

The Bell

Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



FEBRUARY / MARCH
2025

Welcome

Despite an icy beginning to 2025, our many local groups and organisations have had a positive start to the year. There is a lot going on at the school and church, including a celebration of Mothering Sunday at St Chad's on 30th March. The Police are also asking to hear our *Residents' Voices* on local issues (see page 3).

A very warm welcome to Phoebe Parkinson as our new Parish Chairman (come and say hello at her first Meeting 'in charge' on 7th April), and equally warm thanks to outgoing Chairman, John Oakden, for his commitment to the Parish across recent months and years. The position of Parish Clerk is still vacant, so if you are able to offer a few hours a month in this role, then do get in touch.

If you have any items for our next issue, please send them across by 17th March.

Best wishes,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chairman, Phoebe Parkinson

07715 958504; tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

Parish Clerk, Position vacant

Please contact Parish Chairman

Ward Councillor, Rachel Williams

01948 860627; rachel.williams@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

MP for Chester South & Eddisbury, Aphra Brandreth

aphra@aphrabrandreth.com; www.aphrabrandreth.com

Local police, PCSO Rachael McKeivitt

Calls to 101 (non-urgent); rachael.mckevitt@cheshire.police.uk



Cheshire West
and Chester

Report It

To report any Council-related issues or to track progress, visit:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx

Alternatively, you can use the reporting App, and log a report in four simple steps:

- 1) Pinpoint the location on the map;
- 2) Take a photo of the fault;
- 3) Select a category and provide more information;
- 4) Submit.

What's On?

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall

Juror No. 2 [12A]

Monday 24th February, 7.30 pm

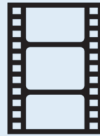
During a high-profile murder trial, a juror finds himself with a serious moral dilemma – to sway the jury verdict and potentially convict or free the wrong killer. Directed by Clint Eastwood; stars Nicholas Hoult, Kiefer Sutherland, Toni Collette.

Firebrand [15]

Monday 24th March, 7.30 pm

British historical drama based on the 2013 novel Queen's Gambit. Katherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII, is named regent while the King battles abroad – but finds herself fighting for her own survival. Stars Alicia Vikander and Jude Law.

Tickets £5 incl. snacks; refreshments on sale



THE BIG CLEAN

Saturday 22nd March
10 am to midday

If you have a few minutes to spare, please help us to get St Chad's 'spick n span' for Spring 2025 – many hands make light work!



Chess Club

Every Thursday, 5.50 to 6.50 pm
at Bishop Heber High School Library.

All ages/standards. Contact Charles Higgle
07981074373; higglecharles@gmail.com



Backgammon Club

Every Tuesday, 7 pm at The Lion, Malpas.
All levels, tuition provided. Open event, 11th Feb.
Contact Graeme Campbell geesea2@gmail.com



Knit and Knatter; Crochet and Chat

First / last Weds of the month, 11 am to 1 pm
at Malpas Jubilee Hall. Free lessons
if needed. Contact Dee 07932 907039



Parish Meeting

Monday 7th April
St Chad's Church, 7 pm

Come and meet your
new Parish Chairman

Spring forward!

Don't forget to put
your clocks
forward
an hour on
Sunday
30th March



Parish Meeting

Next meeting: Monday 7th April

St Chad's Church, 7 pm

Chairman's Report, January 2025

This is my last report as Chairman and I am delighted to inform everyone that at the Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025, a new Chairman was unanimously elected. From now on please address all queries to Phoebe Parkinson on 07715 958504 or email to tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com.

Requests were submitted for funds for the repair of the cenotaph and the printing of *The Bell*. Both were agreed unanimously.

I leave the Parish with a healthy bank balance but feel that we need more younger and active residents of Tushingham, Maesfen and Bradley to participate in the Parish community.

John Oakden

CHESHIRE AGRICULTURAL CHAPLAINCY



Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy is a listening ear for farmers, farm workers, their families and ancillary trades in times of crisis.

Our strapline, '*Here for the tough when the going gets rough,*' underpins all our efforts. We provide a free, confidential service offering a listening ear, practical help, and care to the entire farming community in a non-judgmental way. Our work spans Cheshire and Wirral, offering 24/7 support to those in need.

In 2024, the chaplaincy supported around 70 clients at any one time. Our cases range from brief phone calls to long-term, intensive support. Referrals come from our helpline, website, personal connections, vets, doctors, Healthbox, social media, and other organisations like Farming Community Network (FCN). By being present and active in the community, we have been able to respond to various needs, from befriending to supporting families through life-altering events. Isolation, bereavement, family breakdowns, and the aftermath of farm accidents are still prevalent issues we address. Our work in this area continues to be vital in helping individuals and families navigate tough times.

