

# The Bell

*Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine*



JUNE / JULY  
2026

# Welcome

There's been a lot going on in our area over the last few weeks, and this looks to continue into the Summer. This edition of *The Bell* includes opportunities to gather inside and out, we also cover local wildlife and bird feeding, showcase a local campsite, call out for wool donations, and welcome a new headteacher.

In addition, there are summaries of minutes from two recent important Parish Meetings (for a copy of the full minutes, please contact the Parish Clerk), and give a reminder on how to report any Council-related issues such as potholes. In other matters, note the surgery dates for our local police team in June and July on page 3, which include visits to No Man's Heath and Malpas.

Please send any articles, notices, or photos for our next issue by 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Best wishes,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

## Local contacts

**Parish Chair**, Phoebe Parkinson  
tushingamparishchair@gmail.com

**Parish Clerk**, Pat Adams  
07835 711589; adamsofbradley@btinternet.com

**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!

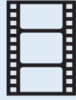
To report **potholes**, litter & fly tipping, highways/signage issues, anti-social behaviour, problems with waste collections, or to track the status of a report, visit: [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it)

[**Note:** The very useful 'Report it' App was scrapped by the CWAC on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 for reasons of 'maintenance and costs'.]

# What's On?

## Film nights

**Bickerton Village Hall**



### Rental Family [12A]

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 7.30 pm**

Comedy drama about an American actor based in Tokyo who begins working for a 'rental family' agency, where he is hired to play stand-in roles in the lives of strangers. He rediscovers purpose, belonging, and connection. Stars Brendan Fraser.

**Tickets £5 on the door, including snacks; other refreshments on sale**

*Film nights take a break in July/Aug*

## Parish WhatsApp



To join the Community WhatsApp group for TM&B, to receive Meeting minutes and discuss local matters, please e-mail Phoebe, our Parish Chair: [tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com](mailto:tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com)

### Parish e-mail list

If anyone who isn't already on the Parish e-mail list would like to be added, please contact Pat Adams, our Parish Clerk: [adamsofbradley@btinternet.com](mailto:adamsofbradley@btinternet.com)

## Deanery Songs of Praise

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 6 pm**

*Calveley Chapel, Calveley Hall Lane,  
Tarpoley CW6 9LG*



## Parish Meeting

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Bradley Chapel, 7 pm

## Evening Prayer in a Summer Garden

You are warmly invited to join us for Evening Prayer in the Celtic tradition, taking place in a series of beautiful gardens across our Benefice this summer. We'll gather at 8 pm on the following evenings:

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – The Old Dower House, Marbury SY13 4LN**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Smokey Hall, Smokey Lane, Iscoyd SY13 3BH**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – School Bank House, Iscoyd SY13 3AR**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Prospect House, Horseman's Green SY13 3DY**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August – Bickley Lodge, Bickley SY14 8ED**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – The Paddocks, Wirswall SY13 4LB**

## Parish Meeting

*Summary of minutes from the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at St Chad's Church, Tushingham, to discuss the application proposing a permanent traveller site between the present and old A41.*

David Young stood in as Chair for this meeting, which was also attended by Rachel Williams (Malpas Ward Councillor), and 70 residents. In response to the Chair's opening questions, no-one identified themselves as having a personal or pecuniary interest in the site, or as being in favour of the application. Thus, the meeting proceeded on the basis of establishing how best to object.

It was stressed that objections should avoid emotion or speculation, but instead be related to planning policy issues that the Council is legally bound to consider. Rachel Williams said that she had 'called in' the application, meaning it would go to a planning committee for a decision rather than a single planning officer. Following professional advice, discussion focused on the main policy issues:

**Not part of a sustainable settlement** – no shops, no pub and limited public transport (crossing main road to very infrequent bus service); no local employment in the immediate area, very little extra capacity at the school.

