

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



OCTOBER /NOVEMBER
2026

Welcome

Putting together *The Bell* for the 2 months ahead does make the time speed by. Although summer seems like only yesterday, we already need to issue a reminder that the clocks go back on Sunday 25th October to standard winter time, and that the wonderful St Chad's (whisper it) Christmas Market, falls at the end of November. St Chad's is also holding a Christmas Tree festival again this year (see page 1), so why not put your heads together with colleagues, friends or family, and come up with a creative idea for decorating a tree?

In Parish matters, note that police surgeries are being held in both No Man's Heath and Malpas in Oct/Nov (page 3), and we have our next Parish Meeting on Monday 19th October, with a call-out for a new Parish Clerk (page 2).

Please send any articles, notices or photos for our next issue by 16th November.

With best wishes,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chair, Phoebe Parkinson
tushingamparishchair@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 'Report it' App was scrapped by CWAC on 1st May 2026 for cost reasons ']

What's On?

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



Finding Emily [12A]

Monday 19th October, 7.30 pm

British romcom about a lovesick musician who is given the wrong number for his dream girl, and teams up with a psychology student to find her. Stars Angourie Rice, Spike Fearn.

The Devil Wears Prada 2 [12A]

Monday 23rd November, 7.30 pm

Andy reunites with Miranda Priestly as they navigate careers amid the decline of traditional magazine publishing. Stars Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway.

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

Parish Meeting

Monday 19th October, 7 pm

St Chad's Church

St Chad's

Christmas Market

Saturday 28th November

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 items to donate, please contact Karen Kirk, (01948 860988), or bring them to St Chad's on Friday 27th at 10 am when we are setting up.

Thank you 😊

Services of Remembrance

Sunday 8th November, 10.45 am

- St Chad's, Tushingham
- St Wenefrede's, Bickley
- St Michael's, Marbury
- St Mary's, Whitewell

and

**Bradley Chapel
at 2.30 pm**



Christmas Tree Festival

Once again this year at St Chad's we're holding a *Christmas Tree Festival* to create a magical community atmosphere in the church as we approach Christmas – something to really celebrate!

If your business, organisation, family or friends, would like to provide a tree and have fun decorating it for display in the church, please contact Rev Veronica

veronicarom838@aol.com; 07928 792337

Parish Meeting

Next meeting: Monday 19th October, at St Chad's Church, 7 pm

Our long-serving Parish Clerk, Pat Adams, who kindly volunteered to take on the role once more over this past year, will be stepping down at the next meeting. We are only a small (but mighty!) Parish, and the main role of the Clerk involves taking minutes at the 3–4 Meetings each year. Could you help?

It's a great way to get involved in our community. For more details, please contact Parish Chair, Phoebe Parkinson at tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com

The Sound of Bells

The sound of bells all through our lives,
Without them we would surely strive.
They have the power to move our soul,
From ancient times they've played a role.
A role which calls for our attention,
Fills the mind with anticipation
Of things to come, of celebration,
Of warnings and of new beginnings, endings and of victory,
Things that are obligatory.
Different tones within our ears can bring us happiness or tears.
We may feel tired, or even weary,
They help us on our spiritual journey.
Chimes that twinkle in the breeze, ones so loud that no-one sees.
Their tones give out vibration swells to fill the air, to banish fear and despair.
Soothing rings soft and gentle echo from an Eastern temple.
The music of the heavenly realms must surely be the sound of bells.



by Keith J Crump

If you're feeling inspired by Keith's poem and fancy having a go at making 'the music of the heavenly realms' yourself, please get in touch with Ann Johnson, Bell Tower Captain at St Chad's (07860 496836), and come and try together with our friendly band of ringers – it's fun, sociable, and excellent (gentle) exercise!

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](https://www.facebook.com/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

Police surgeries in October

Tues 6th (10–11 am) at Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Mon 12th (2–3 pm) outside village shop, **No Man's Heath**

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

Weds 28th (9–10 am) at the Old Fire Station, Malpas

Police surgeries in November

Thurs 5th (10–11 am) outside village shop, **No Man's Heath**

Tues 10th (10–11 am) at Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

Mon 23rd (12–1 pm) at the Old Fire Station, Malpas

Sat 28th (11 am–midday) at High Street, Farndon



In a rural community such as ours, the **what3words** system can not only be handy for navigating, but literally lifesaving. It recently hit the headlines again after presenter Kirstie Allsopp used it to share her location after an accident on the beach, prompting others to speak out about how it helped them be found in all sorts of places from narrowboats and horse-riding tracks to motorways and rural properties.

