

# The Bell

*Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine*



DECEMBER / JANUARY  
2023 / 2024

# Welcome

Christmas is racing towards us, and there's no need to travel far to find a festive event this December. Starting with the switching on of the No Man's Heath Christmas tree lights, all are welcome at a wide variety of Christmas events including *Christingle*, *Carols by Candlelight*, and a very special *Midnight service* on Christmas Eve at St Chad's. There are also Carols in the beautiful setting of Bradley Chapel.

Before it all begins, St Chad's are also asking for helpers with their 'big clean' (see page 5), for those wanting to start the season of giving with a good deed!

Thank you for all your wonderful articles, photos, and advertorials this year – keep them coming! Please send any content for our next issue by 17<sup>th</sup> January.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

## Local contacts

**Parish Chairman**, John Oakden

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

**Parish Clerk**, Angela Culshaw

07802187833; angelaculshaw22@btinternet.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 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](http://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?

## Christmas services

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	4.30 pm	<b>Christingle service</b> at St Chad's
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	2.30 pm	<b>Carol service</b> at Bradley Chapel
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4.30 pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> at St Chad's
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4.00 pm 6.00 pm 11.30 pm	<b>Crib service</b> at St Mary's, Whitewell <b>Crib service</b> at St Michael's, Marbury <b>Midnight Communion</b> at St Chad's
<b>Christmas Day</b>	9.00 am 10.45 am	<b>Communion</b> at St Michael's, Marbury <b>Communion</b> at St Mary's, Whitewell

## Christmas Tree Light Switch-on at No Man's Heath



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**5.30 pm**

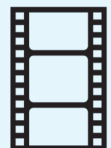
At the Monument, Back Lane  
Mince pies, mulled wine and craft stalls

*Please note, for safety reasons, some road closures will be in place during the event*

## Film nights

### Bickerton Village Hall

Bickerton film nights take a break in December, but will be back with another fantastic film (title to be confirmed!) on:



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm**

Visit [www.bickertonvillagehall.com](http://www.bickertonvillagehall.com) for details nearer the time.

**Tickets £5, including snacks; refreshments on sale**

## Parish Meeting

### Chairman's Report

This is a quiet time that is about to explode into the frenetic, but joyous Christmas period.

The Parish is in a good state despite our isolation from the machinations at the centre of our County Council and Constituency. At the last Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October, the tortuous subject of the defibrillator was given a boost when it was agreed that, in view of the healthy financial position we are in, a sum of four thousand pounds be allocated to the purchase and installation of a top-quality machine. Matt Hollins has agreed to head the project and supervise its completion. Angela Culshaw volunteered to take over as Clerk to the Parish and was warmly welcomed by everybody. The need for a new Chaiman continues.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The next Parish Meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the School, 7 pm.

John

**John Oakden**  
Chairman

**\*\* Next meeting \*\***  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**  
Tushingham Primary School  
7 pm

[john.oakden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.oakden@hotmail.co.uk)  
07989 220468

## Bell ringing

The bell ringing team at St Chad's practises on alternate Thursday evenings from 7 to 8.30 pm.

***If you fancy a new challenge for a new year then why not come along?***

Anyone who is interested in joining this friendly group and learning to ring bells (followed by tea and cake!), please contact Tower Captain, Ann Johnson, on 07860 496836.

The newly formed team has come a long way in the past year, and thanks the *Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers* for all their support.



St Chad's, Tushingham

6th May 2023

The following rang on this day to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

Peter Barker	Steve Farmer	Claire Snaith
Jenny Christian	Charles Hobson	John Snaith
Simon Christian	Andy Jobson	Juliet Szestak
Sarah Clark	Ann Johnson	Tadge Szestak
Jill Farmer	Liz McElroy	

Rounds, Call Changes including Kings, Plain Hunt & Plain Bob Doubles

*Many thanks to Steve Farmer for the commemorative plaque – now in the bell tower at St Chad's*

## Police Community Support



PCSO for Farndon, Malpas and Tattenhall  
**PCSO Rachael McKeivitt**  
[rachael.mckevitt@cheshire.police.uk](mailto:rachael.mckevitt@cheshire.police.uk)



Beat Manager Rural South, **PC Steve Gardner**  
[stephen.gardner@cheshire.police.uk](mailto:stephen.gardner@cheshire.police.uk)

*Dragon Hall Police Station, Whitchurch Road, Chowley, Tattenhall CH3 9DU*

**Website:** [cheshire.police.uk](http://cheshire.police.uk); **Facebook:** [ThallMalpasPol](https://www.facebook.com/ThallMalpasPol)