**Impact on the open countryside** – visual impact from high ground; noise and light pollution; taking agricultural land out of production. Many residents explained how they had been refused planning on their own properties/land (extensions, conversions, new builds) because of the area involved.

**Environment and services** – no local drains or sewerage system. Existing issue with flooding on A41 downhill from this site; local springs and running sand on the embankment. No water or power supply. Validity of the ecological report was questioned due to extensive scraping of the site (work already started).

**Insufficient and Dangerous Access** – single field gate access onto a dangerous bend on a road with a national speed limit, heavily used at school times.

The Chair suggested that the Parish Meeting hire Fisher German to object in the most professional manner on its behalf (cost £1,500 + VAT). It was decided that residents alone would object in the first instance, keeping professional support in reserve in case it goes to appeal (assuming application is rejected).

Shortly before the meeting ended, the applicant, Mr J Smith, disclosed that he was present. He declined to answer any questions.

While professional reports/objections were shared for guidance, the Chair encouraged everyone to make their own individually worded objections with calm, evidence-based points strengthened with lived experiences, by 17<sup>th</sup> April.

# Police Community Support



PCSO for Malpas, Tattenhall and Farndon  
**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:** [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk); **Facebook:** [ThallMalpasPol](https://www.facebook.com/ThallMalpasPol)

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

*You can also contact officers or report incidents via the Cheshire Police website*

## Police surgeries in June

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> No Man's Heath shop, 1–2 pm  
Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Malpas Fire Station, 2–3 pm  
Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Tattenhall Marina, 6–7 pm

## Police surgeries in July

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Malpas Fire Station, 5–6 pm  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> High St, Farndon, 2–3 pm  
Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Tattenhall Barbour Inst, 2–3 pm

---

**Summary of minutes from the Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April at St Chad's Church**  
*Chaired by Phoebe Parkinson; next meeting, Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Bradley Chapel, 7 pm*

- David Thomas reported on his external ecological survey of the proposed traveller site, noting a broken fence, sandy soil, and valuable hedging.
- The Chair noted that as a Parish Meeting only, we do not have the powers of a proper council to comment or object on planning applications.
- Meeting finances: current account, £8,235.75; savings account, £4,156.26.
- Matters arising from previous (EGM) minutes: Janine Davies asked for a change to the wording re. planning application approvals in Tushingham.
- Old Chad churchyard mowing: Andrew Dawson requested £750 [Approved]
- Malpas Joint Burial Board: Ann Wright asked if the Meeting would support funding of Malpas Cemetery. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Audit is due on 1<sup>st</sup> July; there may be a fine as it hasn't been completed for 2 years through no fault of our own. Ann Wright kindly offered to help.
- The building work on Tushingham School will begin shortly (Jannine Davies).
- Potholes are very bad on all our local roads. Residents were encouraged to keep reporting them on the Cheshire West site or the Fix My Street site.
- Parish WhatsApp group settings will be amended so that all can comment.



# News from St Chad's

## To be a Pilgrim

Summer, what does it mean to you?

Longer days and shorter nights affect how we feel, and what we choose to do with our time. Those extra hours can be filled with a sense of duty to work harder for some, while for others they become an opportunity to enjoy life a little more, using those lighter mornings and evenings to relax or pursue hobbies.

There has recently been, and continues to be, an interest in pilgrimage. Perhaps this is due to celebrity programmes on TV where we see a group of individuals travelling together – sharing their thoughts, beliefs, doubts and life experiences. As they journey together, we often see changes among them.

The last days of July are traditionally set aside for pilgrimage. The weather makes it ideal for travelling and sleeping under the stars. Pilgrimages are not the same as holidays. They are journeys to special places – very often Christian shrines, holy or sacred places, springs, wells and standing stones. Important as the destination is, it is not always the main thing. For many pilgrims it is the journey itself. It is an inner and outer walk. The landscape outside and the journey of the soul inside as they become almost inseparable, and both deeply sacred.

