

The Bell

Tushingam, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
2020

Welcome

This autumn edition marks the first anniversary of *The Bell* – and what a 12 months it has been! We can only hope that by next October, things will have settled back closer towards the lives we knew before – and especially at this time, our thoughts go out to those living in the Old School Houses at Tushingham whose homes were so terribly damaged by lightning strikes and floods in the recent storms. Our sincere sympathies are with you.

Amidst these tricky days, we are able to include plenty of local news from our school and wider community, as well as some fascinating sporting facts from time gone by (Maesfen United anyone?) – and for the first time ever we have a ‘Zoom’ Parish Meeting in store! Thanks for your input, as ever.

Please send any items for the Christmas (Dec/Jan) issue by 18th November.

Take care, Juliet

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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 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

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

TM&B Parish Meeting

As I write this in the middle of September and hear of the worrying rise in the number Covid-19 cases, the sensible thing to do is to minimise social contact whenever possible. So with this in mind, I have taken the decision to hold the next Parish Meeting, which is the AGM, remotely by Zoom. It will start as planned at **7 pm** on **Monday 5th October** and I invite those who wish to attend to email me at young.dn@btinternet.com before the meeting with a contact phone number; by return I will send a link to the Zoom meeting, as below.

AGM (via Zoom)
Monday 5th October
7 pm
See link/ID below

The website login details for the meeting are: <https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/75969647700?pwd=VVluUis2ZHk5YW9zcm5jcFVSR3FJdz09>

The meeting ID is 759 6964 7700 and passcode is Ee5Txh, in case you need them.

I have received no issues to raise at the meeting so the agenda will be:

- Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.
- Approval of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2019/20. These are published on all the Parish Noticeboards.
- Approval of Wendy Kay as the new Clerk.
- Re-election of Chairman/Treasurer.
- Any other business.

If anyone has any last-minute issues they want to raise then please let me know beforehand. The meeting has to finish by 7.40pm (for free Zoom) so we need to be fairly organised and login in good time.

David Young OBE, Chairman

01948 861461



Home Watch

To join our local community Home Watch scheme, please visit cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk or contact coordinator Steve Egan to register for selected updates: 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



Beat Manager Rural South

PC 5744 Steve Gardner

E-mail: stephen.gardner@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

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

Tel: 101 (non-emergency); **Facebook:** Tattenhall & Malpas Police;

Twitter: ThallMalpasPol; **Web:** cheshire.police.uk/a/your-area/ cheshire/
cheshire-west-and-chester/tattenhall-and-malpas/

Police surgeries

Police surgeries with PSCO Hurst have resumed at Dragon Hall Police station, with pop-up meetings continuing in outdoor locations in Malpas and Tattenhall (see below). Future dates will be announced on social media.

9 October, 3–4 pm, *outside Barbour Institute, Tattenhall*

10 October, 4–5 pm, *Dragon Hall Police Station*

13 October, 11–12 am, *High Street Car Park, Malpas*

16 October, 2–3 pm, *Dragon Hall Police Station*

19 October, 3–4 pm, *Dragon Hall Police Station*

21 October, 3–4 pm, *High Street Car Park, Malpas*

26 October, 11–12 am, *outside Barbour Institute, Tattenhall*

30 October, 3–4 pm, *Dragon Hall Police Station*

Cheshire Police alert: Smishing bank account fraud

There have been several reports of bank account ‘smishing’ fraud attempts. The victim has received a text message that appears to be from their own bank, asking to verify a transaction by texting back yes or no. The victim then receives a telephone call and is told they must move money to a safe account. This is a scam!

If you do receive a text or call from a person claiming to be from your bank then please do not give any personal information. Hang up, leave the line for a few minutes or use a different phone, and contact your bank by using the telephone number from the back of your bank card or statement.



