

The Bell

Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



APRIL / MAY
2024

Welcome

Welcome to our first issue of Spring 2024 which, fitting to the season, is full of news about activities in our area, and also has details of opportunities for working and volunteering locally with the very young, and those in their older years. Many of the 'What's On' events are coming up soon, so don't forget Coffee & Shop, Lambing Live, and the Parish AGM, falling on 6/7/8th of April.

In the spirit of making a fresh start in Spring, don't forget *Report It* (see below) online or using the App, to chivvy the Council about any neighbourhood issues such as potholes, highways, bin collections etc., that may be bothering you. The more reports, the more chance there is of getting some action...

Please send articles, photos, notices or other items for our next issue by 16th May.

Very 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, 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



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 On?

☕ **Spring Coffee and Shop**
☕ **Saturday 6th April**
@ St Chad's, 10 am–12 **noon**

All are welcome to meet friends, shop and eat cake! Look out for some Easter games too.

If you have any good quality items to donate and recycle (clothes, gift items, books and household), please contact Louise on 01948 820541.

Millmoor Farm hosts
St Chad's Lambing Live
Sunday 7th April, 2–5 pm

See advert on back cover for more details.



⚙️ **Marbury Merry Days** ⚙️
Sat 11th & Sun 12th May

See: marburymerrydays.co.uk

Film nights
Bickerton Village Hall



Oppenheimer [15]

Monday 8th April, 7.30 pm

Oscar-winning film about American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in developing the atomic bomb.

Monday 27th May, 7.30 pm

Film TBC

Tickets £5, including snacks; refreshments on sale

Whitchurch Walking Festival

Fri 10th to Sun 12th May

Various times/locations

For more details, see:

whitchurchwalkers.co.uk/festival.html



Open Gardens

In No Man's Heath

Sunday 19th May
1–5 pm

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| The Firs | – Cake stall |
| | – Plant stall |
| Top House Farm | – Pimms |
| | – Skittles |
| Bickley Lodge | – Children's treasure hunt |
| | – Refreshments |

Tickets £5 – cash

All are welcome

Contact: Ann Johnson 07860 496836

Parish AGM – Monday 8th April, 7 pm at St Chad's Church

Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report

The warm days are just around the corner (but not quite here). I hope all are well, but I have just heard of the sad death of my friend, Andrew Donaldson, who helped with the financing of Malfest a few years ago.

The problems we had with flooding and roadworks are still ongoing and we are still going forward one step and then slipping back to the original position. Good news! The defibrillator machine has arrived with Matt Hollins and we are now making arrangements for the installation. Many thanks to Mike Ainslie from the Ambulance Service for his help in obtaining this, and Mike will be at the next Parish Meeting to talk about its operation and ongoing maintenance.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Meeting which is on Monday, 8th April at 7 pm at the church. Please contact me before if you want to raise any other points.

John

John Oakden, Chairman

**** Next meeting, AGM ****
Monday 8th April
St Chad's Church, 7 pm

john.oakden@hotmail.co.uk

07989 220468

OPAL runs clubs in Malpas, Tattenhall, Frodsham, Kelsall, Tarporley & Helsby, with a hot lunch, quizzes, games and other fun activities.

Come and join our friendly team of volunteer helpers, drivers and cooks.

No experience necessary – we care a lot more about a smile and a desire to help others.



SPREAD A LITTLE HAPPINESS IN 2024

"Volunteering is a win-win for everybody concerned, that's what makes it so special."

Join our volunteer team at OPAL to help reduce social isolation in older people in rural west Cheshire.

Flexible roles to suit YOU!

