

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
2025

Welcome

We have well and truly turned the corner into autumn, and this Oct/Nov issue of *The Bell* even catches the first Christmas event of the year – the Christmas Market at St Chad's at the end of November. New this year, there will also be a *Christmas Tree Festival* at the church, so if you fancy putting your design and decorating skills to the test, turn to the back cover for more details.

In other news, the Church and Chapel have both had face lifts, and the newly restored bells are ringing out again at St Chad's. Meanwhile, Bradley Common is gearing up for its own community restoration project at the start of October.

If you have any items for our next issue, including articles, notices, photographs, advertorials, poems or local history, please send them across by 16th November.

Best wishes,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chair, Phoebe Parkinson
tushingamparishchair@gmail.com

Parish Clerk, Pat Adams
07835 711589; patadams145@outlook.com

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

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



F1® The Movie [12A]

Monday 13th October, 7.30 pm

Formula One racing driver Sonny Hayes, returns after 30 years to save his former teammate's underdog team from collapse. Stars Brad Pitt.

A Complete Unknown [15]

Monday 17th November, 7.30 pm

Biopic about the early career of Bob Dylan, from his folk singer origins to his use of electric instruments at the 1966 Newport Folk Festival. Stars Timothée Chalamet.

Tickets £5 on the door, including snacks; other refreshments on sale

Parish Meeting

Monday 6th October, 7 pm
St Chad's Church

Christmas Market & Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 29th November
St Chad's Church, 10 am to 2 pm

See back cover for more details

Call-out for items: We are on the lookout for Christmas items (decorations, trees, giftware, clothes, etc) for the church stall.

If you have anything to donate, please contact Louise (01948 820541), the Church Wardens, or bring them to St Chad's on Friday 28th at 10 am when we are setting up. Thank you 😊

Bradley Common Restoration Project

Saturday 11th October, 9:00 am–1:00 pm

The aim is to have a morning clearing away brambles and willow that have overgrown the north terrace thus enabling the spotted orchids, scabious and marsh pennywort to recover.

Anyone able to spend a couple of hours helping this community event would be welcome. Unfortunately, children are not allowed this time as there will be agricultural machinery on site.

Please bring strong footwear, outdoor clothing, gloves and long-handled pruners or loppers. Chainsaws not required.

Parking is available on the common opposite the Chapel.

Parish Meeting

Chair's Report, September 2025

Hi all,

Since my last update, progress continues on the defibrillator project, with encouraging developments underway. We're also inviting everyone to join us for a Community Day on Bradley Common (see page 1), where we will be doing some clearing and tidying on Saturday 11th October from 9 am to 1 pm – bring gloves, hand tools and plenty of enthusiasm!

Our next meeting will be held at 7 pm on Monday 6th October at St Chad's. If you have any items to add to the agenda please do get in touch via email, your input is always welcome.

Phoebe

Next Parish Meeting

Monday 6th October

St Chad's Church, 7 pm

Phoebe Parkinson

tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

A bell's not a bell 'til you ring it!

We are delighted to report that – as you may have heard – the bells of St Chad's are back in working order once more. Taylor's returned the refurbished parts at the end of August, and thanks to a terrific team of local volunteers, everything was successfully reinstalled across several exhausting days! The ringing team returned to bell practice soon afterwards, and were pleased to be able to ring out the bells prior to the Harvest Service in September.

Sincere thanks to all those who put in hours of hard work, and to those who donated to the restoration fund to make it all possible.

The summer also saw other developments at St Chad's, with the pews at the back of the church removed to create more space for community projects and gatherings. The area now has a smart new carpet (fitted the day after the work on the bells finished – quite a deadline!) and is already being well used for people to gather after church events, including on 6th September, when the church was packed for a wonderful choral concert by the *Advent Singers*. Thank you to Stewart Smith and his talented choir for such a memorable evening. Here's to many more such occasions at St Chad's...



