

PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 1 February 2023 www.bishopstachbrook.com

Your magazine featuring news and views from Bishop's Tachbrook Parish.



A gentle mix of the saintly and the
secular

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St Chad's Church website | stchadsbt.org

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What's in this month's magazine

Hello and Happy New Year.

Welcome to this month's magazine the usual mix of the saintly and secular. This February edition is online only. We know readers tend to prefer a printed edition and it is our intention to try to produce, and distribute, four printed copies per year. That's not a promise!

We start the year with Revd. Jonathan writing about being 'rooted'. It's an interesting concept and one that will appeal to many.

Matt Greene, Chairman of the Parish Council, opens with the hot topic of road closures and goes on to cover arrangements for the opening of the Oakley Grove School, attending Parish Council meetings, taxation, allotments, anti-social behaviour and various maintenance jobs.

Elsewhere there's an article on St Chad and some really interesting facts about his burials. What a murky past we have as a nation. There's an article on managing climate change in your garden plus an update on the exploits of the WI and a great nature page.

Finally with elections to the Parish Council coming up on May 4th there's an invitation to a workshop to explore whether you might wish to stand—see page 7. There's also an update on what identification you'll need in order to be able to vote—this has changed and you will be barred from voting unless you comply to the new rules!

Enjoy your read.

A New Year message from the vicar

Revd. Jonathan Smith



'Rooted and established in love'. Ephesians 3 v 17

We have been exploring '**Rootedness**' at St Chads this early new year and what it means for us just now. '**Rooted**' is an interesting word that connects with security and stability. Thinking back over my life to the house moves, job changes or family events, there have been times I haven't felt **rooted** at all. Adjusting to living in Africa, London and Yorkshire gives you a snapshot. Training for ministry has also meant several moves and I'm slightly envious of those who have lived in the same place for 20,30,40 years or longer! At one address a lovely 94-year-old neighbour of mine once admitted they'd lived all their life in the same house! I can only imagine the familiarity and comfort of that.

Even if blessed with anchorage like this, we are not always guaranteed things will not change in other ways. Change is one of the constant things of life and there always seems something new around the corner to get used to. This can be difficult especially when it comes with the disruption and inconvenience as we have coped with on the road recently.... **but, however challenging, it is innately human to cope with change'....** It's strange I have almost got used to driving the Europa Way round just as they are about to take away the roadblocks!

One of the things about our local communities and organisations is that there is always a balance between celebrating the good things of the past, as well as

moving healthily into the future. It's richly **rooting** and rewarding to preserve the heritage of our faculties and traditions, but part of the aims and vision of any organisation, should be to commit to grow bodily, organically. Grow a deeper sense of relationship among its members, grow interconnection with other groups outside, and welcome newcomers in.

This is certainly true of the Church locally and nationally, that it must always be more than a building - a living body of people. One of the prayers in our weekly Sunday services is for God's blessing firstly for depth of faith and then secondly a chance to welcome new people and see growth. It's always a joy to see a new face in Church but the real fruit is when we discover we are people who were once fearful of change, but can now see how our **rootedness** supports the joyfulness to embrace the future.

As the Parish expands, we'll certainly need courage to cope with a feeling of change. Christians remember they are **rooted** first in God and this gives the community a sound and unchanging foundation to find comfort and patience, which in turn they can hopefully *be* the same for others.

Have a peaceful and rooted 2023 and happy driving back into the village.

Rev Jonathan



CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL NOTICE

The Annual Revision of the Church Electoral Roll will take place from 4th February to 19th February 2023. If you wish your name to be added to the roll, application forms will be available during that period, either from church or from Linda Stevens (Tel: 334812).

Those whose names are already on the roll **DO NOT** have to complete a form.

What is the Church Electoral Roll you might ask.

Very briefly, the Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of governance in our church. It contains a list of names and contacts for those who are members, enabling rights to vote at the Annual General Meeting in March.

St Chad's Cafe

The café will open to lovers of tea and cakes every Thursday from 10.15 to 11.45 a.m.

£2 for a drink and cake.

