

# The Bell

*Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine*



APRIL / MAY  
2020

## Welcome

*The Bell* may have lost its What's On page, but as we 'batten down the hatches' and look for hopeful signs ahead, there is still plenty to report in our community. This includes Cheshire Wildlife Trust's photographic competition (ideal for Spring walks), and a look back on the heart-warming Lambing Live event at the end of February. Also, in light of the VE75 anniversary in May, there is a fascinating glimpse of life at Tushingham School during WW1 and 2.

Please send in items for the June/July issue by 17<sup>th</sup> May – and given that there may be very few new events to report, any interesting articles, stories, poems or photographs (from adults or children) would be especially welcome.

Take care, Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

## Local contacts

**Parish Chairman**, David Young OBE

01948 861461; young.dn@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 Jon Hurst

Calls to 101 (non-urgent); jonathan.hurst@cheshire.pnn.police.uk



Cheshire West  
and Chester

## Report It

To report any Council-related issues (e.g., potholes, litter, highways), and receive an enquiry number 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)

**A new app** is making it easier and quicker for residents to report issues and faults on the highways and streets. You can 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

Search for 'Cheshire West and Chester' in your Apple/android app store.

# News and information

**NHS 111 online coronavirus service:** [111.nhs.uk/covid-19/](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/)

Use this service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse.

Only **call 111** if you cannot get help online.

Information from [www.NHS.uk](https://www.NHS.uk) (21 March 2020)

## **Cheshire West: Coordinated community response**

Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) are working to provide an opportunity for residents to volunteer in the fight against COVID-19.

An online form has been created for residents to pledge their support for local communities, helping to make sure West Cheshire's most vulnerable residents have access to things like essential food and medical supplies, as well as somebody to keep in touch with during any periods of self-isolation.

Once residents have completed the online form, CWVA will signpost them to the charities and community groups in their area. Residents can also state what kind of volunteering they would be interested in so they can be matched with the ideal charity or community group.

Visit <https://my.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/>, searching 'How you can help'

## **Protecting your mental health** (advice from the World Health Organization)

- Seek information from trusted sources at specific times during the day, once or twice, and avoid listening to rumours and misinformation. The near-constant stream of news reports can cause anyone to feel worried.
- Protect yourself and be supportive to others.
- Stay connected via e-mail, social media, video link and telephone. Try as much as possible to keep your personal daily routines or create new ones.
- Pay attention to your own needs and feelings. Engage in healthy activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Exercise, sleep and eat healthy food.

# TM&B Parish Meeting

In these unprecedented times, I hope this finds you all well and free of the dreaded COVID-19. Over the coming weeks, we will inevitably need to support safely those in self-isolation, where required, and contact by phone is probably the best way of achieving this in the first instance. This will be a difficult period for us all but, if we follow the Government's guidance responsibly and look after ourselves properly without panic, we will be indirectly looking after our neighbours too and we will get through this. If anyone needs help that they cannot source from friends or family, then please give me a call and I will initiate some action, either myself or through the local registered volunteer network scheme.

Moving on to matters from our last Parish meeting, I am delighted to report that we agreed to continue funding this excellent publication for a further year. We also approved the increased cost of the new 40 mph signage on the Bell o' th' Hill road and the purchase of two new boundary signs on the A41 for Tushingham village. I have since approached the Council to request that these both go ahead and that we gain some financial economy from doing both at the same time. Following all our complaints about road safety and speeding along our stretch of the A41 and several site meetings with the Chief Highway Engineer, the formal review has simply concluded that all the junction signs will be replaced with ones with yellow backing to make them more visible. I find this quite an unsatisfactory outcome, but I have requested they repair and clean all their other road signs at the same time to extract some value from this expensive exercise. The Meeting has also asked the Golden Jubilee Committee to contribute towards the new Tushingham signs after I noted that their remaining funds (raised from the community in 2002) had still not been transferred across to the Parish as had been agreed over 2 years ago.

As for the future of the Meeting, I am very pleased to report that a couple of volunteers have stepped forward for next year so I will continue to cover all the bases until we meet next on 5 October.

**David Young OBE, Chairman**

01948 861461



## Home Watch

To join our local community Home Watch scheme, please visit [cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk](http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk) or contact coordinator Steve Egan to register for selected updates: [steven.egan@bentley.co.uk](mailto:steven.egan@bentley.co.uk).

