

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



JUNE / JULY
2023

Welcome

It has been a very busy April and May across our community, with a bumper number of bank holidays and celebrations. This edition of *The Bell* reports the successes of these recent events, as well as looking ahead to June and July. In particular, please note that the next TM&B Parish Meeting is to be held at 7 pm on Monday 19th June at St Chad's Church, Tushingham (see page 2). Please attend this very important meeting if you can, to discuss matters going forward.

There are also great opportunities to volunteer for wildlife, read with children, ring bells and – most exciting of all – deliver *The Bell* (!!), so please read on!

If you would like to contribute to our next issue with any articles, advertorials, historical items, photos or notices, then please send them across by 14th July.

Thanks and best wishes –

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chairman, John Oakden

01948 663940 / 07989 220468; john.oakden@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Clerk, Mike McKenzie

07932 007165; mckenziemikeac@aol.com

Ward Councillor, Rachel Williams

01948 860627; rachel.williams@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Eddisbury MP, Edward Timpson

01829 733243; edward.timpson.mp@parliament.uk

Local police, PCSO Rachael McKeivitt

Calls to 101 (non-urgent); rachael.mckeivitt@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?

Looking back on events in April and May

Spring fundraisers: The *Coffee & Shop* at St Chad's in April had a good turn out on a sunny morning, and £640 was raised while people browsed the stalls, chatted with friends, and ate cake. The following weekend was an altogether rainier affair, but the *Bluebell Walk* at Tushingham Hall still attracted a steady stream of visitors and, together with teas and stalls, raised over £1,200 for the Hospice and Church. Then, in May, the *Open Gardens* afternoon welcomed visitors across three beautiful local gardens, with the added delights of afternoon teas, Pimms and a children's treasure hunt. Sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard to host, volunteer and support these events.

Coronation weekend: The bells 'Rang for the King' in Tushingham on Coronation Day, with the novices of St Chad's generously supported by ringers from the Tilston, Malpas, Tarporley, and Waverton towers.



Bell ringers at Tushingham



*St Chad's
scarecrow
on No Man's
Heath trail*

This was followed on Sunday by a picnic including a splendid iced Coronation cake in the glorious sunshine in the field outside Old St Chad's, prior to a Coronation Service. A congregation of young and old (and dog!) was warmly welcomed.

Walking Festival: Finally, Old St Chad's was the star attraction once more in May, marking the mid-morning stop on one of the walks on the first day of the Whitchurch Walking Festival, entitled, 'Alone in the Fields'. The walkers – some of whom had never seen or been inside the Chapel before – took the weight off their feet and paused for reflection, enjoying the tranquillity of this beautiful part of Cheshire.

Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report

16th May 2023

Firstly, let me apologise for my lack of progress in Parish matters, but I have not been able to function as normal. To this end, I have to stand down as Chairman from the date of the next Meeting which will be at **St Chad's Church** on **19th June 2023 at 7 pm**. Mike McKenzie, Clerk to the Meeting, will also be standing down for the same reasons. If anyone is willing to take over either of these roles, which would greatly help, could you please let me or Mike know before the meeting.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 19th June.

John Oakden



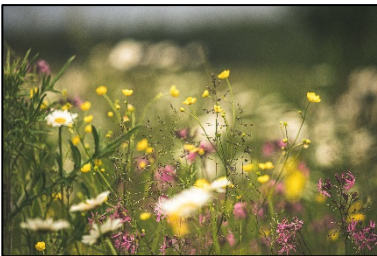
Cheshire
Wildlife Trust

Volunteering for nature

Wildflower and tree nursery at Bickley

Spring has sprung in the Cheshire Wildlife Trust nursery at Bickley Hall Farm, bringing with it longer days, warmer temperatures, and a lot of work to do.

Last year we grew around 9,000 wildflower plugs in our wildflower nursery, which have since been planted out across the county as part of our meadow creation work – helping to reverse the decline of this important habitat.



In addition, we have been working hard over the autumn and winter to set up a new tree nursery. Seed collected from across Cheshire is being grown to help create new native woodland whilst ensuring local genetics are retained.

We can't do it all by ourselves though.

