

Whitton Times Summer 2025



Church in Community

"Welcome to Whitton Times,
a blend of Church
and Community,
a magazine from us to you".
We hope you'll find it helpful .

OUR "PARISH OF WHITTON" AND REVD MARY'S FACEBOOK PAGES HAVE BEEN HACKED, AND BECAUSE THEY WERE LINKED FACEBOOK HAS DELETED THEM. WE HAVE HAD TO START AGAIN FROM SCRATCH AND OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE IS :- [WHITTON PARISH IPSWICH](#)



July 2025

Did you know that in church we use different colours at different times? On the altar are different coverings and during the service, those leading worship, wear different colour robes. These all have meaning. White or gold is usually a celebration, red usually when we are thinking about the Holy Spirit or Martyrs, purple for more solemn times such as lent or advent or maybe when someone has died. Lastly there is green which is the colour used at all other times and especially at this time of year..... and green is for growth.

So green reminds us to pay attention to how we grow. That might be how we grow closer to God, or how we grow in our spiritual lives. Everyone has a spiritual life even if its not as part of a faith or belief system. It is an essential part of who we are and includes such things as a search for meaning and purpose, the awareness that there is something greater than the individual, it can encompass awe and wonder, pain and sorrow, a search for connectedness or for the sacred.

As we travel through summer it is a good time to pay heed to developing our spiritual lives, to find things that make us say 'wow' in nature, art, literature or music maybe, or in our worship at church. To allow ourselves time to be present to things around us; to stop and take in the wonderful sunset or the child laughing, the bird song or the butterfly. Only when our spiritual lives are nurtured can we find wholeness. We often give time and attention to our physical, emotional and mental wellbeing but how often do we nurture our spirit?

As Christians we have the great joy of lots of things that help us to nurture that spiritual side of our selves. We do this through prayer, through music, fellowship, through celebrating with people and celebrating the fruits of the earth and in seeking that relationship with the God who is Love, and finding meaning and purpose in our faith and all it gives to and requires of us.

Religious or not, try keeping a diary of one spiritual moment you encounter in each day? and if you don't have one then the next day actively try and find 2! I am sure this will become a source of blessing to you.

If you would like to grow among us at Whitton Church please just come along any Sunday, you will find a warm welcome, 09.30 most weeks except the first Sunday of the month when it's a very relaxed service at 10am!

So go green, go grow and may it be a blessing to you!

The Reverend Mary Sokanovic - Rector



The Top Up Shop is **open to everyone**. There are **no questions asked** (apart from contact number and post code in case of product recall). There are no criteria to fulfil. If you need food or just need to top up your food supplies, please come and see us. The cost is £2 for a recyclable bag. Each week we have a good choice of goods and always fresh fruit and vegetables.

We are open from 11am to 12.15pm every Wednesday in the Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane. Coffee and cake are available in the church from 9.30 –11.30am.

You can be assured of a warm



"WHITTON PARISH IPSWICH"—FACEBOOK PAGE

Many have found us on 'Facebook Live' for Sunday services. If you would like to know more or simply make contact, please either use the 'messenger' facility or email : marysokanovic@outlook.com



WHITTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Covering Whitton, Whitehouse and Castle Hill we currently provide Junior, Inters and Senior Youth Clubs, Single gender groups, detached youth work, one to one support, school holiday Craft and play and Youth drop in sessions. All our activities are provided free of charge and free food is available at all activities based within Whitton Parish Hall where we are based.

Junior Youth Club – After school on a Monday

Inters Youth Club – After School on a Tuesday

Senior Youth Club – from 5.30p.m. on a Tuesday

Coming up this summer

Craft and Play days on the following Tuesdays 29th July, 5th 12th 19th 26th August. Booking essential as spaces go within hours of appearing on our Facebook page. See our Facebook page for details at <https://www.facebook.com/whittonyouthpartnership/>

Youth drop in days on Thursdays 31st July 7th 14th 21st and 28th August. See the above Facebook page for details

Booking essential for summer holiday Craft and Play Days as spaces go within hours of appearing on our Facebook page. See our Facebook page for details at <https://www.facebook.com/whittonyouthpartnership/>



Calling Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Childminders

Mums & Tots @ Whitton Parish Church

Come and join us with your little ones for fun, chat and play

Each Wednesday (during term time) from 1.15pm to 3pm

At Whitton Parish Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane.

Last week of term July 16th. New term starts September 10th

We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones up to school age.

Come and meet other parents and carers while you watch your little ones play, have fun and learn to socialise.



We have a wide variety of toys for your children to enjoy, and a book library where you can borrow a book to read at home.

We ask for £1 per session per family to help cover our costs, which includes snack time and activities.

So come along any Wednesday during term time and see for yourself.

For more details please contact Bridget on 01473 286663, or 07890311525

Or just come along, we look forward to meeting you



Our Town Pastors

Ever fancied a Saturday night in town with good company?Sounding good?

Well here is something to think about!!

There's a team of ordinary but incredible people who give up their time to help others by making sure our young adults are safe in the town and in getting home after a night out. The Town Pastors work alongside the police in making sure people are cared for if they find themselves in difficulties. They are Christians, but are only allowed to show their faith in their actions and compassion, not in preaching!

It is most humbling and rewarding work, although can be challenging. Sometimes some of those living on the streets want to share their stories and this can be heartbraking and inspirational at the same time.

