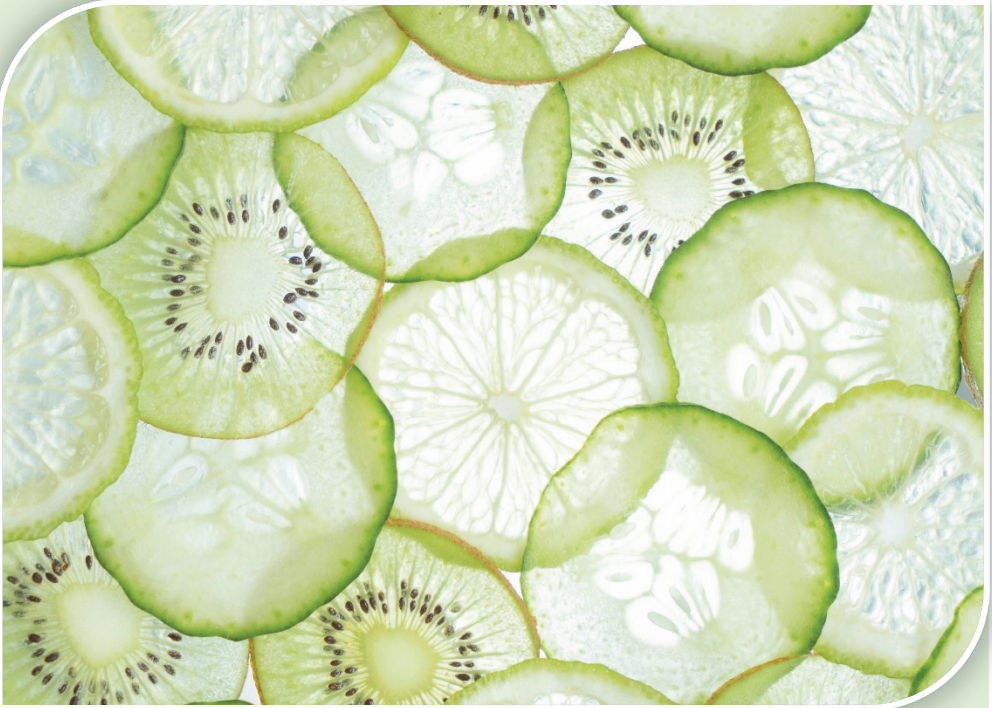


The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



JUNE / JULY
2025

Welcome

The recent sunny weather added to the success of the many events going on in our locality over Easter, throughout May and (as I write) looks set to be perfect for the *Open Gardens* this afternoon in No Man's Heath.

This issue contains the usual varied mix, including constructive progress to report from the Parish Meeting (see page 2). Do go along to the next meeting at Bradley Chapel on 7th July at 7 pm to hear more, and air your own views. There is also still an **urgent need for a Parish Clerk** to help keep things running, so if you can spare just a couple of hours each month, please contact new Chair, Phoebe.

If you have any items for our next issue, including articles, notices, photographs, advertorials, poems or local history, please send them across by 17th July.

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



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 Been Going On?



Easter flowers



Coffee & Shop



Memorial repairs are complete



Ringling for VE Day

Parish Meeting

Chair's Report, May 2025

Great news for the village! Some much-needed maintenance is coming, thanks to recent Parish Meeting decisions.

First up, the church bells will finally get their long-overdue restoration later this year (see below). The original bell makers are on board to carry out the work, and the Meeting has allocated £1,000 to support the project.

Meanwhile, over on the Willeymoor Bridleway, some worn-out gates and fixtures are set for a makeover. The cost of hired labour turned out to be a bit eye-watering, so in true community spirit, locals David and Jason have stepped up to tackle the repairs themselves. With materials provided by the council and a £300 budget for the work, these gates should soon be back in top shape.

It's always great to see our village pulling together to keep things looking their best. If you have any ideas that could benefit the community, please send me an e-mail and we will discuss it at the next meeting on **7th July at 7 pm at Bradley Chapel**. So far on the agenda is a discussion about replacing the noticeboards, as well as a catch up on how the work on the defibrillator is coming along. Hope to see you there,

Phoebe

Phoebe Parkinson

tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

Open Tower morning attracts interest and funds!



