

St Mary's Parish Church Whitegate



NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2025



Our cover photo

Harvest Sunday, 5th October. A reminder that Pam Davies and Jo Jordan have asked us to bring to church a jam jar simply filled with any flowers, fruits, seeds or foliage found in gardens or hedgerows. Place it on one of the windowsills so that all our worship in the harvest season is surrounded by examples of God's marvellous creations. On Harvest Sunday, our gifts of fruit/vegetables/groceries will be received at the altar. During the following week, harvest baskets will be taken out to those in our community who can't get out to shop and non-perishables will be delivered to the Mid Cheshire Foodbank.

We are asked to bring any fruit and veg we have for decorating the porch on Friday morning, 3rd October, from 9.30 am. **(N.B. this date has changed since last month's NEWS was circulated. Please do bring produce for decorating down on the Friday morning.)**



A verse for OCTOBER

Deuteronomy Ch 26: verses 1-2

Moses, speaking to the people of Israel, said: "When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first-fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket."

At this season of harvest, we reflect on all the good things God has given us, and on how we are called to respond. The first fruits represent the best of the crop, the most delicious. They are not just a few mouldy potatoes from the bottom of the bag after all the good ones have been eaten.

Our response should be about prioritising our time, and our money. It's perhaps about blocking out a certain time once week to do something in our local community before putting other things in the diary. It's perhaps about setting up a standing order to give a certain amount of money to a charity, so that the money which we give is not simply the loose change in our pocket or a random donation on a card machine. Moses wants the people to make their gratitude to God a priority, not an afterthought. The same applies to us.

SJM

OCTOBER Diary

1st	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
2nd	10.30 am	First Thursday Café	The Mews
3rd	From 9.30 am	Fruit & veg to Church to decorate the porch	St Mary's
5th	9.30 am 2.00 for 2.30 pm	Harvest Festival Family Service for Harvest Movies in The Mews: A Walk in the Woods. <i>See page 8</i>	St Mary's The Mews
7th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
8th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
11th	6.15 pm	Whitegate Parish Harvest Supper. <i>See p. 8</i>	Whitegate School Hall
12th	9.30 am	Trinity 17 Holy Communion	St Mary's
14th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
15th	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
19th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Trinity 18 Morning Prayer Storytelling Service	St Mary's The Mews
21st	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside St Mary's Mothers' Union meet to plan 2026	L.B. Methodist Chapel The Mews
22nd	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
23rd	9.45 am meet for 10.00 am start. 7.00 pm for 7.30 start.	Whitegate Amblers last walk of the season. <i>See page 8 for details of route.</i> Middlewich Deanery Synod meeting, at which Bishop Sam will talk on Melanesia	Dysart Arms, Bunbury CW6 9PH Christ Church, Wharton
N.B. During the night between Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th October, the clocks will go back 1 hour.			
26th	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Bible Sunday Holy Communion Choral Evensong. <i>See page 8</i>	St Mary's St Mary's
28th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
29th	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Crafty Coffee Holy Communion (BCP)	The Mews St Mary's
30th	3.00 pm	Mission and Giving group meeting	Marton Sands House
NOV 2nd	9.30 am	All Saints Family Service	St Mary's
4th	2.00 pm	Bible Study at Commonsideside	L.B. Methodist Chapel
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
9th	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Service of Remembrance All Souls' Service	St Mary's St Mary's

October letter from Rev Margaret

I would like to say a big, heartfelt "Thank you" to all those who have given their time and offered support during Paul's sabbatical leave. Just before Paul began his sabbatical, he wrote in the July issue of how he was trapped and could go nowhere, due to Cinder Hill Road works. Three months on, just before Paul returns and as I write this, I have also spent a week trapped as the one road to and from my house has been dug up for resurfacing. I have had to load my car up (trying to work out what I might need) and move it to the other side of the village at a ridiculously early hour each day so that I could get out. Then I have had to find extra tasks I could do out and about until the road reopened each evening. I keep a good diary, but I have really had to think about how I use my time!



October is that time when the days are getting cooler and nights are starting to draw in early, and by the end of the month, we'll be racing round the house putting the multitude of clocks back (though I get in trouble for always neglecting to reset the car clock!) and enjoying an extra hour of sleep before we get up for church.



As a child, I used to find the how and why of clocks going back and forward quite confusing and could never remember "spring forward, fall back," though I loved the longer evenings as a child. Now I am older, I love the darker evenings for putting my pyjamas on early!

It was only as I got older that I understood the notion of measuring and naming time and manipulating it to suit our needs. As humans, we are obsessed by measuring time. The first calendars were lunar and can be traced back as long as 6,000 years ago. The first clocks were a form of sundial, found in Egypt and Babylon. Championed by William Willett, a builder from Kent, British Summer Time was first introduced in the UK during the Summertime Act of 1916, as a response to the need for energy conservation during World War One. By changing the clocks one hour, there was more daylight for recreation, improving health, and saving the country money in lighting costs. It was a clever way to conserve coal supplies. In World War Two, the UK even moved to Double British Summer Time to conserve fuel.

There has been much debate over whether to keep the system, with claims of energy saving and reduction in traffic accidents... but there is no pleasing everyone. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 talks of a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. But have you ever thought about how God sees time? In our prayers, we say "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever." There was never a time when God wasn't, and there will never be a time when God isn't.