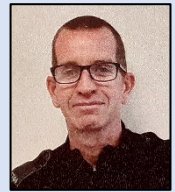
We need volunteers to come and lend a hand with pricking out, potting on, weeding and watering. Based at our headquarters in Bickley Hall Farm near Malpas we will be running **fortnightly volunteer days**. Whether you're a veteran gardener, or a complete novice looking to acquire new skills, we welcome volunteers of all ages and abilities.

To register your interest, and view other volunteering opportunities, visit: www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities, or contact Dan Nash at volunteering@cheshirewt.org.uk if you have any questions.

Police Community Support



PCSO for Farndon, Malpas and Tattenhall
PCSO Rachael McKeivitt
rachael.mckeivitt@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

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

You can also report incidents via the Cheshire Police website
(please do not report incidents via the Facebook page)

Facebook: ThallMalpasPol **Website:** cheshire.police.uk/a/your-area/cheshire/cheshire-west-and-chester/tattenhall-and-malpas/

The community policing team are holding police surgeries across our area:

Police surgeries in June

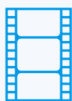
6th (10–11 am) at Old Fire Station, Malpas; 9th (10–11 am) at Alison's, Tattenhall
22nd (10–11 am) at Village Stores, Aldford; 28th (11–12 pm) at High Street, Farndon

Police surgeries in July

4th (10–11 am) at Alison's, Tattenhall; 12th (10–11 am) at Old Fire Station, Malpas
18th (12–1 pm) at High Street, Farndon; 26th (10–11 am) at Village Stores, Aldford

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



Elvis

Monday 19th June, 7.30 pm

Oscar-winning biographical drama exploring the life and music of Elvis Presley. Starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks, directed by Baz Luhrmann.

Tickets £5, including snacks

Refreshments available

Note this is the last film of the season – back in September!



Bell ringing



The newly re-established bell ringing team at St Chad's plans to have regular practices on alternate Thursday evenings, beginning on 1st June.

Anyone who is interested in joining, please contact Tower Captain, Ann Johnson, on 07860 496836.

It would be great to get some more people, of all ages, involved from our community.



News from St Chad's

Genesis 1: *In the beginning God created the world and all that was within it and God saw that it was good.*

The Church is the body of people who believe this statement and many others that are found in the Holy Bible – people in

this generation (and previous ones) who believe they have heard God's call in their lives. But the Church also refers to the buildings in which they meet to worship God, to listen to His Word and to receive the Sacraments.

We are blessed to have not one church building but two. Our Victorian Church that sits proudly on the A41 and our little treasure Old St Chad that sits equally as proud out in the fields alone.

Once upon a premodern culture, church played a significant and important role in the life of every community. Each Sabbath (Sunday), was a day of rest and refreshment and families would come to church to meet one another and thank God for their daily needs, pray for the needs of those in their community and be inspired or challenged by the words of the Preacher.

What inspired me to write this letter was an awareness of an organisation called *Friends of Friendless Churches*. Founded in 1957, 'they save historic but redundant places of worship from destruction and decay.'

The last few generations have given over to side heavily with science, and religion has taken a backward step. For me, the study of science seeks to give the *How's* of this world and its creation but rarely gives the *Why's*! This, I believe, is because the only place to seek the *Why's* is found in the heart and purpose of its Creator! I also believe true satisfaction of the heart, soul and mind can only come from seeking our true purpose in life and in seeking our identity; both of which I believe are again found in the One who created us.

There may well be historic buildings that have become places that no longer have friends to meet within them and need to be saved, but here in our small rural communities there are committed friends who continue to seek God, pray for the needs of others, and long for God Himself to be known to all once again.

Fed up with what the world offers? Then come seek the alternative – as we keep the doors to our Church OPEN!

Veronica x

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

Services at St Chad's in June and July

Sunday 4 June	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer <i>at Old St Chad's</i>
Sunday 11 June	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 June	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 25 June	11.00 am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 2 July	6.30 pm	Celtic Evening prayer <i>at Old St Chad's</i>
Sunday 9 July	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 July	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 July	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 July	11.00 am	United Benefice service <i>at St Michael's, Marbury</i>
	7.00 pm	Worship@7 , music from 'Captivated'

Every Tuesday **7.30 pm** **Benefice Compline *via Zoom***

Ascension Day Walk: On Thursday 18th May, a group from all three churches in the Benefice gathered at (new) St Chad's in the sunny late afternoon, before walking over the fields to Old St Chad's for a short open-air service looking across the Cheshire plain, and receiving a shining sign of the cross.