Held alongside the Coffee & Shop event on 5th April, the Open Tower morning at St Chad's attracted lots of visitors who enjoyed seeing the clock and bells, and chiming the tenor bell under supervision.

Most of the funds required to restore the bells have now been raised thanks to generous donations from Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Meeting, and from individuals. This has enabled us to schedule the much-needed restoration

work by Taylor's Bell Foundry, which will begin on 16th June.

If anyone would like to try their hand at ringing (once the bells are back in action again!) please contact Ann Johnson on 07860 496836.

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 June

Thurs 5th (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Mon 9th (10–11 am) at High Street, Farndon

Thurs 19th (9.30–10.30 am) at Lower Hall Lane, Clutton

Weds 25th (11 am–midday) outside Jubilee Hall, Malpas (weather permitting)

Police surgeries in July

Thurs 3rd (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Tues 8th (10–11 am) at High Street, Farndon

Tues 15th (9.30–10.30 am) at Lower Hall Lane, Clutton

Weds 23rd (11 am–midday) outside Jubilee Hall, Malpas (weather permitting)



Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy [15]

Monday 23rd June, 7.30 pm

After jumping back into the dating pool, single mother Bridget Jones finds herself caught between a younger man and her son's science teacher. Stars Renée Zellweger, Chiwetel Ejiofor, and Leo Woodall.

Tickets £5 incl. snacks; refreshments on sale

Parish Meeting

Monday 7th July

Bradley Chapel, 7 pm

Car Boot & Table Top

Saturdays: 7th June & 5th July

Farmers' Market

Sundays: 8th June & 6th July

9 am – 1 pm

Bickerton Village Hall





News from St Chad's

What if?

Are you living your best life? I met a delightful young person this week who would say 'yes' to this question. He travels extensively, has a job that many would dream of and has over a million followers through social media; yet we found ourselves in a field chatting about faith. The funny thing is, it

was the most natural thing in the world at that moment, and even though the conversation needed to end as he was catching a train to London, neither of us wanted it to finish! I spoke to someone older recently too, and a similar conversation took place. I remember saying to both, "There's much more to being human beings than we realise."

Being human is the most wonderful simple but complicated mystery – how do we define who we are, why we are, where we are? They don't teach this in schools as far as I remember, or college or university. It seems to me this is something we learn through living the experience of our lives. Piecing together the ups and downs, the traumas, the celebrations, the humdrum day-to-day things we learn to deal with. Key to this is time to reflect on those things – but sadly, very few of us do.

What if Jesus came to the earth to learn what it's like to be human? What if the One who created humans wanted to understand his creation? What if God realised that what he made needed help to understand themselves and why they were created in the first place? What if we are failing to live the best life we could?

'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassion never fails. They are new every morning; great is His faithfulness.' In a time of fear and overwhelming change (circa 586 BC), the prophet Jeremiah wrote these words to a people who were struggling because they were human. These words are not empty words written to bring a little reassurance, but words of truth from a man who heard from God and spoke on His behalf, words of promise that gave hope.

If you are struggling with simply being human, is it time you reached out and sought the One who understands you better than you understand yourself? We are 'fearfully and wonderfully' made. Wouldn't you like to explore what that means? Wouldn't you like to know what God's plan is for each of us, for this world, for your children and their children?

What if – God is real? As real as you...

Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

01948 663758; 07928 792337

Services at St Chad's in June and July

Sunday 1 June	6.30 pm	Evening prayer, <i>at Old St Chad's</i>
Sunday 8 June	9.00 am	Holy Communion (Whit Sunday)
Sunday 15 June	9.00 am	Holy Communion (Trinity Sunday)
Sunday 22 June	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 29 June	11.00 am	United service at St Wenefrede's, Bickley

Sunday 6 July	6.30 pm	Evening prayer, <i>at Old St Chad's</i>
Sunday 13 July	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 July	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 July	11.00 am	Morning prayer

Many thanks to all those involved in the *Coffee & Shop* event at St Chad's, which raised £450 on a very sociable morning in April, alongside tours of the bell tower conducted by our ringing team, which raised a further £140 in donations for the bell restoration fund.

