

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



APRIL / MAY
2025

Welcome

April/May is always a busy edition for *The Bell*, and this year doesn't disappoint, as one *What's On* page just isn't enough... Starting with *Coffee & Shop* at the beginning of April (including bell tower tours), there are Oscar-winning films, artisan craft markets, the *Walking Festival* in Whitchurch, the *Merry Days* over in Marbury, and then our own *Open Gardens* event around No Man's Heath in mid-May with its delicious cream teas.

A new 'Stay & Play' initiative for families is also in the pipeline (see page 9), and our next Parish Meeting, which is the first for new Chair, Phoebe Parkinson, is at St Chad's on Monday 7th April, so do come along to give her a warm welcome.

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

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 McKevitt

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



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?

Bellringing



St Chad's Tushingham

Come and join us
See amazing Victorian engineering
The bells were installed in 1897

Find out about bellringing...

Great exercise
Make new friends
No need to be strong
No need to be musical
All faiths and none

We are opening the tower to visitors during the Coffee & Shop morning

Saturday 5th April
10 am to midday

We can arrange a return visit if you would like to learn to ring
Contact Ann: 07860 496836

ST CHAD'S CHURCH, TUSHINGHAM



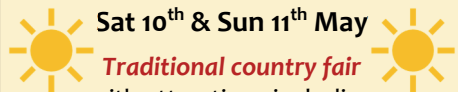
COFFEE & SHOP
SATURDAY 5TH APRIL
10AM - 12MD

BELL TOWER OPEN FOR VIEWING

Parish Meeting

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

Marbury Merry Days



Sat 10th & Sun 11th May



Traditional country fair
with attractions including
Ridgeside Falconry display team,
Little Nippers terrier racing,
Morris Dancing, and Wirral Pipe Band

Bickerton market

Bickerton village hall
SY148AU

Dates coming up
April 6th
May 4th
June 8th
July 6th

£10 indoor and marquee
tables one 6ft table
provided or £15 for 2 tables
£5-£10 outdoor stalls
depending on size

Email
bvhmarkets@gmail.com
if any interest

No Man's Heath Open Gardens

Sunday 18th May, 1-5 pm

see back cover for more details



Parish Meeting

Chair's Report, April 2025

At our last Parish Meeting on the 13th of January, we bid farewell to our outgoing Chair, John Oakden, as it was his final Meeting. We all want to extend a big thank you to John for his time and dedication to the parish.

During the Meeting, a spend of £5,000 towards the War Memorial at St Chad's was approved, and I'm pleased to share that work on this is now well underway. We also approved £750 to support *The Bell* magazine and took a moment to express our gratitude to Juliet for all her hard work on this.

Looking ahead to the **next meeting** on the **7th of April at 7 pm at St Chad's**, we will be discussing a £1,000 spend for the repair of the bells and another £1,000 towards fixing and renewing some of the bridleway gates in the parish.

If anyone has other community project ideas they'd like us to consider, please don't hesitate to let me know via my email address below. I'd love to hear from you!

Phoebe Parkinson

tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

Meet the new Chair of our Parish Meeting



Hi everyone, I'm Phoebe, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Parish Meeting for Tushingham, Macefen, & Bradley. By day, I'm a Chartered Surveyor, but in my free time, you'll often find me riding my horses!

I'm really looking forward to getting to know more people in the area and working together to make our community even better. As I'm also currently acting as the Clerk for the Meeting, I'd love to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking on that role – it's a great way to get involved!

Our next Parish Meeting is at St Chad's on the 7th of April at 7 pm. I hope to see you there!

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

Police surgeries in April

Sat 5th (10–11 am) at The Old Fire Station, Malpas (joint surgery with Councillors)

Thurs 10th (9.30–10.30 am) at Lower Hall Lane, Clutton

Tues 15th (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Fri 25th (9–10 am) at High Street, Farndon

Mon 28th (10–11 am) at Fire Station car park, Malpas

Police surgeries in May

Sat 3rd (10–11 am) at The Old Fire Station, Malpas

Fri 9th (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Tues 20th (10–11 am) at High Street, Farndon

Tues 27th (9.30–10.30 am) at Lower Hall Lane, Clutton

Weds 28th (10–midday) at Barbour Institute, Tattenhall



Car Boot & Tabletop

Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm

5th April & 3rd May

Bickerton Village hall

Email: bvhcarboot@gmail.com

Whitchurch Walking Festival

Fri 9th to Sun 11th May

Various locations

whitchurchwalkers.co.uk/festival.html



Film nights @ Bickerton Village Hall

Conclave [12]

Monday 28th April, 7.30 pm

A besieged Cardinal tries to find a successor to the Pope. Stars Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci.