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 October

Sat 4th (10–11 am) at Old Fire Station café, Malpas (joint with Councillors)

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

Weds 15th (11.30–12.30 pm) at Community Kitchen, Jubilee Hall, Malpas

Tues 21st (9.30–10.30 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Weds 29th (9–10 am) at Dragon Hall Police Station

Police surgeries in November

Thurs 6th (9.30–10.30 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Mon 17th (12–1 pm) at High Street, Farndon

Weds 26th (3–4 pm) at Dragon Hall Police Station

Sat 29th (11–12 pm) at Fire Station car park, Malpas



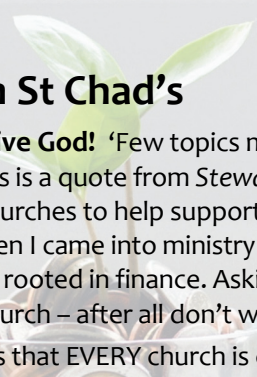
Singers required! A message from Choral Director, Stewart Smith...

The Advent Singers Choir specialises in the repertoire of choral sacred music from the past 500 years, singing in cathedrals and churches across the country. The choir meets once a week for rehearsal then rehearses prior to a performance at the venue. In 2026 the choir will be singing Evensong at St George's Chapel Windsor on 27th May. The choir is looking to expand its repertoire to be able to sing music for 'double choir'. In order to achieve this, we need a few young, high



sopranos, altos and a couple of tenors. Singers must have a suitable voice and be competent at sight reading music.

Please contact Stewart Smith (07745422204) if you would like to be considered.



News from St Chad's

You can't out-give God! 'Few topics make church leaders more uncomfortable than money.' This is a quote from *Stewardship*, an organisation set up to partner Christians and churches to help support them with giving. (Stewardship Est. 1906) I had no idea when I came into ministry that a significant part of my service to the church would be rooted in finance. Asking for money seems to be the absolute antithesis of a church – after all don't we preach about charity, love and self-giving? Sadly, the truth is that EVERY church is called to maintain their building, pay bills like any other householder, raise a parish share (which is partly how the Minister's wage is paid), and then and often only then, carry out the true work and service of the church by serving others in need.

If I presented this to Lord Sugar as a business plan, I could imagine his response – 'It's crazy!' But then I serve a God who is just that – crazy, and often people view Him and His Church as completely foolish. Little do they know that God's mysterious ways of working include being so generous that His generosity produces generosity with astonishing results. Don't ask me how it works, I only know it does.

Gary Grant, Co-Founder of The Entertainer toy chain, shared on a recent podcast how the principal of generous and Godly giving changed his life. His wife, who had been a Christian for only a short time asked him when they were going to start tithing (giving financially) to the church, his reply was, 'We're not, we've earned too much!' But within months his perspective shifted, 'What I've learned over the last 30 years of being a Christian is that you just can't out-give God. It's impossible. It's the most amazing experience... the more you give away with God, the more you inspire, the more you seem to get. It's a business structure that doesn't make any sense at all.' Perhaps another one for Lord Sugar?

My own journey of faith reflects a similar story – when you give with gratitude and give with generosity, God's abundance is somehow reflected back to you in all sorts of wonderful ways. I guess it's His Grace! Exercising a spirit of generosity opens us up to God's provision and unending, limitless, abundance.

Do you give? Do you support a charity or church with regular giving and is it given out of a grateful heart or a guilty one? Here's what Stewardship says: "Start with discipline, set aside a regular amount, however small. Give in many forms. Money is just one way; generosity can include time, encouragement, hospitality or skills. Give cheerfully. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'* Trust God's provision because as Proverbs 11:25 says, *'A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.'*"

Jesus spoke about money more than any other topic, why? Fundraising? No, I think it was more the simple truth that money is one of the greatest rivals to God in the →

Services at St Chad's in October and November

Sunday 5 October	6.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 12 October	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 October	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 October	11.00 am	Morning prayer with Baptism

Sunday 2 November	4.30 pm	All Souls service , St Wenefrede's, Bickley*
Sunday 9 November	10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 16 November	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 November	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 30 November	11.00 am	Holy Communion, United Benefice service at St Michael's, Marbury

Baptisms The baptisms of Megan Margaret Evans and Henry Leigh Evans took place at Old St Chad on 27th July.