In loving memory of...

Cecily Morris, aged 79 years, from No Man's Heath, remembered and cherished by family and friends; service at St Chad's, Tushingham and laid to rest at St Wenefrede's, Bickley.



Church Wardens

Mr P Moore Dutton: 01948 664292 / 07970 47772; peter@moore-dutton.co.uk

Mr A Dawson: 01948 820305 / 07436 072278; a_i_dawson@hotmail.com

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

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Chapel Anniversary: Sunday 11th June, 2.30 pm
service led by Hon. Pastor Mike Valentine
Soloist: Rachel Tuft; Chapel organist: Gwen Reeves



At the church meeting on 16th April, the congregation warmly authorised (with no dissent), the following:

- a) Continued traditional hymns and communion services between ongoing quarterly church meeting services.
- b) Appointment of Brian Andrew Faulkner as an additional Honorary Pastor with full authority to conduct all sacraments.
- c) Where possible and appropriate, for future Bradley Chapel services to be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

A pen portrait: Hon. Pastor Brian Andrew Faulkner, appointed 16th April 2023

In 1970, Pastor Brian became an accredited Methodist Local Preacher after completing, as did we all, 2 years of study, and then passing four examinations.

Bradley Chapel, founded in 1897, has always been based on Congregational Governance principles, where decision-making authority rests with the congregation in church meetings, not with their appointed Pastors. In 1972 the United Reformed Church was created, including Presbyterians, some Anglicans and a majority of Congregational Chapels. At Bradley the decision was taken to remain totally self-governing, independent and unaffiliated by not becoming part of any existing or new denomination. Within the old Whitchurch Methodist circuit, there remained a close Bradley relationship. Not only was Chapel helped by local Methodist Preachers, but for over 50 years it was formally included on the circuit's Quarterly Plan – a listing of Preachers' planned appointments. That was still the case when Pastor Mike came to Whitchurch in 2000.

However, Brian has been preaching at Bradley for well over 50 years, remembering 6.30 pm services under the leadership of Mr Wycherley. This was even before the stewardship of Tony Green. He remembers three organists – Mrs Green, Mrs Mitchell and Hilda Thomason, each using a well-thumbed 'Sankey' hymn book! Pastor Brian brings to Bradley a wealth of knowledge of both local chapels and their families, many of whose children he taught in Sunday School! We look forward to sharing a strengthened and extended local ministry and service of Bradley Unaffiliated, Independent Congregational Chapel.

Hon. Pastor Mike Valentine

mjymeglwyswen@talktalk.net

Introducing a new window cleaning service in Tushingham

At **Total Clean Window Cleaning** we believe there's no excuse for a window cleaning service that doesn't have the customer at its heart. Customers now have no need to worry about undependable or unreliable operators where you don't know when they will turn up... or even if they will turn up!

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Hope to see you soon.

Best wishes – *Jamie & Paula Edwards*



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Reading volunteers needed



To help Tushingham Primary School promote a love of reading, anyone from the community who has spare time on a regular basis is invited to come and read in school with the children. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs Devaney in the office (admin@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk or 01948 820360) – thank you.



Here at **Tushingham CE Primary School** there is lots to report, and even more to look forward to. Spring term ended on a high, with Class 3's production of the Easter story full of bright, confident performances. The school also had much to be proud of on World Maths Day, when Years 1–6 competed online in the World Mathematics challenge.

Out of tens of thousands of children in each year group, McKenzie came 134th in the country, and our Year 6 group came 99th in the WORLD!

Class 1 learned about the living world by watching caterpillars grow and turn into butterflies and then setting them free, while Classes 2–4 enjoyed visits to local Yew Tree Farm to experience lambing. This connects with their learning topics in science and PHSE and we look forward to developing this link together with LEAF Education who aim 'to equip future generations with balanced and informed insight into food production, farming and the environment.' We also had important visits from the NSPCC to talk about online safety, and from the police about 'Stranger Danger'.

Art lessons have been wonderfully varied, with junk modelling of emergency vehicles (Class 1), art and puppets on the theme of lions (Class 2), Matisse collages (Class 3), and Frida Kahlo-inspired Mexican portraits (Class 4).