As a reminder... **what3words** is a free App that gives a unique combination of 3 words to every 3 m square worldwide, allowing an exact location to be pinpointed – not just a street address. It also uses a GPS signal so works without mobile or data coverage. Used by Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue, and NW Ambulance service, it's handy to have on your phone whether home or away.



News from St Chad's

Seasons... As I write this on a rather balmy September evening, a Forage Harvester is taking off the maize over at Marbury Hall, its engine forging through the crop that hasn't seen its best over this long dry summer, and yet I am surrounded by beautiful, lush green grass here at The Vicarage that I never thought I'd see again to be honest. *'There is time for everything'* it says in Ecclesiastes, a short book in the Old Testament that is written by a philosopher more than a theologian, whose words of poetry and prose remind us that time doesn't stand still. I welcome the change in the seasons; this is one of the great things about living in this part of the world. Even though we experience changes within each season, we still sense the four seasons that the UK and Europe have always known.

We don't celebrate Harvest in shops and supermarkets; I expect it wouldn't bring in as many sales as summer holiday paraphernalia and cheap Halloween tatt! We're far more likely to hang a ghost on our door these days than a Harvest wreath. Tell me how that works in our children's thinking?

Turning the wheel of the seasons should surely be about how our lives interact with God's provisions, not the economics of super-powers who continue to pour rubbish into our country at every opportunity? Surely, taking a breath to stop and appreciate nature in all its glory and thanking our Creator God for the things that only He brings to us is a far healthier lifestyle choice than any other? I would choose to take my own Grandchildren out for a walk pointing out blackberries and shiny red rose hips over a trip down the aisle at a shop anytime, to bring to their attention the natural beauty of the natural world and how God is always at work within it.

Harvest is followed by a period of remembering in the Church as we head into November and the winter, a time when things sleep and are restored, blessed and rested. But I guess that won't be promoted in our stores either! We'll make the remarkable jump from Halloween to Christmas without a supernatural star or miracle of a divine birth in sight. You bet I'm complaining, because the very existence and nature of humankind is being coerced and controlled by money rather than the co-dependency of God and Mankind. We're missing out! You're missing out!

God gives to every season as He holds the world in His hands. He asks us to walk through these seasons with Him, yet we so often choose to walk without Him, tempted by the shallow gods that crave our attention: money, materialism, consuming more and more – where will it all end?

Come back to God, leave worldly things behind and seek the things that last eternally. Enjoy the seasons in the way they are given to us, for He made the world to turn and placed everything in its place for it to do so, and the time to appreciate it all is NOW!

Yours, Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

Services at St Chad's in October and November

Sunday 4 October	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 11 October	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 October	4.00 pm	Church at Four
Sunday 25 October	9.00 am	Holy Communion

Sunday 1 November	11.00 am	Morning prayer on All Saints' Day
Monday 2 November	7.00 pm	All Souls' Service
Sunday 8 November	10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 15 November	4.00 pm	Church at Four
Sunday 22 November	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 November	11.00 am	United Benefice service at St Chad's

Season of remembering... **All Souls Service** at St Chad's on 2nd November at 7 pm – a beautiful opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost.

Remembrance Sunday at St Chad's on 8th November at 10.45 am with Rev'd Veronica who will be joined by some of our local school children.

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

Safeguarding Officer: Alison Hunter Johnston safeguarding@stchadstushingham.org

BACS: Tushingham PCC 01366084 55-81-16

Find the websites for each church in our Benefice at www.achurchnearyou.com

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

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

There will be no further Evening Prayer services at **Cholmondeley Chapel** over the autumn/winter. For news of other services, see the next edition of *The Bell*.

