

# THE LINK

50p

May 2023

Tarporley Parish Magazine



Beautiful Easter decorations  
at  
St John and The Holy Cross  
Cotebrook

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**PARISH DIRECTORY – TARPORLEY**

**Services** See Calendar tab on the website or page 7 in 'The Link'

**Weekday Service** At St Helen's each Wednesday at 10.00am Holy Communion

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Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com) 07526243702

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email [jobsonajpj@btinternet.com](mailto:jobsonajpj@btinternet.com) items for 'The Link' should be emailed to the above by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com)

**Contact points**

Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness, pastoral need to the Rector.

To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact the Rector. 01829732491

Done Room Booking Phillip Posnett 01829260251

To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries

please contact our Rector Jim by email on

Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.org](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org)



## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

### May 2023

**May 7<sup>th</sup> THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Special Services to mark the Coronation of King Charles III**

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion

**14<sup>th</sup> THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

St Helen	9.30am	Café Church
St Thomas	4.00pm	Holy Communion.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> ASCENSION DAY**

St Helen	7.30pm	Holy Communion
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**21<sup>st</sup> THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion & Baptism
St Helen	6.30pm	Evensong

**28<sup>th</sup> PENTECOST – WHIT SUNDAY**

St Helen	10.00am	Joint Parish Confirmation Service with Bishop Julie
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Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church
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**June 4<sup>th</sup> TRINITY SUNDAY**

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion

Each Wednesday at 10.00am at St Helen's: Holy Communion.  
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**The Rector Writes:-**

***"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done"***

While words have much power, it's also true that sometimes we can forget their power the more we use them, especially if we say them unthinkingly. Even such powerful words as 'I love you' or 'Sorry' can soon turn into trite repetition if there is no real power or emotion behind them: we can all tell the difference between a heartfelt apology and one that is not really meant.



This can also be the case with the prayers that we say, or the words we use in worship. Familiarity *can* lead to contempt (or at least apathy!), no more so than in our use of the Lord's Prayer.

I have been really impressed by both our church schools, that all their pupils can (and do) pray the Lord's Prayer regularly, from the age of 5. When I take Collective worship, it is very special to be joining my prayers with theirs in words known to us all, though there are times when *some* of the children do race through the prayer! Maybe for some of them it is a bit of a chore to get through, or they know the words but not the meaning, and they would not be alone in that – even as adults we can be guilty of that!

One particular phrase from the Lord's Prayer is arresting me at present - *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done*. Partly this is because I am writing this in Holy Week, and the actions and sacrifice of Jesus embody what it really means to let God's will (not our own) be done; but also because at its heart is a desire to surrender ourselves and our priorities to God, and this is quite counter-cultural – often we may be tempted to pray (or even put into practice!) 'MY will be done'. Do we really mean it when we ask for God's kingdom to come and God's will to be seen on earth?? Because if we do, it might mean that we have to change our lives and attitudes too...

This month, as well as the joy and celebration of the coronation, the end of the month sees the festival of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and also a special time of prayer called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a

global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. Specifically, each Christian worldwide is invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

*"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."* Archbishop Justin Welby

Perhaps the most powerful and simple thing we can do during those 11 days is to pray the Lord's prayer, and really mean it. To pray for five of our friends or family and truly ask that God's will be done: not ours. To pray and believe that God will transform lives and communities, as happened on that Pentecost morning, fifty days after the resurrection. To truly pray that God's priorities may be played out on earth: welcoming the lost and the lonely, caring for those in need, loving indiscriminately, living generously. By praying like this, it may just change the way that we are called to live: so don't say it, and don't pray it, unless you mean it!!

May that be our prayer this month!

*Jim*

**Book review:            This month Peter Holloway kindly reviews:-**

**"Doing Christianity" by Paul Higginson    322pp, Columba Books, £10.99**

First, I have to confess that it's a long while since I read a book about Christianity, but I happen to know Paul Higginson so was keen to find out what was in his new book.

Paul taught Religious Education and Politics for 35 years and was Assistant Principal at St Dominic's Sixth Form College in Harrow. He has a postgraduate diploma in Social Ethics and among other things has worked for St Mother Teresa's Missionaries in Calcutta. Paul is a Roman Catholic, but he conveys how little denominations, or even different religions, matter.

