

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER
2026

Welcome

The heatwave continues as we head to print, so I hope you're finding ways to keep cool. There is a bumper selection of events coming up, with celebrations of harvest at the church and chapels, the ever-popular harvest supper at Bickley, a concert by the *Advent Singers*, and the ancient celebration of Rushbearing at battle-scarred Old St Chad's. The team at St Chad's are also aiming to make up for a challenging year of fundraising with their *Auction of Promises*, so please consider donating a promise, bidding in the auction, or both!

We continue to be grateful to readers for sending in such creative content, including poetry and a puzzling recipe – and more in store. Please send any articles, notices, stories or photos for our next issue by 17th September.

Have a lovely summer,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chair, Phoebe Parkinson
tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

Parish Clerk, Pat Adams
07835 711589; adamsofbradley@btinternet.com

Ward Councillor, Rachel Williams
07592 510627; 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 **potholes**, litter & fly tipping, highways/signage issues, anti-social behaviour, problems with waste collections, or to track the status of a report, visit: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it

[**Note:** The very useful 'Report it' App was scrapped by the CWAC on 1st May 2026 for reasons of 'maintenance and costs'.]

What's On?

St Chad's

Harvest Auction & Supper

Monday 21st September, 7.30 pm

Coronation Hall, Bickley

Entry £5, including refreshments

All offers of produce welcome

Auction of Promises with 'Sparkling' Cream Tea

Sunday 27th September, 3 pm

Meadowbank, Pool Lane, Malpas

Limited tickets!

In aid of St Chad's,
Tushingham

See back cover
for more details



Parish Meeting

Monday 19th October

St Chad's Church, 7 pm

A Celebration of Harvest-tide

Performed by

THE ADVENT SINGERS

Conductor – Stewart Smith

Friday 25th September, 7.30 pm

at St Chad's Church, Tushingham

Refreshments at the end of the concert



Admission free; retiring collection
in aid of St Chad's Church

Parish Meeting

Summary of minutes from the Meeting held on 24th June at Bradley Chapel
Chaired by Phoebe Parkinson; next meeting, Mon 19th October, St Chad's, 7 pm

Finances: £11,000 in the Meeting accounts at present.

- As the Meeting's accounts have not been audited in recent years, there is likely to be a fine; Ann Wright has kindly prepared the accounts for auditing this year. She gave us some pointers of how to manage the finances in future, and recommended we should claim back any VAT.
- The Chair explained the difficulties of working with Nat West, with no online banking and time-consuming in-person visits to handle the accounts and update signatories. Tamsyn Lea agreed to become official Treasurer in a joint post with Jannine Davies. Ann Wright will sign off the forms for audit and liaise with the Treasurer.

Repairs at Old St Chad's and new St Chad's

- Andrew Dawson reported on the recent damage to the windows at Old Chad's Chapel (see article opposite). The insurance excess is £350, and quotes for repair have already been sourced. The police have advised an increase in security in the form of cameras.
- The church clock has also stopped and the estimated cost will be £750.
- The Meeting agreed to cover the costs of the cameras and the clock repair.

Malpas Cemetery

- Currently, only Bradley residents receive a discount; it was agreed to keep the status quo. Tushingham and Maesfen can be added at a later date.

Any other business

- **Defibrillator:** needs two new pads at a cost of £29.99 each; Matt Hollins to source, and Meeting to cover the costs.
- **Tree Preservation Order:** It was mentioned that both the big oak tree and the swan mussels in the lake at Tushingham Hall should be protected. A Tree Preservation Order can be applied for by anyone who is concerned. It was suggested that Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency be informed of the swan mussels.
- **Proposed traveller site:** There have been no notifications from the planning office, but the Chair will contact our local councillor for an update.

For a copy of the full Minutes, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Police Community Support



PCSO for Malpas, Tattenhall and Farndon

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

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

You can also contact officers or report incidents via the Cheshire Police website

*For details of local Police Surgeries in August and September,
please see social media*



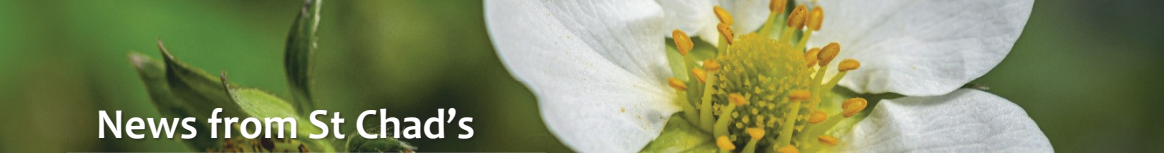
Vandalism at Old St Chad's

Very sadly, our treasured Old St Chad's Chapel was vandalised during June. Multiple panes of glass in the leaded windows were smashed and pulled apart as the vandals tried to gain entry.