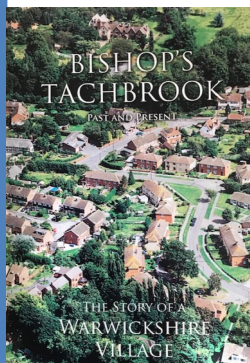


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Details and registration: www.walc.org.uk/elections-2023

Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

I think I've been lulled into a feeling that it will only be "really cold" once per winter; therefore the second cold spell in January was a shock to the system. Hopefully warmer days are ahead! The days are drawing out and I am looking forward to 22 February when sunset will be at 17.31 - always good if you can finish work whilst the sun is still up!

The one-way road closure has been painful, so thanks so much for being patient with the disruption; this is a 20 week programme (with some utility works also planned) therefore, we're going to have to bear with inconvenience a little longer. Cllr. Leigh Carter is engaging with the project manager for the school in trying to keep residents updated, reporting issues with the lorries not using the designated route or speeding (if you capture this on camera please send us the evidence) and suggesting ways for improvements. Any information we have on the road closure will be relayed via Facebook and at Parish Council meetings - if you have any queries, please contact our clerk.

At our Parish Council meeting in January, we welcomed Mr. Samra (CEO Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust) and Ms. Kaye (newly appointed head teacher for Oakley Grove School) to update us. They are both very excited about opening the school in September 2024 and are hoping to be involved in shaping the building shortly. They confirmed that they will be liaising with Myton School in relation to the 2023 cohort which will form the first intake for Oakley Grove this September and will transfer to the school site in September 2024.

Following a request from a resident we will be alerting Facebook users to when our meetings are taking place. They are held on the second Thursday of every month except August at 7.30pm in St. Chad's Centre and the agenda is placed on 2 noticeboards (opposite the Village Green and on Warwick Gates) as well as being available on the parish's website. Residents are welcome to attend and we would like to meet as many of you as possible. In 2023 we are hoping to welcome back Amy Spencer from Severn Trent regarding the work they are planning in 2024, the Police and possibly County Highways.

The parish precept for 2023/24 has been agreed by councillors. It means an estimated 86p reduction for a Band D property. Councillors are aware that residents are struggling with high inflation and we have taken this into account; whilst this is small - every little helps. Residents are likely aware that, whilst Warwick District Council collects all the council tax, they then distribute the money to the various tax raising authorities including the Parish Council (in our Precept). For your information the vast majority of council tax is ultimately paid to Warwickshire County Council (funding social care, education, highways, health etc.), with other payments made to the Police and the district council (covering bins, planning etc.) - this is why you may read me saying, we're cutting tax or the district council saying they are freezing it but still see a noticeable rise, it's typically been the county council and the Police that have increased their taxes substantially over the past few years.

Fantastic news to start 2023 - our solicitor has confirmed that the new Oakley Meadows allotments have been transferred to the Parish Council; Cllr. Wellsted is looking at any work which might be needed before these are rented out. The clerk is liaising with the Allotments Society regarding allotment agreements and rules. The annual rental on the Meadow allotments will increase to £23 per plot from January 2024.

Fires will be permitted on the Meadow allotments for the week beginning Sunday, 26th March and ending Saturday, 1st April. This enables allotment holders to dispose of diseased vegetation.

Further, the Parish Council is giving notice that the large black shed on the allotments behind the concrete garage will be removed after the expiry of 28 days.

The Working Party will be busy planting fruit trees on the allotments behind the Bullen Building this month. County Cllr. Jan Matecki has provided funding towards these trees. If you are able to help please contact Cllr. Wellsted or the clerk.

Thanks to residents who completed the Housing Needs Survey. 415 responses have been received and the report will be discussed at our February meeting.

The Meadow is for the enjoyment of residents and to protect it the Parish Council

has a byelaw which is enforceable by the Police. It appears that the Meadow was used for a firework display without permission from the Parish Council. This is contrary to our byelaw and resulted in the Sports and Social Club having to extinguish the fire which was left and our clerk clearing up the firework debris. We need your help. If you border the Meadow and you see a firework display taking place on the Meadow (except the annual event) please alert the Police and tell them a byelaw is in place to prevent this.

