

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



# NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2023



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[www.stmaryswhitegate.org](http://www.stmaryswhitegate.org)

## Our cover photo

Harvest has always been a busy season of hard work and celebration. In wine-making areas, even as the last bunches of grapes are cut from the vine, the starting gun is fired for an often raucous evening of feasting on local specialties together with copious amounts of wine from the previous year. All of this followed by loud singing of traditional drinking songs and dancing.



Our cover photo shows a preview of how St Mary's will be decorated for the Service of Harvest Festival on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October and offers a taste of the Harvest Supper to follow, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>. On both occasions there will be music in thanksgiving and celebration, with our harvest gifts being taken to those in the parish who don't get out to shop very much and also to the Mid Cheshire Foodbank. Please be generous with your harvest offerings of fresh produce and non-perishable groceries.

**Stop Press:** Demand for tickets for our Harvest Supper has been so great that the organisers have sought a bigger venue: it will now take place in Whitegate Primary School Hall and will start at 7.30 pm on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Some extra places now available, so if you were disappointed, do call John Blayney (07964844642) or Elaine Campbell (07896779962).

### A verse for October

*"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you".*

Matthew Ch 6: v 33

An American Coffee chain printed quotations on its disposable cups one of which read: **Do not worry about your life - what you will eat and drink.**

Most of us have enough to eat and drink - but even in mid-Cheshire many depend on food-banks - and in some parts of the world starvation is widespread.

Worry is a very human thing - but why? Does worrying ever do us any good? Make us live longer? Make us any happier? Of course not - but worrying really can be very time consuming.

It is easy, but not always very helpful, to say "don't worry". This is where Jesus can help - He tells us to seek first His kingdom and his righteousness.

Most of the things we worry about are to do with ourselves - often material things - the increased cost of food or mortgages - or health.

If we let Jesus lead us through life it will **not** guarantee us a problem free existence - but if we follow Him he will take care of us - and help us through life's difficulties.

JRC

## OCTOBER Diary

<b>OCT 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Harvest Festival</b> Family Service	St Mary's
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	2.00 pm 5.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie School Governors' meeting Deanery Synod	L.B. Methodist Chapel Whitegate School
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee ( <i>see page 8</i> ) Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00 pm	St Mary's Harvest Supper ( <i>see page 8</i> )	Whitegate School Hall
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 18</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30 pm	Benefice Joint Standing Committee	The Mews
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30 pm	Highlights from The Messiah ( <i>see page 8</i> )	The Grange, Hartford
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am	Churchyard Working Party	St Mary's
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am 11.30 am 2 for 2.30 pm	<b>Trinity 19</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Baptism of Jake Foster Movies in The Mews: Darkest Hour ( <i>see p.8</i> )	St Mary's The Mews St Mary's The Mews
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Safeguarding Officers' meeting Mews Management Committee meeting	The Vicarage The Mews
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	12.00 noon 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Gathering for Rural Clergy Bible Study at Commonsie St Mary's Mothers' Union: planning for 2024	Great Budworth L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	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
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Mission & Giving Group meeting	Marton Sands House
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 20</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	<b>Trinity 21</b> Benefice Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsie	L.B. Methodist Chapel
<b>NOV 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion BCP	The Mews St Mary's
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>All Saints</b> Family Service	St Mary's

## October thoughts from the Vicar...

I love the autumn. At school our English teacher gave us *To Autumn*, by Keats, to study.

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.*

Alas, some of Keats' promises have this year not been fulfilled.

*And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cells.*



But not this summer. It has been wet and cold. The bees have struggled to find nectar and their honey cells are empty. In July I was obliged to give my bees winter feed to keep them going. Even so, the week we went away on holiday the wasps attacked. Even though each hive had the entrance reduced to their winter setting two of them succumbed and I returned to find my bees were dead. No o'er- brimmed cells this year.