Wedding Our congratulations to Mr & Mrs Dan and Kayleigh Clare, married at St Chad's on Saturday 23rd August.

Funerals The funeral service of Margaret Ann Morrison took place at St Chad's on 6th August followed by a burial in Malpas Cemetery.

The funeral service of Samantha Margaret Lodge 'Sammy' took place at St Chad's on 8th August followed by a burial at Malpas Cemetery.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory...

***All Souls Service**, at St Wenefrede's Bickley. Join us on Sunday 2nd November at 4.30 pm for a commemorative and meaningful service for those we have loved and lost. Add your loved one's name to the roll in one of our 4 churches this October for inclusion in this special service of remembrance and prayer

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

→ human heart. Jesus said, 'You cannot serve God and money'. Perhaps supporting a charity, like your local church, isn't necessarily about the church's need but about the growth of the one that's giving.

Rev Veronica X

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

01948 663758; 07928 792337

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



For many different age and social groups September is very much the beginning of a New Year. September can mean 'All Change'. With the beginning of each new academic year, across all the age ranges, youngsters are either beginning, moving up classes or even moving to new schools. Further along the education chain can be upward progression to training colleges, universities or commercial / industrial placements or apprenticeships.

On exam results day some happy faces told of hoped for opportunities achieved. Others, having to cope with initial disappointments, then experienced an unexpected uplift in reviewing and identifying alternative future options. On the move: leaving family homes, new people relationships, new challenges, including teaching staff and new friends. And for those of us who are both parents and grandparents, we still share in those family life experiences – if only in helping deal with some of the consequences!

Over the Summer, Bradley Chapel's kerb appeal has received a significant face-lift. Work by Craig Shingler (with Dad Peter as assistant) proved to be very cost-effective, intensive preparation covering extensive window frame restoration. They have also identified a sub-floor joist problem, with Organist Gwen relocated while under further investigation – the joist, not Gwen!

With her team, Fred, Evie, and Vicky, Kate Buckeridge then moved into action with external painting of windows, doors and architraves – after already having repainted gateposts, and performed time-consuming rust removal and surface prep prior to painting the metal boundary railings. Andrew Corbett's family link to Chapel was clearly evident by the modest costing of roofing slate renewals, with further helpful remedial work planned. And if that wasn't all, Simon Jones yet again came to our rescue, dealing with a further wasp invasion.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Bradley friends unable to be with us through health concerns. This year, several of us, Pastor Mike included, experienced unexpected ongoing health difficulties. One thing shines out like a bright light on a dark night. Chapel's Congregation ensures this Ministry continues. **At Bradley, congregationalism is alive and well.**

Pastor Mike Valentine
Pastor Brian Faulkner

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

Upcoming Services at Bradley Chapel

All services at 2.30 pm on the second Sunday of each month:

12th October – Harvest

Led by Rev'd Jane Stephenson, with after-service refreshments planned.

9th November – Remembrance Day

Combining national and family losses of loved ones.

4th December – Christmas Carols, with after-service refreshments planned.

Laying the foundations

In light of the recent restoration work at St Chad's, it is timely to look back on the origins of this Grade II listed building. Planned as a larger, more accessible successor to Old Chad Chapel, 'new' St Chad's was built between 1860 and 1863 to a design by Robert Jennings of Atherstone. The site was given by the Marquis of Cholmondeley who also donated £200 towards building costs, and provided additional land for the rectory building. The total cost of the church (including organ and font) was £2,225 and the rectory, £772. Aside from £70 from the Diocesan board, all costs were met by voluntary donations from names both prominent and humble – reflecting its community calling.

Amongst the donors were the Hon E Kenyon of Maesfen, Rev C Thurlow (Rector of Malpas), BL Vawdrey Esq, J Vernon Esq, Rev H MacKenzie (Vicar of Tushingham), Lord Kenyon, the Marquis of Westminster, the Hon Mrs Godsall, Admiral Cotton and, remarkably, the Archbishop of Armagh!

