

The Bell

Tushingham, Macefen & Bradley Parish Magazine



FEBRUARY / MARCH
2026

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our first edition of 2026. This issue reviews events that took place over Christmas, as well as looking ahead to plans and progress for this New Year. The Parish Meeting has plenty to report, and you can have your say on local crime and policing. As for New Year's resolutions, why not try bell ringing, become a school Governor, or show your talents at 'Church at Four'?

We have upped our print run of *The Bell* to cover numbers in our expanding Parish, and our volunteers work hard to distribute copies across our scattered area – but if you think someone is being missed out, please let me know.

If you would like to contribute to our next issue, with articles, poems, notices, photographs, advertorials, or local history, please send them in by 18th March.

With all good wishes for 2026,

Juliet

01948 820343; juliethelen@yahoo.com

Local contacts

Parish Chair, Phoebe Parkinson
tushingamparishchair@gmail.com

Parish Clerk, Pat Adams
07835 711589; patadams145@outlook.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 McKevitt
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.

Out & About

Film nights

Bickerton Village Hall



The Ballad of Wallis Island [12A]

Monday 16th February, 7.30 pm

British comedy-drama about a folk duo who reunite to perform for a wealthy fan on a remote Welsh island. Stars Carey Mulligan, Tim Key.

The Roses [15]

Monday 16th March, 7.30 pm

Satirical black comedy and remake of the 1989 film *The War of the Roses*, about a successful couple whose seemingly picture-perfect marriage begins falling apart. Stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman.

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

Spring time!

Don't forget that the clocks 'Spring forward' an hour on **Sunday 29th March**



Mothering Sunday 15th March

11 am service at St Chad's, and at St Wenefrede's

Palm Sunday 29th March

United service at Marbury

Meet at 10.45 am on The Green for traditional procession and reading of the Passion narrative



Parish Meeting

Monday 13th April

St Chad's Church, 7 pm

All are welcome

Questions for Police Cluster Meeting

A police cluster meeting is a community engagement forum where residents, businesses, and police work together to set local priorities and discuss crime/anti-social behaviour. It allows community members to voice concerns, influence local policing, and review police practices to improve trust and safety in a specific area.

Our next local Police Cluster meeting is on **24th February** at the Jubilee Hall, Malpas. If you have any questions that you would like our Parish representative to ask on your behalf, please e-mail them in advance of the meeting date to: tushinghamparishchair@gmail.com



Parish Meeting

Summary of Minutes from Parish Meeting on 12th January 2026 at Bradley Chapel

Next Parish Meeting

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

Finance: Last figures show £4,470 in current account; £4,146 in reserve account. The solar farm payment is due 1st April. It appears that no return to the Charity Commission has been made since 2021. This needs addressing, and will hopefully be done before the next meeting.

After going through the paperwork available, no mention of a payment of £500 for the phone box could be found, so that matter is now resolved.

Funding for *The Bell* magazine was discussed as it is planned to increase the numbers printed, including 50 extra copies for Rev Veronica to distribute to another of her local parishes (Bickley), so everyone can feel involved. The cost for those alone would be £60 per year. A Mullock proposed, S Jones seconded that the funding for *The Bell* be increased to cover this, with total payment of £700 for the year, any surplus to be carried over. This was agreed.

The Police Cluster meeting is on 24th February at Jubilee Hall, Malpas. This is usually attended by Rev'd Veronica on our behalf but she is unavailable on this date so A Mullock agreed to attend. It was suggested that if anyone had any questions they could let either him or the Chair know.

There is an online survey by Cheshire Police Alert regarding PCSOs as there is talk of reducing numbers from 87 down to 10 for the whole of Cheshire! The PCSOs do a vital job especially in rural areas where police are very thin on the ground so if we can save any, we should. The survey has to be completed by 23rd January, so the link will be circulated on the Parish WhatsApp.

A Mullock asked if the school had a specific Governor post for a member of the Parish Meeting (as Maureen Cavanagh had been). This would be checked.



Hedge cutting of Bradley railway bridge had been done by Jason Darlington at a cost of £60. S Jones proposed, J Szeszak seconded this be paid.

J Szeszak told of the Barhill post box being damaged; she had reported it to both the Police and Royal Mail; their Appearance department have it on their list so it sounds like it will be replaced. Apparently there were four post boxes damaged at the same time, which are being looked into by the police.

Everyone remarked how lovely it was to hear the repaired church bells recently and that they would now be serviceable for a long time.