A Real Pain [15]

Monday 26th May, 7.30 pm

Comedy drama: two cousins tour Poland in honour of their beloved Jewish grandmother. Stars Jesse Eisenberg, Kieran Culkin.

Tickets £5 incl. snacks; refreshments on sale





News from St Chad's

'Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark'

Are you an early riser? I am. Mornings are the best part of the day for me – from hearing the first song of the blackbird, to experiencing the quietness and stillness before the rest of the world awakes. I find space to enter, and time to think and pray until the world catches up with me and the day breaks open!

The words above will be familiar words, especially to those who belong to a church family, for on Easter Sunday they begin the reading from John's gospel and lead on to the dramatic and miraculous account of the resurrection of Jesus. They introduce Mary Magdalen as the first witness to discover the risen Jesus, no longer wrapped in funeral clothes and lying in the tomb but now in the garden, living, breathing and speaking.

Just as a Spring bulb is buried in the earth and bursts out this time of year, at no-one's doing but God the Creator's, we hear of Jesus stepping out into the daylight from the darkness of the grave. The mighty stone that blocked the way between Jesus and Mary had been rolled away, reflecting the significance of the barrier of death no longer holding us back from the Lord and His promise of New Life with Him.

There may be some of you reading this that question it – saying no learned discussion or research, no presentation of contrived evidence, no amount of listening to sermons and thoughtful reflections, no mutterings about mystery or miracles will make me believe that giant boulders move by themselves or that dead bodies walk and talk. I don't believe it; I can't believe it.

But these are not words to explain, these are words to live by. A little like the Bible itself: we can simply read its pages or we can live by its pages, learning from what it must share with us. God's Word is 'a lamp to our feet'; this means that it is there to guide and lead us. Without light there can be nothing, no growth, no understanding. Mary Magdalen's hopes were dashed with the death of Jesus on that first Good Friday. Like his other friends, the darkness of grief entered her heart until that moment of truth when the light of Jesus, the Son of God, dawned upon her.

The Joy and celebration of Easter comes from the recognition that Jesus, the Light of the World, can overcome everything, even death's sting and pain. Mary found comfort, peace, delight, and purpose early in the garden that morning through the risen Jesus. She was the first to see and truly understand the events that had taken place and why they took place. Light poured into her life that morning in a way she could never have dreamed was possible.

Each and every one of us is given the same opportunity as Mary, but note that she had to make the first move, she came to find Him, and her reward for doing so was life changing. May you know God's Light in your own life this Easter as it overcomes the darkness.

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

Services at St Chad's in April and May

Sunday 6 April	6.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 13 April	9.00 am	Palm Sunday , Holy Communion
Thursday 17 April	6.30 pm	The Last Supper , at Old St Chad's
Sunday 20 April	9.00 am	Easter Sunday , Family Communion
Sunday 27 April	11.00 am	Morning prayer*

Sunday 4 May	6.30 pm	Evening prayer, at Old St Chad's
Sunday 11 May	9.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 18 May	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 May	11.00 am	Rogation Sunday , Service of the Word

*Followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in church at midday

Other Easter services and events

Meditation and prayers for **Good Friday** will be held at St Wenefrede's Church, Bickley, on Friday 18th April from 2–3 pm.

On **Easter Sunday** 20th April, a sunrise service with breakfast will be held at St Michael's Church, Marbury at 5.45 am.

There will also be services of family Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at 9 am at St Chad's, and at 11 am at our Marbury (St Michael's), Whitewell (St Mary's) and Bickley (St Wenefrede's) Churches.

Ascension Walk on Thursday 29th May, Cholmondeley Estate; details to come.

Advance Notice



Is there more to Life than this? **The Alpha Course** will be running later this year in Autumn. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to discuss life and the Christian Faith in an informal, fun and friendly environment. Interested?