Paul Higginson structures his book as if he was our spiritual guide on a medieval walking pilgrimage of 121 miles from London to Walsingham, so there are 121 concise chapters providing a range of spiritual insights. (continued overleaf)

These are organised within nine larger steps along the journey, and they invite us to take a fresh look at the words of Jesus. Each chapter begins with a short extract from the Gospel and Paul is especially admiring of John's Gospel and at one point suggests reading it through in its entirety.

The underlying premise of the book is that with Christianity belief is the easy bit (some may disagree!), but by far the hardest thing, as well as the most crucial, is putting faith into action. The key reference is the too often overlooked verse in James (2:17) "If good works do not accompany faith, it is dead." In the chapter "Know them by their Fruits" (Matthew 7:16) Higginson again highlights the heart of the Gospel message "religion is not primary about what you believe, it is about what you do....It is no good having a wonderfully coherent set of theological principles in our heads, if our beliefs do not bear fruit in our daily "works" or actions....It's easy to say "I believe" or "I'm a Christian" but the hard bit is the doing: forgiving others, loving the unloved and building up the community."

With chapters including "The Problem with Religion", "Doubt is our Friend", and thoughts about the Good Samaritan and the Woman at the Well, there is much to ponder here. The story about the Woman at the Well, in John 4, has always seemed powerful to me, perhaps because I used to sing the gospel song, *Jesus Met the Woman at the Well*, and loved the Peter, Paul and Mary version! Paul Higginson reminds us that Jesus wasn't interested in the woman's gender, marital status, or Samaritan background, he simply saw her as someone in need of help.

Higginson says that the Gospel challenges us, threatens our complacency and shakes us up but "before we can be transformed, we must first be disturbed and made uncomfortable." And added to these uncomfortable thoughts is his assertion that "traditional church-going Christianity in the West will disappear completely, unless something changes".

As well as being a thought provoking read, *Doing Christianity* is also nicely produced, with a superb front cover painting of the Road to Emmaus by Royal Watercolour Society artist Thomas Plunkett. Higginson has some thoughts about the Road to Emmaus too: he notes that Luke only names one of the two walkers (Cleopas) and asks if perhaps we are the other one?

Finally, much of the book talks about themes of compassion and forgiveness, reflecting the emphasis Jesus placed on these actions in his teaching.

*Doing Christianity* didn't allay all my doubts, and I'm sure it wouldn't claim to attempt this, but the underlying premise is profound, and I think the book will succeed in making many readers ask themselves what more they can put into action. Meanwhile, Higginson has inspired me to read the second Christian book in a long while, and it's called...the Gospel According to John.

*Peter Holloway*

**This Time Tomorrow (TTT).** At March's Café Church in St Helen's Rev'd Jim and John Richardson had the following conversation-(Jim's questions in bold text).

John. I'm John Richardson, now a freelance sports journalist for national newspapers after years of employment with The Daily Mail, The Sun and Sunday Express plus a number of provincial newspapers.

**What will you be doing This Time Tomorrow?**



Monday is normally my day off and it's usually a case of going off somewhere with my wife Sue for a walk. I enjoy life being full of contrasts and the day after your chat at church it was off to open up our static caravan on the outskirts of Abersoch and an enjoyable stroll on one of the beaches – a complete opposite to the Saturday when I was covering the Everton v Brentford game, complete with a raucous 40,000 crowd.

**What are the joys and challenges in being a Christian in this work environment?**

As we all know football triggers the emotions and sometimes that can explode into sickening chants and even worse, violence which is at odds with Christian beliefs. That's the world we live in – and let's be honest it wasn't exactly peace and tranquillity when Jesus was on this earth. (continued overleaf)

I believe there is a correlation between football and religion. In the same way that I feel you don't have to go to church to be a Christian in my view you don't have to go to a football ground to support your team. In both cases you would though I'm certain gain something extra and a greater sense of belonging if you did make the effort to make that journey.

There is nothing better than to see groups of people in unison for one cause. That's why it's so enjoyable during the hour or so of worship on a Sunday to escape from the day to day rigours of life.