Our **Harvest Thanksgiving** service is on **Sunday 11th October at 11 am**, followed by a Harvest lunch at Bickley Coronation Hall. For further details, contact Ann Bailey or Dilys Willis. **Remembrance service** is on **Sunday 8th November at 10.45 am**.



Wedding Congratulations rang out over Tushingham to celebrate a local wedding on 8th August. Our best wishes to Jess and James Evans, our wonderful Chimney Sweeps!

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



Recently I took a closer look at Congregationalism, reaffirming its roots grounded in the simplicity of 'Justification through faith alone'. No ifs, ands, or buts. Not surprisingly, the suggestion of this personal relationship, *directly* reconciling each of us to The Almighty through Jesus alone, went down with Church authorities like a 'lead balloon'.

In England – as early as the 12th Century – such Heretics were burnt, as across Europe whole populations of so-called Lollards were systematically slaughtered. No form of dissent was tolerated. 'Dissenters' in the 16th and 19th Centuries included Congregationalists, Baptists and Presbyterians. During Victorian times, it was only after the passing of two committed Anglican clergymen – Preacher John, and hymn-writing brother Charles Wesley – did their followers form a separate denomination. These 'Methodies' were also tagged with the insult of being 'enthusiasts' – what a totally unintended compliment! The Chapel's movement quickly grew amongst families of mining, farming and factory workers. Over time, different Church denominations contributed to changes in our national society. From 'Nonconformist Chapel folk' came many prominent groups of social and political reformers such as The Salvation Army, Children's Charities, Trade Unions, Miners' Welfare & Educational Institutes, Building Societies, Insurance-related Friendly Societies, The Co-operative Movement – to name but a few! Several still-surviving political groupings also emerged.

Whilst looking again at the story of Congregationalism, I've also been reading the early days, career-building autobiography of President Barack Obama. *Called The Audacity of Hope*, the first 2 chapters should be mandatory reading for all in public service. Very clearly, our founding families were driven by **the audacity of hope**.

An ongoing need for Christian Ministry very much remains in the present age. TV coverage brings into our own home graphic scenes of tragedies from across the world. Yet in the 'here and now' – close by – there are needs which don't hit the headlines. Rural family pride is still very strong.

EVERYONE WELCOME at Bradley Chapel Services, 2nd Sunday monthly, 2.30 pm:
11th October Harvest led by Rev'd Jane Stephenson; after-service refreshments
8th November Remembrance & Remembering led by Pastors Mike and Brian
13th December Carols & Readings led by Mike Valentine; after-service refreshments.

We ask a Special Blessing on all we know to be frail, ill or in recovery.

Pastor Brian Faulkner

01948 664898; brianfaulkner@btinternet.com

Pastor Mike Valentine

07763168448; mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net

Friends, Romans, Countrymen

We are all familiar with the Roman history in Chester – the walls, the gardens, the amphitheatre – but did you know of evidence much closer to home?

In 1812, two Roman bronze tablets dated AD 103 were found in Bickley field, close to Barhill. Now known as the ‘Malpas Tabula’, the two adjoining plates (15 x 13 cm in size) were a military discharge diploma, issued by the emperor Trajan to Reburus, a Spanish decurion (junior officer) in the 1st Pannonian cavalry regiment, granting him Roman citizenship and the right of legal marriage.

According to the British Museum (where the plates are now kept), these privileges were usually granted to the non-citizen auxiliary soldiers when they retired after completing the 25-year period of military service, but were occasionally conferred earlier as a reward, for example, for conspicuous bravery in battle.

An translation of the Latin inscription on the tablets is as follows:

“The Emperor Caesar Nerva Traianus Augustus, conqueror of Germany, conqueror of Dacia, son of the deified Nerva... four times acclaimed Imperator, five times consul, father of his country, has granted to the cavalrymen and infantrymen who... are stationed in Britain under Lucius Neratius Marcellus, who have served twenty-five or more years, citizenship for themselves, their children and descendants, and the right of legal marriage with the wives they had when citizenship was granted to them, or, if any were unmarried, with those they later marry, but only a single one each... To Reburus, son of Severus, from Spain, decurion of ala I Pannoniorum Tampiana, commanded by Gaius Valerius Celsus...”

