

The Bell

Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



DECEMBER / JANUARY
2024 / 2025

Welcome

There's a lot to pack into our Christmas/New Year edition of *The Bell*. Look out for details of the special Christmas services and events in our locality, as well as some ideas for wildlife-related presents from Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

There are also reports of what's being going on at the school, including their transformation into 1940s Tushingham for the day, and we have a glimpse at the Northern Lights in our skies back in October. Looking to future plans, there are details of luxury glamping on offer at Bradley Hall, which is now open to families – and a heartfelt request from our Parish Chairman for a new Clerk for 2025.

Thank you for your support this year, with very special thanks to those kind folk who deliver our magazine. Do send any items for our next issue by 17th 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, Position vacant

Please contact Parish Chairman

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 McKeivitt

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?

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



Theatre Camp [12A]

Mon 9th December, 7.30 pm

'Deeply charming and hilarious' mockumentary. When a rundown theatre camp faces financial ruin, the eccentric staff band together to come up with a solution before the curtain falls...

Mon 13th January, 7.30 pm

Title to be confirmed!

Tickets £5 including snacks; other refreshments on sale

Parish Meeting

Monday 13th January, 7 pm
St Chad's Church

Cheshire Farm Stay & Malpas YFC

FRIDAY
6TH
DECEMBER
6.30PM

CHARITY FASHION SHOW

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-jzyxze>
or use the QR code

Barbour Institute, Tattenhall, CH3 9PX

Glass of Prosecco & Canapés on arrival
Licensed bar
Raffle run by Malpas Young Farmers in aid of Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation
All proceeds to Mid Cheshire Hospital Charity for Breast Care Unit

CLOTHING | ACCESSORIES | CANDLES
JEWELLERY | SOAPS AND MUCH MORE!

Mid Cheshire Hospitals Charity

WHO WOULD FILL YOUR B 734

Carols, Cribbs & Christingles!

1st December, 4.30 pm – **Christingle Service** at St Chad's

8th December, 2.30 pm – **Carol Service** at Bradley Chapel

12th December, 7.30 pm – **Cheshire YFC Carol Concert** at St Michael's, Marbury

16th December, 7 pm – **Carols in the Midden** at Iscoyd Park

17th December, 7 pm – **Carols at The Swan, Marbury**

22nd December, 4.30 pm – **Carols by Candlelight** at St Chad's

Christmas Eve – **Crib Service** at St Mary's, Whitewell (4 pm); Marbury (6 pm)

Midnight Communion at St Michael's, Marbury (11.30 pm)

Christmas Day – **Family Communion** at St Chad's (9 am); St Wenefrede's, Bickley (10.30 am); St Mary's, Whitewell (10.45 am)



Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report, November 2024

It was a well-attended meeting in October with contributions from many present. I was able to report that we are in a comfortable state financially but we are still looking for suggestions on how this can benefit the Parish. More road signs within Bradley and Macefen were requested and passed. Rev Veronica again emphasised that the church needs to be used more by local groups and suggestions were made for youth drama groups and musical evenings. The local PCSO, Rachael McKeivitt, reported that there was little crime in the Parish and also was pleased that parking outside the school appeared to be getting better but would continue to be monitored. We said goodbye to our Clerk, Angela Culshaw, as she has now moved to the Shrewsbury area. We wish her and Bill all the best. I am delighted to say that we have a volunteer to take over from me as Chairman and Treasurer and this will be confirmed at our next meeting on January 13th in the church. We will, however, still be looking for someone to take over as Clerk.

Can I wish all our parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a happier New Year.

John

john.oakden@hotmail.co.uk

John Oakden, Chairman

07989 220468

**** Next meeting ****

Monday 13th January

St Chad's Church, 7 pm

Go WILD with your Christmas shopping this year!



**Cheshire
Wildlife Trust**

If you're thinking about presents for friends and family, then there is an exciting range of options in the Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) online shop. Check out our clothing and accessories, adoption packs (water vole, beaver, barn owl, hedgehog or otter), mugs, jigsaws, books, games, gift cards, wildlife prints and, of course, the 2025 CWT calendar featuring atmospheric landscapes, fabulous fungi and some of your favourite Cheshire species.

All sales from our shop go towards protecting wildlife. So by purchasing one of our products, you can be sure that your support is giving a helping hand to some of Cheshire's most precious species.

This year, make your gifts work for wildlife!