Maybe we will get an Indian Summer, but as the poet Emily Dickinson penned in her poem of that title, '*Oh fraud that cannot cheat the bee*'. Late good weather may be a bonus for those humans who don't depend on the weather for their livelihood. Those who rely on a good harvest know the damage is already done.

Climate change is something we have to take seriously.

We do our best with regards to how we heat our churches. Both are heated by oil fired boilers and we try to run them as efficiently as possible. By 2030 we will need to replace those boilers with an alternative source of heating.

We also try to limit unnecessary travelling. It is not unusual for a day's visiting to be in the region of 30 miles driving. That soon adds up. Random visits often mean people aren't in. Hence every Sunday service sheet invites those who would like a visit to get in touch. That way we can plan journeys more effectively. It isn't what we are used to but it is something we need to get used to.



One of the best parts of my job is taking Holy Communion to people who aren't able to get to church. It is a genuine joy to take the Sacrament to people at home. As we move into colder weather please remember that we are pleased to take Holy Communion to those who wish to receive at home. Speak to myself or any of the parish team and we will make the necessary arrangements.

October is when we celebrate our Harvest Festival. In a gathering of rural parishes Bishop Mark (who learned to drive on a tractor) made the comment that our rural economy and livelihood is not just agricultural. Farming is of course central and essential but we mustn't overlook the many other forms of industry and livelihoods present within rural communities.

God calls us to lead fruitful lives. Harvest is a time for us to reflect on this. What gifts do we bring to set before our Lord?

Paul.



## **OCTOBER NEWS FROM ST MARY'S**

### **□ Fall Alarms**

I have recently arranged a fall alarm for my mother. We went for a system which automatically calls the help centre if the alarm senses a sudden movement such as that caused by a fall. It is GPS enabled so it works both at home and if she is out of the house.

I mention this because I know of someone who spent a long time on the floor following a fall. They had an alarm but didn't press the button. So it is worth mentioning that there are systems available that don't rely on the person being able to press a button in order to gain assistance. The cost is only pennies more than the manual versions and offers a much greater range of protection.

Paul.

### **□ What is the Big Issue? A Christian Perspective**

During October and November, Chester Cathedral is offering a series of online talks, via Zoom, on important topical issues such as, Artificial Intelligence, Sexuality, Abortion, Assisted Dying... The talks are on Wednesday lunchtimes, 1.10 – 2.00 pm. There's no charge though donations are welcome. For full details, visit their website: [chestercathedral.com/bible-talks/](https://chestercathedral.com/bible-talks/)



## ❑ CONGRATULATIONS!



Well done to Teresa, seen here with her trophy and the 1:24 scale model of a Huf House with which she won it. Every single element including furniture, plants and accessories was lovingly hand-crafted. She secured 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Hard Craft category and was awarded the trophy for Best in Show (newcomer) at the Whitegate Village Show last month.

## ❑ Highlights from Handel's Messiah

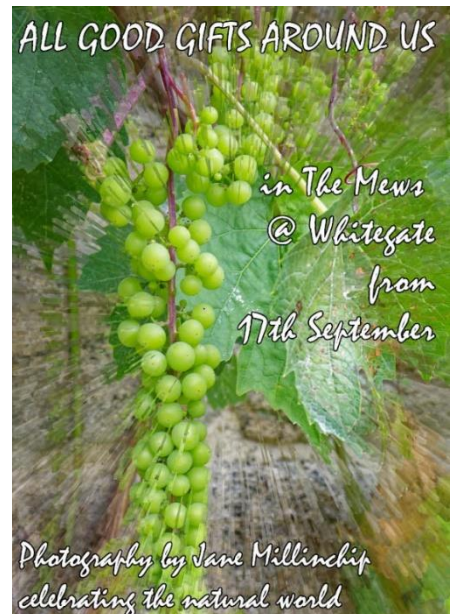
On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm, at The Grange Theatre, Hartford. Performed by Hartford Choral Society with orchestral accompaniment and conducted by Andrew Millinchip. *See page 8 for more details.*

## ❑ Now on in The Mews: All good gifts around us

Jane Millinchip's new, harvest themed selection of images from nature is on now. Why not pop in to the First Thursday Café (10.30 – 12.00 noon) on 5<sup>th</sup> October, where her superb photographs adorn our exhibition space?