# Police Community Support



Police Community Support Officer for Tattenhall and Malpas  
PCSO 20398 **Jonathan Hurst**

E-mail: [jonathan.hurst@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jonathan.hurst@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Beat Manager Rural South

PC 5744 **Steve Gardner**

E-mail: [stephen.gardner@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stephen.gardner@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)



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

**Facebook:** Tattenhall & Malpas Police; **Twitter:** ThallMalpasPol

**Web:** [www.cheshire.police.uk/tattenhall-malpas](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tattenhall-malpas); **Tel:** 101 (non-emergency)

**We want our local communities to know that we are here to help. Are you self-isolating? Do you know of an elderly/vulnerable person? Please do not hesitate to call your local PCSO, Jon Hurst, on 07989 653 144, 8 am–8 pm.**

## Staying safe online: protecting against COVID-19 scams

The overwhelming amount of news coverage surrounding coronavirus has, sadly, created a new danger to exploit public fears. Emails claiming to be from organisations with information about the coronavirus might send a link or attachment to see the latest statistics. If you click on the link, you're likely to download malicious software which could allow criminals to take control of your computer, log your keystrokes, or access your personal information and financial data. Examples of these so-called 'phishing' e-mails might include:

- A link to a list of coronavirus cases in your area.
- A link to download safety or medical advice, or to buy 'miracle' medicine.
- Pretend to be from the workplace, giving false links to safety policy.

### How to spot a coronavirus phishing email – it's easy to stay safe!

- Beware of online requests for personal information. Never respond to the email with your personal data.
- Watch for spelling or grammatical errors – a likely sign of a phishing email.
- Look for generic greetings like "Dear sir or madam" (i.e. not your name).
- Avoid emails that insist you act now or that create a sense of urgency.
- In all cases, DELETE these messages, and stay safe online.

Information taken from Norton™ computer security website

## A history of Old St Chad's

*Traditionally, Old St Chad's opens its doors in May for the annual series of services. Although this is postponed, Wendy Kay provides a brief history of our very own 'chapel in the fields'.*

### Old St Chad's Chapel, Tushingham

The little chapel of old St Chad's, as it is now known, stands alone in a field surrounded by its churchyard which is still a burial ground of the church and parish. It is reached by



traversing a narrow lane, known as St Chad's Lane, off the A41 road 4 miles north of Whitchurch. Apart from holding funeral services, Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Communion is held one Sunday each month from May to September, commencing on Rogation Sunday in mid-May. In addition, traditionally for many years special services have been held on Ascension Day (also in May) and Rushbearing Day, which is usually the first Sunday in August. In very bad weather the chapel is almost inaccessible and there is no lighting heating or toilet facilities, but on a fine spring or summer day a more delightful and ideal setting for worship would be hard to find.

The Chapel was rebuilt in 1689–91 (see wooden plaque on the north wall) largely with the funds given by John Dodd. This benefactor who was born in Tushingham in 1644, married Mary, daughter of Richard Thorogood, Alderman of London. John Dodd went to live in London and became a prosperous merchant.

The furniture in the chapel is all original and is made of good 17<sup>th</sup> century Cheshire oak, with the exception of the gallery which is of a later date. The 17<sup>th</sup> century Holy Table has turned legs to the front and a carved top rail. On each side of the Holy Table are two high-backed square family box pews, both panelled and taking up much of the limited chancel space. It is evident from this and from examination of the outside of the East wall that at one time there was a small sanctuary beyond the chancel.

*“Yes it is the chapel in the fields where God's good soil so richly yields, fine pasture and ripening grain, but to worship here means a blessing to gain.”*



# St Chad's Church news

## *A letter from Revd Canon Ian Davenport, Rural Dean of Malpas*

Dear All,

As I write this at my study desk here in Malpas on Mothering Sunday I am looking out into the garden and see all the signs of its awakening from winter. The daffodils are in bloom and the day light hours are lengthening. It will not be long now before we move into Holy Week and then to Good Friday and Easter Day. This year will be so different in that we will not be able to meet in our churches to recall and take part in the events of the very special week but we can do that in our homes too and so link with one another through prayer and the various means of communication that are bringing hope, peace, strength and comfort to so many in these very sad and troubled days.

I will very soon be going over to church this evening to take part in the nationwide initiative of The Archbishops of Canterbury and York where we are asked to light a candle in the windows of our homes as a sign that light will never be overcome by darkness and it seems to me this is the symbol that we can all hold before us as we enter Passiontide and walk the way of the Cross. We all have our own crosses to bear in life and we can take heart and strength from Him who has trodden this way before us and so is alongside us now, be that both here in these parishes as we pray for Revd Veronica, Nigel and their family and support each other at this time, and also as we face the worry of coronavirus and deal with the reality of it in our daily lives. Easter gives me hope and is the light that can never be put out and so it is in the faith of our Crucified and Risen Lord that I greet you and in that faith that I wish you the quiet joys of Easter and pray that the inner joy of The Lord will sustain us all.

