

# St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



# NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023



## **Our cover photo**

Back in 2022, the Mothers' Union July meeting was to take the form of a Summer Outing – a two-hour cruise on the River Dee with Chester Boats, from The Groves. All was booked, but two days before the date, weather forecasters started to talk of 40-degree heat and the press was full of recommendations to stay indoors.

We cancelled; the company was very understanding, we promised to rebook as soon as possible and the outing was rescheduled for the same Tuesday in 2023.

The forecasters this year predicted tempest, storm and wind and, once more, they were not wrong. It was dry when we left Whitegate but en route to Chester, the rains came and didn't let up. Our hardy group arrived in plenty of time for departure, in fact there was time enough for coffee before embarkation. The vessel wasn't the one we'd expected, but it was all undercover – or so we thought.

We set sail, all sitting together in the bow with an excellent view of the river. The commentary was clear and fascinating, full of little-known facts about the landmark buildings lining the banks as we headed out towards Eccleston. The many references to the renowned architect, John Douglas, were of particular interest to us as he was of course responsible for designing and supervising the reconstruction of St Mary's, Vale Royal Abbey and many other properties in our area.

It soon became clear that the Perspex canopy above and around us was not designed by anyone of that calibre. As the deluge continued, water first trickled then poured through gaps in the panels – running down to fall onto a fuse box in the bow – and rapidly and constantly mopped up by our efficient team using kitchen roll brought along by Margaret in her picnic bag. Next, Rose began to feel rising damp on her right side. Resourceful, as farmers are, she found that by pressing the handle of her walking stick onto one of the window panels, she was able to keep the flood at bay. She remained in that position throughout, much like the young Dutch lad who kept his finger in the hole in the dyke!

Thanks to those efforts, we were never in danger of sinking. We ate our picnic, chatted and joked. Our boat, the Jackie, turned round once we reached the replica of Thomas Telford's Iron Bridge, at Eccleston, and the fun and fellowship continued all the way back to The Groves. It was an eventful, grand day out and proof that the Mothers' Union motto could be that of the Scouting movement – Be Prepared!

## SEPTEMBER Diary

<b>SEP</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am	<b>Trinity 13</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service Service in the Pits	St Mary's The Mews Oulton Park
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30 pm	St Mary's PCC Meeting	The Mews
<b>6<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>7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am	First Thursday Café ( <i>see p 12</i> )	The Mews
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 – 4.30 pm	Whitegate Village Show ( <i>see p 12</i> )	Recreation Room
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30 am 2.00 pm	<b>St Mary's Patronal Festival</b> United Benefice Service Harvest Festival at Commonsides Chapel	St Mary's Little Budworth
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 7.00 pm	Benefice Team Meeting Wedding Rehearsal	St Mary's
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	12.00 noon	Wedding	St Mary's
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am 9.30 am	<b>Trinity 15</b> Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30 pm	Gentlemen's Dinner	The Plough Inn
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	2.00 pm 2.00 pm	Pastoral & Fellowship Committee Mothers Union: Julia McGuinness, Poet in Residence at Chester Cathedral	Dairy Cottage The Mews
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am 12.00 noon 12.30 pm	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP) College of Canons Meeting	The Mews St Mary's Chester Cathedral
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am	Harvest Big Clean	St Mary's
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Trinity 16</b> Holy Communion	St Mary's
<b>27<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>	7.00 pm 9.00 pm	Harvest Songs of Praise & Supper Dedication of new bell rope guide	St Peter's St Peter's
<b>OCT</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	9.30 am	<b>Harvest</b> Family Service for Harvest	St Mary's
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion BCP	The Mews St Mary's
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00 pm	St Mary's Harvest Supper	The Mews

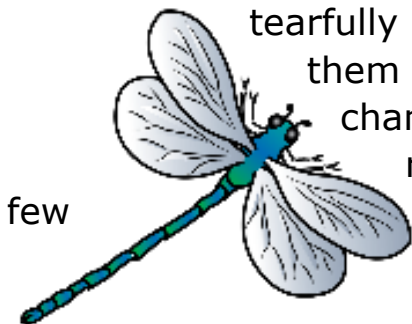
## September thoughts from the new Curate....

### All Change...

Several weeks ago, I was sitting in the leavers' assembly at school as the children celebrated the time they had shared together and all they had achieved. As they



tearfully said "goodbye", Paul reminded them to "be more dragonfly", facing change and embracing everything new. Even with the very rainy summer, I have been lucky enough to observe a few dragonflies in my garden, which gave me pause for thought.