As we move forward, we are focusing on building resilience in the agricultural community, recognising that proactive support can often prevent crises.

Mrs Helen Rutter

Coordinator/ Lead Chaplain, Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy Team

Mobile: 0767559594; Email: talk@agchap.com; Web: www.agchap.co.uk

Police Community Support



PCSO for Malpas and Tattenhall
PCSO Rachael McKeivitt
rachael.mckevitt@cheshire.police.uk



Beat Manager Rural South, **PC Steve Gardner**
stephen.gardner@cheshire.police.uk

Dragon Hall Police Station, Whitchurch Road, Chowley, Tattenhall CH3 9DU

Website: www.cheshire.police.uk; **Facebook:** [ThallMalpasPol](https://www.facebook.com/ThallMalpasPol)

Dial 999 in an emergency, 101 in a non-emergency

You can also report incidents via the Cheshire Police website
(Please do not report incidents via Facebook)

Police surgeries in February

- Weds 5th** (1–2 pm) at Lily's Stores, Aldford
- Thurs 13th** (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall
- Tues 25th** (10–11 am) at High Street, Farndon
- Fri 28th** (9–10 am) at Fire Station car park, Malpas

Police surgeries in March

- Weds 5th** (12–1 pm) at Lily's Stores, Aldford
- Tues 11th** (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall
- Tues 25th** (10–11 am) at High Street, Farndon
- Fri 28th** (9–10 am) at Fire Station car park, Malpas



It is important to us that we know about the issues that cause you concern. We have set up a survey where you can tell us about the things you would like us to focus on in your area.



If you can't scan the code you can go to
www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicechester



News from St Chad's

Keeping Positive

So, how are you doing with your New Year's resolutions?

Are they a mix of healthier eating, physical exercise, and intent on bettering your character? If so, we have something in common and if, as you read this, your heart is already beginning to sink because we're only a few weeks into 2025 and you're already entering despondency, we have that in common too! Why is it that we try so hard every year and yet seem to make so little progress?

St Paul writes in one of his letters to the church: *"When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom... I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message wasn't in 'my' wisdom and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power."* This gives me hope, not only in my human weakness and failures but in others too.

When world leaders announce their intentions to better their own nations; when pride surpasses a love of inclusion and equality; when lessons from the past are failing to be learned as we look to the future; when things beyond our control cause us to drop our heads in despair because we didn't plan this for our ourselves or our loved ones – then do we simply give up? NO, NO, NO!

Winston Churchill said, *"Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm"*. I like that. It reminds me that success is not the opposite of failure but perhaps more a result of accepting it, embracing it, recognising our weaknesses and then turning to God and leaning on Him. Great leaders are few and far between, but there is One who is constant, who has been there from the beginning and will be there at the end, and remains with us through all the times inbetween and if you haven't recognised Him yet then perhaps, just perhaps, this is the year to do it!

The greatest failure in history could be perceived to be The Cross, the moment the Son of God was nailed to it and died, but out of that perceived failure came the most amazing and miraculous success: the resurrection, the proof that even death can be beaten. God's ultimate weapon is Love – that is His Power, and The Cross is where He demonstrated that Love and Power for all mankind.

Want to follow a leader that can turn your failures into victories? Then make a new resolution. Find time to consider the options: going it alone or going with God? St Paul tried both and opted for the latter, laying down belief in himself and taking up belief in the One whose Love and Power and Word, never fail.

Rev Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

01948 663758; 07928 792337

Services at St Chad's in February and March

Sunday 2 February	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 9 February	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 February	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 February	11.00 am	Morning prayer

Sunday 2 March	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Wednesday 5 March	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Ashing
Sunday 9 March	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 March	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 March	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 30 March*	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday , Holy Communion

**Don't forget the clocks go forward on Sunday 30 March!*

Church Notice: Every six years a **new Electoral Roll** for the Church is drawn up, and this year requires a new Roll. The Roll is a list of names and addresses of everyone who can vote in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held each April/May. You qualify to be on the Electoral Roll in the following ways:

1. If you are 16 or over and have been baptised.
2. You live in the Parish or have worshipped at St Chad's regularly for at least six months.
3. You are a lay person (not ordained).
4. You are a member of the Church of England (or a church in communion with the Church of England).

You can be on the Electoral Roll of more than one Parish, for example, if you live in one Parish but worship in another. If you choose to do this you may only vote in one of those churches at the APCM. To be on the new Electoral Roll you **MUST** fill in an Electoral Roll Form by mid-March. These are available in St Chad's Church and also through our Electoral Roll Officer, Mrs Sally-Ann Chesters, who can be contacted on 07946447020 or by e-mail at bookings@millmoorfarm.co.uk.