### **How can we pray for you?**

Sadly in my business where cynicism is often rife where bad news and crises are often preferred to any good news – a publication just full of good news launched in the USA lasted just two weeks because no one wanted to buy it - sees Christian beliefs often ridiculed.

Telling my office once that I always did my match reports for Monday's paper on a Saturday night as opposed to the normal practice of a Sunday morning because of going to Church was met by signs of incredulity. Selfishly I feel they are the ones missing out and a personal prayer would be for more – especially in my field of sport – for those who already enjoy being in teams to join another one – the Church which is just as fulfilling.

And of course for Newcastle United to finally win something in my lifetime!

### **Warm Space.**

The 'Warm Space' gatherings held Wednesday mornings St Helen's at 10.30am continue. At a recent such meeting magistrate Andy Emmerson gave an interesting talk to the small but engaged group.



### **Registry**

***We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:***

Jane Edge

Roy Gregory

Robin Wood





### Confirmation - Sunday May 28th

Bishop Julie, bishop of Birkenhead, will be visiting the parish on **Sunday 28th May** to conduct **Confirmations**, a special service for people to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism by their parents and godparents.

If you've not been confirmed, and would like to make that step of faith for yourself, or would like to know if it's right for you, contact Revd Jim as soon as possible!



### St Thomas' News

Our church looked beautiful on Easter Sunday with daffodils and lilies and it was good to see the church full in the morning. It was an uplifting service, and everyone was sent home with a small Easter egg.

Our monthly Songs of Praise service followed by breakfast in the Jessie Hughes has proved popular. The singing and stories have been inspiring and the breakfast a real feast.

Food is becoming an integral part of our fellowship.

See photographs above right and below.



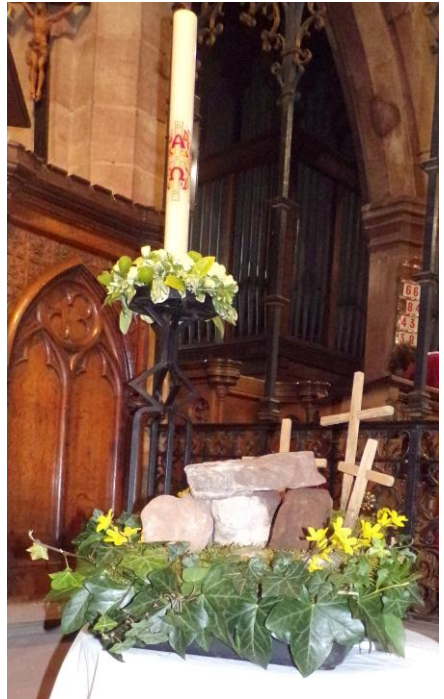
### Eaton Quiz

As is the custom and thanks to the Jessie Hughes committee, the last quiz of the season was for church funds. There were lots of quizzers and it was an enjoyable evening which also raised £448. *Amelia McCourty*

**Easter decorations.** Many thanks to all those involved in caring for our churches and church grounds throughout the year. Just some examples of their work are shown here and on the front cover.  
Front cover photograph published by kind permission of P\_B\_Photography.



**Spring flowers**



**'He is Risen'**

**Finally.**

**Evensong - Summer schedule.** With the lighter nights and better weather, Evensong will return to 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month from May.

We'll continue to worship round the parish at all three churches:-

May 21st - St Helen's. June 18th- St John and the Holy Cross.

July 16<sup>th</sup> St Thomas'. August 20th - St Helen's.

Evensong is a great way to end a Sunday, with singing, ancient liturgy and prayers - if you've never tried it, why not give it a go?!

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2.30 – 4.00pm**

**The re-arranged now 'Spring Time':- please**

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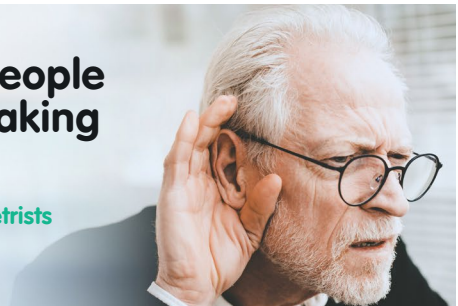
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