A combination of insurance and generous donations from firms and individuals will cover the costs of repair, the broken windows have been removed to a workshop, and CCTV cameras (funded by the Parish Meeting) have been installed. However, to have this happen at all at the Chapel 'alone in the fields', is heart breaking.

The Chapel is still open for evensong services in August and September, and the windows may be back in time for the traditional Rushbearing service on 2nd August, so please do show your support for this beautiful building, which is such a special part of our community.

In better news, the clock at 'new' St Chad's is back in working order again, after grinding to a halt in June. Two local retired employees from Joyce & Co. expertly dismantled, cleaned and re-assembled the clock, which is now running well.



News from St Chad's

Left to our own devices... You may be familiar with this phrase thanks to the Pet Shop Boys, who wrote a song back in 1988 with the same title. Neil Tennant writes about the conflict between ambition and the desire for lazy independence, with a hint of his struggle for identity and memories of feeling isolated as a young teen. Nearly 40 years later, I wonder how much has changed for any of us?

In the Bible, the above is spoken about in terms of living in the flesh and living in the spirit. The age-old struggle between being human and giving in to human desires, or being led by the Spirit of God who knows that not all our decisions are in our own best interest, or the best interest of others and our Home – this world that we are encouraged by God to take responsibility for. Every day we are faced with decisions, each one with its own personal or social consequences, and every day those consequences affect everything around us. Generation after generation has its share of brilliance and shame, and yet the stubbornness of the human head and heart often fails to learn from either.

The Bible is the story of one nation who, despite being called by God to be His own, experienced all the above. This Book with its countless examples of leadership and direction – both brilliant and shockingly woeful – is where we learn about the relationship between the God who knows best, and His people who think they know best! We are not God, and yet how many times do we see these traits in our own lives and the lives of others. God does not suggest Utopian living. He has already laid out a plan, a purpose, and a means of achieving life in all its possibilities in a way that so many of us cannot begin to imagine is possible. But with God, ‘all things are possible’, especially if He has already promised – and He has.

Why are we missing great leadership at present? Could it be that we have lost our respect, belief, and trust in the Creator God of the Cosmos, and in His Spirit who hovers around us as He has since the very beginning of time? If so, how do we change this culture? The Bible says it takes a ‘spiritual transformation’ – a miraculous work of God’s Grace – to remove hearts of stone that have no true feeling and replace them with hearts that are responsive and do!

God wants to work with us. He always has, He always will. But until humankind works it out for itself, we will always struggle like Neil Tennant and everyone else! Changing our perspective begins with each one of us, not those who purport to govern us, but with each human being God gifts with wisdom and love. It’s time for us to build some momentum in bringing back respect, moral values, and a shared common interest in our neighbours and the places we live, and all this begins by saying sorry to the God we have forgotten about. Left to our own devices, we will continue our own demise. Turning back to God will change EVERYTHING!

Rev Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

01948 663758; 07928 792337

Services at St Chad's in August and September

Sunday 2 August	6.00 pm	Rushbearing & Lammas at Old St Chad's
Sunday 9 August	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 August	4.00 pm	Church at Four
Sunday 23 August	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 August	11.00 am	United Benefice service at St Wenefrede's
Sunday 6 September	6.00 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving at Old St Chad's
Sunday 13 September	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 September	4.00 pm	Church at Four & Family Harvest Service
Sunday 27 September	9.00 am	Holy Communion



Alpha! What's it all about? The Big Questions in Life – that's what! Is there a God? If there is, why is there so much suffering in the world? Come to our Launch Event at St Chad's on Tues 25th August, 7 pm, to find out more.

Church Warden: Karen Kirk, 01948 860988; karenkirk45@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer: Alison Hunter Johnston safeguarding@stchadstushingham.org

BACS: Tushingham PCC 01366084 55-81-16

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

St Wenefrede's Bickley and St Nicholas Chapel Cholmondeley

Our services follow this monthly pattern:

1st Sunday Holy Communion, Bickley 9 am

2nd Sunday Morning Prayer, Bickley 11 am

3rd Sunday Holy Communion, Bickley 11 am

4th Sunday Morning Prayer, Bickley 11 am,

Evening Prayer, Cholmondeley 4 pm (Winter) and 6 pm (Summer)

For up-to-date information on services, please visit our Facebook page (St Wenefrede's Church, Bickley and St Nicholas Chapel, Cholmondeley) or find us at www.achurchnearyou.com

Watch this space for details of a **Guided Parish Walk** from Bickley Church on Saturday 3rd October! We are also always looking for volunteers to help with the upkeep of the church and its grounds. For more information or to join our email circulation list, please contact pipehouse8@gmail.com

Baptism Theo Karl Ashton-Wildman was Baptised on Sunday 12th July at St Chad's – we pray that little Theo will *shine with the Light of Christ Jesus*.