God exists outside of time, but in his abundant love for us, he never leaves us. We read in the book of Genesis how God promises Abraham, that through his descendants, all creation will know his blessing. Mankind did not use the time God gave well, but in his love, God revealed his very nature in his Son, Jesus, who gave hope as he taught of the coming of God's kingdom and promised that he would return. He left us with the Holy Spirit so that we would not be alone.

So, as we move through the month of October, whether mourning the loss of long summer days, or looking forward to crisp autumnal days, a cheeky hot chocolate and snuggling up in front of a fire, do take time to marvel at the change of seasons. Appreciate the level of God's care in creation and know that he loves and cares for you deeply. It is worth spending a few minutes reflecting on the famous hymn by Thomas Chisholm, a Methodist minister (1923), based on Lamentations, Chapter 3, verses 22-23:

"Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be."

Remember that each season, our time and how we use it, is precious to us and precious to God. I pray we will all use our time well this Autumn, to God's glory.

God bless, Margaret.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

☐ The conifer is no more

Users of the lychgate will have seen that the Cypress tree that had long needed support whilst leaning in a westerly direction, has been taken down. Storms brought down a branch of it a few months ago and experts judged that what remained was unsafe. Huge thanks to Kevin Newsome, who arranged for it to be felled for us. Nature has already

provided a replacement, for a holly, which had been trying hard to force its way upwards to the light, will now have room to grow on and thrive.



☐ Weekly Reading Sheets

The October sheets are on the website now. Please note there is no sheet for Sunday 5th October as everything will be printed in the Harvest Service booklet. <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.

❑ **Choral Evensong at St Mary's, Sunday 26th October at 6.30 pm**

In preparation for this occasion, the choir has been rehearsing for a few weeks now. The service will feature music by Thomas Ebdon, Harvey Grace and our own, Andrew Millinchip and of course the congregation will sing their hearts out during some well-known hymns. Such glorious sung choral evening services are still common in cathedrals but less so in our parishes. They give us the chance to enjoy uplifting music as well as relax, pray and reflect. Come along to do that here in Whitegate.

❑ **Whitegate Harvest Supper – Saturday 11th October**

This event brings together supporters from church and village and promises a lively and delicious evening of good fun in great company. Everyone welcome! On the menu, beef hotpot or vegetarian option, followed by apple crumble or pavlova. There'll be a pay bar offering wines, beers & soft drinks. During the evening there'll be a game or two, and a quiz. The organisers are working hard to make it a night to remember. Don't miss it. 6.15 pm in the School Hall. See page 8 for details of how to book and do it now!

❑ **Advance Dates for your diary**

Sunday 30th November: Movies in The Mews. 2.00 for 2.30 pm.
The Hundred Foot Journey (2014)

Saturday 6th December: Whitegate Christmas Lights switch on.
5.15 pm on Church Green

Tuesday 16th December: Vale Royal Abbey Christmas Concert 7.30 pm. Has to be ticket only this year. See next month's NEWS for details of how to get yours.



❑ **Mid Cheshire Foodbank is asking for our help**

Urgently needed: Peanut Butter, Tinned Corned Beef, Tinned Ham, Male Deodorant.

If you can help, please bring these items down to church and place in our collection box by the choir vestry.

WHITEGATE WI

Our next monthly meeting is on Wednesday 3rd September, 7.15 for 7.30 pm at Whitegate Recreation Room. On that day, we'll welcome Hannah Graham, from the Children's Adventure Farm Trust. Visitors & new members always welcome. There is a small charge for refreshments.

Contacts

As of 1st October, we shall be delighted to welcome back Paul Dawson from his sabbatical leave.

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 amillinchip@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

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

Movies in The Mews

Church Green, Whitegate

Sunday 5th October 2025

Refreshments from 2.00 p.m.

film starts at 2.30 p.m. prompt.



A WALK IN THE WOODS (2015)

"Robert Redford plays Bill Bryson – yes, really!"

"A great Sunday afternoon film, with fabulous scenery"

Based on the acclaimed book by Bill Bryson, directed by Ken Kwapis and starring Emma Thompson, Robert Redford & Nick Nolte. The film tells the story of Bryson and his old college friend, as they set out on an expedition along the Appalachian Trail that would test people half their age!

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

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH WHITEGATE

Harvest Supper



Come and join our celebrations with a delicious traditional 2 course meal* followed by tea and coffee.

Also on offer are Games, Raffle, a Bar and good company!

Saturday 11TH October in Whitegate School Hall
TICKETS £17 - 6:15pm start
(Doors open from 6.00pm)

To book, please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard in church or contact Elaine Campbell (07896779962) or John Blayney (07964844642) johnblayney2@gmail.com.

* Vegetarian option available



Whitegate Amblers

October - Bunbury walk & lunch at Dysart Arms

Please join us for our last monthly walk of the year. Please text or phone if you want lunch as we will be booking a table inside at 12.00. Let us know in advance if you need a lift from Whitegate.

Date: Thursday 23rd October

Time: 09:45 for walk starting 10:00

Start location: Dysart Arms, Bunbury (CW6 9PH)

Description: Guided walk around 2 hours long. There are no stiles but expect some mud

Notes: Toilets open in Dysart Arms from 10am. Park at the pub or church. For more info contact John Blayney (07964844642)



Join us for

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, 26th October

6.30 pm at
St Mary's Whitegate

