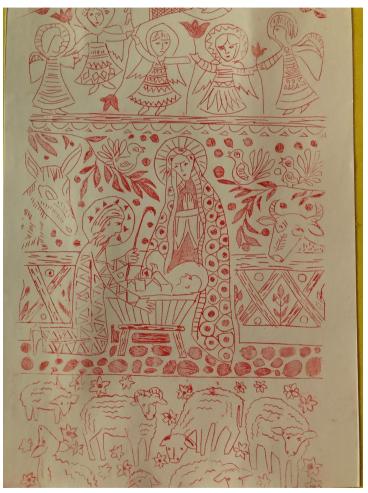
THE LINK

December 2019

Tarporley Parish Magazine



'Away for Christmas'

A painting from the Journey into Light exhibition.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"

ANDREW P. DEAN

Dip N.T.C., C.G.L.I., A.V.C.M.

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Services: See Calendar page on the website or 'The Link' magazine. Weekday Service St Helen's Church, Holy Communion: Wednesday at 10.00 am.

(Note: all telephone numbers are area code 01829 unless otherwise stated).

Rector: Georgina Watmore, The Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG 732491

e-mail: revgeorgina@me.com

Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne, 3 Dingle Way, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2UW 07421 323699

e-mail: revjulianosborne@gmail.com

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	Liz Neely email nee	elyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899		
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P.C.C Secretary	Marion Moss, 2 To	733382			
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Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412			
Cotebrook:					
St John Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Ou	760336			
	Peter Copland, Mo	ss Cottage,	732618		
	Utkinton Lane, Cot	ebrook, CW6 0JH			
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Eaton: St Thomas		indward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley			
Wardens	CW6 9AG				
		e Barn, Moss Hall Lane, Rushton, Tarporley	732948		
	CW6 9GJ	e Barri, Moss Hair Earre, Rasinton, Parportey	760750		
Organist	Marjorie Rathbone	<u>.</u>	732655		
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,					
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Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.org **e-mail:** <u>admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk</u> Items for 'The Link' should be e-mailed to jobsonajpj@btinternet.com or posted to the Link Editor by the 16th of each month.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2019

Please join us for any of these services.
The special 'Christmas' ones are highlighted in bold.

Sun 1st Dec	9.00am 10.00am 11.15am 4.00pm	Open Worship at St Thomas' Eaton Open Worship at St Helen's Tarporley Holy Communion at St John's Cotebrook Christingle at St Helen's		
Sun 8 th Dec	9.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas' Holy Communion at St Helen's		
Sun 15 th Dec	9.00am 10.00am 4.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion at St Thomas' Holy Communion at St Helen's Service of Lessons and Carols at St John's followed by refreshments at the Village Hall Service of Lessons and Carols at St Helen's		
Fri 20 th Dec	7.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols at St Thomas' followed by refreshments at the Jesse Hughes Hall.		
Sun 22 nd Dec	9.00am	Blessing of The Crib and DIY Nativity at St Thomas'		
	10.00am	Holy Communion and DIY Nativity at St Helen's		
Tues 24 th Dec	3.30pm 4.00pm 11.30pm	Carols on the High Street followed by: Blessing of the Crib at St Helen's Holy Communion at St Helen's		
CHRISTMAS DAY				
Wed 25 th Dec	9.00am 10.00am	All Age Holy Communion at St Thomas' All Age Holy Communion at St Helen's		
Sun 29th Dec		No service at St Thomas		
Sun 5 th Jan	10.00am EPIPHANY	Holy Communion at St Helen's		
	9.00am	Open Worship at St Thomas' Eaton		
	10.00am	Open Worship at St Helen's Tarporley		
	11.15am	Holy Communion at St John's Cotebrook		
	6.30pm	Evensong at St Helen's		

The Rector Writes

The season of Advent should be all about preparing for the coming of Christ but for most of us it's a fraught rush to prepare for Christmas. As Christians we can be torn between what we feel should be a time of quiet reflection and the very human desire to join in the fun and make sure that we have everything ready in time. There will always be some tension between these two but if we try to keep the true meaning of Christmas as our focus, I think we can pull off both!

To help explore this I offer two pieces of writing. The first is a re-imagining of Paul's first letter to Corinthians, Chapter 13; where he talks about the meaning of love. It is a helpful reminder to us that all the 'tasks' we feel we have to do in order to be 'ready' for Christmas must not override the more important job of loving ourselves and others. We must not strive for the illusory perfect Christmas that we see in films and television adverts, because that way lies mental ill health and a strain on relationships. Rather, amidst the mess and muddle of reality, if we keep sight of what truly matters: God and love, then it will not matter if the jobs don't get done!

If I decorate my house perfectly with bows and strands of twinkling lights, but do not show love to others, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away baking and preparing lavish meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table but do not show love to others, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the food bank, sing carols in high street and give all that I have to charity,

but do not show love to others, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels, attend parties and go to Midnight Mass

but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help another.

Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't ask children to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who cannot.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Phones will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

This passage culminates with the truth that love is an eternal gift. It is often hard to know what to buy for others, partly because most of us, here in the West, have so much. And of course, we are now becoming ever more aware of the problems that plastic and 'rubbish' are causing our planet. All of us will, I hope, this year look for things and wrapping that can be, or have been, recycled or find ways to give presents that are 'greener'. And here the gift of love wins hands down, for as Paul says in I Corinthians 13, the gift of love endures.

We can offer this gift in so many ways. Instead of a physical gift, we could perhaps make an offering of our time or money? Gifts to charities, a homemade voucher for babysitting, or car washing, pet walking, ironing..... all are practical ways of showing our love for others. You may not have thought of prayer or behaviour as gifts but in the busyness of this season they can be amongst the precious. When we have to queue in shops or traffic, we can refuse to become impatient but instead make conversation or at least offer a smile or silently pray for those around us. We can take extra care to pray for and thank those who silently watch over the routine of our daily lives, those who produce, transport and sell the food we will be eating, provide our utilities, collect our refuse, deliver our post, the medical and emergency services..... many of whom will be working throughout Christmas.

Or we could perhaps make or write something, offering our creativity and thoughtfulness as the most precious of gifts that show our love? The front cover of our magazine this year is a photo of an engraving from the Journey into Light Exhibition we hosted earlier this year. Showing the traditional nativity scene, it was created by a serving offender, a reminder that although separated from family, love is undiminished.

The poet Ursula Fanthorpe came up with a wonderful gift for her friends. Each year she would include a Christmas poem within her cards, one of which, entitled 'BC – AD' is a beautiful take on the nativity. It is printed overleaf immediately after this letter.

We will, once more, host many services in the Parish this month (as listed on page 5 of this magazine) as we try to explore and share the most precious gift of all: the love of God.

Why not join us, and invite family and friends, so that together we can walk haphazardly towards the true meaning of Christmas and into the kingdom of heaven.

With every blessing



BC – AD A Christmas Poem by Ursula Fanthorpe

This was the moment when Before Turned into After, and the future's Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing Happened. Only dull peace Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans Could find nothing better to do Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect

Walked haphazard by starlight straight Into the kingdom of heaven.

Dates for your diary

Before December 31st 2019.

THE 200+ CLUB

A big THANK YOU to all who have supported the 200+ Club in the past year. The 200+ Club is a fun and simple way of raising funds for St. Helen's. Each month starting in January a draw will be made and prizes of £100, £20 and £10 are given. It costs only £1 to have your number in each monthly draw (an annual subscription of £12). The proceeds after the prizes are allocated go to maintain the fabric of the Parish Church.

Now is the time to renew or to begin your membership of the 200+ club, by completing and returning a simple application form (from the back of Church) or by contacting Dianne Ouseley on 01829 733639. Existing members should have received a renewal form during November to be completed and returned before 31st December 2019.

Please note that the draw will take place in 2020 on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

200+ results for October 2019

An apology and correction from the Link Editor.

'Cut and Paste' is a wonderful device which can save both time and effort in searching for and pressing the correct keys on a QWERTY keyboard.

However, when using this device in the construction of November's issue, your editor managed to reverse the flow of time by a whole year and reprint the October 2018 200+ results masquerading as the 2019 results. Apologies for this simple error (particularly to those who had their hopes falsely raised).

The 'real' results are printed here.

The winners of the October 200+ club draw are:

First Prize	£100	No. 32 - Mrs N Pollard
Second Prize	£20	No. 19 Miss F J Witter
Third Prize	£10	No. 37 - Mr S Wright

(Thank you for your support proceeds to St Helen's Parish Church maintenance)

And here (hopefully correct) are the November 2019 200+ results.

The winners of the November 200+ club draw are:

First Prize	£100	No. 107 - Mr M Buck
Second Prize	£20	No. 75 Mrs J Christian
Third Prize	£10	No. 166 - Mr.G.Noblett

(Thank you for your support proceeds to St Helen's Parish Church maintenance)

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE-

4pm Sunday 1st DECEMBER at ST HELEN'S.

A lovely service for everyone - young and old - as we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. All proceeds from the service go to the Children's Society for their important work with vulnerable children and families.

All children will be given a Christingle at the service.

Let's make it a good Christmas for the Children's Society.



Wednesday 4th December:- Reflection Group Our Parish Reflection Group, facilitated by the Rector, will meet at the home of Angela Symes 8 Spring Hill, Tarporley on Wednesday 4th December 1:30pm -3pm with tea, coffee and biscuits.

Open to all in our congregations, these meetings provide a time of space and reflection linking our faith to our lives and circumstances. No prior knowledge or materials are required just a willingness to listen to others and share your own life experience.

If you would like to know more please speak to Georgina 01829 732491 revgeorgina@me.com.

EATON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE In the Jessie Hughes Village Hall Tuesday, 10th December 2019 at 7.30 for 8.00pm

Christmas Party

As always the enthusiasm of members for this event is much appreciated, but please do not turn up before 7.30!

Requests for help with decorating our churches for Christmas.