Contact us

- ✉ janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk
- ☎ 07592 464856
- 🌐 www.opalservices.org.uk

OPAL Services (Rural West Cheshire)
PO Box 98, Winsford, CH13 9BC
Reg Charity No: 1143922 Reg Companies No: 700300



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: 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
(Please do not report incidents via Facebook)

Police surgeries in April

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

Mon 15th (2–3 pm) at The Barber Institute, Tattenhall

Sun 21st (3–4 pm) at Lily's Stores, Aldford

Fri 26th (10–11 am) at the Fire Station Café, Malpas

Police surgeries in May

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

Mon 13th (2–3 pm) at The Barber Institute, Tattenhall

Thurs 23rd (3–4 pm) at Lily's Stores, Aldford

Tues 28th (10–11 am) at the Fire Station Café, Malpas



From 5th May, Old St Chad's is open for services again – complete with new noticeboard made by the Whitchurch 'Men in Sheds' group



Very best 80th birthday wishes to Rev Paul Winchester – former Vicar of St Chad's, and School Governor – for 26th April



News from St Chad's

All in good time

The phrase above is all about patience – I've heard it spoken and used it myself many times. So why do I choose to speak of it today? I've been reading a book through Lent that has truly helped me come back to my faith in a God, who holds all things in His Hands and in His Time. Believe me, it's not easy to come against a culture that believes in the opposite.

As a minister who is employed by the Church of England, I try to keep an open perspective on the Church, the world and the times we all live in and through. We are experiencing a huge shift from an industrial age to a digital age, and it's painful. In just a few decades the world has been turned upside down and it's not over yet! We are adjusting from being an island that inspired the world through its revolutionary industries and ability to produce materials that were in global demand, to a country that seems to have lost its identity completely, as we struggle like a butterfly in a chrysalis to find our way.

But the United Kingdom has suffered like this before, as indeed have so many nations and their people. Generation after generation have faced human good and human not-so-good, repeated cycles and movements that bring power and ability to either improve the plight of humankind or destroy it. Throughout history there have been key moments that have brought change, that either cause us to swell with pride at humankind's intelligence or despair in our stupidity.

"All In Good Time," says the God who created everything...

To prove I am a priest and not a politician, I bring it all back to the heart of what I choose to believe in. We are not in control – God is! Does this mean we sit back, kick off our shoes and do nothing? Of course not. It means we come back to the one constant foundation that has always held everything together: not the Church, but God Himself. The Church, whichever denomination, are people who decide to follow the Son of God as we make our way through our lives, allowing His Spirit to help us try to understand how He is bringing His Creation to the place He knows it can be, and that includes people!

I cannot save the world, I cannot save my family, I cannot save myself, but I don't allow that truth to send me into darkness and depths of despair. For I believe and serve a God who can and does save, who has a plan and a purpose for everything and everyone, and who repeatedly encourages me by promising All In Good Time...

Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

01948 663758; 07928 792337

Services at St Chad's in April and May

Sunday 7 April	6.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 14 April	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 April	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 April	2.00 pm	Rogation service at Millmoor Farm*
Sunday 5 May	6.30 pm	Evening prayer at Old St Chad's
Thursday 9 May	4.30/5.30 pm	Ascension Day walk and service **
Sunday 12 May	9.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 19 May	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	Worship@7 , music from <i>Captivated</i>
Sunday 26 May	11.00 am	Morning prayer

*There will be a special **Rogation Sunday Service** at Millmoor Farm, No Man's Heath this year. Join us at 2 pm on April 28th as we ask God's blessing and protection on the landscape that creates our rural communities, and say hello to the livestock who will be awaiting our arrival.

Thursday 9th May is **Ascension Day. The resurrected Jesus appeared to many during a 40-day celebration of His triumph over death, before He returned to the Kingdom of Heaven. We will be celebrating this special occasion through an **Ascension Walk** from St Chad's to Old St Chad's. Light refreshments will be offered from 4.30 pm before we begin, culminating with a short service as we reach Old St Chad's around 5.30 pm. Four-footed friends are welcome.

Pentecost Sunday (19th May) sees the welcome return of the Christian worship band *Captivated* to St Chad's. This group of singers and musicians come together to lead contemporary worship, prayer and thanksgiving from 7–8.30 pm. Join us as they sing and speak words of life to celebrate Pentecost.



