

# MARBURY ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*AND*

## PARISH MAGAZINE

### ***FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025***



***Clergy:*** Revd. Veronica Green (01948 663758)

***Lay Reader:*** Ali Hunter Johnston (07967 955669)

***Churchwarden:*** Jane Lunt (01948 662910)

## FEBRUARY SERVICES

### St. Michael's Marbury

2nd	9.00 a.m.	HC		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Peter Thomas Diana Thomas	Malachi 3: 1-5 Luke 2: 22-40
9th	11.00 a.m.	HC		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Julie Shaw Harry Shaw	Isaiah 6: 1-8 Luke 5: 1-11
16th	11.00 a.m.	MP		
	Readers & Sidespersons:		Beryl Fletcher Trisha Harvey	Jeremiah 17: 5-10 Luke 6: 17-26
23rd	4.30 p.m.	EP		
			Jean Gregg Harry Paton-Smith	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25 Luke 8: 22-25

### St. Chad's Tushingam

2nd	4.30 p.m.	EP
9th	9.00 a.m.	HC
16th	9.00 a.m.	SW
23rd	11.00 a.m.	MP

### St. Wenefrede's Bickley

2nd	4.30 p.m.	EP
9th	11.00 a.m.	MP
16th	11.00 a.m.	HC
23rd	9.00 a.m.	HC

### St. Mary's Whitewell

2nd	11.00 a.m.	MP
9th	11.00 a.m.	SW
16th	11.00 a.m.	SW
23rd	11.00 a.m.	HC

### St. Nicholas's Chapel

23rd	4.30 p.m.	EP
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HC – Holy Communion   EP – Evening Prayer  
BCP – book of Common Prayer   MP – morning prayer  
SW - Service of The Word

**Reflective Prayer** is held every Tuesday Morning at St Michael's at 9.30am. Tea/Coffee and Space to Rest in God.

WEDDINGS: Congratulations and blessings to

21st December James Martin Redmond and Holly Jayne Nickisson

28th December Matthew William Lennon and Maria Hannah Donovan

Funerals. Geraint Jones 12th December, who died on 20th November, 2024

## MARCH SERVICES

### St. Michael's Marbury

2nd	9.00 a.m.	HC	Readers & Sidespersons:	Steve Wood Penny Allington	Exodus 34: 29-35 Luke 9: 28-36
9th	11.00 a.m.	HC	Readers & Sidespersons:	Sofie Paton-Smith Anthony Lewis	Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13
16th	11.00 a.m.	SW	Readers & Sidespersons:	Trisha Harvey Sue Evans	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Luke 13: 31-35
23rd	4.30 p.m.	EP	Readers & Sidespersons:	Peter Hunter Johnston Kath Johnson	Isaiah 55: 1-9 Luke 13: 1-9
30th	11.00 a.m.	SW	Readers & Sidespersons:	Celebrating Mothering Sunday Carolyn Paton-Smith Diana Thomas	

### St. Chad's Tushingam

2nd	4.30 p.m.	EP	5th ASH WEDNESDAY @ ST. CHAD'S 7 pm		
9th	9.00 a.m.	HC			
16th	9.00 a.m.	HC			
23rd	11.00 a.m.	MP			
30th	11.00 a.m.	HC			

### St. Mary's Whitewell

2nd	11.00 a.m.	MP
9th	11.00 a.m.	SW
16th	11.00 a.m.	SW
23rd	11.00 a.m.	HC
30th	11.00 a.m.	SW

### St. Wenefrede's Bickley

2nd	4.30 p.m.	EP
9th	11.00 a.m.	MP
16th	11.00 a.m.	HC
23rd	9.00 a.m.	HC
30th	11.00 a.m.	SW

### St. Nicholas's Chapel

23rd	4.30 p.m.	EP
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## Keeping Positive

So, how are you doing with your New Year's resolutions?

Are they a mix of healthier eating, physical exercise, an intent on bettering your character? If so, we have something in common, and if, as you read this, your heart is already beginning to sink because we're only a few weeks into 2025 and you're already entering despondency, we have that in common too! Why is it that we try so hard every year and yet seem to make so little progress?