The word 'pilgrim' comes from the Latin word 'peregrinus', which means one who travels through the land. In the Middle Ages, peregrini would set out from the known and familiar, placing themselves in the mercy of new and unfamiliar landscapes. This is still part of what changes us in our modern pilgrimages. We discover things about ourselves, resources we didn't know we had, and struggles that seem hard to overcome, which we either learn, or fail to learn, to embrace.

With the craziness of this social media-mad world of ours, I wonder if many of us would benefit from the odd pilgrimage or two? Giving intention to leaving the familiar landscape of constant messages, emails, scrolling, and being available every minute of each waking hour, in exchange for the beauty and silence found across the Sandstone Trail or Bishop Bennet's Way.

Jesus very often took himself away from the company of his friends to spend time with God. I might choose to follow His Way this Summer and find some uncharted landscape both outside and inside my soul – what about you? .

Rev Veronica x

Rev Veronica Green

[veronicarom838@aol.com](mailto:veronicarom838@aol.com)

***From June onwards, Rev Veronica's Day of Rest will now be a Wednesday.***

01948 663758; 07928 792337

## Services at St Chad's in June and July

Sunday 7 June	6.00 pm	Evening prayer at Old St Chad's
Sunday 14 June	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 June	4.00 pm	<b>Church at Four</b>
Sunday 28 June	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 July	6.00 pm	Evening prayer at Old St Chad's
Sunday 12 July	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 July	4.00 pm	<b>Church at Four</b>
Sunday 26 July	9.00 am	Holy Communion

**Church Warden:** Karen Kirk, 01948 860988; [karenkirk45@gmail.com](mailto:karenkirk45@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding Officer:** Alison Hunter Johnston [safeguarding@stchadstushingham.org](mailto:safeguarding@stchadstushingham.org)

BACS: Tushingham PCC 01366084 55-81-16

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

### St Wenefrede's Bickley and St Nicholas Chapel Cholmondeley

Our services follow this monthly pattern:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** Holy Communion, Bickley 9 am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** Morning Prayer, Bickley 11 am
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** Holy Communion, Bickley 11 am
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** Morning Prayer, Bickley 11 am,  
Evening Prayer, Cholmondeley 4 pm (Winter) and 6 pm (Summer)

For up-to-date information on services, please visit our Facebook page (St Wenefrede's Church, Bickley and St Nicholas Chapel, Cholmondeley) or find us at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

We are always looking for people who would be willing to volunteer their time to help with the upkeep of the church and its grounds. For more information or to join our email circulation list, please contact [pipehouse8@gmail.com](mailto:pipehouse8@gmail.com)

The Friends of St Wenefrede's will have a cake stall at the Plant Hunters Fair at Cholmondeley Castle on Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> July; any donations of homemade traybakes, scones, biscuits and small cakes would be gratefully received. The Friends raise funds to help maintain the church and its grounds. More information available from [thecandyfamily@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thecandyfamily@hotmail.co.uk) or contact Jacqui on 0785 3133303.



**Funerals** A service took place in loving memory of the late Derek Hounslow on 24<sup>th</sup> April at Chester Crematorium. Laid to rest at Old Chad, *may he rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Services took place for the late John and Joyce Stockton on 1<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May at St Wenefrede's, Bickley. Reunited, *may they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

# Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel

Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY



As we move further into Summer, many of us older folk automatically tend to link this time of year with wonderful childhood memories – glorious sunshine from morning to night, as part of super, endless holidays. If only!

When Harry Secombe sang *If I ruled the world*, rainfall was only permitted overnight and, “Every day would be the first day of Spring”. Bob Dylan’s 1964 song, “The times they are a-changin’,” relates to any time throughout history. In St Paul’s Corinthians 1, Chapter 13, Verse 11 tells us, “When I was a child,

*I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me*”. Again... if only! Had St Paul been writing his Corinthians letters in 1992, then the concluding part of Chapter 13 might have been by Michael Ball and Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s combined talented offering of, “Love, love changes everything”.