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/shop

Bickley Hall Farm
SY14 8EF



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 December

Thurs 5th (12–1 pm) at Lily's Stores, Aldford

Weds 11th (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Tues 17th (10.30–11.30 am) at High Street, Farndon

Thurs 19th (9–10 am) at High Street, Malpas

Police surgeries in January

Tues 7th (12–1 pm) at Lily's Stores, Aldford

Thurs 16th (10–11 am) at Alison's Kitchen, Tattenhall

Weds 22nd (10.30–11.30 am) at High Street, Farndon

Thurs 30th (9–10 am) at High Street, Malpas



Malpas Surgery – Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We are the voice of the 7,750+ patients at Malpas Surgery, working with the other five PPG groups in our 'Rural Alliance' Primary Care Network, sharing good practice and ideas, and **we would like to invite you to join us.**

We are a group of patients, carers and GP practice staff who discuss practice issues and patient experience to help improve the service our surgery offers.

We advise the practice on the patient perspective, spread the word about new services, and work with the practice to encourage patients to take greater responsibility for their own wellbeing – offering support where we can. We have lots of project ideas but need more members to make this a reality. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Edward Rigby on 01948 860205.



News from St Chad's

Peace

Previously I've talked about stories and the power they hold. From ancient fables to Jesus's parables, to myths and legends, to current stories the world's press chooses to

publish, and I wonder how much humankind is impacted by such words.

In the stillness of each morning before anyone is awake, I search for Peace.

I spend time with God, no one else, and I cherish it. Then in just a couple of hours the noise of the world and its stories can shatter the peace into tiny shards and like splinters they cause hurt; that hurt can lead very quickly to worry... and I know I'm not alone, am I?

Peace is not something we find under our own directive because, as I describe above, our thoughts, feelings and attitudes are so easily influenced by what we hear, see and are informed about, and with social media so easily at our fingertips, we're practically chased down by informants.

Many of us choose to turn our attention to the good things coming – holidays, a special social event, a time of celebration – something we can use to mask the difficult things by turning away from them and looking forward to something else, but doing this in my experience simply causes us to hurry our living days too quickly. These moments simply come and go as we hang our hopes on the next, and the next, and the next.

Peace is not found in pushing the darkness aside or pretending it's not there. Peace is not found in empty words that we speak to one another when trying to console, that can be like sticking a plaster over an open wound, it helps for a while but then...

So where can peace be found? Peace is a person! His name is JESUS and He came to the world to free us from the things that hold us in their grip. How? By teaching us His Word, responding to His Word, and trusting Him for His Word. I find very little hope in anything other than Jesus's Word these days and, therefore, I write these words from my heart to encourage and not discourage!

Mighty God, everlasting Father, wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace.

Four words spoken as a prophecy about Jesus. Four titles given to Him as He was born in flesh and blood to the world, for the world.

This Christmas familiarise yourself with the greatest story ever told, The Nativity, the profound gift of Love, the gift of the Son of God to His creation, The Way, The Truth and The Life. Find your way as the Shepherds, Wise Men and Angels did, because their journeys weren't wasted but rather rewarded, just as yours will be.

Peace be with you all – this Christmas and beyond.

Rev Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

Services at St Chad's in December and January

Sunday 1 December	4.30 pm	Christingle service
Friday 6 December	7.00 pm	'Lighting up Advent' with music from <i>Captivated</i>
Sunday 8 December	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 December	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 December	4.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday 29 December	11.00 am	United Benefice Service (<i>St Chad's</i>)

Sunday 5 January	4.30 pm	Evening prayer
Sunday 12 January	9.00 am	Holy Communion on Plough Sunday
Sunday 19 January	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 January	11.00 am	Morning prayer

For Christmas services at our other churches, please see Benefice website (details below). On **Christmas Eve** this includes **Crib Services** at St Mary's Whitewell at 4 pm, and at St Michael's Marbury at 6 pm; with **Midnight Communion** also being held at St Michael's at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve.



The **Winter Big Clean** at St Chad's is on Friday 6th December, 10 am – 12.30 pm. Please come along if you can, to make the church sparkle and shine in time for all our Christmas events! Including, later that day...

... **'Lighting Up Advent'** on the evening of Friday 6th December. Join us as we welcome back *Captivated* to St Chad's to lead an evening of Worship for the Season of Advent. Drinks and nibbles at 7 pm, Praise and Prayer to follow.

There is so much going on at St Chad's with our **Christingle Service** on Sunday 1st December at 4.30pm, **Carols by Candlelight** on Sunday 22nd December at 4.30 pm, **Family Communion on Christmas Day** at 9 am, and then in the New Year we mark **Plough Sunday** on 12th January at 9 am. Everyone is welcome!

