St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NOVEMBER 2026



John Blayney writes overleaf about this wonderful occasion.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

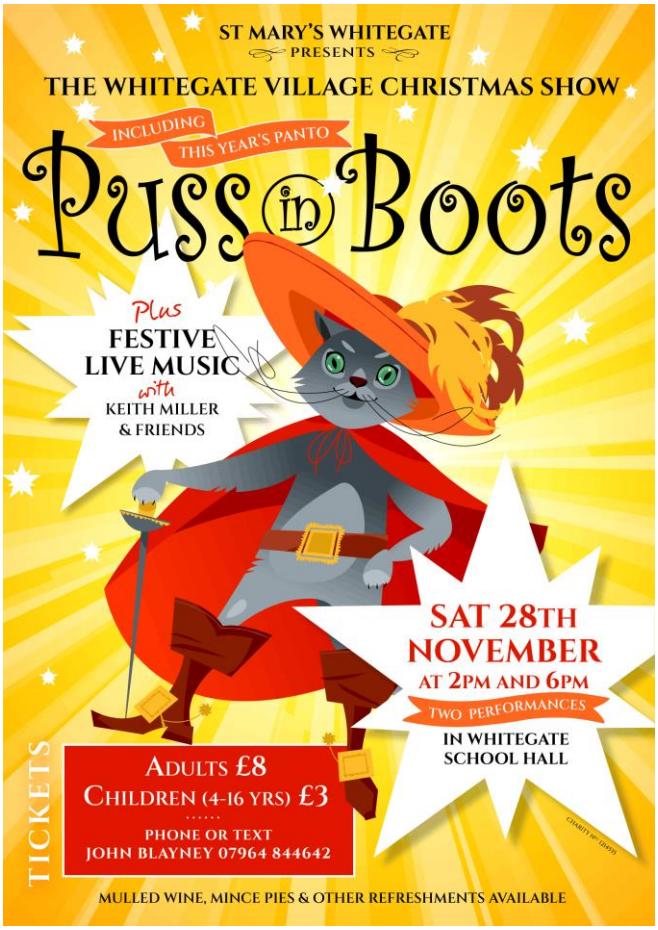
Our cover photo

John Blayney writes: This year our Harvest Supper had a great turnout, and again filled Whitegate School Hall which was beautifully decorated with autumn flowers and fruits. A team of wonderful helpers moved china, cutlery, glasses and tables from The Mews, and then served a hotpot meal, followed by a mountain of delicious desserts which had been created by many volunteers. The evening raised over £1200 for the church funds. This is a lovely event when the whole church family and the local community come together to say thank you for God's daily blessings, and to enjoy each other's company.

Some more photos follow…






ST MARY'S WHITEGATE
PRESENTS
THE WHITEGATE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS SHOW
INCLUDING
THIS YEAR'S PANTO
Puss in Boots
Plus
FESTIVE
LIVE MUSIC
with
KEITH MILLER
& FRIENDS
SAT 28TH
NOVEMBER
AT 2PM AND 6PM
TWO PERFORMANCES
IN WHITEGATE
SCHOOL HALL
TICKETS
ADULTS £8
CHILDREN (4-16 YRS) £3
PHONE OR TEXT
JOHN BLAYNEY 07964 844642
MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES & OTHER REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Whitegate School's Harvest Service in St Mary's

Teresa writes: On Tuesday 13 October Whitegate School held their Harvest Service in St. Mary's Church. The whole school attended, and church was packed to overflowing with parents and grandparents.

The children from year 3 led worship through the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and reminded us that every little thing we can do to help others, to share God's love and the abundance He has provided in our world, really can make a difference.

It was wonderful to hear the whole school singing, and joining in the Harvest celebration.

School collected food for the Foodbank which some of the children delivered.

A photo of that service now follows:

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Pastoral Letter from Teresa



"We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going."

2 Corinthians 4:9. Who knew these words were from the Bible, and not just the lyrics from Tubthumping by Chumbawamba?

If you've ever been at a race, you've probably heard spectators shout, "Keep going!" to motivate the athletes. That's also great advice for anyone who feels emotionally, mentally, or spiritually exhausted from running the marathon of life: Keep going!

Scripture includes many examples of people who had determination to keep going in the face of opposition, including Jesus and Paul.

Jesus faced constant opposition. Religious and political leaders tried to intimidate him. They repeatedly tried to stop him from teaching and helping people. At one point, they even warned him that King Herod wanted to kill him.

But nothing was going to stop Jesus from accomplishing his purposes—not fear, opposition, or criticism. He was resilient and had the endurance to keep on keeping on.

Paul also faced obstacles that threatened to slow him down. In the Living Bible paraphrase, he said, *"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going"* (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Maybe that sounds familiar, because you feel like troubles are coming at you from every direction. You're tired and worn out, and you don't think you'll make it to the finish line.

Life just seems to be one problem after another, and if it's not personal then it's everything going on in the world. Problems we didn't create but which impact us every day.

So how do we keep going? We get the power to keep going from the same place Jesus and Paul did: *God.*

The Message paraphrase says, *"We can only keep on going, after all, by the power of God, who first saved us and then called us to this holy work"* (2 Timothy 1:8-9).

God doesn't expect us to fulfil our purpose and do his will in our own power. First, he saves us, and *then* he gives us the power for daily living. He will give us everything we need to keep going and finish what he has called us to do.