After weeks (and in some cases, months) away, children returned to Tushingham School on Weds 2nd September. After a gentle start, usual lessons have now resumed for all age groups. In her first newsletter of the 2020/21 academic year, Mrs Shephard said, “It has been wonderful to see our children return to school with their usual boundless energy and enthusiasm – they have brought the school back to life!” She also thanked parents for their understanding and respect of the extra measures the school has put in place to help limit the spread of coronavirus.

New measures in place include separate entrances/exit points for each of the four school classes; separate class ‘bubbles’ for teaching and break times; children coming to school ready in their sports’ kit on ‘PE days’; and additional hygiene measures including regular hand washing.

To read Mrs Shephard’s newsletters in full, please visit the new website at: <https://www.tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk>

Tushingham Toddlers

At present, the school is unable to allow the weekly ‘Tushingham Toddlers’ group to meet in the school hall. They hope to see it up and running again as soon as possible.



Dog thefts?

PSCO Hurst has also sent a message to address understandable concerns about an alleged spate of dog thefts in the area. He says that there has been an attempted dog theft reported, which took place in Edge.

He appreciates the worries this must bring, particularly as there have been a number of posts on social media that have been used to spread the wrong message and which have escalated the situation. However, he can confirm that, to date, there have been no further reports locally following this single incident.



St Chad's Church News

The Rev Mike Rogers writes...

As many of you will know by now, the Rev Alex Sanders and I have been asked to help out in Tushingham in the coming months. We both hold your parish dear to our hearts and it is a great privilege for us to shed our retired status for a while and to share a ministry with you.

So that you know a little about us, Alex retired from a full-time ministry as the Vicar of Mellor and returned to live in Bunbury. She is married to Nick, who is a Licensed Reader, and they have grown-up children. Alex is no stranger to the parish and has taken services and weddings across the Benefice. As for me, I retired from a full-time ministry in Southern Worcestershire and also moved to Bunbury on retirement. I have been in and around the parishes for some years now, and have been asked to 'fill the gaps' at Tushingham on various occasions. I am married to Margaret and we too have grown-up children. We both look forward to being amongst you in these difficult times.

You will not need me to tell you that this has been an extraordinary year; the weather has swung from being almost tropical to wetter than I can ever remember. The economy has all but crashed, children have had the longest continual period off school ever known and together we have faced a pandemic the like of which the world has not known since the flu epidemic of 1918. And don't even mention Brexit! And yet, despite all this our lives go on. Somehow, we cope with the 'new normal' of social distancing and face covering, of restrictions on our travel and hand-washing, of not seeing friends and relatives nor visiting those in hospital.

Against that backdrop I was taken aback the other day whilst listening to the hymn *Great is thy faithfulness*. It was the words in the refrain that brought me up short, the ones that say '...all I have needed thy hand has provided, great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me,' for it struck me that throughout the difficult months of this year and the trials and tribulations we have endured, those words are so true. Amidst the changes and chances of this world and this year, the one constant has been God's continual faithfulness to each one of us whether or not we have been aware of it. I take great comfort from that. How about you?

With every blessing.

Services at St Chad's

Sunday 4 October	9.00 am	Service of the Word <i>Rev Mike Rogers</i>
Sunday 11 October	9.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Rev Mike Rogers</i>
Sunday 18 October	9.00 am	Service of the Word <i>Jeremy Hunns</i>
Sunday 25 October	11.00 am	Service of the Word <i>Rev Alex Sanders</i>

Sunday 1 November	11.00 am	All Saints Day <i>United Service at Marbury</i>
Sunday 8 November	10.45 am	Remembrance Day <i>Rev Alex Sanders</i>
Sunday 15 November	9.00 am	Service of the Word <i>Rev Mike Rogers</i>
Sunday 22 November	11.00 am	Service of the Word <i>Rev Alex Sanders</i>
Sunday 29 November	11.00 am	Advent Sunday <i>United Service, venue TBC</i>

Without the usual fundraising events, it has been a difficult year for St Chad's. If you would like to help, please contact Treasurer Andrew Dawson (details below) or you can **donate directly** to Tushingham PCC (sort code 55-81-16; a/c 01366084). *Thank you.* Despite these challenges, we were fortunate to be able to hold two special (carefully distanced) gatherings at Old St Chad's over the summer – Rushbearing Sunday with Rev Canon Ian Davenport and Climate Change Sunday with Rev John Whitehead. The Harvest Service also took place at the main church, with donations of food going to Whitchurch Food Bank.