Church Wardens

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

Karen Kirk: 01948 860988; karenkirk45@gmail.com

BACS: Tushingham PCC 01366084 55-81-16

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

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



We are now in the darkest month of the year with 21st December being the shortest day. It is really towards the end of January before we notice any significant change, as our days become lighter in the morning and stay that bit lighter in the afternoon. When this world was created, darkness covered the face of the earth. God, seeing the dark chaos said,

“Let there be light!” and there was light. I first noticed Christmas lights in a private home on 4th November, much sooner than this in the commercial world. By the time you read this, it will be Advent, which this year falls on 1st December. I’m amazed at the number of new sets of lights that are for sale. The displays that people create are really worth a trip out to see and can lift our spirits.

I’m very conscious that the Christmas period can be not only a physical dark period but a mental period of darkness, as you contemplate the first year with an empty chair, or as circumstances have altered since last year. Some people try to put on a brave face but return to an empty house with sadness and tears.

At Bradley Chapel on Remembrance Sunday, we not only remembered those who have served their country and given their lives but also those who have departed this earth due to age, accidents, health and circumstances. Candles were lit to bring just a little bit of light into our lives and to remember those people. We do sincerely remember and give thanks for knowing them.

Pastor Mike has been out of circulation since early October following a fall. A recent operation and the start of physio we hope will enable him to return to us soon. He thanks you all for your cards, e-mails etc. wishing him well.

Future services, all at 2.30 pm, are :

8th December is our Carol Service with carols, refreshments and fellowship.

12th January will include Communion.

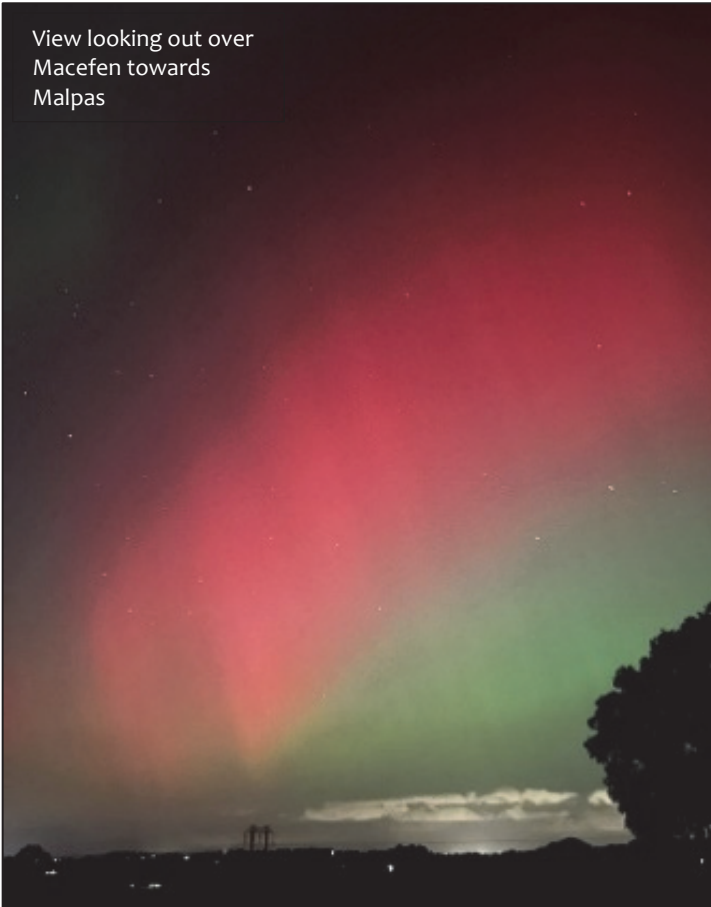
9th February will be led by the Rev Jon Chesworth.

I close wishing, wherever you are or whatever you do, that the Christ of Christmas will be with you, upholding you during a busy or lonely period and into 2025. God bless you all.

Pastor Brian Faulkner
Pastor Mike Valentine

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

View looking out over
Macefen towards
Malpas



Eyes to the skies

Northern Lights – 10th October 2024

In a rare display this far south, the Northern Lights (*aurora borealis*) dazzled residents in Cheshire as they cascaded in vivid colours.

The lights have been increasingly visible this year due to severe geomagnetic storms.

*Thanks to
Claire Walley
for this beautiful
photograph.*

Storm Ashley – 21st October 2024

Later in October, Storm Ashley brought seemingly endless heavy rain and strong winds. Amongst other damage, it toppled the War Memorial at St Chad's, giving it a poignant (and, we hope, temporary) battle-scarred air.