Then, on a beautiful Sunday in mid-May, the sun shone once again for the *Open Gardens* afternoon around No Man's Heath. Thank you to those generous folk who worked so hard to open their gardens in aid of St Chad's – bringing our community together with flowers, foliage, scones and jam! (Photos to come in our next edition...)



Baptism

We welcome *Lucas John Ashton Wildman* to the Church family at St Chad's and beyond. Shine as a light to the world, Lucas.

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



Thinking of that old Sunday School hymn, *Tell me the stories of Jesus*, I couldn't help but picture the scene of The Messiah, mounted on a donkey, riding into the city. I could almost feel the magnetism of such an occasion, hearing the cheering, "Hooray!" – or if you went to a pretentiously posh school "Hurrah!" The reality? The crowds, at the top of their voices, were

shouting "Hosannah! Hosannah to the Son of David!" – their prophesied deliverer from earthly domination. It's an understatement to say they were surprised at the *actual* message of Jesus – seeking to re-establish human reconciliation with Almighty God! **A message of loving support, tolerance and understanding.**

Roman Catholic Cardinals have been in Conclave and elected as successor to Pope Francis, American Pope Leo XIV. Said to be a reformer and a protégé of Pope Francis, it is not yet clear in which direction this new Pontificate will travel. In times of change, there's always uncertainty – the unknown. Change can be frightening, *but* it can also bring opportunities for new beginnings, new choices.

On Thursday 8th May we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day – World War II's Victory in Europe. Survivors still have vivid memories. Others of us, too young to have shared most of those wartime horrors, grew up in post-war times of upheaval and reconstruction, rebuilding shattered industries, villages, towns, cities and – not least – individual families. They were indeed *times of change* – for us, our 'there and then,' **but what about others currently experiencing their own terrible 'here and now'?**

Around the world today there are so many areas of terrifying horror. When asked to be supportive of peace, what is our almost automatic reaction? Usually that standard human response when 'buying into' a product, service or concept: "What's in it for me?" **Surely the answer remains in the eternal gospel message, as both a 'blessed assurance' and as a 'challenge'.**

Upcoming Bradley Sunday services:

8th June, 2.30 pm (Pentecost; Anniversary Sunday)

– Rev Malcolm Lorrimer, with after-service refreshments planned.

13th July, 2.30 pm – Preacher, Robert Williams from Market Drayton

Pastor Mike Valentine

Pastor Brian Faulkner

07763168448; mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net

01948 664898; brianfaulkner@btinternet.com

Everything changes... but everything stays the same

MAESFEN

MARRIAGE – On Tuesday, at Maesfen Church, Mr Johnstone, of the Mill Mow, was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Emma Faulkner, of Stag Hall, Bradley. The Rev Charles White officiated. The bride was accompanied by her father and brother; Mr Noah Parker, of Farndon, acted as groomsman, and Miss Mabel Wycherley, of Whitchurch, was bridesmaid. The bride was attired in a heliotrope cashmere travelling costume, with hat and girdle to match. The carriages were supplied by Mr Philip Dod, of Hampton. Numerous friends gathered to witness the ceremony. Stag Hall was adorned with flags, mottoes, and evergreens, and many tokens of respect and good feeling were shewn by a numerous display of useful and costly presents sent by friends from all round the neighbourhood. The happy pair started in the evening for Southport, previous to going to their new home, Heywood, near Manchester.

Local weddings

As we head into a busy time of year for weddings – including at our own St Chad's – here is a report of a wedding at that same church from May 1891, as described by the *Cheshire Observer*.

Not many present-day brides would be so bold as to wear heliotrope (purple) cashmere, with matching hat and girdle!

Sounds fabulous!

Czech state primary school at Maesfen Hall

In July 1945, 80 years ago, the refugee children of the Czech State Primary School left Maesfen Hall, which had been their home during WW2 (see photo).



Photo courtesy of Jane Griffith, whose mother stands second from left on the back row but one



What an exciting half term it's been, even though it was only 4 weeks long!

The sunshine has added to the fun of learning for all our classes, who have enjoyed outdoor lessons for many of their topics. Class 1 have been learning about 'growing' by eagerly following the development of their caterpillars into butterflies, and also exploring the world of seed and plants by taking part in *The Sunflower Challenge*.