## ❑ Colours of Christmas

Don't forget that Jane is asking everyone for contributions to this next exhibition that will start in Advent. She would like colourful photographs on the theme of Christmas and/or winter. Entries must be sent to her by email or on a memory stick or card, by 15<sup>th</sup> October. For more details and guidelines see September News or St Mary's website: [www.stmaryswhitegate.org](http://www.stmaryswhitegate.org)



❑ **NOVEMBER NEWS:** Comments and items for the next edition of the Monthly NEWS are always welcome. Please send to [chrisball2022@outlook.com](mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## Contacts

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

<p><b>Vicar</b> Rev Canon Paul Dawson 01606 889995 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate CW8 2BH <a href="mailto:vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com">vicaragecinderhill@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>Churchwardens</b> John Duthie 01606 889836  Anne Blayney 01606 74020</p>
<p><b>Curates</b> Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802 Rev Jane Millinchip 07981 981293 Rev Margaret Byrne 07368 375970</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> John Duthie 01606 88986</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary</b> Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p>
<p><b>Children's Worker</b> Teresa Finney 01606 889311</p>	<p><b>Mothers' Union</b> Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p><b>Musical Director</b> Andrew Millinchip 07821 810772</p>	<p><b>"News" coordinator</b> Christine Ball 01606 593260 <a href="mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com">chrisball2022@outlook.com</a></p>
<p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Sue Whitehead 01606 852302</p>	<p><b>Mews Lettings</b> Andrew Millinchip <a href="mailto:amillinchip@gmail.com">amillinchip@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Church Flowers</b> Pam Davies 01606 557833</p>	<p><b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b> Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>

## WHITEGATE WI

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month; 7.15 pm for 7.30 start, in Whitegate Recreation Room. The next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> October. On that evening Graham Sweet will be with us to talk about the work of the Church Wood Conservation Group. Visitors always welcome. To know more, contact Alison: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)



ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH WHITEGATE

# Harvest Supper



Join us for a delicious 2 course meal followed by tea or coffee along with an autumnal quiz and entertainment to complete the evening.

To book, sign up on the sheet provided on the noticeboard in church or contact Elaine Campbell on 07896779962, Peter & Pauline Hayward on 01606591766 or John Blayney on 07964844642 [johnblayney2@gmail.com](mailto:johnblayney2@gmail.com).

TICKETS £15

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – 7.30PM TO 10.30PM

**NEW TIME & VENUE**

Whitegate Primary School Hall

## Movies in The Mews

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.

Film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



## DARKEST HOUR (2017)

*"A portrait of leadership at its most brilliant"*

Written by Anthony McCarten, directed by Joe Wright and starring Gary Oldman, Lily James, Kristen Scott Thomas & Ronald Pickup.

In May 1940, the fate of World War II hangs on Winston Churchill, who must decide whether to negotiate with Adolf Hitler, or fight on knowing that it could mean the end of the British Empire.

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: 01606 593260 or [chrisball2015@gmail.com](mailto:chrisball2015@gmail.com)

## St Mary's Church Crafty Coffee Group

meets in  
The Mews, Church Green  
on Wednesdays  
from 10.00 am-12.00 noon

We do various crafts and would like to welcome new members, whether you come for crafting or for coffee!

It's a good time for fellowship along with a cuppa and biscuits.

## Hartford Choral Society With Orchestral Accompaniment

FRIDAY  
13<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER  
2023  
7:30PM

Highlights from  
**HANDEL'S THE MESSIAH**  
Conducted by Andrew Millinchip

THERE WILL BE A RETIRING  
COLLECTION IN AID OF

NORTH WEST  
**Air Ambulance**  
CHARITY

**THE GRANGE  
THEATRE,  
HARTFORD,  
CW8  
ILU**