St Paul writes in one of his letters to the church: "When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom...I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message wasn't in 'my' wisdom and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." This gives me hope, not only in my human weakness and failures but in others too.

When world leaders announce their intentions to better their own nations, when pride surpasses a love of inclusion and equality, when lessons from the past are failing to be learned as we look to the future, when things beyond our control cause us to drop our heads in despair because we didn't plan this for our ourselves or our loved ones - then do we simply give up?

NO, NO, NO!

Winston Churchill said, "Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm". I like that, it reminds me that success is not the opposite of failure but perhaps more a result of accepting it, embracing it, recognising our weaknesses and then turning to God and leaning on Him. Great leaders are few and far between, but there is One who is constant, who has been there from the beginning and will be there at the end and remains with us through all the times in between and if you haven't recognised Him yet, then perhaps, just perhaps this is the year to do it!

The greatest failure in history could be perceived to be The Cross, the moment the Son of God was nailed to it and died, but out of that perceived failure came the most amazing and miraculous success, the resurrection, the proof that even death can be beaten. God's ultimate weapon is Love, that is His Power, and The Cross is where He demonstrated that Love and Power for all mankind.

Want to follow a leader that can turn your failures into victories? Then make a new resolution, find time to consider the options: going it alone or going with God?

St Paul tried both and opted for the latter, laying down belief in himself and taking up belief in the One who's Love and Power and Word, never fails.

Veronica. x

## ADVENT DRAW 2024 -

### PRIZE WINNERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Michael Ratcliffe bottle Champagne             | 13 Ursula Stoddart Champagne                    |
| 2 Glenda Rowley 2 Designer Cushions              | 14-Karen Burness afternoon metal detecting      |
| 3 Janet & Chris Wheeler Hill Valley Spa voucher  | 15 Tash Butters Cockburn's Port                 |
| 4 Lynda & Nick Edwards Soil & Fleurs arrangement | 16 Sandra Mather Toiletries & hand towels       |
| 5 Diana & Peter Thomas Bottle of Rum             | 17 Julie & Harry Shaw 2 Badges for Bangor Races |
| 6 Margaret Hughes Molton Brown Candle            | 18 Sue & Richard Evans Seed Box/hand towels     |
| 7 Marion Turnbull Moo & Boom "bundle"            | 19 Sue Megarrell French food goodies            |
| 8 Carol Sheard £25 Voucher The Swan              | 20 Jeanette Lawson Afternoon at Marbury Hall    |
| 9 Budgie Zawistowicz Diptyque hand lotion        | 21 Sasha Rice £20 garden voucher                |
| 10 Leonie Williams Bottle of Prosecco            | 22 Lynn Deller 2 tickets Chester Races          |
| 11 Liz Falding £30 Trevor Fowles' voucher        | 23 Glenda Rowley Ginger wine & glasses          |
| 12-Louise Mountford £30 garden voucher           | 24 Diane Teather £50 voucher The Swan           |

### **THE MARBURY AND DISTRICT HELPLINE TRUST**

Should you feel that the Trust may be able to help you, or anyone you know, then please contact:

Revd Veronica Green at the Vicarage or on  
01948 663758 [vicar@stmichaelsmarbury.org](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmarbury.org)

Or one of the Trustees who are :-

Diana Thomas 01948 663738 [diana@peterthomas.go.plus.net](mailto:diana@peterthomas.go.plus.net)  
Jane Lunt 01948 662910 [churchwardens@stmichaelsmarbury.org](mailto:churchwardens@stmichaelsmarbury.org)  
Peter Hunter Johnston 07742 898381 [Peter@hunterjohnston.co.uk](mailto:Peter@hunterjohnston.co.uk)

All requests for grants will be dealt with in strictest confidence and it would be helpful if requests were related to the Trust's objectives.

## PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

This year will see the complete six-yearly revision of our Parish Electoral Roll. **PLEASE NOTE** that even if you are on the Electoral Roll at present you will need to re-apply to be included on the new Roll.

