

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



DECEMBER / JANUARY
2025 / 2026

Welcome

Our Christmas edition of *The Bell* seems to have come around very quickly, and there are the usual array of festivities going on in the Parish. However, as we head into winter, we look back on a productive autumn, reporting on the highly successful community clearing event at Bradley Common, as well as the much anticipated (and much appreciated) arrival of the Tushingham defibrillator, and a wide variety of activities and adventures at our Primary School.

Many thanks to all those who work so hard to keep our community rolling on throughout the year – our friends, neighbours and countrymen/women! If you would like to contribute to our first issue of 2026, with articles, poems, notices, photographs, advertorials, or local history, please send them in by 16th January.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas 🎄

Juliet

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Local contacts

Parish Chair, Phoebe Parkinson
tushinghamparishchair@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



Seasonal services and songs



Sunday 30 th November	4.00 pm	'Lighting up Advent' at St Chad's
Sunday 14 th December	2.30 pm 4.00 pm	Carol service at Bradley Chapel Christingle at St Michael's, Marbury
Thursday 18 th December	7.00 pm	Carol singing at The Cholmondeley Arms
Sunday 21 st December	4.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Chad's
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm 11.15 pm	Crib service at St Mary's, Whitewell Midnight Communion at Marbury
Christmas Day	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.45 am	Family Communion at St Chad's Family Communion at Bickley Family Communion at Whitewell



On Sunday 9th November, St Chad's joined in the national remembrance on Armistice Day, honouring those who have lost their lives in war.

The service included readings and prayers from members of our community, and the Parish Roll of Honour was recited. The bells rang out with muffled tones, and St Chad's beautiful ceramic poppies (created by Sara Wood in 2019) made a striking focus for the service.

A traditional wreath of poppies was laid on the war memorial.

Parish Meeting

Summary of Minutes from Parish Meeting on 6th October 2025 at St Chad's

Next Parish Meeting

Monday 12th January
Bradley Chapel, 7 pm

- Finances are sound at £4836.78. We owe the Church £30 for its use to hold the evening's Meeting.
- The repair of the church bells, which we helped finance, are now back in place and ringing perfectly.
- The defibrillator, which has been eagerly awaited, is finally in place opposite *The Blue Bell*. Thanks to Matt and John Hollins for their work installing the unit, and to Mr Oakes for allowing his electricity supply to be used. There is still some work to be completed on it [now done], but the machine is now in place and usable, which is a relief after all this time.
- The Chair will continue to investigate the situation regarding payment for the phone box, which was originally acquired as a housing for the defibrillator several years ago.
- *The Bell* funding is due in January and advance notice was given of a need to increase the print run (and so costs) from 250 to 300 copies, due to rising numbers in the Parish.
- There is a vacancy for a Governor at Tushingham Primary School if anyone is interested. It will be for a 4-year term and is to be Council approved. To be advertised in *The Bell*.
- Discussion of the proposed footpath between Bradley Lane and the school to avoid walking alongside the A41 took place. It would involve permission from two landowners, which is where it fails, as one has refused because of the danger of injury to their livestock, from both gates and fences being damaged, and from any litter being left as it had been in the past.
- Our local PCSO said there had been no problems locally that she had heard of. The in-house Police meeting that Rev Veronica usually attends on our behalf is in early November; the Chair would finalise the details by e-mail.



A Community WhatsApp group has been set up for TM&B, following discussions at the Parish Meeting in July. Members can choose to receive announcements only, or join subgroups to chat on specific community topics. If you are on the Parish e-mail list, you should have already received a link to join; alternatively, e-mail Phoebe, our Parish Chair, to be added to the Group: tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

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

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

You can also report incidents via the Cheshire Police website

For details of Police Surgeries in December and January, please see social media



Bellringing:

a great tradition, fun, sociable and challenging

The bells at St Chads have been restored thanks to generous donations from local people. We are looking for more people to come and join the band so we can make the most of our Victorian heritage.

We practice on Saturday mornings.

Come along and join us.

Ann Johnson 07860 496836

Arrival of the Tushingham defibrillator!



The defibrillator was installed on the 25th September in the grassed area opposite *The Blue Bell Inn*, close to the Jubilee bench. At the same time, the foliage surrounding the No Through Road and Bishop Benet Way signs was cleared. A week later, the electrician connected the internal heating element to keep the unit free from frost damage. The defib is emergency ready, with users having to call 999 for access to the unit. The *British Heart Foundation* website has free resources to learn about CPR, and the use of a defibrillator.



Matt Hollins

News from St Chad's



Winter

I wonder if you have ever thought of Winter as a Season of Sabbath. Spring and Summer are times of growth and flourishing and Autumn brings us all the bounty of those growing months in its abundance and plenty. The fruitfulness of autumn is displayed most visually in the fields ripe for harvest and in the trees full of their own offerings of seeds, nuts and

berries and then the final shedding of russet red and golden leaves.

Winter is a different story. A season where nature withdraws, holding herself in stillness until the world turns again and Spring is once more on the way. The cold and darkness wrap the earth and all is put away for another year. Even some of our native animals turn in for the winter.

