapel, she interpreted for us the full significance of the account from St John's Gospel of Jesus' meeting with a Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar. It's a story of great significance for those at Foxhill, for they consider the house and gardens to be a place of encounter – and there is a well in the grounds. A beautiful stained-glass window, installed recently in the chapel blends key elements of that story with features of the Foxhill gardens.

At midday, we were pleased to take part together in a service of Holy

Communion, which felt very intimate as we sat in the round.

Our visit finished in the Dining Room, where a delicious lunch was laid out for us. It was a morning that will long stay in the memory.

Perhaps next year we'll do it again!



#### ☐ The Big Clean at St Mary's

Saturday 28th September is the date for our annual clean and tidy, both inside St Mary's and in the churchyard. All who are able, please bring buckets, dusters and polish etc. and garden tools if you prefer to work outside. We shall start at 9.30am and work till lunch time, when a Pastoral Buffet Lunch will be provided in The Mews. Many hands will make light work.

#### □ Donations to local charities

Many parishioners will know that St Mary's is committed to giving 5% of the money raised from freewill giving and from fund raising to other charities who need our help, be it international, national or local. So far in 2024, St Mary's has donated £693 to Embrace the Middle East, £301 each to The Pettypool Trust and to Cheshire Young Carers. At a recent meeting of the Mission and Giving Group, it was decided to make donations of £290 each to Joshua Tree and to Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy.

#### ☐ Fresh paint in The Mews

Apologies to all who saw their activities at The Mews cancelled at short notice over a period in August – but it was for a very good reason. The decorators came in for 5 days and repainted inside for us, giving the interior a fresh new look. The renovated Mews reopened in April 2017 and has been much used and appreciated in the seven years since then. The exterior was repainted last year and by maintaining the building in this way we hope it will serve us well for years to come.

#### ☐ "Are we nearly there yet?"

A final reminder that Jane Millinchip needs our photos for the next exhibition in The Mews by the end of September. On the theme of journeys, the title is "Are we nearly there yet?" Jane invites photos of different means of transport, roads and paths, bridges and gates, Send them to her by email: <a href="mailto:revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com">revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com</a>



#### □ Community directory

The PCC at St Mary's is looking to compile a Whitegate Directory, a listing of groups, organisations and activities in the parish, which would be a useful resource for everyone to know just what is available within our local community. Anyone who would like to have an entry in the directory should contact Paul Dawson: vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com

#### □ Donations for the Foodbank

Readers will know that at St Mary's we collect donations of food items for the Mid-Cheshire foodbank. Pam & Mike Venables deliver all we collect to the warehouse. Collections have diminished recently, but the demand for food



parcels has increased, particularly over the school holidays. This means that stocks in the warehouse are very run down.

Each individual or family visiting the foodbank, after referral from one of the agencies, receives supplies for at least three days' worth of healthy balanced meals. A typical food parcel includes breakfast cereal, soup or snack meals, pasta or rice, pasta sauce, tinned meat and fish, tinned vegetables and fruit, tea and coffee, longlife milk, toilet rolls and store cupboard staples. When they have them available, the staff will also give out fresh fruit and veg, eggs, bread, petfood and toiletries.

At present, the following items are urgently needed:

Desserts Jam/Honey Coffee Soup

oup Custard

Obviously, all food items are gratefully received, but let's try and boost their stocks of these particular essentials during the month of September. Pam and Mike will be only too delighted if they have more to deliver. Thank you for your support.



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#### WHITEGATE WI - September meeting & the Village Show

On Wednesday  $4^{th}$  September at 7.15 for 7.30 pm in the Recreation Room, we welcome Kevin Reynolds who will give us "Devil's Darning Needle an Introduction to Dragonflies".

Then on Saturday  $7^{th}$  September, again in the Recreation Room, we host the Village Show 2.00 - 4.30 pm. (Entries please, from 9.00 - 11.00 am.) See advert on page 11 for more details.

Contact Alison: whitegatewi@outlook.com with any enquiries.



#### SAFER ROADS IN OUR PARISH

20 3040

W&MPC has recently issued a special newsletter dedicated to issues of road safety and calling on the help of all householders. As they explain, parish councils are not responsible for the maintenance of the highways or deciding on speed limits and they are wholly dependent on CWAC Highways department for appropriate allocation of budgets and for approvals.

Our Parish Council's role is to raise the issues important to those of us affected by CWAC's decisions and they do this regularly, but progress is slow. They have therefore decided to focus on THREE priorities and knowing the strength of feeling among residents, they are asking us personally to engage with CWAC and our MP by emailing them (see addresses below) about one or more of these three issues:

- 1. Potholes & uneven road surfaces. There are problems with potholes in a number of locations within the parish, but particular areas of concern are Cinder Hill, Cassia Green and Clay Lane. Heavy agricultural vehicles visit farms locally and the volume of traffic passing through the village means our road surfaces degrade quickly and yet as rural roads, they are not prioritised and repairs don't last.
- **2. Approach to school.** W&MPC recently requested that the speed limit outside the school be reduced to 20mph, as is the case with 120 of schools in CWAC. We are one of only 25 schools who do not have a 20mph limit outside their school. Highways say that past assessments show that the criteria for reducing the speed limit were not met.
- **3. The Beeches.** The Recreation Room is used daily in term-time by Whitegate Pre-school and other community groups during the evening. The carpark is across the road from the building and so parents with young children / elderly residents have to cross the busy road. There is a history of accidents at this location. An interactive sign was installed some years ago funded by the Parish Council. We would like to see a 20mph speed limit at school drop off/pick up times, pedestrian crossing road marking and improvements to the car parking surface (in the lay-by).

