

THE LINK

50p

NOVEMBER 2020

Tarporley Parish Magazine



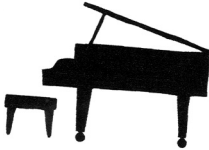
Congratulations
Julian.
A journey ends;
and a new one
begins.

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

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens	Phillip Posnett, Haughton Hall,. Tarporley CW6 9RH	260251
	Liz Neely email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899
Treasurer	Anita Langford, 7 The Crescent, Utkinton, CW6 0LT	458351
P.C.C Secretary	Marion Moss, 2 Torr Rise, Tarporley, CW6 0UD	733382
Organist	Chas Hardern	732595
Reading Rota	Elaine Hulton Corner Lodgings, Forest Road, Tarporley CW6 0HX	732104
Co-ordinator		
Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412

Cotebrook:

St John Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Oulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336
	Peter Copland, Moss Cottage,	732618
	Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	
Organist	Katrina Copland,	732618
Eaton: St Thomas Wardens	Rosemary Lilley, Windward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley CW6 9AG	732948
	Michael Scott, 39 High St, Tarporley CW6 0DP	
Organist	Marjorie Rathbone	732655

LINK Editor	Andy Jobson, Plessington House, Huxley Lane, Brassey Green, Tarporley, CW6 9UG	732437
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Electoral Roll	Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP	733431
Safeguarding Officer	Liz Neely email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899
Sunday Sheet	email jleaman@talktalk.net	
Tarporley C.E. Primary School	Mrs Kerry Forrester	01244 981230
Utkinton C.E. Primary School	Ms Lorna Pleavin	732322
Done Room Booking Secretary	Kathryn Palmer	733040

CONTACT POINTS:

Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness or pastoral need to the Rector	732491
To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact the Rector	732491

To ask about Wedding arrangements, baptisms or general enquiries please contact Jan
 email: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.org **e-mail:** admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

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 NOVEMBER 2020

November 1st

ALL SAINTS DAY

St Thomas	9.00am	Morning Prayer
St Helen	10.00am	Morning Prayer
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
St Helen	6.30pm	All Souls Service

See page 10 for details

8th

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.30am	Remembrance Service.

Please see page 10 for changes to our normal Remembrance Sunday service.

15th

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

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

22nd

CHRIST THE KING

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

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

29th

ADVENT SUNDAY

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

December 6th

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Please remember that face coverings are now mandatory in Church services.

Service times and formats are compliant with Covid regulations at the time of writing

The Curate writes.....

Anyone with any interest in the beautiful game will have heard many times the old cliché that the match was “a game of two halves”, meaning of course that one half of the contest felt very different from the other. Maybe a winning position was squandered, the opposition rallied, or a rush of blood to the head resulted in the star striker being sent off. As I look at the certificate I was given at Chester Cathedral on 3rd October, when I was ordained priest, I am struck by the fact that my own journey to priesthood has very much been a game of two halves.

**Selection and Kick Off to Half Time.**

In the Church of England, after a lengthy selection process and a period of (mainly academic) training, one is ordained Deacon. For me and twenty others, that took place in June 2019 at a service attended by hundreds and hundreds of people. My elderly Mum had travelled up from the deep South with my brother and, in total, I was able to invite twenty close family and friends. Members of my sending church also came in large numbers to a glorious service at Chester Cathedral. The space was filled to overflowing, the singing was momentous, the noise cacophonous and afterwards we spilled onto the pavements outside for hugs and photos before moving to the Bishop’s garden for drinks and nibbles. A week later we celebrated in church with coffee and cake, kicking off the first half.

With Georgina as manager, there was little time for warming up and I was soon thrust into the action, preaching, praying, visiting, leading worship, leading funerals and so much more. New experience after new experience, privilege after privilege and always with the opportunity to debrief and reflect with “the gaffer” after the event. I suspect this gaffer could teach Sir Alex a thing or two given the chance, such is her gifting! And then, just as I was beginning to feel like I knew what I was doing (just beginning!), the virus came. Lockdown came and everything changed in ways that will have impacted each and every one of us, albeit it in very different ways. One impact upon me was that the first half went into extra time, and my next ordination, this time as priest, looked more and more remote a possibility.