As we come to September, there is much change. The nights begin to draw in, the bright greens give way to autumn golds, reds, and browns. The debate begins about when to turn the heating back on! The lazy summer gives way to parents frantically replacing uniform, shoes, school bags and lunch boxes. Children return to school – to a new class, a new teacher, some a new school or college, with new journeys, different routines to learn or a new way of doing things. Some parents will be making the return to work. For some that change is exciting, for others it can be quite daunting.

The last few weeks have involved several changes for me. I completed my time at theological college. After nearly a year and a half, I said "goodbye" to the lovely people at St. John's, Sandiway. Next came the excitement of being ordained - adjusting to being "Reverend", being seen differently by some. And of course, settling into Whitegate and Little Budworth. Like the delight the dragonfly finds in the beauty of ninety primary colours rather than three, it has been a delight to be sent here. Each day as I drive in, the countryside is breathtaking, but what has really moved me, and helped me settle in so quickly, is the generosity and love shown in your welcome.

I am always moved when I read the account of the Last Supper in John 13. As Jesus knew he was about to die in the ultimate act of love, he could be forgiven for putting himself first. Instead, he removed his garments, bent down like a slave, and washed the dirty, smelly feet of his disciples. He then commanded them, "**As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**" (John 13:34-35).



As Jesus showed his love by serving the needs of others, when we see people in times of change, struggle, or any kind of need, we are called to do the same. Not just to be “nice” but to speak openly of God’s abundant love for all his creation – especially for the 1.5 million in the diocese who do not yet know God. As we grow and change together, my prayer for us all is that we may mirror for ourselves and others the immeasurable love, generosity, and hospitality of God, that all may come to love and trust him.

God bless,  
Margaret.

### **A verse for September**

*“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”*  
Matthew Ch 5: v 9

In what was called by some ‘the swinging sixties’ an often-heard slogan was, ‘Make love not war’.

This started as a protest in the USA against the Vietnam war which spanned the period. I believe, probably unintentionally, it helped in understanding this the seventh of the beatitudes.

Making peace needs more than just stopping violence or conflict. To be a peacemaker requires the stopping of conflict but also the creation of a positive relationship or situation. Here Jesus is calling for all of us to be peacemakers but to be able to do that we need to make peace with ourselves, to make peace with others and most of all make peace with God.

Not easy to put into practice but something that is needed in our world just as much today as in Jesus’ time.

JTS.

## **SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM ST MARY’S**

### **□ Churchyard Maintenance**

Work has continued throughout the summer to keep the graveyard and the area outside the lychgate and the white gates spick and span, together with Whitehead Fields and the land around it. There will be more planting taking place in the autumn too. We are very grateful to Richard and to all those in the working parties who give their time so willingly.

## □ **New PCC Secretary**

September brings that “new term” feeling that’s never quite forgotten from our schooldays. With the new term, on 5<sup>th</sup> September we have the first meeting of the Parochial Church Council since June and a new PCC Secretary, Roger Wilkes, who was voted in at that last meeting. Since Roger is fairly new to St Mary’s, we asked if he’d like to introduce himself. Here below, you’ll read the outline he provided.

Roger, thank you for this pen portrait, and for taking on this responsibility for St Mary’s Whitegate.

*Born in Birmingham, Roger won an alto choral exhibition to Clare College, Cambridge, where he read music; holder of a further music degree from London University, he is also an honorary Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians. After graduating, he served as an alto lay clerk in the choirs of Southwell (Notts.) and Ely cathedrals. Though initially a music librarian, most of Roger’s professional career was spent in adult education; from 1974 to 1990 he was staff tutor in music at Manchester’s College of Adult Education, while, for several years from 1993, he taught at the Wilmslow Guild, and, as an associate lecturer, for the universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Keele, and, between 1994 and 2010, for the Open University. Roger has a special interest in ‘early’ (16th and early 17th century) music both British and Continental; in November 1977 he co-founded the North West Early Music Forum, of which he has been President since 1985. Roger is married to Val who, with him, also sings in the St Mary’s church choir.*



□ **Men’s Breakfast** This month’s breakfast is earlier in the month, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 9.00 am at Tarporley Garden Centre. All are welcome at this popular – and delicious gathering, but you must book. Sign up on the noticeboard in church or contact Alan Newton on 01829 760239.

□ **Gentlemen’s Dinner** And the male of the species is truly spoilt this month. There’s a dinner planned at The Plough on Beauty Bank, Whitegate, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30 for 7.00 pm. For this event too, booking is essential. There’s a list on the board in church, or you can contact Alan Newton by phone or email, details above.