Another rule which appears to be being broken is dogs in the play area. This is not allowed as the signage clearly states. We have reports of a person tying the gate shut with a dog lead and allowing the dog to run loose in the play area. We have informed the dog warden as this is contrary to the order which the District Council has in place for Dog Exclusion Zones.

Picnic tables will be installed shortly outside the play area. This enables residents with dogs to enjoy picnics on the Meadow. We thank County Cllr. Jan Matecki for assisting with the funding for these tables.

Potholes on the Sports and Social Club driveway have finally been filled. Apologies for the delay which was caused by us struggling to find a competent contractor and then bad weather. I'd like to thank the Sports and Social Club for swiftly removing the tree which had fallen onto the driveway during the Christmas holidays - this was greatly appreciated.

The annual inspections of the play area, outdoor gym equipment, BMX track and Meadow have taken place a few minor repairs are required which will be taking place shortly. In addition, street lights numbers 4 and 5 have been reported to the District Council. If they haven't been fixed by mid-February, please let the clerk know.

Road markings encouraging drivers to slow down on Mallory Road bend (near the surgery) will be in place by the end of March.

Finally, are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor? Parish Councillors are volunteers who have the great privilege of representing their community on a local level. If you are, please contact the clerk or come to one of our meetings to find

out more; additionally, I'm always happy to chat about my experience of being a councillor over the last eight years so let me know if that would help. Elections (assuming more than 9 people put themselves forward) are taking place in May and more information will follow.

Our next meeting is on 9th February at 7.30pm in St. Chad's Centre.



Elections are taking place across England on 4 May.

You'll need to bring photo ID to vote at a polling station.

Check if your ID is accepted.

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?utm_source=partner_social&utm_medium=social_media&utm_campaign=voter_id&utm_content=voter_id_home

Gardens are set to become increasingly important in the future. They're great for human health and wellbeing, they can help maintain biodiversity and they can even remove carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere.

As the impacts of climate change make themselves ever more apparent, the positive impacts of gardens will become ever more important. Here are 12 ways you can maximise the benefits.

1. Trees and plants help tackle climate change by removing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. They can reduce the risk of flooding by slowing down rainwater runoff. Planting climbers on your house will help keep it cool during summer heatwaves and reduce heating costs in winter. Growing a hedge in your front garden can even capture particulate pollution, such as exhaust from cars and lorries.
2. Growing a range of different plants in your garden is great for building resilience. If extreme weather such as flooding or drought damages some plants, others will be fine. As weather patterns shift, some insects that depend on particular flowers might suffer, so plant a diverse variety of pollinator friendly plants with different flowering times.
3. Green roofs and walls can result in year-round home energy savings due to a cooling effect in summer and an insulating effect in winter.
4. Improve energy efficiency through use of technologies and try to reduce the use of petrol-powered tools. Hiring or sharing tools is the most environmentally friendly option; choose corded electric tools where possible.
5. Water butts are a brilliant solution to some of the problems being created by climate change. They help prevent flooding by reducing the load on drains during rainstorms, and help conserve water during droughts. Look for water butts with a larger than standard capacity to ensure a sufficient water supply over the summer.

6. Select plants and design strategies better suited to your local conditions.

7. Peatlands store huge amounts of carbon. Harvesting the peat to use for composts is an environmental disaster, both for the biodiversity of the area which is harvested and on a global climate scale. Look, ask for and use peat-free composts. There are now some high quality products out there that work.

8. Compost as much garden and kitchen waste as you can. Adding home-made compost to your soil improves its structure and provides excellent nutrients for the garden. If you throw the material away as household waste, it can end up on landfill and produces potent greenhouse gases. Healthy soil captures carbon – on a global scale, soil holds more carbon than all forests combined!



9. Adopt the 4R's. Reduce – the use of resources in your garden wherever possible, Reuse – household materials and seasonal items year on year, Recycle – your garden waste, plastic, glass and metals and Reinvest – help stimulate demand for recycled products by buying recycled items.

10. As a first choice, avoid the use of chemicals in the garden. If required, use products with a lower carbon footprint, such as organic fertilisers.

11. Please – never bring plants back from your holidays, and only buy from reputable suppliers (this means both online and at plant nurseries). Otherwise you risk introducing new pests and diseases into the UK.