With every blessing

Ian

*All Church services and events are cancelled until further notice, although weddings and funerals can possibly take place with the very minimum attending.*

### **Church Wardens**

Mr P Moore Dutton

Tel: 1948 664292 / 07970417772

E-mail: peter@moore-dutton.co.uk

Mr A Dawson

Tel: 01948 820305 / 07436072278

E-mail: a\_i\_dawson@hotmail.com

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

## Bradley Independent Congregational Chapel



### April's Songs of Praise service

*Cancellation of Church services is never an easy decision though in present circumstances the only prudent action possible.*

*Whilst I can claim to be a 'Wartime Survivor' – having made my appearance in the spring of 1944 – I have no memories of what it was like for those who lived throughout the terrible WW2 years. We are told it was a time of 'Coming Together' with our National Family facing a common threat. Do we too easily forget the price of our survival and freedom, paid for in other lives, either taken or horribly damaged? Certainly there was then, as now, a clear need evident to support each other.*

*Today, two young families living in our road have been in touch, giving us their contact details with a clear offer of their help – if needed. We do not know each other very well but surely they have shown clear understanding of Our Lord's Commandment, "Love your neighbour as yourself"? Could a Coronavirus legacy actually leave a better, caring and even more united kingdom?*

*Hon Pastor Mike Valentine*

The **Malpas VE75** event which was to take place over the Bank Holiday weekend at the start of May, is postponed for the time being. Plans already in place included a parade, church services, a family street party, a cream tea dance, and a 'Last Night of the Proms' concert with firework finale.



Committee member Chris Whitehurst, said, "Whilst parts of the programme are about recognising and honouring those individuals who gave their lives for others during in the Second World War, the general theme underlying the project was biased towards one of celebrating 75 years of peace in Europe.

The Committee think when we get through the current crisis an event of this nature will be even more important, and provide something positive for everyone in the community to look forward to."





Cheshire Wildlife Trust has launched a competition to find 12 stunning images for its 2021 calendar – and we need YOUR photos!

We're looking for photographs that celebrate the variety of wildlife and landscapes our region has to offer. Check for wildlife in your garden or head out into our beautiful countryside and start snapping. From birds to butterflies and gardens to nature reserves, we're looking for the special creatures and wild places you can find in our fabulous region.

The competition is open to all ages and levels of photography experience. Closing date for entries is **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**. To enter visit: [www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/photography\\_competition](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/photography_competition)

*We have cancelled all our public events until the end of June, but the **good news** is that – at date of writing – our nature reserves remain open, so if you are able to get out to enjoy a walk and take in the best of the season's wildlife please do so, respecting the guidance around social distancing. We will also be looking into ways to deliver some of our 'events' virtually to continue to engage with our supporters. After all, nature has never been so important for our wellbeing.*

### Lambing Live 2020

At 1 pm on 29<sup>th</sup> February, the rain clouds parted as 'Lambing Live' began at Millmoor Farm, No Man's Heath. Visitors of all ages watched in the lambing shed, and enjoyed the chance to cuddle lambs of only a few days' old... and yes, there really was



'lambing live' as we witnessed the arrival of triplet lambs with a helping hand from Laura and David Chesters.

Accessible to all, there were also delicious tea and cakes served in *The Corn Store* cottage by some of the many volunteers, and games for the children.

Many thanks to the Chesters family for hosting this community event once again, which raised over £900 in aid of Tushingam Church projects.



Although shorter than expected, the second half of the Spring term was filled with many interesting events. In terms of personnel, the School were happy to welcome new cook, Mrs Blackhurst, as well as two student teachers from Chester University. There was also a visit from PCSO Hurst, who spoke to parents and children about internet safety.

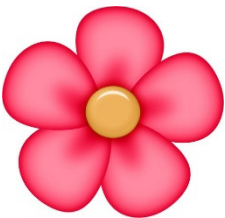
March began with a fundraising multi-skills sports event, closely followed by the much-loved 'World Book Day', when children enjoyed the novelty of going to school in their pyjamas and sharing their favourite bedtime stories. In music, the 'Key Strings' group visited once more and gave a highly entertaining and interactive performance, introducing the whole school to the string family of the orchestra. Later in the term, the Year 3 and 4 children joined in the music festival at Bishop Heber, singing songs with other local primary schools.