If you are interested in joining in with this amazing work, or would just like more information, please either phone the Town Pastors on 07722 857540 or email admin@ipswichtownpastors.org.uk



-IS A FREE Singing and Drama Group for KS2+ children!

Sessions run on **Mondays** during term time **3.30pm-4.30pm**.

At **The Ascension Church, Larchcroft Road**

For more information contact **Becky** on 07878289197

or by emailing **whikidz1@gmail.com**



Presents their performance of

The Wizard of Oz

No you haven't missed it.....new dates!!

At **Whitton Parish Hall** on **18th October @ 7pm & 19th October @ 3pm**

Adult £4 Child £1

Tickets from: whikidz1@gmail.com



The Parish of
Whitton
with Thurlleston & Akenham

Our church and Your church

As the words of a hymn says, All are welcome, all are welcome, in this place.

Are you new to the area?

Were you Married or Baptised here, or did you visit our church for another reason in the past?

I have been a member of our church for many years and can assure you of a warm welcome from our friendly congregation.

Come and visit us any 1st Sunday of the month for

All Together Church at 10am (our Family Church)

or any 2nd 3rd 4th or 5th Sunday at 9.30am for our normal

Eucharist Service (with Communion)

Stay to chat and enjoy Coffee, Tea and quite often cake after church.

**Coffee morning—every
Wednesday 9.30—11.30.**



Why not pop along to Whitton church,
Whitton Church Lane,
and enjoy a cuppa.
You will find a warm friendly welcome,
and a chance for a good natter!



FAMILY FIRST

Phone:- 0300 7727715

Email:- info@familyfirst-uk.org

Website:- www.familyfirst-uk.org

Facebook:- Family First Ipswich



Akenham Church

As we approach summer, many people enjoy a walk up to the lovely little church in the fields at Akenham. It makes a lovely walk, not too onerous, and it makes a good stop for a picnic. It is often

open during the daytime but there is always someone there to enable access on the first Saturday of the month between May and September from 12 until 3pm. Or you could join us for Cream Tea in the churchyard at 5.30pm on Sunday 3rd August followed by BCP Communion in the church, or at one of our Evensong Services throughout August at 6.30pm each Sunday. Harvest festival there will be on Sunday 21st September at 3.30pm and carols by Candlelight on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm.

Now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust this little church has a fascinating and important history which can be found here on Simon's Suffolk Churches website.

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/akenham.htm>

Ipswich Deaf Church now meet at the

Ascension Church on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2.30pm. The service uses **British Sign Language (BSL)** as it's source language with a voice over into English.

All the hymns are signed by members of Ipswich Deaf Signing Choir and the service is followed by refreshments. All are welcome to come along and join us.

For more information contact Rev Penny Brinkley Diocesan Chaplain with the Deaf Community email rev.pennybrinkley@yahoo.com or text to 07901950768

(Please note occasionally the service date may change so please do check if you are planning on coming)

During the last week of March, we had a very exciting few days as we hosted an **‘Experience Easter’** event for local schools. This was an opportunity for children to come into church and learn about the Easter story in a fun and immersive way. Over four days we welcomed approximately 176 pupils into church from four different schools: The Beeches Community Primary School, St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy and Castle Hill Primary School. The children heard the Easter story and then moved around six stations which brought each part of the story to life. Each station had a theme and an activity with something for the children to experience and reflect on. The pupils really enjoyed the sessions and we had some lovely feedback from school staff about the pupils’ engagement and what a calm atmosphere it was. We are so pleased it was such a great success and look forward to planning the next experience event for later in the year.

We could not have run this event without the support of many amazing volunteers. They not only ran the stations but many also supported with setting up, packing away and helping to resource the event. If you would like to volunteer at our next experience event or are interested in joining an **Open the Book team** I would love to hear from you.

Please contact me at lucy.schoolslink@whittonparish.co.uk.



What is Open the Book? Its the sharing of bible stories with children everywhere. The stories are shared in a fun and memorable way by a team of volunteers. They prepare a 10 to 15 minute Open the Book scripted bible story to a school assembly.

Schools benefit as no planning is needed by staff and no cost. They are engaging assemblies that provide opportunities for reflection.



Are you interested in Baptism for yourself or your children?

Give Eileen Ardern a ring on 01473 252251 for information and a friendly, informal chat.

Usual services at St Mary & St Botolph & the Ascension Churches

Sundays—1st in month - 8am Said Eucharist & 10 am—All Together Church
Not livestreamed

2nd - 4th in month—9.30am—Eucharist
All at St Mary & St Botolph,

Whitton Church Lane. These are livestreamed
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

Wednesday 10am—Eucharist at the Ascension, Larchcroft Road.

Are you planning a wedding? -

Did you know:

There are lots of ways you may qualify to be married in a Church.

That you do not have to be a regular church goer to do so.

That it usually costs less to do so than at other venues.

You can have a range of music not necessarily religious,

Each wedding is unique to the couple

& can have many special moments and elements.

We have a stunningly beautiful church to be married in so why not have a chat and look round?

Contact Mrs Angela Marjoram 07950 086135 for a visit and friendly chat.

Look out for Mary & John around the parish!

Email: marysokanovic@outlook.com
Tel: 07824 323073