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: www.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

For details of Police Surgeries in February and March, please see social media

Defibrillators in our area

In addition to our newly installed defibrillator opposite the *Blue Bell Inn*, it's useful to know the location of other local defibrillators, which include:

- ♥ Village Shop, No Man's Heath, SY14 8DU
- ♥ Wheatsheaf Inn, No Man's Heath, SY14 8DY
- ♥ Grindley Brook Garage, SY13 4QJ
- ♥ Hill Farm, Agden, SY13 4RB
- ♥ Bradley Green Pet Store, off A49, SY13 4HD
- ♥ Jubilee Hall, Malpas, SY14 8NN
- ♥ Bishop Heber High School, Malpas (during school / gym hours), SY14 8JD
- ♥ Tushingham Primary School (during school hours), SY13 4QS
- ♥ Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Bickley Lane (9.30–4.30, Mon–Thurs), SY14 8EF



If someone is in cardiac arrest, **call 999** and **start CPR**. If you're on your own, **do not** interrupt CPR to go and find a defibrillator. If it's possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby, and will provide an access code.

Anyone can use a defibrillator. You do not need training. Once you turn it on by pressing the green button, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions.

Information taken from British Heart Foundation website (19 January 2026)



News from St Chad's

Being Human

I write my first newsletter of 2026 following reports of this year's first disturbing killing. ICE, the USA's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, shot dead a woman behind the wheel of her own vehicle, stating that she was endangering public safety. Our reaction to this sort of news brings two options our way: first we can tut, be grateful that our own police don't carry weapons that can take a life, and then simply move on and away from such news – or we can choose to say enough is enough!

Following Jesus calls his disciples to radical change. The Bible says clearly that when some of the early followers realised that there was a 'cost' to following the Messiah, many turned away! Their attitude was to tut, turn a blind eye and continue to live the comfortable, or uncomfortable, lives they were living. But for others, their eyes were opened – opened to a leader whose ways and words were different from just human perspectives! Both fascinated and inspired, they grew in their trust and understanding of this Rabbi, Jesus, whose presence was like nothing they had experienced before. Excited, confused, fearful, but overwhelmingly ready by the circumstances they were living in, these disciples, both men and women, followed him. And over the generations the same followers of Jesus have brought radical change to the world.

Often, people tell me that 'Religion is the cause of the world's warring and suffering.' I agree! Religion is a broad system of beliefs, practices, morals, ethics, and worldviews. Followers of Jesus are not religious; they follow a person, not a broad system of worldly beliefs! The path of Jesus' followers is far narrower, which is why many fall away.

The present circumstances of our world are drawing people back to faith, not religion. We are living in and through horrific troubling times, as many generations before us have experienced. So, what is the answer? Wrong question – Who is the answer? As a Priest who serves the Christian Church and tries to follow the ways and practices of Jesus, I am no longer prepared to simply tut and continue living my comfortable life. I am ready to make a stand for justice, mercy, and peace.

The question is, Are You?

I invite you to make a radical change to your life and the ways of our world this year. As a church we can offer a place for you to explore the ways of Jesus through Alpha, or other events we'll be providing this year, or you can begin a different kind of journey by opening for yourself the ancient scriptures that have remained constant throughout every generation – the Holy Bible. The choice is yours. Will you tut, turn a blind eye, and remain where you are, being influenced by the world – or will you be adventurous, believing that there might just be a God after all?!

Rev'd Veronica x

Rev'd Veronica Green

veronicarom838@aol.com

Services at St Chad's in February and March

Sunday 1 February	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 8 February	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 February	4.00 pm	Church at Four*
Weds 18 February	6.00 pm	Ash Wednesday (Holy Communion)
Sunday 22 February	9.00 am	Holy Communion

Sunday 1 March	11.00 am	Morning prayer
Sunday 8 March	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 March	11.00 am	Service for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 22 March	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 March	10.45 am**	United Benefice service at St Michael's, Marbury for Palm Sunday

*A new service at St Chad's at 4 pm every third Sunday, 'Church at Four' will explore ways of encouraging people's gifts and talents as a thanksgiving to God (see letter on page 7)

Meet at the oak tree on the green, opposite *The Swan* at **10.45 am, for procession and reading of the Passion Narrative; Holy Communion service will begin in church at **11 am**



Launch of the Alpha Course... All are welcome to hear more about Alpha ahead of the Course, at the Launch party and Reunion on **Monday 2nd March**, 7 pm at St Chad's, then every **Thursday evening** from 5th March – 7th May, 7 pm.