Please voice your concerns about these issues by emailing to lobby one or more of the following:

Highways: ENGVRoyal@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Councillors: gina.Lewis@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

stuart.Bingham@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Our MP: <a href="mailto:andrew.cooper.mp@parliament.uk">andrew.cooper.mp@parliament.uk</a>

#### **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.

		T		
Vicar		Churchwardens		
Rev Canon Paul Dawson	01606 889995	Anne Blayney	01606 74020	
The Vicarage, Cinder Hil 2BH	I, Whitegate CW8	Sandra Paskin	01606 882031	
vicaragecinderhill@outlo	ok.com	PCC Secretary		
-		Roger Wilkes	01606 75738	
Curates		Treasurer		
Rev Dr John Stopford	01606 558802	John Duthie	01606 889836	
Rev Jane Millinchip	Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293		Children's Worker	
Rev Margaret Byrne	07368 375970	Teresa Finney	01606 889311	
Safeguarding Officer		Mothers' Union		
Sue Whitehead	01606 852302	Eileen Lees	01606 786895	
safeguardingwhitegate@	outlook.com			
Mews Lettings		"News" coordinator		
Andrew Millinchip		Christine Ball	01606 593260	
amillinchip@gmail.com		chrisball2022@outlook.com		
Musical Director		Pastoral & Fellowship Committee		
Andrew Millinchip	07821 810772	Alan Newton	01829 760239	
Church Flowers		Social & Fundraising Group		
Pam Davies	01606 557833	John Blayney	07964 844642	

□ **OCTOBER NEWS:** Comments and contributions for the next edition of the Monthly NEWS are always welcome. Please send copy to <a href="mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com">chrisball2022@outlook.com</a> by 15<sup>th</sup> September.



Service in The Pits 11.00 am - 12.00 noon

### WALK, RUN, CYCLE around OULTON PARK RACING CIRCUIT Sunday 1st September



12.30 - 2.45pm



£10 for adults, £5 for Under 12s Sponsorship forms also available

Light refreshments available + BBQ + Ice Cream

This promises to be a great day for all the family!

SORRY, MSV DO NOT ALLOW DOGS INSIDE THE GROUNDS For more details (and sponsorship forms) contact Steve 01829 760377/07810 893456 or Anne 01829 760592/07973 139304



By kind permission of MSV, In aid of St Peter's Church, Little Budworth

## **FIRST** THURSDAY CAFÉ

The Mews Church Green Whitegate CW8 2AY

#### Thursday 5th September

Come to The Mews, catch up with friends old and new & chat over tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes







## Gentlemen's Dinner

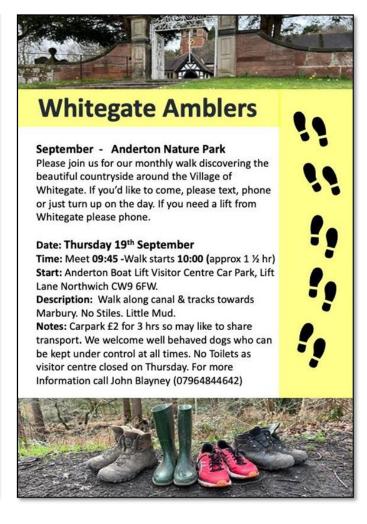
THE ALVANLEY ARMS

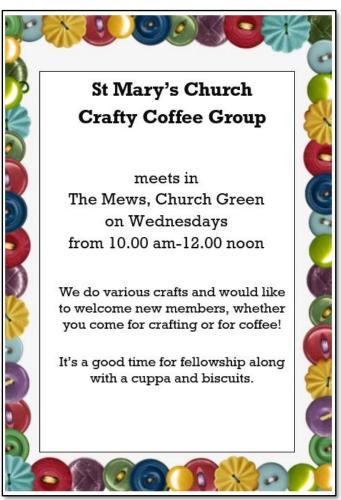
Cotebrook

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 pm



Join us for a delicious meal in convivial company.



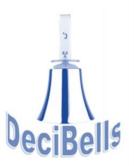


#### **DeciBells**

Tune ringing on handbells is a lot of fun and very sociable. Would you like to learn?

We're starting the Autumn Term on 25<sup>th</sup> September and meet weekly on Wednesdays, 4.00 – 5.00pm in The Mews, Church Green, Whitegate.

Come along one Wednesday and have a go. No experience is necessary and don't worry if you don't read music.



You only need to COUNT.

For more information, contact Andrew Ball, 07398 295239