We definitely live in very troubled times. Yet history reminds us that, in this real world, change is an ongoing fact of life. Empires rise and fall – eventually. Even power-hungry politicians come and go – eventually! Thankfully some go more frequently than others!

Jesus brought the Gospel message to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, social standing, age, or even gender – all very much still a problem for some. Yes, the offer of salvation, of reconciliation to God Almighty, is to all – but let’s stop fooling ourselves. It doesn’t come free. The cost? That each of us accepts the Lord Jesus as our personal saviour. No ‘ifs or buts’, it’s that simple. None of us can change the world, *but* we can change ourselves and our part in it.

## **Future summer services:** all held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, monthly

JUNE	Pastor Mike, planned to include Communion
JULY	<b>Songs of Praise:</b> Jenny Smith plus music group
AUGUST	Pastor Brian
SEPTEMBER	Rev’d Kevin Johnson, visiting Minister from Holmes Chapel

For pastoral contacts:

**Pastor Brian Faulkner**  
**Pastor Mike Valentine**

01948 664898; [brianfaulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:brianfaulkner@btinternet.com)  
07763168448; [mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net](mailto:mjvmeglwyswen@talktalk.net)



**Cheshire**  
Wildlife Trust

## To feed or not to feed?

### Advice on bird feeding from the Wildlife Trust

Changes in how and when we feed garden birds can have a big impact on their health. You may have read recently that a new evidence review by the RSPB has highlighted the hazards of feeding our garden birds. They found strong evidence that bird feeding promotes the spread of diseases.

**Feed seasonally** – the highest risk of spreading disease is in summer/autumn.

☀ May–Oct: in summer, natural food is plentiful and disease risk is higher; stop feeding seeds and peanuts to prevent crowding and disease.

🌰 Nov–Apr: feed seeds and peanuts in moderation, when the benefits to birds are likely to be greatest.

🪲 You can offer small amounts of mealworm, fat balls or suet all year-round.

🐦 Top up your hanging feeders little and often.



One of the best things you can do is **create natural food sources**. A fat, juicy caterpillar from a shrub or leaf pile makes a far better meal than anything we can put in a bird feeder! Insects, worms and other invertebrates are essential for most birds, especially in spring and summer when they're raising chicks. In autumn and winter, many birds will seek out seeds, nuts and berries.

### Feed safely

- 💧 Clean feeders weekly with warm soapy water or disinfectant, and dry fully.
- 💧 Move feeders after cleaning and clear debris underneath.
- 💧 Change drinking water daily and clean baths weekly.
- 💧 Remove flat feeders like bird tables where food collects.

[www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

Bickley Hall Farm · Bickley Lane · SY14 8EF · 01948 820728

**Update from Bradley Common:** Following last autumn's clearance project, the Common is still developing, with no sign of orchids so far (there is time yet). However, on a recent visit, Simon reports identifying 18 species of bird and 4 species of butterfly – and he was delighted to see that water crowfoot (a member of the buttercup family) has returned to one of the ponds.



## News from Tushingham-with-Grindley CofE Primary School

### Poetry please!

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, our Poetry Recital was a fantastic success, and we were immensely proud of all the children for their wonderful performances. They demonstrated impressive confidence, expression and enthusiasm as they shared a wide range of poems with their families and peers.

We also thoroughly enjoyed performing our special 'Do Something Funny for Money' class poems, inspired by Comic Relief. The children had great fun rehearsing these performances and delighted in making the audience smile and laugh with their creativity, humour and expressive delivery.

As part of our curriculum, we place a strong emphasis on developing oracy, speaking and listening skills. Performance poetry provides children with valuable opportunities to build confidence, strengthen their public speaking abilities and communicate clearly in front of an audience. These experiences help to nurture important lifelong skills that support both their future learning and personal development.