Church Wardens: Karen Kirk, 01948 860988; karenkirk45@gmail.com

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

Safeguarding Officer: Alison Hunter Johnston safeguarding@stchadstushingham.org

BACS: Tushingham PCC 01366084 55-81-16

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

Services at St Wenefrede's, Bickley

February

- 1 Holy Communion, 9 am
- 8 Morning prayer, 11 am
- 15 Holy Communion, 11 am
- 22 Service of the Word, 11 am

March

- 1 Holy Communion, 9 am;
- 8 Morning prayer, 11 am
- 15 **Mothering Sunday**, Holy Communion, 11 am
- 22 Service of the Word, 11 am
- 29 United service at Marbury, 10.45/11 am**

Bradley Unaffiliated Independent Congregational Chapel



Bradley Lane, Bradley SY13 4QY

New Year's Resolutions have often proved an interesting research subject, with studies having regularly shown that 'successful' New Year Resolvers only scored 48% achievement levels! Which doesn't need a degree in statistics to realise a saddening 52% failure rate? Quite so!

That same research group study also confirmed that generalised, very unspecific objectives only achieve a lowly 4% success rate. Such folk had kept quiet and not publicly shared their target commitments. Clearly a result of "not

nailing their colours to the mast!"

Many years ago, I came across an old Preacher asking the very direct question, "If charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict us"? Ouch! Quite a challenge – and not an easy one to answer. Again, also a reminder from earlier generations, the startling question of, "Are you saved?" One allegedly humorous TV advert answer was "Yes, I'm with the Woolwich!" At the time I didn't think it funny (and still don't), especially as I was then working for the vastly stronger competitor, the Abbey National Building Society!

Recent research confirms that UK young people are a key driving force in what some are calling a "quiet revival in Christian faith," resulting in a significant increase in some church attendances among Generation Z. Why should we be surprised? Where the Gospel message is proclaimed with clarity *and* uplifting presentational strength, then young adults – especially young upwardly mobile professionals – are increasingly responding positively.

During the last year, Rev'd Veronica has shared with me her strong belief that "Revival can be a realistic option – both nationally and locally". Surely this is has to be an equally clear reminder that in this world, "The hands of Almighty God are at the ends of our own arms." Worth checking the very end of Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 28, Verses 18–20. The Great Commission – necessary today as at any time in history.

Bradley Chapel services are held at 2.30 pm, 2nd Sunday monthly. **All welcome.**

Sunday 8th February, Pastor Brian with Communion

Sunday 8th March, Rev'd Veronica Green

Pastor Mike Valentine
Pastor Brian Faulkner

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

Changes to Services at St Chad's

Following 10 years of Parish Ministry here with you all, I would like to introduce a few changes to the structure of our services here at St Chad's and across the four churches (Tushingham, Marbury, Whitewell, Bickley). These changes come after very careful consideration regarding those of us who lead services, those who attend worship regularly and those who are perhaps new to church.

The new pattern at St Chad's will be a service of Morning Prayer on the first Sunday at 11 am (until we open Old St Chad in May when the first Sunday will then be a 6 pm service of Evening Prayer at Old St Chad's). The second Sunday is a 9 am service of Holy Communion. The third Sunday sees us offer a new afternoon service at 4 pm. 'Church at Four' will be designed to give a little flexibility and creativity in our worship, offering a welcome and social time for all with an opportunity to engage with crafts, music and storytelling. Aimed at all ages and all stages of faith. Our fourth Sunday service will be a 9 am service of Holy Communion. Fifth Sundays will continue to follow the existing pattern of a United Service in one of our four churches, by rotation. (Times may change occasionally for Special Services – for example Mothering Sunday.)

It will take us all a little time to adjust to the new structure, but I wholeheartedly believe that when we do, it will help us all in the busyness of life to make time for Worship, Thanksgiving and Rest in God on our Sabbath Sundays.

My thanks to all.

Rev'd Veronica. X

The **Border Singers Advent Carol Concert** took place at St Chad's on 1st December.

The Whitchurch-based choir featured many local voices, and the concert included a wide variety of carols and beautiful Christmas music, alongside a selection of entertaining readings.

The concert was very well received by a full church, many of whom stayed on to enjoy some festive mingling with wine and mince pies in the newly refurbished welcome & refreshment area at St Chad's. What a difference it makes!





Happy New Year from Tushingham Primary School! Despite snowy weather, we have had a successful start to 2026.