## □ New church website

St Mary's now has a new more modern and colourful website thanks to the generosity of the team at 360 Systems, led by Whitegate resident David Jolliffe, and helped by members of the Communications Group who have updated all the content.

You'll still find it in the same place <https://www.stmaryswhitegate.org/> and we hope that whether you are looking at it on your phone, tablet, laptop or PC you will find it easy to locate the information you need.

There are links to our facebook page, which is particularly appreciated by the younger families in the parish; our MONTHLY NEWS is available online and you can sign up to have this and other news sent to you by e-mail regularly. There is a Donate-on-Line facility and we are even linked in to ACNY - A Church Near You, the national database to help people find churches – hopefully it will help visitors and newcomers to this area find us, but also help us locate churches to visit on holiday..

Our aim will be to keep the website up to date – the EVENTS diary automatically updates daily– but we can only include information we are given. Any items for posting or comments to help us keep the website up to date and useful should please be sent to: [website@stmaryswhitegate.org](mailto:website@stmaryswhitegate.org)

St Mary's Whitegate About Us Services Children Groups Helping Events Blog

# OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Welcome to St Mary's Whitegate

Contact us  
01606 889995  
vicarage@inderhill@outlook.com

## Events

Aug 03 Thu	10:30 AM First Thursday Cafe
Aug 06 Sun	09:30 AM Morning Prayer
Aug 09 Wed	09:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Crafty Coffee 12:00 PM Holy Communion (BCP)
Aug 13 Sun	09:30 AM Holy Communion

View all

### What's Happening at St Mary's

**Making Tracks 3 - 26 July - 2 Sept**  
Pete Waterman and his Railnuts friends have brought another fantastic 64ft long railway layout, modelled on Milton Keynes station, to Chester Cathedral.  
[Find out more](#)

**Moody & Sankey Celebration**  
Saturday afternoon  
12th August at 4.30 pm  
Little Budworth Methodist Chapel  
[Find out more](#)

**Join our Methodist Friends**  
Come along and sing some good old favourite hymns – followed by refreshments  
[Find out more](#)

**James Bond Heads to the Bahamas...**  
007 has to recover two nuclear warheads, stolen by SPECTRE agent Emilio Largo in an international extortion scheme.  
[Find out more](#)

**Welcome to Margaret Byrne**  
Margaret Byrne joins the team as a Deacon at St Mary's and St Peter's after her ordination in St Thomas's Church, Stockton Heath on 1st July.  
[Find out more](#)

**Story Telling Service**  
Story Telling service for families with young children.  
[Find out more](#)

**Focus on Whitegate**  
Jane Millinch's Photography Exhibition held in the Mews sparked much conversation among those taking part in the identification quiz.  
[Find out more](#)

All articles



## □ **St Mary's Harvest Clean**

In anticipation of decorating for Harvest, all are invited to don their Marigolds and join in the Big Clean, on Saturday 23rd September, from 9.30 am onwards. There'll also be work going on in the churchyard so if you prefer the great outdoors, then come prepared to sweep the under the lychgate, clean the white gates or clear a hidden gravestone. A light lunch will be provided for volunteers who sign up on the board. All offers of help are much appreciated.

## □ **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October at 9.30 am. Please note that everyone is encouraged to bring groceries to be offered up at the altar during the service. They will later be donated to the Mid Cheshire Foodbank.



On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September volunteers will be decorating the porch at St Mary's for Harvest Sunday. On that morning, from 9.00 am onwards they would love to receive donations of fresh produce and flowers to work with, both inside and out. After the weekend, the fresh items will be made up in harvest baskets and taken as gifts from St Mary's to those in the parish who aren't able to get out and about as they once did.

Please be generous with donations of fresh and tinned produce. As Christians, we are urged to share the bounty we have with those who have less and our gifts are always appreciated. To receive a harvest basket from St Mary's can brighten someone's day.

## □ **All good gifts around us: images from nature**

From 1<sup>st</sup> October, in The Mews. With the arrival of autumn, we think once again of the wonders of God's creation, and this year we will mark our time of Harvest Thanksgiving with a new exhibition of photographs by Jane Millinchip.

## □ **Harvest Supper: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

We invite you to a cosy evening in the church mews with good hearty food and wine, with entertainment, games and a good laugh. 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. Book early, for last year all the tickets sold out very quickly.