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



‘Blowing with the Wind’

As we continue to move forward into Spring, we hope that the very strong winds we experienced this last Winter will be reduced to a more gentle breeze.

It is hard for us as individuals to go against the crowd, even more so for our young people who often quote, “Well all my friends are doing this”. Have you ever tried to walk the opposite way to a crowd? I always admire those who stand by their convictions.

In the Christian churches, April this year will be a time when we are reminded of people going with the crowd. The Sunday before Easter, we try to envisage Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, with crowds hailing him as a Saviour. The crowds were very enthusiastic, he was popular, he healed people, he fed them and inspired them. Yet less than a week later, they joined in with the same crowd saying, “Crucify Him!” Even one of his own close friends, Peter the fisherman, denied that he even knew him.

Fortunately, Jesus’ Heavenly Father was on hand to support him and to resurrect him back to life. As you eat your Easter eggs, think about the significance of the egg and new life that can come about by knowing Jesus.

At Bradley, our Quarterly Service with refreshments, falls on **Palm Sunday, 13th April at 2.30 pm**. This will be our *Songs of Praise*, led by one of our members, Barbara Wise, who many years ago, as a trainee local Preacher, began leading worship at Bradley. At our February service, suggestions were given to Barbara for favourite hymns. We will endeavour to have a hearty good sing and praise the Lord. Remember, exercising our lungs is an important part of our health. Meeting with others, sharing in refreshments – the people at Bradley will offer you a warm welcome.

The service on **11th May at 2.30 pm** will be led by Pastor Brian.

Pastor Mike Valentine

07763168448; mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net

Pastor Brian Faulkner

01948 664898; brianfaulkner@btinternet.com

Memorial (almost) restored!

A thank you from Rev Veronica: “In these crushing times of conflict and the threat thereof, how wonderful to see our Remembrance Memorial in the grounds of St Chad’s Church being restored following storm damage. Warm and most sincere thanks to our Parish Meeting for their generous donation towards the cost of the repairs and to all involved in its rebuilding.”



Origins of the memorial

An extract from, ‘Four Country Parsons’ by Rev Thomas Royds, who was vicar of Tushingham from 1916–1921:

‘We held a Parish meeting to decide what to do in memory of the 15 men we had lost in the war and decided to have a monument in the new churchyard. One influential person wanted white marble and saw no need for an architect. I said an architect was the first essential, and fortunately I carried the day. Mr Caroe paid us a visit. White marble? No, of course not: it must be Runcorn stone to match the church. Where? Bang in front of the tower: nothing could be better.

We selected one of his two designs, and then I raised the question of the inscription. I chalked up three verses on the blackboard in the school. Firstly, Binyon’s well-known, “They shall not grow old”; secondly, JM Edmonds’, “Went the day well? We died and never knew. But well or ill, England we died for you.” Thirdly, a verse which I wrote for the occasion:

“Sons of this place, let this of you be said,
That you who live are worthy of your dead.
These gave their lives that you who live may reap
A richer harvest ‘ere you fall asleep.”

I did not reveal the author, but they chose it unanimously. I then published it in The Guardian and The Times, and it has been freely used by a good many other Parishes, as far south as Bognor Regis. My chief work was that of saving a roadside churchyard from the atrocity of a second-rate white marble monument.’

Many thanks to Louise Mountford for supplying the chapters from Rev Royds’ book.



We are valuing the tremendous variety of learning opportunities at Tushingham CE Primary School, as we welcome in the Spring.

March was a particularly busy month of events with both *World Book Day* and *World Maths Day*, which we supported with enthusiasm. On *World Book Day* everyone dressed as an adjective and/or their favourite literary character, which sparked some very imaginative costumes! We also enjoyed taking part in the *Young Voices* singalong to celebrate Bob Marley's 80th Birthday, joining in with over 250,000 other singers across the globe.



We have had a diverse mix of topics in the classroom too. Class 1 have been learning about people who help us in the community, including the roles of doctors and nurses and how they help keep us healthy. They even had a visit from a real nurse, who talked about working in a hospital.

Class 2 have been learning about fruit and veg, and tasting and making their own salads. They have also immersed themselves in geography, comparing life in Kenya with life in the UK, and making an African necklace in their art work.