Second Half.

I was delighted when our churches started to re-open for worship and was equally pleased to hear that Bishop Mark was determined to hold ordination services for new Deacons and Priests alike. After much chopping and changing of minds, content and timings, my ordination service, the last of three to be held that day, was scheduled for 5pm on Saturday 3rd October, and so the second half kicked off.

How different it was to last year, but how grateful I am for that difference, for that contrast. This time around I had just one guest, my wife, but that felt right because she has been the closest to me on the journey. This time around there was no congregational singing, but that made more space for a small chamber choir that sang so beautifully. Voices and prayers echoed through the vast emptiness of the cathedral and yet the gathering around the three Bishops present felt intimate; familial even. And there behind me was the gaffer, taking part in the ancient ceremony where, under normal circumstances, all priests present would lay their hand on the ordinand, but which was reduced in number this year to three. Everything about the service was familiar and yet profoundly different to last year, just as the undertakings I have made as I start to serve as a priest are similar but profoundly different.

A couple of the practical differences came to the fore at the service of Holy Communion the next day at St Helens, for I am permitted now to wear a stole around the shoulders as opposed to diagonally. I am also able to preside at the Communion table, something that feels a huge privilege, standing somewhere that an old theologian described as “a place of awe and shuddering”. Buoyed by all your support, prayers and cake, I was able to navigate the service without incident, until the very end when my family revealed their surprise. They stood to sing Rutter’s beautiful setting of the blessing that Aaron pronounced over the people of Israel, singing the words directly given by God himself.

And that is where I shall end this tale of two halves, by thanking you, the people that are the church here in the Parish of Tarporley, Georgina for her unbelievable support and training, and of course my family whom I love dearly.

Julian

Please see the photographs overleaf of Julian’s talented family singing Rutter’s setting of Aaron’s Blessing at Julian’s first Holy Communion service.



Julian's family performing Aaron's Blessing in St Helen's Church

The words of this blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord make his face to shine upon you

and be gracious to you

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you

and give you peace

Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them

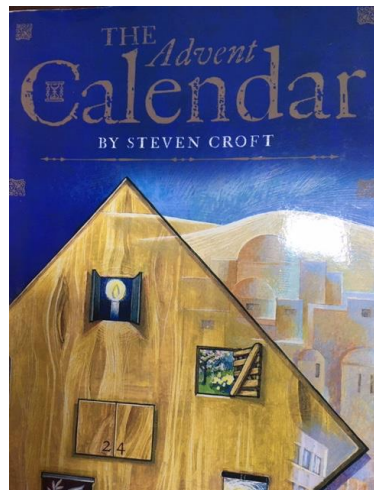
(From the book of Numbers 6:24 – 27)

From the Parish Bookshelf

Walter Gibson reads and reviews:-

'The Advent Calendar' by Steven Croft.

Normally the month leading up to Christmas is a time of excitement and anticipation: it would be understandable if we felt that this year Christmas has lost some of its magic. No Christmas Fair in Tarporley. A run on turkeys. No big family gatherings. Shopping with masks on. Just not the same at all. But here is a book to banish any Advent blues and remind us what Christmas is really about.



Perhaps you buy an Advent calendar for yourself or a loved one and perhaps like us you find it harder and harder to find one that bears any resemblance to the Christmas story. Well, in this book you will discover the most amazing calendar which tells that story through a series of adventures that bring its characters, places and bible pointers vividly to life. You share in the experience through the eyes and thoughts of two lovable characters, Sam and Alice, who are chosen to receive the calendar and sent secret codes that allow them to enter worlds they could never have imagined. They begin to look at themselves differently and to question what Christmas is all about...