**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**OULTON PARK RACING CIRCUIT**

**SPONSORED FAMILY FUN RUN, WALK OR CYCLE**

**In aid of St Peter's Church, Little Budworth**

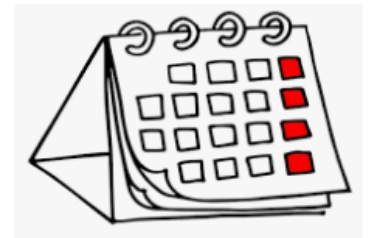
**Service in the Pits: 11.00 am**

**Track opens at 12.30 pm**

**More information from [www.stpeterslittlebudworth.co.uk](http://www.stpeterslittlebudworth.co.uk)**

**or phone 01829 760604**

## **LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD**



### **☐ Highlights from Handel's Messiah**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm at The Grange Theatre, Hartford. Performed by Hartford Choral Society, conducted by Andrew Millinchip. *See page 12 for more details.*

### **☐ Colours of Christmas:** from Advent Sunday in The Mews

Thinking ahead towards Advent and Christmas, we are asking you all for contributions to a 'Colours of Christmas' exhibition. What we are looking for are colourful photographs on the theme of Christmas and/or winter. Just a few guidelines.

1. They need to be in electronic form and of sufficiently good quality to be enlarged and printed off.
2. They can include people but they should not just be photos of family or friends. Something a bit more anonymous.
3. Please give them to Jane Millinchip either as an email attachment or on a memory stick before 15 October.

## **St Mary's Social committee; it's not too late!**

*A couple of people already answered the call last month, but the growing Social committee will always welcome another volunteer or two...*

Do you like throwing a party? Would you like to get more involved? Are you new to St Mary's and would like to get to know more people? Do you like organising? Are you artistic? Do you like helping people?

If you can answer yes to any ONE of these questions... WE NEED YOU! You will be very welcome to join our small friendly and enthusiastic group that makes things happen.

For more information phone: John Blayney (07964844642) or Elaine Campbell (07896779962)



Our parish council recently carried out a review of the Whitegate and Marton Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2035. The plan is regularly referred to when the council is studying and commenting on planning applications in the parish. However, all planning decisions are made by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

It is important that the plan is up to date and reflects current issues. Each section of the plan was considered and comments made on changes in the area since 2015. The review concluded that no changes were needed to the plan itself; it remains as relevant today as when it was originally produced. The comments regarding the picture today of our rural environment, the economic activity/employment and the activities by community groups in our parish make interesting and positive reading. Do take a look on <https://tinyurl.com/Nplanreview>

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> September, when Hazel Griffiths will reveal the "Motion of the Oceans: how I went from fat, stressed banker to cruise ship guest speaker". Visitors always welcome. To know more, contact Alison: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)

**Contacts** Please note that only e-mail addresses for a few contacts are shown in the on-line 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 889836</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary</b>          Roger Wilkes 01606 75738</p> <p><b>Mothers' Union</b>          Eileen Lees 01606 786895</p>
<p><b>Children's Worker</b>          Teresa Finney 01606 516225</p>	<p><b>Pastoral &amp; Fellowship Committee</b>          Alan Newton 01829 760239</p>
<p><b>Musical Director</b>          Andrew Millinchip 01606 516225  <a href="mailto:amillinchip@gmail.com">amillinchip@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Mews Lettings</b>          Andrew Millinchip  <a href="mailto:amillinchip@gmail.com">amillinchip@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b>          Sue Whitehead 01606 852302</p>	<p><b>Church Flowers</b>          Pam Davies 01606 557833</p>
<p><b>"News" Coordinator</b>          Christine Ball 01606 593260 <a href="mailto:chrisball2022@outlook.com">chrisball2022@outlook.com</a></p>	

**OCTOBER 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> September.

# Whitegate Village Show 2023

Horticulture



Flower Arranging



Saturday  
9 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



Art



Craft

Organised by Whitegate Women's Institute Registered charity 1021683

Enquiries: tel. Alison 01606 888359

Email: [whitegatewi@outlook.com](mailto:whitegatewi@outlook.com)

Schedules from St Mary's Church porch or the Station House Cafe or online at [www.whitegatewi.weebly.com](http://www.whitegatewi.weebly.com)



# First Thursday Café

The Mews

Church  
Green  
Whitegate



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September



Come down to meet  
friends and chat over  
tea / coffee and  
delicious cake.

Open 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.



# Hartford Choral Society

With Orchestral  
Accompaniment

FRIDAY  
13TH  
OCTOBER  
2023  
7:30PM

Highlights from

HANDEL'S  
MESSIAH

Conducted by Andrew Millinchip

THE  
GRANGE  
THEATRE,  
HARTFORD.

CW8  
ILU

THERE WILL BE A RETIRING  
COLLECTION IN AID OF



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 - 7.00PM TO 10.30PM

The Mews, Church Green, Whitegate