Class 2 have learned about *The Great Fire of London* and visited *Weaver Hall Museum* where they were immersed in life in 1666. The children acted out what happened in Pudding Lane, met Samuel Pepys and tried their hand at some of the servants' jobs in the house.

Class 3 also had an exciting class trip to *Park in the Past* – stepping back into the 1st Century CE to learn what life was like for Roman soldiers. They went on a foraging patrol, took part in formation and combat training, and even dressed as Roman soldiers, complete with shields and spears. Back at school, they have been learning how to use globes and maps in geography (indoors and out), while another outdoor learning session focused on making fairground games using forces and magnets – even pulleying each other up into a tree!

Over in Class 4, they have been studying *Evolution and Inheritance* in science. They also participated in the *VE Day Big Assembly*, which they found both educational and inspiring, and together with Class 3 had a special educational visit all about Parliament, including a workshop to debate the topic: 'Should all children walk to school at least once a week?'

The Class 2 and Class 4 football teams joined in enthusiastically in the tournaments at Bishop Heber, with Class 4 working hard to earn a terrific second place. All members of Class 4 also successfully completed their *Bikeability* training, showing positive attitudes and impressive skills.

The icing on the cake is that all our Year 6 pupils demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience throughout their SATs assessments. They are now proudly wearing their leavers' hoodies and looking forward to preparing for the end-of-year production and training for the upcoming school Sports Day (and Summer Fair) in the next half term.

School returns on 3rd June, and closes for the summer on Friday 18th July.





Romans, sunflowers, globes, and pulleys!



Early Help Navigator Service



Cheshire West and Chester

We know life isn't always easy – sometimes you don't know where to go for help, you might need a bit of advice or support, or simply a friendly face to talk to about something that's bothering you or your family

Early Help Navigators are here to help.

NEW! Drop-in sessions at Malpas

In May we started our monthly *Early Help Navigator* drop-ins at the Jubilee Hall in Malpas, alongside Community Kitchen Support sessions – providing low-level support to local families, signposting them to local and national services.

No appointments are necessary during our drop-in sessions.

Zuzana and Amber
Chester & Rural Early Help Navigators

- Provide help support and advice with family life
- Be a listening ear
- Signpost you to local and national support
- Help you complete forms
- Attend GP appointments with your family
- Provide food and baby bank referrals

Malpas
Victoria
Jubilee Hall:

Weds

21/05/25

18/06/25

16/07/25

20/08/25

10.30 am – 1 pm



Cheshire
Wildlife Trust

30 Days Wild challenge

Connecting with nature on your doorstep

The Wildlife Trusts' *30 Days Wild* challenge returns to Cheshire this June and invites people to soak up the joy of the natural world with a new series of fun, themed weekly activities. It could be going on a snail safari, eating your breakfast outdoors, creating wild art, closing your eyes to listen for bird song, outdoor yoga or forest bathing.

Rachael Nellist from Cheshire Wildlife Trust says: "Here in Cheshire, we're surrounded by pockets of wildness. *30 Days Wild* encourages us to slow down, look closer, and rediscover the magic on our doorstep."

An inspirational guide packed with ideas, as well as a free packet of herb seeds, is available to everyone who signs up to take part. Sign up today to secure your goodies and embark on a journey that promises not just a month, but a lifetime, of wildness!

cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/30-days-wild



The Joy of Giving...

Have you ever thought about supporting St Chad and Old St Chad but weren't sure how to get started? We'd like to share a couple of meaningful ways you can contribute to the life of our beautiful churches.

The Gift of Time: Your time and talents are incredibly valuable to us. Whether it's lending a hand to maintain the churchyards, helping with one of our projects, cleaning the interior of the buildings, or joining our efforts, your involvement makes a world of difference.

Financial Support: Every contribution, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated and helps us continue our work. You can make a one-off donation or set up a direct debit – whatever feels most comfortable for you. Regular support also helps us to plan ahead and continue serving our community with confidence.

Thank you for considering how you can be part of our mission. Your generosity, in any form, truly matters.

Rev'd Veronica