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

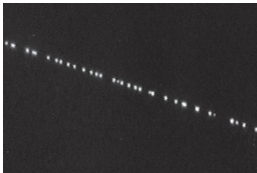
You can also report incidents via the Cheshire Police website (not Facebook)

### Police surgeries in December

5<sup>th</sup> (10–11 am) Old Fire Station, Malpas; 8<sup>th</sup> (9–10 am) Lewis's, Farndon;  
13<sup>th</sup> (10–11 am) Barbour Institute, Tattenhall; 21<sup>st</sup> (9–10 am) Lily's, Aldford

### Police surgeries in January

9<sup>th</sup> (10–11 am) Old Fire Station, Malpas; 18<sup>th</sup> (9–10 am) Lewis's, Farndon;  
23<sup>rd</sup> (10–11 am) Barbour Institute, Tattenhall; 31<sup>st</sup> (10–11 am) Lily's, Aldford



### From a galaxy far far away

Last time, we reported on the arrival of Saharan sand in TM&B, but that's not the only distant visitor in our skies recently. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the eagle-eyed amongst you may have spotted a mysterious 'train' of

bright lights moving across the night sky. Stars? UFOs? An early Santa dash?

Amazingly, what we saw over Macefen was the latest trail of Elon Musk's Space X Starlink satellites, launched from Cape Canaveral Space Station in Florida, and moving across the sky into position ~342 miles above earth.

Via a 'megaconstellation' of up to 42,000 satellites in low earth orbit, Starlink plans to deliver high-speed internet service worldwide. However, there are concerns that these bright satellites may hinder astronomical observations. Also, in just 6 months, the satellites have been forced to swerve more than 25,000 times to avoid potential collisions with other spacecraft and debris.

Every 5 years, old satellites (each ~1,760 lbs/800 kg) will be steered into the earth's atmosphere to burn up – like meteorites, seen as 'shooting stars'.

While this will prevent space debris, its effect on the earth's upper atmosphere is not yet known. So, 'Force Awakening' or 'Phantom Menace'? We wait and see.



## News from St Chad's

### Follow the Star and join the Song!

Humankind can do all sorts of wonderful things: we have a conscience, we blush, we are able to imagine and create, and we speak and express ourselves in all sorts of languages. One of those languages is music. Where would we be without the joy of music, in all its forms, and song?

The season of Advent and Christmas will soon be with us, a time when singing can be heard everywhere. Go into any store and you'll be transported into memories of Christmases gone by while you shop. Events by professional and amateur musicians and singers are advertised; Handel's Messiah, carol concerts, nativity productions, all on offer for our enjoyment, with poignant messages of gifts of love.

Listening to people sing and joining in with their song is something that humankind has done for generations and generations. And I love the Christmas story because it is full of song. The shepherds on the hillside that first Christmas were astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing God's praise, and before long, they were singing too! Imagine the scene, imagine the singing.

Generations later, singing is still central to our celebrations at Christmas time. From Slade's *I wish it could be Christmas every day* to Phillips Brooks' *O little town of Bethlehem*, we love it all, don't we? So, what's your favourite carol, or what music gives you that feeling of love and Christmas joy?

Our Church and communities are offering all sorts of services and events during this special season, so come and hear the songs that make you emotionally and spiritually alive this Christmas; from our *Carols by Candlelight*, to carol singing at the Christmas tree switch-on at No Man's Heath, to welcoming Christmas at *Midnight Communion* at St Chad's on Christmas Eve...

We invite you to follow the star and join the song of the angels and celebrate the gift of Jesus all over again.

We look forward to seeing and HEARING you...

Yours,

Veronica x

Rev'd Veronica Green  
01948 663758; 07928 792337  
[veronicarom838@aol.com](mailto:veronicarom838@aol.com)



# Services at St Chad's in December and January

But before we begin...

## The Big Clean – We Need You!

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 12 noon – 4 pm**

Can you spare any time to help give St Chad's a clean for Christmas?

Pop in anytime during the afternoon and you'll be welcomed with open arms, polish and a duster! Tea and biscuits available for all the workers 😊



<b>Sunday 3 December</b>	<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Christingle service</b>
<b>Sunday 10 December</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 17 December</b>	<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	<b>11.30 pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 31 December</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	United Benefice service at St Chad's
<b>Sunday 7 January</b>	<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Plough Sunday</b> , service of the Word
<b>Sunday 14 January</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 21 January</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 28 January</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	Morning prayer, celebrating <b>Candlemass</b>
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	Benefice Compline <b>via Zoom</b>

## Church Wardens

Mr P Moore Dutton: 01948 860216 / 07970 47772; peter@moore-dutton.co.uk

Mr A Dawson: 01948 820305 / 07436 072278; a78dawson@hotmail.com

Marbury, Tushingham and Whitewell Benefice website: [www.parishmag.org](http://www.parishmag.org)

## Congratulations and memories

The **Baptism** of Emily Anne Edge was held at St Chad's on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

*'May she shine as a light to the world.'*

**In loving memory of...** John Madeley, whose funeral service took place at St Chad's on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Our month of January is named after Roman mythology's two-faced god, Janus – representing a doorway of transition from the old to the new, symbolic of a time of reflection. A New Year gives new opportunities and challenges. During Advent, then Christmas, and with 2024 approaching, we all have the chance to reflect on both recent and past times, whilst looking forwards to next year and beyond.