Funerals At St Wenefrede's, Bickley, we remember Beryl McCain and David Ackerley, *may they rest in peace and rise in glory*.

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



Have you had the opportunity to visit a garden? This is certainly a growing trend. I think back to my childhood and going with my Dad to fetch some plants from a nursery. The nurseries were very basic, an extended private garden with a poly tunnel. Over the years, we have all witnessed the change, a small café offering tea and cake to what, in some cases, is a shopping centre offering all sorts of goods.

Household gardens have become much smaller as builders try to squeeze as many properties as they can in the land available. Less growing of vegetables, more features, ponds, fountains, ornaments, furniture and flowering bushes. Since Covid, more people have valued a garden, park or even a green space.

Gardens are first mentioned in the first book of the Bible, where we read God planted a garden and it goes on to remind us that God was walking in the garden. This reminds me of the saying that, 'One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth'. One of the Sunday school hymns I recall is, *'In our Dear Lord's Garden, Planted here below, Many tiny flowers, In sweet beauty grow'*.

During the summer months, do take time to enjoy your garden, visit a garden trail or a property with an extensive garden. Stop, sit and take in the beauty and remind yourself that God is walking in the garden and can and will be there for you.

Our next Bradley services, all at 2.30 pm are:

9th August led by Brian Faulkner

13th September led by Rev Kevin Johnson

11th October, Rev Jane Stephenson – **Harvest Festival** followed by refreshments

Contacts:

Pastor Brian Faulkner

01948 664898; brianfaulkner@btinternet.com

Pastor Mike Valentine

07763168448; mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net

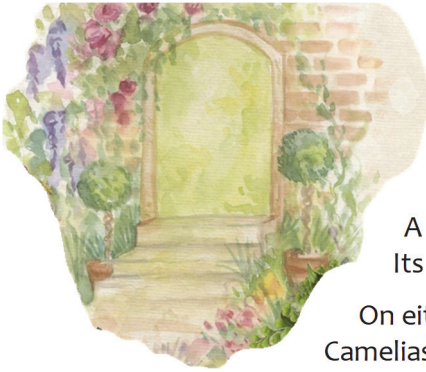


Evening Prayer in a Summer Garden

You are warmly invited to our final two gatherings for Evening Prayer in the Celtic tradition, held in gardens across the Benefice. We'll meet at 8 pm in the following beautiful gardens:

Friday 7th August – Bickley Lodge, Bickley SY14 8ED

Saturday 22nd August – The Paddocks, Wirswall SY13 4LB



A Country Vicarage *by Keith J Crump*

Flanked by pine trees, hidden behind hedges
 Free from the sight of passers-by.
 As is the way, the house is old
 Large rooms with views of open fields.
 A front door of varnished wood
 Its doorstep worn with age.

On either side, climbing Roses
 Camelias, Pieris and Weigelia

Mingle with wisteria to reach upper windows.
 In summer, maturing copper beech gives welcome shade.
 A garden of herbs enclosed with Buxus
 Fills the air with fragrances of Lemon balm
 Rosemary, Lavendar, and Chives.

The cackle of chickens breaks silence
 Prompting investigation from within.
 And indeed, what of those who once resided here?
 Imagination paints a picture.

Afternoon tea in china cups on warm August days.
 A mantle clock chimes the hour,
 Laying upon the desk an unfinished sermon
 Waits for inspiration.
 Perhaps their world would stretch no farther
 Than the horizon seen from upstairs windows
 A country vicarage set in time.

*Thanks to No Man's Heath
 resident, Keith, for this
 atmospheric poem, inspired
 by the former vicarage at
 Hetherson Green, Malpas*

Thank you to Karen Kirk for this puzzling Victorian cake recipe!

Ingredients

8 oz Genesis 4: 4	½ tsp Leviticus 2: 13
9 oz Jeremiah 6: 20	1 tsp 2 Chronicles 9: 9
4 Isaiah 10: 14	12 oz 1 Samuel 30: 12
2 tbsp 1 Samuel 14: 25	2 oz Numbers 17: 8, chopped
10 oz 1 Kings 4: 22	2 tbsp Judges 5: 25

Method

1. Allow half an hour for bible study (to identify ingredients!).
2. Mix well, put into a lined, greased tin and cook for 2½ hours in a slow oven.