The Government's Electoral Register, or Roll, and the Parish Electoral Roll are two very different things. In order to vote in national or local elections you have to register through the Government website or complete the appropriate form. The Parish Electoral Roll is a list of the names and addresses of everyone who can vote in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which this year will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April. You qualify to be on the Parish Electoral Roll in the following ways:-

You have been baptised, and are 16 or over

You live in the parish or - if you live outside the parish - have worshipped regularly at St. Michael's for at least six months unless illness has prevented you doing so

You are a lay person (not ordained)

You are a member of the Church of England (or certain other churches)

You can be on more than one Electoral Roll (for example, if you live in one parish but worship in another) but you have to choose which parish you wish to vote in.

The main Roll (with full names, addresses, phone numbers and email details) is confidential to the Vicar and the ER Officer only. The Roll which is displayed in the Church Porch for 15 days before the Annual Meeting shows only the names of those who have registered (no new names can be added during this period).

Application forms are available from our Electoral Roll Officer Janet Wheeler (01948 665981), from Carol Sheard (01948 663087), or from 15<sup>th</sup> February at the back of Church. Janet, Carol or Rev'd Veronica will be pleased to let you have more information. Completed forms should be returned to Janet by **28<sup>th</sup> March at the latest** - The Old Smithy, Marbury, Whitchurch SY13 4LS.

***TO REPORT POTHOLES, HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS, etc., PLEASE USE WHAT3WORDS TO ENABLE THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE PROBLEM.***

**MOBILE LIBRARY every 3 weeks at**  
**Holtridge, Pear Tree Farm; 2.30-2.50**  
**Norbury, Gauntons Bank; 3.00-3.20**  
**Marbury Village Hall; 3.45-4.00**  
**Thursday, 6th & 27th February; 20th March.**



## PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting on 11th November heard of ongoing concerns about parking on the pavement outside The Swan, causing danger to pedestrians. The P.C. will liaise further with the police, Highways, and The Swan to find a solution.

After the damage to the oak tree on The Green, a safety inspection was requested from Highways; the response is that the tree is healthy and will be reviewed as necessary.

The response from C.E. regarding safety on the A49 at Bradeley Green was agreed to be unacceptable; further response has been requested.

A request for more grit boxes was made.

The P.C. agreed to continue contributing towards the cost of the Parish Magazine.

A Defibrillator/Emergency Aid course will be arranged for the springtime.

Residents are welcome to attend meetings; however, if you wish to speak at the meeting, please contact the Chair or the Clerk beforehand. Public speaking time is limited and only Councillors may take part in discussions/decisions. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th March, 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Agenda and Minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website:  
[www.marburyanddistrict.org.uk](http://www.marburyanddistrict.org.uk)

***PILATES: Mondays,***  
***12.30—1.30 p.m.***  
***at The Village Hall:***  
***£5 per session.***  
***All abilities catered for.***



**THE VILLAGE HALL IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE.** Please contact Penny Allington, **07749 808308** for dates and hire terms.

The magazine has been printed by **Audlem Printers of Whitchurch:**  
9 Watergate Arcade, Whitchurch. Tel: **01948 665920**

Items for the next magazine, February & March, should be submitted to Janet Makin, [makinatmarbury@aol.com](mailto:makinatmarbury@aol.com), by 15th March.

## VILLAGE HALL

Dates to look forward to: !!

The VERY popular **Bingo, Fish & Chips evening:**

Friday, 25th April



**Summer Solstice Hog Roast:** Saturday, 21st June, 4.00 p.m.

**Back to the 70s evening:** Saturday, 18th October

**MARBURY KNIT AND NATTER** group meet every other Wednesday at the Village Hall, 2pm till 4pm.

Contact Beryl on 01948 664889



To book The Village Hall contact Penny Allington 07749 808308

### Guidance for Seeking Care Support in 2025

- Due to Budget Changes in October 2024 the cost of home care and residential care support has increased. It is suggested that the minimum hourly rate should be approximately £32.14\* per hour, up from £28.53 last year. (Higher rates in Greater London).

- When arranging care packages, whether privately funded or state-supported, it is essential for families to:

#### 1. Compare Multiple Providers

- Obtain quotes and information from several care providers
- Research their services thoroughly

#### 2. Key Questions to Ask

- Total cost breakdown
- Care worker actual wages
- Staff training programs and qualifications
- DBS (Criminal Record Check) verification
- Insurance coverage details
- Out-of-hours support and on-call systems.

Are there initial registration fees?