This year especially has been an inspirational time of Bradley renewal and Congregational growth. With Pastor Brian's encouraging support, we have continued our long-established quarterly Church services. In addition, we have introduced intervening traditional services, often including a simple, 'Open to all' Communion. We also now have two portable Communion sets enabling Sacrament to be offered on pastoral visits, whether home-based or to care home residents.



© David & Pat Adams

October's Harvest service was led by Bradley's good friend, Rev'd Jane Stephenson. Among some old local photographs was one showing Bradley Chapel stalwart Mr Wycherley (left), with his daughter Phyllis, long long ago auctioning the Harvest cake. It is understood that he didn't stop until he reached his target figure – no matter how long it took!

November's special Remembrance service was a blend of remembering those lives taken or badly damaged through conflict and, using nightlights, for the Congregation to remember someone close to them which, in many cases, meant the loss of a much-loved person. This service style was a first for us and seems to have been greatly valued.

All Bradley services are now planned for the second Sunday of a month. Our **Carol Service** will be at 2.30 pm on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** (with refreshments), and our first service of 2024 will be at 2.30 pm on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**.

At present we are looking at possible ways to make Chapel more comfortable, and the hope is that the January service will give our Congregation time to share views of our current and future aims in a brighter and more comfortable Chapel.

We know that some of our Congregation have health concerns and our prayers and thoughts are with each of them, and their families. We also know that for some people, Christmas can be a time of sadness, emphasising the loss from their lives of someone much loved. May we be sensitive to those feelings.



From all at Bradley Congregational we wish everyone a meaningful and blessed Christmas, where possible celebrating with family and friends this special time, commemorating the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

For any requests for personal pastoral visits please contact:

Pastor Mike Valentine

mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net 07763168448

Pastor Brian Faulkner

brianfaulkner@btinternet.com 01948664898



**Cheshire  
Wildlife Trust**  
1962 – 2022

## Lapwings at Bickley Hall Farm

Last refuge for threatened species

Formerly familiar birds of farmlands, lapwings have suffered a serious decline as a breeding species and are now on the UK Red list for conservation status. Our local CWT nature reserve, **Bickley Hall Farm**, is one of their last refuges.

Lapwings can often be seen wheeling through winter skies in large, black and white flocks. In spring, these flocks get smaller; some birds head back to their continental breeding grounds and others disperse to breed in the UK.



Lapwings can be recognised by their long crests, black and white patterns, and very broad, round wingtips. From a distance, lapwings look black and white, but up-close, the back has an iridescent green and purple sheen. Males put on dramatic aerial displays, tumbling through the air, accompanied by their piercing ‘peewit’ call.

Females can be spotted on their nests, which are simple scrapes in the mud or sand. If the nest is

threatened at all, the parents will attack or mob the potential predators.

As well as ‘lapwing’ and ‘peewit’, this bird is also known locally as the ‘green plover’. Its Latin name, *Vanellus*, means ‘little fan’ and refers to its floppy, flapping flight. The name lapwing is thought to derive from an Old English term meaning ‘leap with a flicker in it’ because the dense winter flocks appear to flicker between white and black when the birds flap their wings.

Help to protect threatened species like the lapwing, by donating to CWT today – or why not buy some fabulous Christmas gifts from our online shop?

Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Bickley Hall Farm, SY14 8EF [www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)



There has been remarkable learning taking place in every classroom at **Tushingham School** this autumn and we were proud to share this with Ofsted on their recent visit.

During this busy term, Class 4 enthusiastically took on a challenge from *Innovation Studios* to promote healthier eating habits among children, culminating in some captivating *Dragons' Den* style presentations. They also completed a recycled fashion project in which they designed and sewed clothes for Barbie dolls and created a descriptive piece of writing to advertise their outfit.

Over in Class 3, they have been delving into the Stone Age and the Iron Age, and extended their learning in forest school, crafting beautiful jewellery, bows and arrows, and cave paintings. Meanwhile, in other subjects they have covered everything from fossils to orienteering!