In memory of...

A service to celebrate the life of Victoria Joan Lea was held at St Chad's on 7th February. Missed by so many, may she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel



The meteorologists refer to the 1st March as the beginning of Spring. We see the first signs of Spring as the bulbs push up and we see the carpet of snowdrops and crocuses that have now disappeared. I saw the first daffodils in the first week of February!

However, it is the springing forward of the clocks that enables us to enjoy the lighter evenings and, weather permitting, winter is disappearing. This year this has coincided with Easter, an event that reminds us of new life. For many, that is in the symbol of chocolate eggs and bunnies. In the Christian church it is a reminder that Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for all our wrong doings and in doing so, enabled all of us to share with God the Father just how we are feeling, and in that process receive encouragement and inspiration to live life to the full.

At Bradley we meet, usually monthly, to sing and pray together, providing a time of worship and fellowship. Attendances are growing and, in February, the congregation appointed a new Managing Trust to serve the Chapel.

New seat covers are under review and might even be in place for our 21st April service, which is one week later than normal. This is to enable Anglican Rev Veronica Green, our local Tushingham Vicar, to lead our 2.30 pm *Songs of Praise*. We do encourage you to come and share in this service, with the health benefits of singing and meeting together well documented. We hope to offer after-service refreshments, flooding permitting!

Sunday 21st April, 2.30 pm – Rev Veronica Green, ‘Songs of Praise’

Sunday 12th May, 2.30 pm – Pastor Brian Faulkner, including Communion.

Pastor Brian Faulkner

01948 664898; brianfaulkner@btinternet.com

Pastor Mike Valentine

07763168448; mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net

News from St Chad's (cont.)

The **Meeting of Parishioners** (to elect Churchwardens) will be held at St Chad's at 7 pm on Weds 24th April. Anyone on the Government or Church Electoral Rolls for the Parish are entitled to attend and vote. This will be followed at 7.20 pm by the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (APCM), at which everyone is welcome, but only those on the Electoral Roll of St Chad's are entitled to vote on the matters discussed. If you would like to be included on the Church Electoral Roll, please contact Jackie Dawson (01948 820305) before 8th April and she will be able to advise if you are eligible.

Memories of the Railway at Bradley



Site of former railway in fields at Bradley

Part 2: The end of the line

As introduced in Part 1, the former ‘Whitchurch to Tattenhall railway’ branch line ran through Bradley from its opening in 1872. It provided a passenger service, but was used mainly for transport of goods, such as ‘steam coal’ from South Wales to Birkenhead docks (competing with coal from the Wrexham and Shrewsbury–Chester lines), as well as agricultural supplies, milk and cheese.

“The linesmen’s hut was just opposite the house. They would leave the fire in overnight so we could dry our wet clothes and sit in there if it was wet or windy; it was much warmer than our house! We used to give them the milk and water in return.”

“A neighbour’s family was kitted out in railway bibs and braces in exchange for a few jars of jam!”

However, the railways were making losses, and in 1957 the passenger service closed. It continued as a ‘freight only’ railway for oil wagons going from Stanlow Oil Refinery to the West Midlands – a route that avoided the steep gradients of Gresford Bank near Wrexham. It also served as a teaching ground for drivers of main-line diesel trains... but overall, the anticipated goods traffic for which the line had been built had not materialised, and its use was in decline.

Finally, in January 1964, the line was fully closed as part of the Beeching Axe, and the track was lifted in sections. Much of the old line and its infrastructure remains intact between Chester and Whitchurch, and you can see the former route clearly underneath Bradley Bridge (see photograph above).

“When they were taking up the line, we rode on the footplate to Grindley Brook; my Dad, Uncle Jim Chesters, me and a hound pup!”

Many thanks to David Adams for the photographs and personal recollections.