In memory of David Arthur Gilford of Quoisley Bridge, and Nora Ann Ellis of Grindley Brook, for whom funeral services took place at St Chad's during September. Our thoughts and prayers remain with their families and friends.

The Lord Jesus says, 'Today you will be with me in Paradise.' Luke 23.43

Church Wardens

Mr P Moore Dutton

Tel: 1948 664292 / 07970417772

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

Mr A Dawson

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

Bradley Independent Congregational Chapel

SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

18th October – Harvest Service

6th December – Carols & Lessons

Rev'd. Jane Stephenson will be leading a Harvest Service at St. John's Methodist Church, Whitchurch, on October 4th at 10.30 am. However, unless there are unexpected positive changes before Christmas, for the time being we at Bradley can only look forward to spring next year.



Part of what makes Bradley Congregational so special is that it is quite a small Chapel, creating a really cosy atmosphere. One related positive is that careful stewardship and good maintenance have kept overhead costs low. The continued support of Bradley Friends has made sure that we will survive these troublesome times.

At the beginning of September 400 years ago, early Congregationalists left Plymouth searching for both safety and freedom in 'The New World' of America. Whole families (and several unaccompanied children) crowded together, with their lives at risk, their trust in each other and their faith in God. What struck me so clearly is that our present-day inconveniences and disappointments are as nothing when compared with much that has gone before us. Add to that, even today, most of us have little understanding of heart-rending experiences – both in the UK or the wider world. There will be families severely disadvantaged or even destroyed by the effects of this pandemic. As if that isn't bad enough, in some areas Covid-19 comes on top of a whole shedload of existing horrendous situations. And still there are some here who whinge and moan, despite the privileges of living in this beautiful country.

Wasn't there an old hymn "Count Your Blessings – Count them one by one"? Or "Give Thanks, With a Grateful Heart..." or even, "Give us this day our daily bread"?

Hon Pastor Mike Valentine

News from Bradley Barns



Following on from the national lockdown, Bradley Barns reopened on the 1st June to provide childcare for those keyworker parents. After a gradual and cautious start we are now fully open with all the relevant restrictions in place to protect staff, parents and children and all have adapted to a new daily routine.

Our new Forest School facility is now in full flow for all our children to enjoy and we hope to open this up to local educational establishments and groups in due course when the restrictions ease further. Our fully qualified Forest School teacher will make sure that the green space we have to offer will be of a big benefit to everyone who uses it. From nature walks to bonfire building and den making plus more we can provide a wholesome outdoor experience for those who wish to use it. To enquire further about this experience please feel free to contact us here at the Nursery on 01948838321. To check availability for children who wish to attend plus those on 2 and 3 year funding please contact the Nursery. Stay safe!

Point Taken initiative

We have been asked to repeat this request from NW Ambulance Service:

“If you live in the North West and you’re worried we might not find your property when you call 999, tell us so we can ensure you’re on the map”

The **Point Taken** initiative gives residents who live in difficult-to-find locations the chance to add their own ‘route marker’ (eg. “House located on unmarked road, turn left 100 m after white gate”) to help direct emergency services to their address should they ever call 999. If this service could help you, go to www.nwas.nhs.uk, click ‘Contact us’ and then ‘Point taken’, to fill in the online form including your route note.

The **What Three Words** App is another approach that has been used by emergency services in the past. This free App allocates every 3 sq metres of the country a unique combination of three words, which can be used to guide others to your exact location – whether at home, or out and about.

Rural ramblings... with Grandpa

Maesfen Charity Cup (Part 1)

Is it true that there used to be a connection between Maesfen and football?