Class 3 have been enjoying their class book, *Escape from Pompeii* in English, while learning about the ancient Romans in history, as well as in Forest School where they made Roman aqueducts to transport water. Class 4 also extended their classroom work outdoors, making some very intricate mini-mountain ranges as part of their geography topic.



We've had some successes in sport this term, with our KS2 children (Years 3–6) participating in the netball and handball tournaments at Bishop Heber. We had a very strong handball team with some fabulous strikers and defenders – and we came second! Their teamwork was great to see.

There is plenty more planned for the rest of this term including sessions from *The Hollies Tennis Club*, a return visit from the *Dogs Trust*, and of course our very first **COLOUR RUN** to link in with RE learning about the Holi festival; and that is all before our Easter celebrations, with the Class 3 play, and the Easter service at St Chad's on the last day of term, Friday 4th April.

School reopens for the summer term on Tuesday 22nd April 😎



Dressing up for World Book Day!

Stay & Play @ St Chad's – a Community of Faith

Back in August 2024 we introduced the idea of the church building being used as a Community Space and asked for ideas and contributions in how we make this happen. One of the motivations towards this was to ask, “What are the needs in our community?”

Family support was felt to be top of the list, closely followed by simply more opportunity and space for **people to meet**.

With these ideas in mind, the Church Council are going ahead with plans to have some alterations within the building to accommodate and provide more space. The area at the back of the church will be opened up creating more room for a social area where the kitchen and toilet facilities are. We then further hope to create a similar area towards the front of the church providing space for movement, for example: choir practice, dramatic or performance related events, craft or art exhibits, etc.

Our hope this year is **to work alongside local families with young children who would appreciate somewhere to meet, chat and play**. The concept behind ‘**Stay & Play**’ is that parents would have an opportunity to meet with other parents regularly in a safe place while their little ones play and have fun together. Interaction for both parents and children is a vital part of good health both mentally and physically, and building relationships with one another a skill that we need to nurture in these times of social media, which can so often alienate us from each other.

Are you interested in ‘Stay & Play’, the first of our ideas to provide for the community? If so, please contact Jackie Dawson (jackiedawson1@hotmail.com) or myself, if you would like to join us on our venture. Rev Veronica

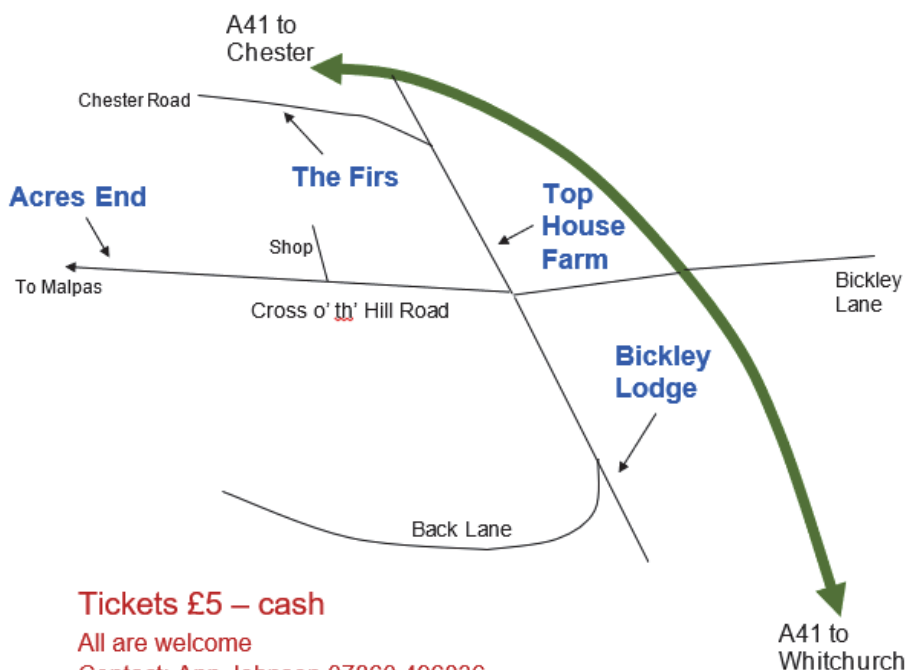
In aid of Tushingham Church



Open Gardens

In No Man's Heath

Sunday 18th May
1–5pm



Tickets £5 – cash

All are welcome

Contact: Ann Johnson 07860 496836