News from Tushingham-with-Grindley CofE Primary School

What an action-packed time we have had, racing towards the end of the school year!

We threw ourselves into **Science Week** and this year's theme, *Curiosity – what's your question?* The children heard about inspiring scientists, engineers, inventors and explorers, and learned that every great discovery begins with curiosity. One of the highlights was the, *I Wonder... Challenge*, which encouraged children to think deeply about the world around them and research their own scientific interests. Another memorable event was designing and building towers using spaghetti and marshmallows. It was certainly a sticky experience! We were proud to see the older children supporting the younger pupils in their teams, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, leadership and perseverance.

Inspired by the book, *The Last Wolf*, **Class 2** learned about endangered and extinct animals, as well as fascinating facts about bees. In Maths, they learned to tell the time, and in Art they produced some beautiful paintings, combining watercolours with floral designs inspired by Yayoi Kusama.

In Computing, **Class 3** learned how to create branching databases, while in Maths they explored shape and symmetry, and in Geography they learned about biomes and climate zones. They have also been designing and making their own pencil cases and, in PE, they have been developing their running, jumping and throwing techniques.



Class 4 have also had a very busy term, with a terrific end of year production, and the residential visit to PGL being another highlight, with activities including abseiling, climbing, archery and astro-ball! Back at school, they delved into local history, and visited St Chad's to learn about the impact of WW1 on Tushingham. Rev Veronica kindly shared local artefacts and stories, and led a beautiful moment of reflection. The children look forward to sharing their research projects with the church community.



The Building Work... Paveways are making excellent progress, and the new kitchen should be in use at the start of the coming academic year, with the two new classrooms ready after half term. We are very excited!

The school opens its doors for the new school year on Thursday 3rd September.



Cheshire
Wildlife Trust

CWT to Expand Wild Network

Vital boost from National Lottery Heritage Fund

In a 2-year pilot project, Cheshire Wildlife Trust are developing their *Wild Network* through free workshops, events and teacher training courses, accompanied by free resources for community groups, schools and individuals. This is possible due to a grant of £225,000 from *The National Lottery Heritage Fund*, and £20,000 from *Nanette Hyde Bryce Charitable Trust*.

The programme of events kicked off with a Community Meadows Conference held at CWT's HQ at Bickley Hall Farm. Community representatives from across Cheshire and Wirral came together to connect with other volunteer groups who are restoring these important habitats in other parts of the county.

Becky Williams, Senior Wild Network Officer said, "Something powerful happens when you bring groups like this together. New contacts are made, challenges are shared, and it slowly becomes clear that they are not working in silos but are part of a much larger network of people tackling nature loss together." The hope is that the *Wild Network* will grow and expand even further, welcoming all who want to help support and restore nature.

Coming up this summer are butterfly identification workshops, garden design for ecology sessions and scything workshops. There will also be teacher training sessions, with a series of online short courses in the autumn / winter.

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Bickley Hall Farm • Bickley Lane • SY14 8EF • 01948 820728



Return of the post box

After a rapid repair, but a very long wait for re-activation, the good news is that the vandalised Maesfen post box at Barhill is back in service again. In the article below (from 1904), our ever-changing postal services even drew the attention of the Chester Observer!

CHESTER OBSERVER, 3RD DECEMBER 1904

During the past week the Maesfen postal service, which hitherto has been in the Whitchurch district, has been transferred to the district of Malpas, and in future the postal address under the new arrangement will be 'Maesfen, Malpas.' This new arrangement includes Bradley Brook Cottages, which also have had their postal delivery through Whitchurch until now, although but 1½ miles from Malpas.

Auction of Promises

with 'Sparkling' Cream Tea

Sunday 27th September, 3 pm

Meadowbank, Pool Lane, Malpas

By kind invitation of Mr & Mrs P Moore Dutton

In aid of St Chad's Church, Tushingham

Limited tickets! £15
(advance-purchase only)

Available from:

Karen Kirk (01948 860988)

Sam Prince (07719 586424)

Can you make a promise?

We're gathering promises for this fundraising event and would be very grateful for your support.

Time gardening or decorating, perhaps?

A haircut, a car valet, a painting, or a day out?

A meal, a guided tour, or a wildlife walk?

A craft workshop, or a special item to auction?

The possibilities are endless!

To donate a promise, please contact

Sally-Ann Chesters: bookings@millmoorfarm.co.uk