Yes, that's true. For many years that was the case. You see in 1904 the Hon. Algernon Robert Parker and his wife Emma Jane came to live in Maesfen Hall...

Where's Maesfen Hall? I've never seen it

Well, no, it was demolished in 1960 because of dry rot. Anyway, the Hon. Parker was very popular and a keen sportsman. A very successful tennis club was formed using the Parker's private court. In the large flat field opposite the Hall and across the road from the Church he had a cricket pitch and a football pitch created. This became the home-ground of Maesfen United.



In 1925 he helped in the formation of the Maesfen Amateur Charity Cup for local football teams and donated a splendid Trophy to be played for.

Teams included Malpas Band, Malpas Tradesmen, Malpas Rabbits, Manor House Athletic, Hampton Villa, Well Street Stars, Malpas Rovers, Shocklach Villa and Sarn Rovers. All competing teams must have their club headquarters within 4.5 miles of Malpas Cross (why 4.5?), and each player must reside within 1 mile of his headquarters and within the 4.5 mile radius. Every effort was made to keep this competition just for local lads.

To be continued...

Tushingham Arena

Tushingham Arena is an equestrian competition centre. Barry and Wendy Kay bought the centre 14 years ago when it was very run down. Over the past 14 years the centre has had a complete upgrade including new arenas and equipment. We now

organise and run British Show Jumping, British Dressage, Arena Eventing, unaffiliated Show Jumping, unaffiliated Dressage, clinics and arena hire.

We pride ourselves in being a very friendly encouraging centre welcoming customers both old and new.



Wendy and Barry Kay

www.TushinghamArena.co.uk

Tel. 07962256988; Barry.d.kay@btinternet.com



**Cheshire
Wildlife Trust**

Rodents return to Delamere

As part of a 5-year project by Cheshire Wildlife Trust, two beavers are being released into a 4.5 hectare enclosure near Hatchmere in Delamere, and will create a new landscape as they adapt to their surroundings. England is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries and beavers (which were formerly native to Cheshire) offer a chance to reverse this dramatic decline by allowing nature to restore itself. Removing trees will break up the canopy, allowing sunlight on to ground vegetation and bringing the woodland floor to life. With their dams holding back water, water flow is slowed, dropping out the polluted sediments that would otherwise flow into Hatchmere lake. It will also make new space for insects, invertebrates and fish.



www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Interiors by Alex Egan at Stanza Style Interiors

Finding space to work from home

Given how our world has changed so dramatically of late, more and more of us are working at home. This brings a multitude of challenges, and we have to think more creatively about making space to work – so here are a few tips...

Declutter! You would be surprised if you stood in a room and looked around how you might be able to take out either a piece of unwanted or unloved furniture or even a pile of books stacked on the floor that would make space for a little desk! We often don't notice things in our house until we make an effort to look as we pass these things day in day out. Take a moment to just look around – you would be surprised what you see!

Do you have **rooms that are under-utilised** and mainly used as a dumping ground? Could a small desk be put in there? What about a garden shed – can this be used in the summer or even insulated and used all year round? Spare/guest bedrooms can also be a great space for a discrete or foldaway desk. If you have bedside tables on either side of the bed, look at swapping one of these for a ladder-style desk to use as a work station with shelves for storage, and the desk lamp is perfect for a bedside lamp. Choose pretty or colour coordinating box files to store your work so the space still looks attractive.

Where possible, **try to avoid working at the kitchen table**. Often, when it comes to dinner time you have to move everything off the table, or sadly we end up eating on our knees in front of the TV instead. Eating a meal at the table with partners and family has so many benefits.

The key is to try and **find a semi-permanent place to work** – sitting on the sofa, in bed or at the kitchen table isn't always conducive to productive working. Can you convert a wardrobe or cupboard so that a desk can be pulled out? Then at the end of the working day it can be pushed away with the paperwork and technology left inside, closing the doors ready for the next day. There are great wall-mounted, foldaway desks and tables for the tightest of spaces – Ikea do a great little affordable folding option.

Contact Alex on 07947461199

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