It has been suggested that the A41 from Grindley Brook to Whitchurch follows the line of a Roman road. Certainly, the bronze tablets were found close to the route of the A41 and, about 20 years after this, two Roman coiled gold bracelets were found only a mile away further north. It's interesting to think of these ‘echoes’ from the past, and the people who left those items travelling right through the heart of our Parish almost 2,000 years ago.





News from Tushingham-with-Grindley CofE Primary School

It is great to be back in school at the start of this new academic year. We have had a calm and positive start, and it has been lovely to see our four classes settling so smoothly. We have also had some exciting changes. One has been the renaming of our classes in preparation for the new beginnings that will come when our new classrooms are open towards the end of November. The building work is going well and we are very excited!



News from Robins (Nursery/Reception): Our Nursery and Reception children have settled really well. Over the last few weeks, they have enjoyed exploring our indoor and outdoor areas, with the Creation Station, Home Corner, Muddy Kitchen and bikes proving to be firm favourites! We have been getting to know ourselves and one another by creating self-portraits and talking about what makes each of us special. The children have also been learning about our school vision, 'Let us love one another for love is from God'. It has been so lovely to see them showing

kindness, respect and care towards one another as they begin to build a sense of belonging within our school family.

News from Wagtails (Y1/2): During our first few weeks in Wagtails we have been enjoying lots of fun activities, with plenty of opportunities for teamwork, communication and socialising. We had a particularly exciting start when some very special visitors arrived... penguins from Antarctica! They travelled all the way from the South Pole, sealed safely inside balls of ice! They even arrived with a suitcase packed full of exciting belongings for us to investigate. We are looking forward to finding out more.



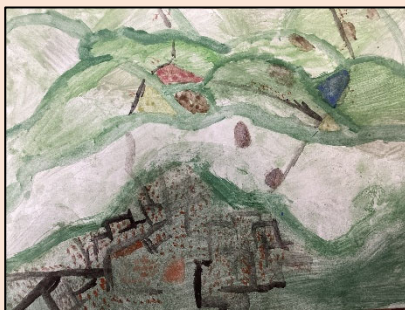
News from Kingfishers (Y3/4): Kingfishers have had a wonderful start to the new school year. In Art, we have begun our Plant Art unit, creating detailed drawings of leaves, and experimenting with tones, tints and shades to paint flowers inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. In English, we have been exploring free verse poetry, taking inspiration from Michael Rosen's poems to create our own imaginative pieces. Our PE lessons have started with dance, and in PSHE, we have begun our Mental Health and Wellbeing unit.

News from Tawny Owls (Y5/6):

Tawny Owls have loved starting to learn about World War 2. They have brought in items of family history, which is fascinating for the class. We are using these artefacts to create a book about our families' experiences during the war. In Art we are

creating our own landscape paintings in the style of Paul Nash, and in English we

have been writing poems about The Blitz. The children's work is beautiful and extremely emotive. We are looking forward to our visits to Chester Cathedral for Pilgrim's Day and to RAF Cosford to learn about the Battle of Britain.



Cheshire Wildlife Trust 2027 calendar

CWT has unveiled the winners of its 2027 photography competition. From an overwhelming 500 entries, they selected 24 beautiful images which will all feature in the calendar. The winning image, a 7-spot ladybird on a bonnet mushroom, is on the front cover, with a diverse range of wildlife across the months including a field vole at Reaseheath, and a brown hare at Nantwich.

The 2027 calendar is now available for pre-order via their online shop and costs £10, with all proceeds going towards supporting work for wildlife.

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

To wit, the owl...

Thank you to local resident Algi, who shared a photograph of this beautiful young bird that came to a halt at his home on Bradley Lane during the summer:

"I was alerted to this owl outside our bifold doors by our 3 golden retrievers barking madly! This beautiful mystical creature is concussed. It flew into the glass bifolds. I managed to stimulate it to fly away, and it immediately re-engaged in preying, as bird alerts were sounding! Circle of life."



Christmas Market & Christmas Tree Festival

St Chad's Church, Tushingham

Saturday 28th November

10 am – 2 pm

Join us
for...

Father
Christmas

Raffle

Hot
bacon
baps

Refreshments
& mince pies

Craft
stalls