12. Also, please make sure that you dispose of garden waste in a responsible manner. Generally this means either by composting at home or getting a WDC green bin. The exception is if you have Japanese knotweed or other invasive non-native plants on your property, in which case seek specialist advice.

St. Chad Returns Home

On the 8th November four representatives of the Parish of Bishop's Tachbrook went to Lichfield Cathedral in Staffordshire to take part in a rather unique and glorious service to mark the presentation by St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, of a reliquary containing a small piece of bone of the 7th century St. Chad. With great ceremony this was placed in a new shrine at the east end of the cathedral on the site of the original shrine of the saint that was destroyed in the 16th century. The gift marked a very significant milestone in the relations between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic churches.

What is the link between our village of Bishop's Tachbrook, with its church dedicated to St. Chad, and St. Chad and Lichfield Cathedral? At some point in Anglo-Saxon times and through to the Middle Ages the lordship of the Manor of Tachbrook (as it was then called) was vested with the bishop of the Lichfield diocese and some of the income of the manor went to provide for a priest at Lichfield Cathedral. The entry for Tachbrook in the Domesday Survey of 1086 specifically refers to the link with the cathedral. This is commemorated even today in that one of the prebend stalls in the choir of the cathedral bears the name 'Tachbrook'.

Let me set out a potted history of St. Chad and what happened to the remains of his body after his death in 672.

Chad was born into a noble Anglo-Saxon Northumbrian family and was brought up, along with his three brothers, to become a monk and priest. He was appointed bishop of the kingdom of Mercia in 669 and quickly established Lichfield as the centre for his work, assiduously walking round and ministering to its people. This was no mean feat when you consider that his diocese stretched from Chester in the north-west, across to the east coast beyond Lincoln and south-west to Cirencester and the Bristol Chanel. It was Theodore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who insisted that he use a horse for long journeys and this is commemorated in a window in our church. The Mercians came to respect Chad for his care, humility and godliness but, after only a few years, Chad died of plague in 672. Soon

afterwards, when the Saxon predecessor of the present cathedral at Lichfield was built, his body was moved to a shrine within it and it became a place of pilgrimage, especially for those seeking for healing.

For over 800 years Chad's remains lay in their shrine in what eventually became the magnificent gothic cathedral that can be seen at Lichfield today. However, things changed dramatically in 1538 when, by order of King Henry VIII, the shrine was dismantled and the remains of St. Chad either buried secretly elsewhere or destroyed. But not entirely disappeared. One of the priests at the cathedral, Prebendary



Arthur Dudley, managed to spirit some of the bones away and gave them into safe and secret keeping with a Catholic family. They then passed through the care of several families before reappearing in 1839. After careful examination of the bones and their history, the Pope declared them to be the true remains of St. Chad and ordered that they be enshrined in the new Roman Cathedral of St. Chad in Birmingham, which was consecrated in 1841.

The fragment of a piece of St. Chad's bones in the new shrine at Lichfield Cathedral has restored a deeply spiritual link with the man and the place with which he has been associated for over 1350 years.

Peter Lister

Our speaker on Tuesday 14th February will be Prof Sarah Richardson whose subject is "The Suffragette Movement in Warwickshire".

The meeting starts as usual at 2.30.

I'm pleased to report that we now have a full calendar of interesting speakers; and expect to be able to give members a properly printed diary of our full 2023 programme.

Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

Before the first real light the Song Thrushes start to sing. Robins are there too pushing into the day just like the light. I heard a couple of Blackbirds singing in December and their contract doesn't start until mid-February. Collared Doves, Wood Pigeons, Stock Doves and Great Tits are all singing in this very changeable weather. Oh, and the Starlings who just go for it with pure 'don't care' joy. There's a big Starling murmuration going on each evening up above the rooftops between ASDA (other Supermarkets are available) and the Tachbrook Road, possibly thousands of birds, moving like shoals of fish, waiting for that last bit of light before diving into the trees to roost for the night. Always a mesmerising sight.