The bell tower, designed by Hodgson Fowler, was added in 1897. From outside, it is clear to see the two different styles, with the original body of the church from 1863 made of what is described as 'random rubble in the early English style', prior to the arrival of the sandstone tower.

Many thanks to Peter Moore Dutton for details of costs and donors involved in building St Chad's.



Save the date: No Man's Heath Open Gardens have decided to open in 2026, in aid of St Chad's, on Sunday 17th May, from 1–5 pm (despite not knowing what has been lost in their gardens due to the very hot dry summer this year...).



It has been wonderful to see our children refreshed and excited to be back at Tushingham, with their usual boundless energy, ready for a new school year.

It is always lovely to see the children enjoying their learning in class, but especially our youngest and newest children who LOVE their wonderful indoor and outdoor areas.

They have settled in beautifully and are already working hard on learning their names. We look forward to getting to know all our new families.

Class 2 have started their learning with a surprise parcel! Inside was a special letter, some funny alien deely boppers, and a new book to enjoy together: *Troll Swap*. In their first science topic, the children have learned about the human body and their senses through hands-on activities – drawing on big sheets of wallpaper, looking closely at eyes with magnifying glasses, and using their listening skills for different instruments and sounds.

Class 3 have started the term studying and exploring the artwork of the artist William Morris. They have learned about why he started the Arts & Crafts movement, and went on to design their own textile printing block. In English, they have produced some lovely beach-inspired senses poems, while in History they are learning about the stone age to iron age period. In PE they are embracing adventurous outdoor activities such as problem solving, team work and orienteering.

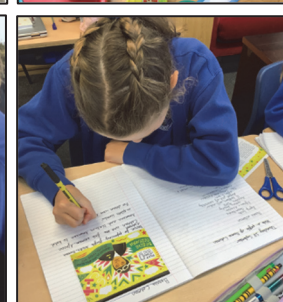
Class 4 have been producing some stunning Viking-inspired artwork, and in Science have designed experiments involving parachutes to learn about different forces. In English this term, their work is inspired by the book, *Young, Gifted and Black*.



Beyond the classroom, Tushingham has achieved the *Superkind* award for the second year in a row. This is about learning how we can all make a difference in the world and, illustrating this perfectly, two of our boys had their hair cut in aid of *The Little Princess Trust*, donating 10 inches each and raising an amazing ~ £1,500 for the cancer charity. To support their efforts, please see: [Monique Noel-Allen is fundraising for Little Princess Trust](#).

We're really looking forward to the rest of this year's adventures and enjoying lots of 'Learning together and worshipping together'.

School closes for half-term on 24th October, and reopens on 3rd November.



Buzz About Tushingham Baby and Tots



Thursday's Term Time
with Marie @ Tushingham School

9.30-11am

Buzz About Music and Movement
Session (40 mins) then...

Outdoor Play/Indoor Freeplay
after snack time

£5 Pay as You Go, includes
refreshments for Grown Ups and
Tots.

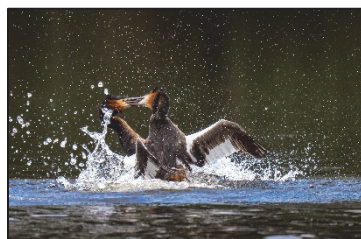


**Cheshire
Wildlife Trust**

The winners of CWT's wildlife
photography competition
have been announced!

The 12 beautiful images will
feature in their 2026 calendar
which is now available for
pre-order via the online shop,
with all proceeds supporting
nature's recovery in Cheshire.

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



The winning image: great-crested grebes
battling in Marbury, by Colin Woods



Christmas Market

Father
Christmas

St Chad's Church
Tushingham

Hot
bacon
baps

Saturday 29th November
10 am – 2 pm

Christmas
tree festival

Refreshments
& mince pies



Christmas Tree Festival

This year at St Chad's we're arranging a *Christmas Tree Festival* to create a wonderful community atmosphere in the church as we approach Christmas – something to really celebrate!

If your business, organisation, or even family and friends, would like to provide, dress and display a tree in the church, please contact Rev Veronica

veronicarom838@aol.com; 07928 792337