### A word from new Headteacher, Mrs Caroline Mackenzie:

“What a warm welcome I have received from the Tushingham community! I already feel very settled and part of our school family. This is testament to the school vision of being together and loving one another. I am beginning to get to know the children and am enjoying spending time in their company. They are a joy to spend time with!

Highlights for me so far have been: my first collective worship, especially seeing the Year 6 children singing and dancing on the benches to the song, 'My Lighthouse'; visiting Class One and seeing their wonderful creations, including a big scary dinosaur, complete with matchstick talons; sitting in the sunshine one lunch time with the Year 5 girls singing songs about summer time; and, hearing all about the win in the recent football tournament at the high school!

I am very much looking forward to working in collaboration with the community. Tushingham CofE School has already drawn me in! It is a very special place to be.”

*School breaks for the summer on Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July, returning on Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> September.*



St Chad's at Easter

### Worthy of thanks and praise...

Once in a while someone will be such a gift to the church that they almost become imbued in its very fabric. In this instance, we name Mr Andrew Dawson. This year sees Andrew step down from the role of Church Warden; however, we know that despite this, Andrew will remain as dedicated as ever.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as Priest in Charge alongside Andrew. His wisdom and gentle ways, along with his ability to be firm and speak up

and out when the need arises, is an example to all who profess to be a Christian and follow Jesus. He is the kind of gentleman who sees, listens and acts. Such people are quite rare. St Chad's Tushingham would not be where she is now without his diligence, care and love.

We thank you Andrew, for being who you are, for doing all you've done, and for your continuing support to our church and community.

*Rev Veronica and all at St Chad's*

### Ringling in the new

In May, the bell ringing team at St Chad's installed new ropes as part of the ongoing restoration project. As well as looking smart, the ropes have synthetic 'top ends' which are hard wearing and unlike natural fibres, won't shrink in the damp weather or loosen in the dry!



### CALL-OUT FOR WOOL!

Any donations of wool to help make charity blankets, would be gratefully received (and can be collected). Current projects include blankets for Leighton Hospital maternity ward, and lap blankets for care homes.

Due to allergy risk, it has to be 100% acrylic double knitting wool (I can't accept material like chenille, mohair or anything with glitter in it).

Also, if anyone local needs, or knows of anyone needing, a lap or wheelchair blanket, then please let me know and I'll do my best to help.

Pat Adams (07835 711589)



# Bluebell Wilds

**Bluebell Wilds** is a small, adult-only campsite in the south Cheshire countryside in Tushingham. We opened our doors in 2022 – the campsite is on a small farm, with our camping field set looking out over the rolling countryside, where you can enjoy peace and quiet and some spectacular sunrises and sunsets.

We cater for touring caravans, campervans, motorhomes, trailer tents, tent boxes, tents and more. We have a fantastic modern toilet block with separate



male and female toilets, and large wet rooms for showering. We welcome friendly, well-behaved dogs, and have a dedicated dog walking area – your dog's stay is as important as yours.

No tent? No problem! You can enjoy camping here at **Bluebell Wilds** in our luxury bell tent.

Inside you will find a king-size bed and comfy mattress, luxury warm and soft duvet and pillows, extra snuggly throws and blankets, carpeting throughout with coir matting, a cool box, battery powered lamps, and 1000s of twinkly fairy lights!



We also offer fire pits for hire, and firewood for sale. After all, it's not camping without a campfire!

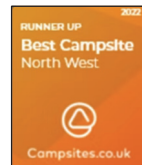
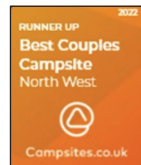
We are open seasonally from late March through until early October (weather dependent).



Pricing and booking information can be found on our tariff page.

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

*Kim Oats*



[www.bluebellwilds.co.uk](http://www.bluebellwilds.co.uk); tel: 07795225944; e-mail: [bluebellwilds@gmail.com](mailto:bluebellwilds@gmail.com)

Bluebell Wilds • Oak Tree Farm • Bell o' th' Hill • Tushingham • SY13 4QS