David Adams Sr at Bradley Bridge during the track removal in 1964



February started well here at Tushingham, with a glowing report from the Church of England (SIAMS) inspection – it was a great pleasure to step back and appreciate all the wonderful things we do to ensure our children (and staff) flourish. Our Spring term has been a great example of this, packed with activities and opportunities!

We had a visit from *Cheshire Young Carers* who delivered workshops to each class in school, and Year 5 attended a *Mindfulness Roadshow* at Chester University, learning how to look after their mental health. This trip was generously funded by local Councillor, Rachel Williams, whose donation will also cover an internet safety programme for our Year 5/6 children.



There was much to celebrate on *World Book Day*, when the children dressed up as their favourite literary characters, and we had a visit from *Magpie Books* of Malpas so every child could exchange their free book voucher. There was also an extreme reading challenge, special assembly and lunch, bookmark competition, and scavenger hunt for each class. Then, on *Red Nose Day*, we all wore red and supported Comic Relief with our donations.

There was also the Science Fair at Bishop Heber, where our two entrants (with projects on mould and cress!) achieved 2nd and 3rd places, in their respective categories. That same week, Class 4 were out and about again, taking part in the *Gotta Dance* spectacular, onstage at Crewe Lyceum.



Back at school, Class 2 have been learning more about life in Uganda and our link school – researching online and comparing the landscape, food, lifestyles, schools and weather, with our own rural setting in Tushingham.

In the sports arena, our children enjoyed taking part in the Sportshall Athletics at Bishop Heber, and achieved a fantastic 2nd place in the recent netball tournament. We also had a visit from the *Hollies Tennis Club*, who spent a day giving lessons to all ages.

As the end of term approaches, we have our Easter Service at St Chad's to look forward to, as well as Class 3's special Easter play, *Three Little Trees* – rehearsals look and sound very good!

School breaks up on 27th March, and returns for summer term on 15th April.

Tushingham Toddlers needs you!

A huge thank you to Rachael Blades and her fellow parent helpers for running Toddlers on a Tuesday morning this year. It has been thriving, with 0–5-year-olds from the local area enjoying coming together, and getting to know staff and children from Class 1 (nursery/reception).

We look forward to welcoming a new intake of children into Class 1 after Easter, and the next new intake in September.

Rachael cannot continue Toddlers after Easter so if there is anyone who would like to take over, please do get in touch.

It can be a parent, grandparent or member of our local community!



TUSHINGHAM TODDLERS
ALL WELCOME

Come and join us for a morning of fun and activities!

Snacks for the children and hot drinks & biscuits for the grown-ups included!



 **Tuesdays**
(Termtime only)

 **9:30-11:30**

 **£2 for first child**
(10p for each additional child)

 Tushingham School Hall, Cheshire, SY13 9DS

 Tushingham Toddlers



BRADLEY BARN NURSERY ARE RECRUITING

We are seeking an Apprentice and qualified L2/L3 to join our wonderful team here at Bradley Barns. Positions can be full or part time. You must have a passion for working within the early years sector and a drive to enhance their development. We are farm based so loving the outdoors is a must! For more information, please call the office on 01948838321.

Millmoor Farm, No Man's Heath (SY14 8ED)
host

St Chad's Lambing Live

Sunday 7th February from 2 pm to 5 pm

Visit the lambing shed to see the beautiful baby lambs and hopefully see lambs being born

- Tea, coffee, juice and delicious homemade cake
- Guess the weight of Romeo the goat



Entry £10pp / children under 12's £5 (under 3's free)

Ticket booking online at www.millmoorfarm.co.uk

or contact Sally-Ann on 07946447020

No dogs, only guide dogs

Please remember this is a working farm so wear appropriate shoes and clothing

In aid of Tushingam Church



MILLMOOR FARM HOST'S ST. CHAD'S LAMBING LIVE

Millmoor Farm
Cheshire

Sun 7 Apr 2024,
2:00PM - 5:00PM

BOOK NOW