Church Wardens

Andrew Dawson: 01948 820305 / 07436 072278; a78dawson@hotmail.com

Karen Kirk: 01948 860988; karenkirk45@gmail.com

BACS: Tushingham PCC 01366084 55-81-16

Marbury, Tushingham and Whitewell **Benefice website:** www.parishmag.org

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



NEXT SERVICE: On **Sunday 9TH February, 2.30 pm** we welcome the shared Ministry of Rev'd John Chesworth and his wife Rev'd Frances. Organist is Gwen Reeves.

Extremely dangerous icy travel conditions sadly meant the cancellation of Bradley's first 2025 afternoon service on 12th January. That was also to be

Pastor Mike's return, giving an opportunity to share his thanks for loving care and support from both personal and Church families, following his ankle injury requiring 'internal scaffolding surgery'. Airport alarms beware!

Pastor Brian, backed up by Chapel Trustees and congregation, ensured Bradley's continued community Ministry. For all of us this is a time to remember valued support from healthcare professionals, not least from Centres of Excellence such as Gobowen's RJA Orthopaedic and Royal Stoke's 'Shine' Cardiac Unit.

The most important good news of 2025. Quite simply, from any Church or Chapel, proclaiming the Original Gospel message has always been our traditional 'Good News Story'. That applies regardless of denomination, or number and locations of congregation or premises. **Question:** How many of us 'Oldies' even remember as youngsters ever being asked, 'Are you saved?' In our so-called sophisticated 21st Century society, over our heads may have gone the essence of God's Gospel promises. The authorised King James Bible gives, 'An offer we shouldn't refuse!' John 3.16 (and expanded in the often-overlooked verse 17):
v.16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life."
v.17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved".

That leaves *absolutely no doubt* of eternal salvation, freely on offer to each and every one of us. Or does it? Well no, not quite. Only free to those who 'believeth in him'. Another biblical translation instead uses the term 'everyone exercising faith'. Exercising faith specifically includes *action*. Some might otherwise see as being 'let off the hook', when requiring nothing more than philosophical belief. From the promotional marketing hype we face daily, grasping with every fibre of our being this most wonderful offer *surely is an absolute no brainer?*

Everyone is welcome at Bradley Chapel Services 2.30 pm, 2nd Sunday, monthly.

Pastor Mike Valentine
Pastor Brian Faulkner

07763168448; mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net
01948 664898; brianfaulkner@btinternet.com



Back the Bells!

It is such a joy to hear The Bells ringing out around Tushingham again after so many years of silence. How grateful we should be to our Tushingham ringers! They've only been together a short while, but their commitment and enthusiasm are second to none.

It was with sadness and disappointment then to hear the news from the Tower Captain, Ann Johnson, that the Bells at St Chad's require repair; repairs that are vital if we are to keep them ringing.

Supported by the *Guild of Ringers*, Ann and the team are currently taking their position incredibly seriously and, in view of that, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Chad's are wanting to offer our support in 'A Project of Restoration' and we hope you too, will get behind them all the way.

Ann and I have spoken about funding the project and there are various ways to raise the money that will be required. An open day will be arranged where people can visit St Chad's and hear about the history of the bells and the works ahead. We also have one or two 'interesting' ideas for fundraising, so keep your eyes open for further details and your support at the ready to 'Back the Bells!'

Rev Veronica x

Long ago and (not so) far away

An item from the *Whitchurch Herald* in Victorian times reports on when the combined Malpas churches headed to Bradley for their summer treat:

Sunday School Treat, 17th July 1897



A horse-drawn 'lurry'

On Monday the annual treat was given to the Sunday School held in connection with the Congregational Chapel. This year the outing was held, by the kindness of Mr James Mullock, at his farm at Bradley. The younger children were conveyed in a lurry [a flat-bed cart] and a brake [an open carriage], and they immensely enjoyed the

ride there and back. The teachers made the juveniles very happy, and games were indulged in with much heartiness. Before leaving for home at night there was much cheering for Mr and Mrs Mullock for their kindness.



After an unexpected 'snow day' postponing our return, we were delighted to have the school filled with smiling faces once again on Tuesday 7th January.

Looking back, winter 2024 highlights included a visit to RAF Cosford for Class 4, and to Liverpool World Museum for Class 3. Then, the snow arrived in early December, and the children couldn't resist! Rolling giant snowballs and playing outside brought rosy cheeks and plenty of laughter – and lots of soggy gloves!