St Helen Saturday 14th December from 9.00am till 12.30pm . You are invited to join our team of helpers to decorate the church and prepare Christmas floral arrangements. Refreshments will be provided. Donations towards the cost of the flowers would be gratefully received by Elaine Hulton or Dianne Ouseley.

St Thomas Sunday 15th December. We will be decorating the Church for Christmas after the morning communion service at around **9.45am**. All offers of help for no more than half an hour would be very welcome and will be rewarded with coffee and biscuits

Rosemary Lilley.

St John Friday 13th December at 9.30am We will meet to decorate the church in readiness for the Candlelit Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday 15th December with refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall. Bill Spiegelberg.

And don't forget all the Christmas Services and celebrations listed on page 5

We congratulate and pray for those recently baptised:

Leopold Bosch

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Eric Atherton John Attwater

Derek Barton

Brenda Cosstello

Gordon Ledward

Curate's Blog November 2019

A few months ago, before I was ordained, I went to a barber for a much-needed trim. It was not in the village and not an establishment I had been to very often. I was a little intimidated by the profusion of tattoos adorning the barber, not to mention the choice of interior décor. Settling in the chair, I was waiting for the dreaded usual opening question. "Are you still working then? Is this a day off?" Polite conversation no doubt, but I always felt compelled to be honest and tell questioners that yes, I had retired (sort of) to start training to become a vicar. Most of the time that guaranteed no further conversation. This time, however, my barber said, "Oh that's interesting. I went to a Baptism the other day, but didn't see the point. What is it all about?"

Manna from heaven for a student who had just been studying a module on Sacramental Theology, I launched into my reply. I told him that we baptise because Jesus was himself baptised in the river Jordan; that Jesus' last command was for us to make disciples of everyone, baptising them in the process. Baptism is, as a result, one of the two main Sacraments in the Church of England, the other being Holy Communion (or Eucharist). Warming to my subject, I went on to talk about water being used to symbolise the passage from death to resurrection, of candles being used to symbolise Jesus as the light of the world and so on.

It was not until reflecting recently on the first two Baptisms I had ever conducted, that I realised how different my answer could have been. What I could have said is that it is such a joyful occasion for family and friends to get together in a building large enough for all of them, free of charge. I could have said that I don't know for certain what actually happens when I say the words "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"; I don't know for certain what happens when I pray for the child and for the family and their friends. No one really knows for certain, for such is the mystery of God. What I can see and feel is joy, happiness and love in the church. What I think I can also feel is Angels rejoicing at a new life being publicly proclaimed for Christ. Such is my faith.

I went back to the barber a couple of weeks ago. He didn't remember me or our conversation, but I will keep going back and one day will summon up the courage to apologise and to talk to him about the love of God rather than the theory of God.

A Living History walk along the High Street Tarporley.

On a damp Saturday in late October Pat Symms (from a Tarporlean family of long standing) led two groups of people up and down Memory Lane High Street and gave us a fascinating insight into how the village has both changed and retained its character over the past century. We learnt about the arrival and disappearance of the gas works, the disappearance of Smithies (cont o'leaf)

and the permanence of our Hospital, schools, churches and drinking establishments. The tour started and/or finished with an excellent tea in one of our longest standing buildings (The Done Room).

Thank you Pat.

Remembrance Sunday

The 2019 Remembrance Sunday service and parade took place on a beautiful

crisp sunny day and was attended, as it was last year, by people and groups from all around Tarporley packing the church, churchyard and High Street.

The parade preceding the service started in Burton Square and was led by Anna the Shire Horse.

During the service the children of

today read out the names of those who lost their lives in conflict.



As the last name was read out the tenor bell rang eleven times and two minutes silence was observed in respect of the fallen.

Digital giving at St Helen's

The Christian Giving Group has been working on providing two facilities for making a financial contribution to the church digitally – a facility on the website and the provision of a card reader in church. Many people use debit and credit cards to make day-to-day payments and we are getting similar facilities for giving to the church. This should be particularly helpful for people who do not attend St Helen's regularly, but come for weddings and funerals, for instance, but it can be used by anyone. Donations will qualify for Gift Aid.

The website arrangements, with a giving button on our website, have been somewhat delayed, principally because the free sponsor we chose has been overwhelmed by applications and we are currently held as they work through 300 applications. When applications do re-open we have done what is necessary and I hope the process will be relatively quick.

The provision of a card reader has been more successful and we were lucky enough to be one of 300 parishes to apply successfully for a free unit sponsored by *VISA*. This is now being installed by the north door and will be going live shortly, hopefully in time for the Christmas services. Instructions for its use will be on the unit and the sidespeople will be available to help.

If you currently give by Standing Order there is nothing you need do – please continue as usual.

Alastair Findlay

Finally:- Many Hearty Congratulations to Trevor and Eveline on celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

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Sam Moggan mob:07856 095 611 sam.moggan@opalservices.org.uk

Tarporley Flower Club

Members of the Tarporley Flower Club invite you to join them at their monthly meeting which is held at the

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