The names on the Memorial remained intact, and were movingly read as part of the Parish's *Roll of Honour*, on Remembrance Sunday, when locals gathered to remember the fallen from our community, as well as so many others. The bells also rang out from the church tower, half muffled, as a mark of respect.





Autumn has been a wonderful season for us here at Tushingham CE Primary School, full of exciting events and learning opportunities. Notable amongst these was our amazing 1940s day in October, when the children immersed themselves in life as it would have been on the home front during World War 2. The costumes were fantastic, with many land girls, and evacuees – and even a glamorous French Resistance agent! The children also had talks from the *Royal British Legion*, and were able to sit in authentic period vehicles from the *Crewe & District Vehicle Club*, who brought along a Willys Jeep, an Austin Champ and a Bedford QLR, while Bell o’ th’ Hill farm kindly loaned one of their antique tractors. We are so thankful to the parents and volunteers who made this day so special and one that our children will remember.

There has been plenty happening in our present-day lessons too!

Class 1 have been enjoying ‘freeze-framing’ part of the story of the *Gingerbread Man*. They explored emotions and how their facial expressions show how they are feeling.



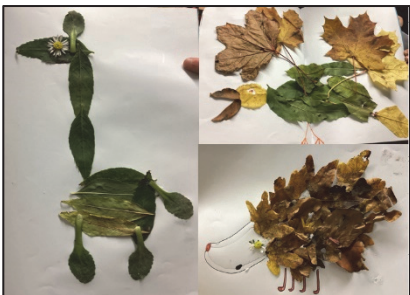
As part of *Black History Month*, **Class 2** talked about the differences in humanity over the years. We linked this to ‘What unites us’ regardless of where we live, our skin colour or religion. They loved the idea that we all see the same sun and moon, and created beautiful pieces of art to reflect this idea.

Class 3 have been learning about land use in geography, both inside and outside, to deepen their learning. They have also created some gorgeous artwork using leaves and, in science, have had great fun exploring sound.

As part of 1940s day, **Class 4** adapted recipes to create their own jam tarts, with some turning out more like cinnamon buns! Later in the term, Year 5 visited Chester Cathedral for *Pilgrim Day*, and our amazing Year 5/6 hockey team won the tournament at Bishop Heber. We are so proud of their skill and how they worked together to achieve this. Year 6 have also been busy being buddies to our new arrivals in Class 1, which is a job they LOVE ❤️

As we draw closer to Christmas we have much to look forward to, including *Sing the Christmas Story* at Chester Cathedral, a trip to the pantomime (oh yes we will!), and our wonderful traditional church service at St Chad’s. School finishes on 20th December, and returns on Monday 6th January 2025.

Join us! We are already allocating places for children who will start nursery in September 2025, so if you know any parents who would like their children to join our school, please ask them to contact us for a guided tour.





Bradley Hall Rural Escapes is a quiet, relaxing spot nestling in the Cheshire countryside. The perfect place for a get-away-from-it-all break. We aim to create an upmarket glamping experience by providing a comfortable stay in one of our self-contained pods, which are all en-suite and fully heated.

We are a quiet site, open all year round.

Tell us about your luxury glamping pods! We have five pods – Meadowsweet, Cowslip, Honeysuckle, Harebell and Foxglove – which are all furnished to a high standard with an en-suite shower room. Each pod has a private patio area, with a table & chairs and a barbecue. There is a fire pit amongst the wildflower meadow and a hut which can seat up to 10 people.



Cowslip pod

What about inside the pods? Each pod houses a double bed, with bedding and towels, sofa bed (except Foxglove), kitchenette with sink, microwave, fridge, toaster, kettle, coffee machine, crockery, cutlery and other kitchen essentials, as well as a TV and hairdryer. Three pods have an induction hob.

Is Bradley Hall Rural Escapes suitable for families? Since October we have been delighted to open our site to families. We can accommodate a maximum of 2 adults and 1–2 children in all pods except Foxglove. The Old Dairy is now an activity & crafting room with books, board games etc. for children, and in the Spring there is an opportunity to see the sheep and lambs.

Are the pods easily accessible? The pods are a short walk from the car park. Meadowsweet pod is approximately 40 metres from the parking area – it is suitable for guests with limited mobility and is wheelchair friendly. We also allow 1–2 small breeds of dog in Meadowsweet.

How can people find out more or book a pod? For more details (including video tour) or to book, visit our website: bradleyhallruralescapes.co.uk or call 07902 968783 / 07905 277058. We are also on Facebook and Instagram.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Anthony and Jane Mullock