As we approached Christmas, the Class 1 and 2 nativities filled us with warmth and festive spirit, and our trip to the *Sleeping Beauty* pantomime in Shrewsbury was also a big hit! The Key Stage 1 and 2 children then joined other local primary schools to *Sing the Christmas Story* at Chester Cathedral, and the whole school came together with parents for our annual Christmas service at St Chad's on the last day of term.

Now entering this new year, break and lunchtime activities have been enriched with new equipment and games. Swingball, long skipping ropes, clapping games, and a 'Play Buddy'-organised obstacle course have brought added excitement and collaboration to outdoor play. We have also welcomed visitors, including *The Dogs Trust* who delivered engaging and informative sessions to each class about how to stay safe around dogs.

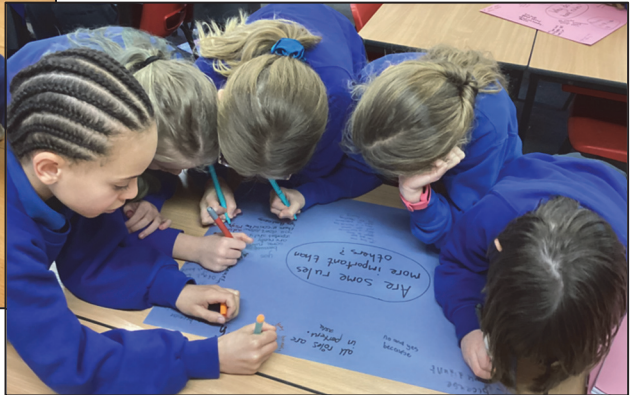


Back in the classroom, Class 1 have been exploring repeated patterns in maths, as well as designing traps to catch an ant, inspired by their class text *I'm Going to Eat This Ant*. In history, Class 2 have been telling the story of Beeston Castle using LEGO® models and learning about wooden vs stone castles, whilst in science they studied habitats around the world including the amazing variety of life in the oceans.

Over in Class 3 the children have been asking, "Are some rules more important than others?" and have also learned about the artist Sonia Delaunay. In PE lessons, the older children have tried circuit training (indoors and out!) and, having enjoyed handball last term, Class 4 are now learning to play basketball – while in class, their topics have been highly varied, covering the heart, Chernobyl, and crime and punishment!

Looking ahead, we have the return of Forest School from the end of February, and the excitement of the Science Fair at Bishop Heber in March. School closes for half-term on 14th February and reopens on 24th February.

Enjoying the 'Winter Wonderland'; repeating patterns in Class 1; and brainstorming in Class 3.



Nursery places available for September

Apply now - 01948 820360
admin@tushingam.cheshire.sch.uk



Tushingam - with - Grindley
C of E Primary School

1 John 47 Let us love one another, for love is from God.
Learning together and worshipping together.

Stormy skies

It's been another tough 12 months for extreme weather across the world. Here in the UK, the 'storm season' runs from early September to late August, and was very active in 2023/4 with 14 named storms. So far in the 2024/ 25 season we have had just four storms – Ashley, Bert, Conall and Darragh.

Since 2015, storms have been given a name if they have a medium/high impact with 'the potential to cause disruption or damage'. Most often this is due to strong winds, but sometimes rain (flooding) or snow are taken into account.

A new alphabetical list of storm names is compiled by the UK, Ireland and The Netherlands (the *Western Storm Group*) at the start of each season, reflecting this mix of nationalities. The UK contribution comes from a shortlist of names submitted by the public via email (nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk) or through the form on the Met Office website (www.metoffice.gov.uk).

In addition, for this 10th anniversary year, three historic names have also been included to honour key figures from the Met Office's 170-year history:

- **Group Captain James Stagg** – chief meteorologist who advised General Dwight Eisenhower on the weather forecast for the D-Day landings.
- **Lewis Fry Richardson** – mathematician, physicist and meteorologist, who came up with a theory for making weather forecasts using computers.
- **Mavis Hinds** – meteorologist who worked on the earliest Met Office computers in the early 1950s.

To be consistent with the US system, there are no names beginning with QUXYZ and let's hope that very few of the other 21 letters will be needed this year...

2024/25 storm names

Ashley

Bert

Conall

Darragh
(Da-ra)

Éowyn
(Ay-oh-win)

Floris

Gerben
(Ger-ben)

Hugo

Izzy

James

Kayleigh

Lewis

Mavis

Naoise
(Nee-sha)

Otje
(O-t-jh-eh)

Poppy

Rafi

Sayuri
(Sah-yoo-ree)

Tilly

Vivienne

Wren

Q, U, X, Y, Z not included to be in line with US National Hurricane Centre naming convention