Meanwhile, down on the garden floor Snowdrops have pushed through and are prepping to open. Primroses were open by mid-January and the Daffs are on their way. Hazel Catkins, the male pollen carriers, are swaying in the breeze getting ready to 'pollen up', waiting to pollinate the tiny red stars of the female flowers on the same twigs. They'll be Hazelnuts in Autumn.



Two Honey Bees have dashed past me enjoying a mild spell, feeding on Heather and Mahonia. Hope they are ready to dash back in again at the next cold spell.

There's been a Muntjac Deer calling around the cottages for a couple of weeks. They do call them 'barking deer' - you can see why. A drawn out single bark repeated several times both in the night and early morning. Nice to see it at the bottom of the garden as long as it ignores the Roses that is.

Now, a neighbour of ours, over at the big house, found a wandering Hedgehog during the big freeze we had. It should have been well tucked away cozily hibernating. May be it had been disturbed. Anyway, she supplied food under a Hedgehog house which it took to readily. Fingers crossed she's saved its life and it will get through the rest of the Winter. Good luck 'Harold'.

This time of year seems to be 'Raven time'. There's usually a pair flying and calling around here often to the annoyance of the Carrion Crows who seem to think they are top of the Crow family. That's until the larger Raven flies by. We now regularly get five Ravens flying together and calling, going between Ashorne and Morton Morrell as they pass over us. In December there were sixteen Ravens over the back end of Ashorne all flying together. As the youngsters take two years to mature they often hang around in groups annoying their elders . . . a bit like teenagers!



WI

By Anne Allen

For those of you who think WI closes down over Christmas you couldn't be further from the truth. December 1st was our meeting night and this year we had a change from the usual party and held a quiz night with a fish and chip supper supplied by The Village Chippy. No we didn't have to queue outside, the committee very ably ran in and out as the food was cooked. All worked out very well. The following week we enjoyed the group carol service held at St. James, Old Milverton.

The knitting group met at The Leopard enjoying warm mince pies, a glass of wine or a hot chocolate and a good pre-Christmas gossip as well as a last minute push in finishing angels. This was a bumper year with over 700 knitted. I will admit that some flew into a box in my loft towards next Christmas's delivery. So please keep knitting. The group has met again welcoming a new member wanting to learn to crochet. We're open to anyone who either can or wants to learn how to knit or crochet. We usually meet on the second Tuesday 7-9pm.

Instead of a January meeting we again invaded The Leopard. This time about 20 of us enjoyed the evening my only hope was we didn't frighten away the other customers. Not that we were noisy or anything but with 20 voices competing I'll say no more.

After all the festivities life is back to normal. Both the Federation and ourselves are organising activities for the coming year. The Federation has already organised Serious Science Lecturers on, Bats, a Unique Evolution, Vicious Vegetables and Ferocious Fruit, regular poetry mornings, a Poetry Workshop, Creative Card Making, English Paper Piece Patchwork and a Willow Plant Support Workshop

Here we have a full year of speakers booked plus a visit to the Spa Centre to see Our House. Hopefully we will be going behind the scenes at The Loft next month prior to watching The Winterling. Our February speaker, Sue Moore, will then tell us about her experiences back stage.

We're planning our cake stall for May 20th, fancy King Charles planning his

coronation for the weekend we had pencilled in the diary. Plus we are hoping to make our meeting prior to the festivities extra special. We have a Pimms and croquet event to look forward to and possible visits to Napton Cidery and Cannons Ashby. We also have a bimonthly supper club visiting local restaurants and are considering restarting the wine tasting group. It's a very busy start to the new year.





In March we will be shaking off the winter blues by enjoying an evening Line Dancing and in April we're being visited by House of Colour for advice on what colours to wear or not to wear. If I'm told I should be wearing purple I shall sit in a corner and cry, it was my school uniform colour and I hate it . So yes I was a "Purple People Eater" from Stratford Grammar School. May is not only the meeting where we discuss our resolution but we are also being visited by Napton Cider. June brings us Historical Murder and Manslaughter in Warwickshire and Worcestershire . Do pencil all these into your diaries. We welcome visitors to our meetings so do be brave and come along.

We try to provide something of interest for everyone. If you want to chat about WI or want to know more please give me a call

Anne Allen - 424135 07929356701 **pussycatgalore12@yahoo.co.uk**

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