Out in the playground, the coach from *Hollies Tennis Club* motivated our children to enjoy tennis, and *Bikeability* provided cycling training for Class 4. We were also visited by the *Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)* charity who



brought one of the small fleet of planes they use to support people in isolated areas of the world. In addition, thanks to more good weather, we had a picnic and games afternoon to royally mark the Coronation.

The Summer term continued with a Toddler Teddy Bear's Picnic, and Class 3 had an amazing residential at Robinwood Activity Centre – canoeing, caving climbing, zip wiring and more! Yet to come is the Class 4 Adventure Activity Day, Sports' Day and the Summer Fair. **Plus:** Mrs Davies is going on her own adventure to Uganda at half-term on a self-funded trip that aims to develop a learning link with a school in Ibanda, helping our children to understand what it is like in other parts of the world, and building a global community.

The Summer term finishes on Friday 21st July, and the new school year begins again on Tuesday 5th September. Happy holidays!

News from 'Friends of Tushingham (FoT)'

The FoT team have been busy developing our website and getting everything ready for summer fundraising activities:

- The FoT website is now live – www.friendsoftushingham.org.uk with latest events, space to donate, and access to Preloved Clothing where you can buy school uniform at brilliant prices whilst doing your bit for the environment!
- The Cholmondeley Bike Ride is running from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday 10th June when the school community will have exclusive access to the stunning grounds at Cholmondeley Castle to enjoy a walk, cycle and picnic.
- The Summer Fair is scheduled for after school on Friday 16th June and will have huge inflatables, fun-filled activities, tombola, raffle and sugar galore! It is always a fab fundraiser for our school so please come along!

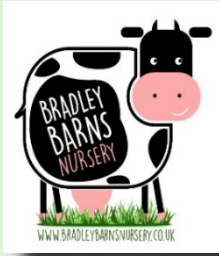
All activities help us raise funds to support the school's improvement priorities. Here's an update on how the money raised is benefitting our school community:

- We'll be providing all children with personalised clothing labels
- We've continued to fund travel and transport for school trips
- We're providing discretionary funds for each class to purchase what they need to enrich the experience of every child
- And, we'll be funding the leavers' hoodies.

We're keen to do ever more, and have agreed some big-ticket items to fundraise for, including an outdoor pod (for reading, practising music or quiet space), and 30 iPads to support enriched digital classroom experiences. If you're able to help with these items then please get in touch, or donate directly via the FoT website.

As ever, we can't do what we do without your generosity, kindness, participation and support, so big thanks from Team FoT.





Bradley Barns Nursery

Here at Bradley Barns Nursery, we continue to move forward into the Spring with many different events.

The nicer weather has started to see the Forest School bloom into new life and allow the children to spend even more time bug hunting, bird spotting, den building and planting vegetable seeds, to name but a

few activities. The seeds were purchased from a local farm shop after a visit made by the staff and Pre-School children to see the varieties on offer. We also welcomed lambs from our sheep, incubated and hatched our own bantam chicks and welcomed two new rabbits. And, in continued development here at the Nursery, the Pre-School building is being expanded to allow for better storage of puddle suits and wellies, to make changing a much easier task when entering and leaving the Forest School.

The King's Coronation was celebrated with a tea party, including the usual array of sandwiches and healthy treats. The children really enjoyed making crowns and floral headwear to enjoy this Royal occasion. The Pre-School children also had a visit to see the flowers and displays at Malpas Church.

Fundraising continues to be a part of Nursery life here, including an Easter raffle, *Bag2School*, and plant sales – raising money for some resources and also for those less fortunate than ourselves.

We were pleased to receive a 'Good' rating from Ofsted, on only the second day of our return into the New Year. This reflects the hard work and commitment from all the staff, who put a great deal of effort into the daily routines of all the children here.

If you would like to contact us regarding availability, then please call Sarah at the office on 01948838321. N.B. Don't hesitate, as we have a waiting list until May 2024!

Matt and Vicky Hollins



Can you help?

If you live in Tushingham, and could spare an hour every 2 months to deliver copies of *The Bell* to the Willey Moor/Cooks Lane area, do get in touch. We are soon to be one volunteer short, but need to keep getting our copies out there! E-mail juliethelen@yahoo.com or call 01948 820343. Thank you 😊