So next time you get knocked down, get up again, trusting in God to hold you up. **Teresa**

Contacts

Vicar: Our vicar has retired. During the vacancy, please contact the Churchwardens with any queries.	**Curates** Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 jstopford801@btinternet.com Rev Jane Millinchip 07891 981293 revdjanemillinchip@outlook.com
Churchwardens Anne Blayney 07815 713012 Sandra Paskin 07950 125791 warden@stmaryswhitegate.org	
PCC Secretary Roger Wilkes 01606 75738 secretary@stmaryswhitegate.org	**Children's Worker** Teresa Finney 07340 086403 tivvyfinney@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurers Gary Chadwick 07590 999169 Sarah Campbell Woodward 01829 760438 treasurerwhitegatepcc@outlook.com	**Safeguarding Officer** Anne Blayney 07815 713012 safeguardingwhitegate@outlook.com
	"News" coordinator Roger Wilkes 0160675738
Musical Director Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772 amillinchip@gmail.com	**Mews Lettings** Andrew Millinchip mewsbookingswhitegate@gmail.com
Church Flowers Pam Davies 01606 557833	**Pastoral & Fellowship Committee** Alan Newton 01829 760239
Social & Fundraising Group John Blayney 07964 844642	**Mothers' Union** The contact role for Mothers' Union is VACANT at present. Would anyone like to take on the role?

Importantly, *please note* that the vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com e-mail address will *no longer be working*.

Calendar for November

1	9.30 am	**All Saints** Family Service	St Mary's
3	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
4	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
5	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
8	9.30 am 6.30pm	**Remembrance Sunday** **Remembering All Souls**	St Mary's St Mary's
10	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
11	9.00 am 10.00 am 10.45 am 12.00 noon	Men's Breakfast Crafty Coffee Remembrance Service **NO** Holy Communion	The Village, Blakemere The Mews Winsford Salt Mine St Mary's
15	9.30 am 9.30 am	**2nd before Advent** Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
17	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B Methodist Chapel
18	10.00 am 12.00 noon 12.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) Seniors' Lunch	The Mews St Mary's Whitegate CofE Primary School
22	9.30 am	**Christ the King** Holy Communion	St Mary's
23	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner	Alvanley Arms, Cotebrook
24	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonside	L.B Methodist Chapel
25	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
28	2.00 & 6.00 pm	Pantomime - *Puss-in-Boots*	St Mary's School Hall
29	10.30 am	**Advent Sunday** Benefice Communion with Bishop Mark	**St Peter's**

News and Notes

All Souls' Service of Remembrance. Everyone is warmly invited to our annual All Souls' Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church, Whitegate, on Sunday, 8 November 2026 at 6.30pm. Through prayer, reflection and thanksgiving, we will remember the loved ones who have died and whom we love but see no longer.

If you would like the name of your loved one to be read aloud during this service, you can email us using **warden@stmaryswhitegate.org**

Floodlighting Sponsorship. With effect from Sunday 22 October, Floodlighting Sponsorship is invited for the winter period. A guide amount is £30.00 for a week's lighting. There is a list in church; please add your name(s) if willing to sponsor.

Movies in The Mews. On Sunday 15 November, at 200 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. start.

Witness (1985) is a thriller starring Harrison Ford as a detective who protects a young Amish boy who has witnessed a murder. As he hides with the boy and his mother in an Amish community, he becomes caught between two very different worlds, and develops a connection with the boy's mother.

Christmas Concert at Vale Royal Abbey. This will take place on Tuesday 15 December, beginning at 7.30 p.m.

As last year, admission is by *pre-booked ticket only*. £10 adults. £5 children.

Tickets are available from St Mary's after services, from Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, and from Press Coffee Shop, with effect from 15 November. Payment for tickets is by *cash only*; no card payments can be accepted.

Strengthening links between St Mary's and Whitegate School. An important illustration of the ever-stronger links being forged between church and school is the invitation from them to join children and teachers on each third Wednesday of the month. A mere £3.00 will buy you a splendid two-course meal, served by the children – as a poster elsewhere explains. If you wish to avail yourself/yourselves of this opportunity, please book via the school office on 01606 212203.

Whitegate Christmas Show. Again, a poster elsewhere provides all the details. In addition to that, John Blayney writes: St Mary's Presents ***The Whitegate Village Show***, Saturday 28 November @ 2.00pm & 6.00pm, in Whitegate School Hall, CW8 2AY.

Get ready to pounce on the best seats in town as rehearsals are well underway for this year's village pantomime, **Puss in Boots**! The talented cast is already working hard behind the scenes, gearing up to bring our audience an unforgettable show packed with hilarious characters, side-splitting comedy, and a legendary storyline full of magic and mayhem. Promising pure festive joy for all ages.

It's a real family treat—"Oh Yes It Is!"…..

Well-known local musician, Keith Miller heads our musical first half with local favourites, Goosebumps providing Christmas fun and laughter and Lynn Hazlehurst bringing you that dash of sparkle to well-loved Christmas songs. This is followed by a short intermission before our pantomime. Tea, coffee and mince pies are included in the ticket price and other drinks and mulled wine and beer can be purchased at the stage bar.

Make sure you don't miss this purr-fectly delightful festive outing!

Ticket prices: Adults £8.00, Children 4-16 years £3.00

For tickets & information, phone or text John Blayney on 07964 844642.

From the Churchwardens. A reminder that, until a new incumbent is in post, John Stopford will conduct any funerals and hospital visits, while Jane Millinchip will cover home visits, as well as weddings and baptisms. Any memorials will be referred to the Rural Dean. All general enquiries should go to the churchwardens. Anne and Suzi will continue to update the St Mary's website and *A Church Near You*, while Teresa is responsible for the St Mary's Facebook page.