Information gives families the power to choose their provider, to ascertain the value of the care support that is being offered, and also to have the knowledge to change providers if they are not happy with the support.

Able Community Care is a Live-in Care provider operating throughout the UK and happy to answer any questions that you may have.

T: 01603 764567

E: [info@ablecommunitycare.com](mailto:info@ablecommunitycare.com)

W: [www.ablecommunitycare.com](http://www.ablecommunitycare.com)

\*UK Homecare Association.



## **MARBURY WI LADIES STEP UP AGAIN !**

With only a few days' notice, Marbury WI Christmas Lunch at The Swan also became the collection point for donations to Shrewsbury Street Pastors!

A chance remark by Liz Falding at the WI Committee meeting early in December resulted in an appeal to the WI ladies for items such as woollen hats, socks,



gloves etc to be donated to the Pastors for distribution to the homeless of Shrewsbury in what turned out to be bitterly cold weather.

An amazing total of - among other things - 48 pairs of socks, 14 hats, 10 scarves, assorted toiletries and chocolates were brought to our lunch just a week later, together with 10 "Christmas stockings" - pairs of walking socks filled with goodies and bulging—just like they used to at the ends of our beds!

They were all delivered to the amazed and delighted Lead Street Pastor in Shrewsbury a few days before Christmas, with the assurance that they would be distributed and gratefully received by those sleeping on the streets and so much in need of support and comfort in these difficult times.

## **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Please make a note in your diaries that the Meeting of Parishioners (when Churchwardens are elected) and St. Michael's APCM will be held in Church immediately following the Palm Sunday service on Sunday 13th April. The service will start earlier than usual at 10.30 am so the Meeting of Parishioners will begin at about 11.30. Anyone who is on the Government electoral roll for the Parish and those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting of Parishioners. The APCM will immediately follow this at about 11.45 am, and although everyone is welcome to attend, only those on the Electoral Roll of St. Michael's are entitled to vote on the matters discussed. We're required to prepare a completely new Church Electoral Roll this year and details are given elsewhere in this magazine. Nominations to fill vacancies of those retiring from the PCC by rotation are also voted on at this meeting - this year, three members are retiring by rotation, and we have an additional vacancy for the period to April 2026. PCC members are required to be Communicant members of the Church, and the term of office is three years.

If you would like more information about either of the meetings please contact Carol Sheard on tel: 01948 663087, text: 07960 748476 or email - [richardandcarol.sheard@btinternet.com](mailto:richardandcarol.sheard@btinternet.com) .

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: WHAT'S ON

### **FEBRUARY:**

- Tuesday 4th** **COFFEE & CHAT**, The Swan, 10.15 a.m.  
Everyone welcome.  
**MERRY DAYS MEETING**, VH @ 7.00 p.m.
- Thursday 6th/27th** **MOBILE LIBRARY** at Holtridge, Gauntons Bank and Marbury Village Hall
- Wednesday 12th** **W.I. MEETING:** 1.30 . Open meeting:  
£5 FOR VISITORS. Henry Bowen: the last voyage of the Lusitania Competition: nautical memorabilia
- Tuesday 25th** **VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING;**  
10.30 a.m.—noon. *Everybody is welcome!*

### **MARCH:**

- Tuesday 4th** **COFFEE & CHAT**, The Swan, 10.15 a.m.  
Everyone welcome.
- Tuesday 11th** **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, 7.30 p.m. Village Hall. Members of the Public are welcome to attend. Please contact the Chair or Clerk if you wish to speak at the meeting.
- Wednesday 12th** **W.I. MEETING, 1.30 p.m.**, Village Hall  
Speaker Rowena Lovatt: A Lingerie Designer's Life  
Competition: A silk item
- Thursday 20th** **MOBILE LIBRARY** at Holtridge, Gauntons Bank and Marbury Village Hall
- Tuesday 25th** **VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING;**  
10.30 a.m.—noon. *Everybody is welcome!*
- Tuesday, 1st APRIL: COFFEE & CHAT** at The Swan 10.15-11.45

**COFFEE AND CHAT**  
at The Swan in Marbury  
On Tuesday 4th February,  
Tuesday, 4th March,  
Tuesday, 1st April  
from 10.15am to 11.45am.