Sabbath time is a time of resting, reflecting and refreshing. Sabbath time does not mean just Sundays, it can be any time we can take to be still and quiet, and in these long and dark evenings we may find we have time to do that.

Our 24/7, noisy and demanding world expects us to carry on just the same, and this is maybe why many struggle through the winter months. Sabbath is when we can take some time to withdraw from the busyness of our lives, to draw breath and give ourselves some time to slow down, to rest and reflect in peace.

Perhaps this year we could look at this Winter season a little differently and embrace the Winter Sabbath and use it in the same way nature does. As a time for reflecting, resting, snuggling down and preparing for next year's growth.

Jesus often took himself away for some peace and quiet; to pray, rest and listen and he never felt guilty about it, and encouraged it in others. The message he left us tells us all we need to know about being human in an ever-changing world. It is perhaps no coincidence that the Light of the World comes to us at the darkest time of the year.

Ali Hunter Johnston

Licensed Lay Minister, St Chad's Tushingham

A note from Rev Veronica: There will be some small changes in the order of our services at St Chad's from February 2026. These are being made to accommodate our existing church family and those who are new to church.

Rev Veronica Green, veronicarom838@aol.com; 01948 663758; 07928 792337

Services at St Chad's in December and January

Sunday 7 December	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 14 December	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 December	4.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday 28 December	11.00 am	United Benefice service at St Chad's

Sunday 4 January	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 11 January	9.00 am	Holy Communion (Plough Sunday)
Sunday 18 January	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 January	11.00 am	Morning prayer

On **Christmas Eve**, a **Crib Service** will be held at 4 pm at St Mary's, Whitewell; and **Midnight Communion** will be held at 11.15 pm at St Michael's, Marbury



Baptisms Tessa Julia Nicholson on 27th September and
Poppy Amelia Donaldson on 26th October 2025 at St Chad's
May Christ shine His Light into their lives.

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

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

News and services for St Wenefrede's, Bickley

December: 7th Evening prayer, 4.30 pm; 14th Carols by Candlelight, 6.30 pm;
21st Holy Communion, 11 am; **Christmas Day**, Family Communion, 10.30 am;
28th United Benefice at St Chad's, 11 am

January: 4th Evening prayer, 4.30 pm; 11th Morning prayer, 11 am;
18th Holy Communion, 11 am; 25th Holy Communion, 9 am

Tree of Remembrance, Saturday 6th and 13th December, 10 am–2 pm

Visit St Wenefrede's and write a message for a loved one and place on the Tree of Remembrance. Cards and baubles are provided. Christmas gifts and decorations on sale and refreshments available – all proceeds to St Wenefrede's.

Carol singing at The Cholmondeley Arms, Thursday 18th December, 7 pm

All proceeds to the Children's Society.

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



What can I give?

This is the question many people will be asking of themselves over the coming weeks, as they scour the internet, walk around stores or try to give thought for what would be a suitable item that can be given this Christmas. One well-known television presenter has, for a number of years, suggested that exchanging gifts

should be discussed with the recipient, as in a number of cases it is futile.

The line of thought I have presented indicates spending money, and indeed business and the economy, relies on money being spent to survive.

To the young child, receiving gifts (note the plural) means everything to them; they require items to encourage play, learn new things and replace clothes etc, as they grow and mature.

For those of us that have encountered many Christmases, we already have what we need and most of us would prefer to make our own purchases.

My heading comes from the carol *In the Bleak Midwinter*, with the line 'What can I give him,' referring to the birth of Jesus.

It's very easy in the busyness of Christmas to forget what the celebration is all about. God enabled the birth of his son Jesus, to offer friendship to all, to offer a way of peace, providing an example of living a productive life.

Jesus is the gift that is yours.

At Bradley we meet to acknowledge Jesus and to Praise and Worship Him. We meet at 2.30 pm on the second Sunday of every month:

Sunday 14th December at 2.30 pm

Traditional Carol Service, followed by refreshments.

Sunday 11th January at 2.30 pm

Led by Graham Dimelow, a semi-retired local farmer and a local Preacher.

Pastors Mike and Brian send you greetings, wishing all our readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Pastor Mike Valentine
Pastor Brian Faulkner

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

Bradley Common Restoration Project

The community day held on 11th October proved to be most successful.

Just a quick thank you to Matt P, Steve, Roger, Jason, Dave, Tadge, Phoebe, Juliet and Ru who turned out to help with the Common restoration. Also Tracy, who sent down a magnificent picnic and Pat, Emma and Liz who also helped sustaining the force with refreshments.



A special thank you is also in order to Matt P who brought along some incredible machinery both on the day and a few weeks later when a limited force returned to complete some final clearing.

The terrace has now been three parts cleared with a final area earmarked for clearance after Christmas. It will be interesting to see what will grow next spring now the daylight has been let in!

Simon Jones



It is amazing how much wonderful work happens, day in day out, at Tushingham. The children complete it with such enthusiasm and dedication, and we are proud to see every child's individual talents.

