

chas gives birth chas gives birth ...in the gents'!; There's joy when Chas and Paddy's baby is born... in The Woolpack's toilets - with Marlon as midwife!

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Body

Not since Prince Archie was about to enter the world has a birth been more anticipated than that of Chas and Paddy's baby. After the death of their first child, Grace, a year ago, the couple were plunged into grief, so they were thrilled when Chas fell pregnant again, and Paddy in particular cannot wait to be a dad.

"He's no spring chicken," says Dominic Brunt, who plays Paddy. "Although he's a father figure to Leo and Aaron, he's never been a dad himself - apart from to Grace."

Lucy Pargeter, who plays Chas, says the couple have been fine in the run-up to the birth.

"They haven't really had much focus on the birth, apart from Paddy wanting to go to antenatal classes," she admits. "Chas didn't go because of the questions she might be asked and feeling like she'll have to bring up Grace."

This being Emmerdale, however, the new arrival's entrance into the world is not straightforward. Poor Chas goes into labour while locked in the gents' loos at The Woolpack - with Marlon!

"They're re-opening the pub," explains Lucy. "But Charity is stuck on a motorway and Paddy is nowhere to be found. Chas should be on maternity leave, but of course she's the one trying to get everything organised."

Disaster strikes when Chas follows Marlon into the loos to ask where Paddy is and the pair realise the door is stuck fast behind them. Oh, and they don't have their phones and Bob starts his DJ set, drowning out their cries for help.

So where exactly is Paddy? At Mill Cottage dealing with a drama of his own: the fact that Aaron has a plan to break Robert out of his cell ahead of his sentencing hearing. So Paddy locks Aaron in the house, unaware of events unfolding down the road. But, according to Dominic, it makes for classic soap-opera telly.

"The whole hour-long episode swings between this high drama with Moira, Cain and Nate; the family stuff with Liv and Aaron; and this farcical stuff in the toilet with Chas and Marlon," he smiles.

And how does Marlon fare as an emergency midwife? "He starts off a bit flaky and panicky - as any man would be!" laughs Lucy. "But as time goes on Marlon realises people are on the other side of the door as well. It gives him strength and he does what a cousin would do - he loves Chas, they've got a great relationship - and he gets it in his head that he's there for her; they can do it and he's a calming influence on her."

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" So what's Paddy's reaction when he finally meets his child? "It's love at first sight," smiles Dominic. "They couldn't be happier. At one point, **Chas** turns and says that now is when the madness starts, he tells her he cannot wait. He's beside himself."

What about **Chas**, how does she feel about their new arrival? "Because of Grace, she's a little more fearful, more wanting her baby monitor next to her constantly," says Lucy. "She's starting back at work straight away so the baby will be with her behind the bar. But hopefully as the months go on, they will settle into parenthood and things will calm down a bit."

So things look rosy for Paddy's family, and Dominic says he and **Chas** are stronger than ever.

"Baby Grace brought them together," he beams. "I like the fact they are completely opposite. They love their differences, that's why they're together."

Could wedding bells be on the not-too-distant horizon? "If **Chas** and Paddy get married, I hope he takes her name," smiles Dominic. "My dream is to become a Dingle. I would die happy. Paddy has been with a lot of Dingle women, he's drawn to them. Because he's such a wet blanket he really likes strong women!" Marlon comes through for **Chas** and helps deliver a healthy baby is to "My dream -a Dingle become die happy!" I would DOMINIC BRUNT (PADDY) Must-see scenes tues & weds a bit flaky "Marlon's - as any and panicky be!" would man LUCY PARGETER (**CHAS**)

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