Class 2's current topic is 'This is me', which was explored in science and English lessons, and inspired some incredible writing and artwork. In history, the children learned about the suffragette Emily Davison and, in RE, spent time at St Chad's learning about baptism with Rev Veronica.



Class 1 have also been busy, creating small worlds – from farms to race tracks – drawing maps of their journeys to school, and acting out nursery rhymes in the puppet theatre. They have also loved exploring outdoors, including making 'hot chocolate' in the mud kitchen!

As well as their school lessons, the children did some amazing pumpkin carving for Halloween; visited and had visits from *Crucial Crew* and *Gripping Yarns*, to learn important messages about road safety and anti-bullying, respectively; and wore spotty outfits or their pyjamas

(or even spotty pyjamas!) to raise money for *Children in Need*.

With Christmas around the corner, we also look forward to our traditional celebrations with the Christmas Fair, Tushingham Talent Show, the Nativity from Classes 1 & 2, and the end of term Carol service at St Chad's.

Finally, this year we are also completing the *Superkind Award*, which is built around character development and active citizenship, with badges awarded for different social actions. It's never been more important to teach children that the little things really do make a difference.

Term ends on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, and restarts on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.



### Please vote for us!

Don't forget to keep voting for Tushingham School with the blue tokens in Tesco Whitchurch during December, so that we receive the maximum grant to support our newly launched wraparound care provision, *The Honeypot*.

### Back in time for school

The item below was published in the *Chester Chronicle* on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1966. Fifty-seven years ago – the sixties were swinging, the World Cup won, and Christmas traditions at Tushingham School were... remarkably unchanged!

## SCHOOLCHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

*On Tuesday week, the children of Tushingham School gave a Christmas concert to an audience of parents and friends. The infants, trained by Mrs C Weston, presented a play, 'Raggedy Annie' with Linda Green in the title role, well supported by Eric Hughes (Father Christmas), Jane Digby, Kathy Noonan, Janet Adams (fairies), Lyn Probin, Tracey Lewis (Christmas crackers), Phillip Cadman (bunny), Phillip Williamson (teddy), Andrew Williams (doll), Joy Downey (Dutch doll) and Richard Fry (clown).*

*The junior play was 'The King's Jester' with Jester Merryheart played by Penny Jones, and the King and Queen by Elaine Clegg and Susan Fry. The concert ended with a Nativity scene and the juniors sang carols. Father Christmas presented each child with a stocking containing a book token, fruit, crisps and toffees. The children will also visit a Shrewsbury pantomime.*

*The children, staff and parents also attended a carol service in the beautifully decorated church of St Chad. The service consisted of carols and lessons read by Penny Jones, Elaine Clegg, Martin Downey, Susan Fry, John Kynaston, Gillian Eaton, Mrs G Weston, Mrs L Ashley and the Vicar, Rev TM Hearn.*

*It wasn't just the gentry who partied at Maesfen Hall... the article below tells of a festive celebration for the servants, which took place just over 125 years ago. It gives a great insight into life at the Hall – our very own Downton Abbey!*



*Whitchurch Herald, 15<sup>th</sup> January 1898*



## **SERVANTS' BALL AT MAESFEN**

On Wednesday evening last, the servants at Maesfen, by kind permission of the Hon Mrs E Kenyon, held their second annual ball, dancing commencing at nine o'clock in the dining hall, where music was supplied by Mr George Rogers's (Whitchurch) band. The ball was opened by Miss Alice Kenyon and Mr John Raymond. About the middle of the dance programme, the company, which numbered about 80 (including visitors), adjourned to the supper room. The following was the menu:

**Roast turkey, Ham**  
**Galantines of chicken, Pheasants in aspic,**  
**Roast chickens, Tongue, Pressed beef with apple,**  
**Roast beef, Round of beef,**  
**Pheasants,**  
**Neapolitan jellies, Monique jellies,**  
**Cold soufflés, Little swans,**  
**Apple creams, French tartlets, Mince pies**

After supper, dancing was resumed, and kept up with great vigour until about 4.30 on Thursday morning, when the company re-assembled in the supper room and went through a toast-list. Mr T Parsonage proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon Mrs E Kenyon for her kindness in providing such a treat, at the same time regretting her inability (through indisposition) to open the ball, as was her intention. He hoped she would soon be restored to health and strength again. Mr Randle Vawdrey seconded, and, the toast having been duly honoured, Mr Gash (butler), suitably replied. Mr Beverage proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Gash, Miss Ravenhill (housekeeper), and Miss Bonny (lady's maid), for providing for the comfort of all concerned, and the company broke up about 5.45, with 'Auld Lang Syne' and the National Anthem, after having spent a very pleasant time.