All our community are welcome to come for coffee and cake and to meet friends and neighbours - a great way to get to know everyone in the lovely environment of the Swan.  
We look forward to seeing you.

The toad migration season is approaching. I would be grateful for any help from people near the meres - watching out for toads crossing and giving them a helping hand to ensure we limit "squishage". It is very easy, simply pick them up and pop them in a box or tupperware container depositing them at the nearest mere. They tend to make a fuss, so always handy to have a lid to prevent them making a run for it. Expect them to feel cool and a bit bony like a small chicken thigh. They make a noise to protect themselves which is normal. On many occasions there will be a pair of toads travelling together, one like a rucksack on top of the other, which is normal - these pairs can be moved like any other toad but they seem to make more noise. Just be confident!



Lindsay



**MARBURY MERRY DAYS** - Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th  
May, 2025

Please come along to the next Merry Days meeting on Tuesday 4th February at 7 pm in the Village Hall. It's an important meeting as, with only 13 weeks to go, a lot of detail is finalised - although of course it's never too late to have new ideas! It's an open meeting as usual, and everyone is welcome, so please join us if you can.

### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX COLLECTION**

A big thank to all our the holders of our Children's Society Boxes. A grand total of £967.04 was collected, which is a fantastic amount and keeps going up year on year - another record, in spite of the fact many people don't actually have "change" any more (so kindly put in bank notes instead of coins). It is incredibly generous of all our box holders.

*The Society works to improve the lives of children and young people in the UK who face abuse, exploitation and neglect, and particularly at the moment when home life is increasingly hard (or non-existent) for many, these donations really will make a difference.*

*If you would be interested in having a box please contact Carol on 01948 663087*



**Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)** - for defibrillator or other community emergency: First ring 999 then  
Marbury: 01948 302103  
Norbury: 01948 302707

**PARISH COUNCILLORS: contact details**

<b>Joe Briggs</b> Chair	Wood Farm, Wirswall	SY13 4LF 01948 663733
<b>John David</b>	Rowan House, School Lane, Marbury john.david@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4LH 01948 666065
<b>Tracy Leese</b>	5 School Lane, Marbury tracy.leese@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4LH 07525 976790
<b>Janet Makin</b>	1 Heath Lane, Marbury janet.makin@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4NE 01948 665724
<b>Rob Perry</b>	Pear Tree Farm, Norbury rob.perry@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HZ 01948 666350
<b>Philip Shakeshaft</b>	The Croft, Norbury phil.shakeshaft@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HS 01948 666221
<b>Marian Turnbull</b>	Ginger Cottage, Swanwick Green marian.turnbull@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HL 07949 784308
<b>Fiona Wilson</b> Vice Chair	2 Bradeley Green Cottages fiona.wilson@marburyanddistrict.org.uk	SY13 4HE 07801 928925

**CLERK, PARISH COUNCIL:**

**Debbie Foulkes** clerk@marburyanddistrict.org.uk  
**Web Site:** [www.marburyanddistrict.org.uk](http://www.marburyanddistrict.org.uk)

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:**

**James Pearson** Beechwood, 151 Hale Road, Hale, Cheshire WA15 8RU  
 James.pearson@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07947 572785

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:**

Aphra Brandreth aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.uk

**Useful phone numbers and contacts for residents**

PCSO 7149 Sharon Jones sharon.jones@cheshire.pnn.police.uk  
 or 07773 196887

Potholes 0300 123 5020  
[www.cheshireeasthighways.org](http://www.cheshireeasthighways.org)  
 FIX MY STREET: APP

Bus services: Go-Too: 0300 123 5103  
<http://www.go-too.co.uk>  
 Flexilink: 0300 123 5110

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (you can call anonymously)  
 Childline 0800 1111  
 Samaritans 116 123

[vicar@stmichaelsmarbury.org](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmarbury.org)  
[churchwardens@stmichaelsmarbury.org](mailto:churchwardens@stmichaelsmarbury.org)  
[admin@stmichaelsmarbury.org](mailto:admin@stmichaelsmarbury.org) (Carol Sheard)  
[treasurer@stmichaelsmarbury.org](mailto:treasurer@stmichaelsmarbury.org) (Nigel Green)