In celebration of science, 'Kinetic Theatre' gave a crazy and very popular workshop entitled 'Light fantastic' where the children learnt all about the amazing properties of light – on a Country and Western theme! Then, during National Science week, scientists from Years 3–6 exhibited their project work on climate change and our diverse planet at the Bishop Heber Science Fair.

The sports teams joined in the Sports Hall athletics event at Bishop Heber, with a number of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed athletes. Girls from Years 5 and 6 also took part in a netball tournament and celebrated one win, and two narrow defeats.

To read the newsletters in full visit: [www.tushingham.cheshire.dbprimary.com](http://www.tushingham.cheshire.dbprimary.com)

*Following the Government directive, the School closed its doors to pupils on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Parents and children left with bundles of carefully prepared materials to help with online schooling. Best of luck to everyone!*



**From 'Friends of Tushingham' Chairman, Hayley Alldridge:**

"We are so grateful to the Parish, Tesco and Corbett's Malpas for the recent sponsorship and can now confirm we have purchased most of the items we need in order to develop the outside space at the school. We have used the funds to purchase equipment for the children to use at

break and lunch times along with materials that will support them during their guided- and child-initiated learning in class time.

All items follow the sensory theme, including resources for the children to grow their own plants and vegetables... we are hoping for some dry weather so we can start to see the area come to life once the school is in session again."

## Tushingham School at 125

### Part 2: 'The war years'

On the whole, school life at Tushingham continued as usual during the World Wars – interspersed with a variety of special war efforts and unexpected events.

In 1915, the school log book records that an aeroplane landed in a field near to the school and all the children were allowed to go and see it. On another occasion, the older children went to watch the rifle practice of 5,000 soldiers in the neighbourhood. The children also knitted socks for the soldiers and sailors and, in 1916, received a week of special lessons on food economy. No mention is made of festivities related to the end of the war but a year later, on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1919, the school gave a concert for demobilised soldiers entitled '*The havoc of war and the blessings of peace*', which included a tableau, speeches, recitations and songs.



One morning during WW2, only 10 children arrived at school after bombs had been dropped in the district overnight, and the noise of anti-aircraft fire had made it impossible for anyone to sleep. On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1940 it was noted, "*Scholars have this week been in the air raid shelters for three periods when bombs and gunfire have been heard.*" Despite this, the school maintained its annual round of events including the sports day and prize giving party, with prizes of seeds gifted by the WI for the children's gardens at home. Empire Day was also celebrated with songs, hymns and poems and, in 1943, a play about the British Empire. Nearby Macefen Hall became a wartime school for Czechoslovak children (and their exiled government), and there was a lot of interaction between the two schools. In 1940, the teachers and pupils went to St Wenceslas Fête given by the Czechoslovak soldiers in Cholmondeley Park. The school also supported the war effort by fundraising, and by collecting acorns, beech nuts, wool, and 170 lb of rosehips! Teachers too undertook special duties, including distributing cod liver oil... and fruit juice on Thursdays.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 1945, news reached the school that Germany had surrendered. The school flag was raised, and red, white and blue rosettes were made in celebration. On 8<sup>th</sup> May, the school was closed for a national holiday: VE Day.

Once more, we are grateful to former Tushingham teacher, Mrs Janet Barton, from whose 1994 Centenary booklets the above information is taken.

*As some of us may be doing a little more reading in the weeks ahead, here are some historic local rules and regs to bear in mind...*

# MAESFEN READING ROOM.

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## COMMITTEE :

Rev. LI. B. VAWDREY (Chairman).

Mr. W. Prior (Treasurer),

Mr. John Elson,

Mr. T. Lea,

Mr. James Miles,

Mr. C. Raymond,

Mr. R. Vawdrey, Junr.

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## RULES.

1. This Reading Room is to be open from the first Monday in September to the last Saturday in April, on every evening in the week (except Sunday), from 6 p.m. to 9-30 p.m.

2. Every member is to pay 8d. per month to the Treasurer on the first Monday in each month during the time that the room is open.

3. A member may bring a friend to the room on any evening by paying one penny to the Treasurer or some member of the Committee.

4. No one can become a member who is not over 14 years of age.

5. No intoxicating drink is to be brought into the room, and no drunken person is to be allowed in the room.

6. No bad language is to be allowed in the room.

7. No gambling is to be allowed in the room.

8. Smoking is allowed, but members must not spit in the room.

9. No article belonging to the room to be taken out of it.

10. If a member, or any person introduced by a member, shall break any of the above rules, he must pay a fine of sixpence to the Treasurer, or some member of the Committee present; and if he declines to pay the fine, he must be expelled from the room. Any member of the Committee is to have power to enforce the above rules and to keep order in the room.