This followed an exciting festive period which included two beautiful Nativities – the ‘Wriggly Nativity’ from Class 1, and the ‘The Bethlehem Bake off’ from Class 2. The West End

will be calling! The Christmas Fair was also a great success and

raised lots of money for the Learning Hub that we are working towards.

Returning to a winter wonderland, Class 1 couldn’t resist heading straight outside to explore the snow! The children looked carefully for signs of winter, explored the snow using their senses (not including taste!), painted in the snow and worked together to create snowmen. Back in the classroom, they learned about repeated patterns in Maths, retold *The Three Little Pigs* story in English, and showed wonderful imaginative play during free learning.

Over in Class 2, they have been looking at our locality in Geography, drawing an aerial view of the classroom, a collaborative map of the school grounds and discussing our local area. The children also loved producing self-portraits in a variety of mediums in Art, and have just finished and written reports on their fabulous book, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*.

Class 3 have been exercising mind and body, beginning their training as mental health champions, as well as starting gymnastics in PE, learning how to complete different types of tucks, pikes and straddle jumps. With their feet back on the ground, they have looked at famous buildings in Art, exploring their designs and features, and using different mediums to recreate them. They have also started reading the classic story, *The Iron Man* and, in Maths, have been using mental methods to solve calculations.

It's not only the younger children who enjoyed the snow! Class 4 explored structural engineering by building snow towers and, once the ice had cleared, Year 5 completed their *Bikeability* training. In Science they explored lifecycles, by dissecting eggs and flowers, and played fun fraction games in Maths. Making a return visit, *Crucial Crew* also came to deliver interactive workshops to help teach the children vital personal safety and life skills.

Finally, we are proud to say that Tushingham received both a *Young Carers Award* (for engaging with the Young Carers Charity), and achieved the *Superkind Award* which is about empowering children to make a difference in the world. We will work towards this again in 2026 with children completing walks to raise money for their chosen charity.

Half term is from 16–20th February, and we break for Easter on Weds 1st April.



And as a reminder from our last issue...

☀ **Make a Difference – Become a Tushingham School Governor!** ☀

Join us as a Tushingham School Governor and help shape the future of local education. No experience needed – support and training provided.

E-mail Chair of Governors Jannine Davies: Chair@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk,
or our Executive Headteacher, Cathy Davies: Head@tushingham.cheshire.sch.uk

Many a peal

On Sunday 11th January, a band of ringers from Chester Cathedral came to attempt a peal at St Chad's in memory of Frank Morton who passed away at the age of 85 years in the New Year. He lived in Willaston, Nantwich but was more than a regular visitor to the bells at St Chad's. He came most weeks with a band of ringers for the pleasure of ringing our bells.

He registered 109 peals on *Bellboard* from 1962 until 2014. A peal takes about 3 hours of continuous ringing with at least 5,000 different sequences of bells and no errors. Quite a marathon of physical and mental stamina in the bell ringing world. In 1998 he was involved in organising the restoration of the bells with John Probin, John Hollins and the band of ringers.

The cathedral ringers will be returning to complete the peal in the near future. It's wonderful to hear the bells rung by the professionals. Our band is slowly improving and, as always, **we would welcome anyone into the tower who would like to try bell ringing.**

Ann Johnson, Tower Captain (07860 496836)

Christmas Market 2025



St Chad's Christmas Market and Christmas Tree Festival, held on 29th November 2025, was a great event. We had at least 8 trees decorated by local businesses and people, including Nantwich Farm Vets, Proudloves, Darlington's, the Flower Farmer, the bell ringers, Rural Chaplaincy, bee keepers, and NFU, which all made the scene magical. Thank you so much.

Turn out at the Market was higher than last year, and a terrific total of £1,800 was

raised for St Chad's Church. The school came and sang for us, the refreshments and bacon bap stalls were very busy, and Father Christmas walked up the road waving to passing motorists! The weather was kind and we had a lot of generously donated Christmas items for the church stall, which did well again. I would like to personally thank the stall holders, Quirky Birds and Crafty Birds, Tracy and Tamsyn Lea, the Flower Farmer, St Chad's Orchard cider, and all those who helped out with refreshments under Jackie's guiding hand, and with the bacon baps by Millmoor Farm.



Father Christmas, who is a busy man at that time of year, again managed to have time for us, which was great, and the children singing was a lovely addition. Thank you to all those



involved. The raffle team of John and Henry again sold out – well done boys!

Louise Mountford