Looking across our school years, Year 5 took a trip to Chester Cathedral for Pilgrim Day, learning about the cathedral, the meaning of pilgrimage, and also taking part in creative workshops. Back in school (and very much back in the modern day!) Class 4 explored the power of coding by creating fitness trackers with Micro:bits, as well as working in teams to design and build their own pulley systems! Outside in Forest School, they created a wattle and daub tunnel which will grow so that everyone can play in it for years to come. Hands-on learning at its best 😊

In English, Class 3 have completed a fact file on seals, practised descriptive writing, and are now enjoying letter writing – all inspired by their class book, *The Seal Surfer*. In History, they've journeyed through the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age, and in PE they've taken on adventurous outdoor activities to build teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills.



In science, Class 2 have been exploring seasonal changes, including differences in weather and day length. In Forest School, they were excited to see how the Lego earth model moved around the sun and tilted to make seasons and change the hours of sunlight.

Over in Class 1 they have been busy exploring how teddy bears have changed over time, and brought in their own special bears to talk about. They have also been artists – designing houses with a digital art programme, and using marble art to create firework pictures. All of this in addition to the creative learning through play that happens every day, both inside and out.

Supplementing our learning, we've also had visits from *Bonanza Creative*, who gave a workshop on safety around carbon monoxide, and *Gripping Yarns* who performed a show with an important message in Anti-Bullying Week.

Our sports teams also competed well at the inter-school rugby, hockey and cross-country events at Bishop Heber, and all of our children presented and sang confidently at the Harvest service at St Chad's. Our 'Glee Club' will return to church to sing at the Christmas Market on 29th November.

School closes for Christmas on 19th December, reopening on 5th January 2026!



☀️ **Make a Difference – Become a Tushingham School Governor!** ☀️

Are you passionate about helping children thrive? Want to give back to your local community? Join us as a Tushingham School Governor and help shape the future of local education.

- ✅ No experience needed – just your enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment to making a positive impact.
- ✅ Support and training provided – you'll grow your skills while helping others grow too.

As a Tushingham School Governor, you'll work at a strategic level, guiding the direction of the school, supporting leadership, and ensuring the best outcomes for every child. You won't be involved in day-to-day operations – instead, you'll ask the right questions, challenge decisions constructively, and help steer the school's long-term success.

🔍 What we're looking for:

- A commitment to improving education
 - A willingness to learn and grow
- An inquisitive mindset and ability to think strategically

Join a team of dedicated volunteers making real change.
Your voice matters. Your time counts. Your impact lasts.

📧 Ready to get involved? Contact us today to learn more!

E-mail Chair of Governors Jannine Davies: Chair@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk,
 or our Executive Headteacher, Cathy Davies: Head@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk

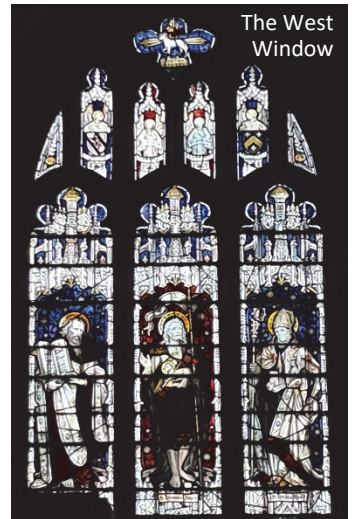
Windows on the world

Tushingham's connection with 'The Master of Glass', Charles Kempe



Charles Kempe was a Victorian designer and manufacturer of stained glass, renowned for his distinctive medieval artwork style. Kempe's studios produced over 4,000 windows for churches worldwide, including the cathedrals of Chester, Liverpool, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, Wells, Winchester and York. His windows can be seen as far afield as Australia, South Africa, and Mexico, and as close to home as Tushingham...

In 1897, Catherine Kenyon, widow of Hon Edward Kenyon of Maesfen Hall, commissioned Kempe to design glass for the West window of St Chad's (in the tower section of the church), in memory of her late husband. The window depicts a figure of the Apostle Barnabas on the left, John the Baptist in the centre holding a lamb, and on the right is the figure of St Chad. In 1904, a second window was designed by Kempe for the North transept (facing the fields towards Barhill), in memory of Catherine Kenyon herself, dedicated by her brother.



Born in 1837 in East Sussex, **Charles Eamer Kempe** was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he was inspired by seeing William Morris design the Debating Chamber at the Oxford Union. Due to a troubling stammer, he felt unable to follow his vocation as a priest and instead decided, "If I was not permitted to minister in the Sanctuary I would use my talents to adorn it." He went on to study architecture, learning about medieval church art and, specifically, the art of stained glass, while working with William Morris.



In 1866 he opened his own studio in London, which became a thriving business, with a characteristic maker's mark of a golden sheaf.

"Kempe's work has a unique charm; its colours shine out from jewels that cluster on the mitres or the crowns his figures wear... it lets through the rays of the full or the setting sun"