Like Sam and Alice, we are transported through the author's inspired imagination to a thrilling new dimension where sometimes familiar texts take on a whole new meaning. Unlike Sam and Alice we don't need codes or a magical Advent calendar to get there: we just need to read this wonderful book. So instead of (or as well as) opening a door on an actual Advent calendar, why not read a chapter of this book each day? It might just be the tonic you need.

Georgina adds to Walter's thoughts about 'The Advent Calendar'.

Advent Book Club

Having read Walter's review of the Advent Calendar by Steven Croft, now Bishop of Oxford, I was reminded how wonderful this book is!

It is at once easy to read but also a great exponent of the Christian faith.

I cannot think of a better way to spend Advent and prepare for Christmas than to read this book.

I therefore encourage us as a Church community to do so. The book is easily purchased new or second-hand, or can be read on electronic devices. If anyone wants to take part but is struggling to order a copy of the book, or afford one, please let me know and I would be delighted to help.

A book club normally meets up for discussion but with current restrictions we are not easily able to do this.

As the book is set over the days of Advent, I have therefore prepared some questions for each day that we can ponder together whilst apart.

I will leave some paper copies of these in St Helens (let me know if you would like one delivered or more are needed) and will email as many as I can with an electronic version.

(The first two days questions are on page 12 of this issue) (Continued overleaf)

Should anyone wish to have a chat or ask any questions about the book I will, as always, be delighted to help and if enough are interested we may be able to hold a virtual meeting over zoom or a socially distanced one in St Helen's. Let me know if this would be of interest to you.

I pray that many of us might be able to read this book at home and is so doing continue to build not just our own faith and understanding but also the spirit of our own church community. I also hope that you will enjoy it!

Georgina 01829 732491

There some necessary changes to the format of our memorial and celebratory services during November and early December 2020.

All Souls Service Sunday 1st November at St Helen's 6.30pm.

This special 'All Souls Service' is where we set aside time each year to name and remember those we love but see no longer. We hope to be able to hold a service this year but because of restrictions the format will be a little different. We will still read out names but I am unable to leave out sign up sheets in our churches. Therefore if you have the name of a loved one you would like included in this service please would you email me their name and also indicate whether or not you will be attending the service (and if so how many will be in your group) so we can ensure we can accommodate all who wish to attend safely : revgeorgina@me.com



Remembrance Service St Helen's Sunday November 8th.

Time to be Confirmed (provisionally 10:30am)

In order to maintain social distancing our Remembrance Service at St Helen's this year will be very different. (Our 9am service at St Thomas will continue as usual)

After consultation it has been agreed that we cannot safely hold the parade, large service inside church, or gathering by the war memorial, that would normally take place.

We do however want to involve as many in our village community as possible so we aim to pre-record large parts of the commemoration.

These will then be edited together and shown at a small live service at St Helen's and online.

The time the service in St Helen's begins depends on the recorded material which we hope to gather in the next few weeks and will be confirmed nearer the time (although I suspect it will be 10:30am).

We hope that we will have our usual Sunday congregation in Church to join in the prayers and lead the worship, whilst the many hundreds that annually attend can we hope take part in and enjoy both pre-recorded and 'live' elements at home (subject to the technology working!).

Christingle Service cancelled and the collection of the Children's Society boxes postponed. (But you can still support The Children's Society)

Sadly, because of current restrictions and the measures we need to put in place to keep everyone safe, St Helen's will not be able to hold a Christingle service this year. Moreover because most of us have not been using cash this year I suspect that our Children's Society boxes will not be very full. I propose that we postpone the collection from the boxes until 2021 when we will have had more time to fill them.

The Christingle service and the Children's Society collection boxes form part of our annual contribution to help with the very important work of the Children's Society. The Society supports young people through their most serious life challenges. Covid 19 has increased these challenges and the number of young people whose lives have been affected and income for the charity is now more important than ever.

In light of all of this, I urge you to consider making a contribution to the Children's Society via their website, where you can read about the important work that they are doing. Just click donate and you can choose the amount you would like to give.

If anyone who would like to donate is unable to use this method, please contact me on 01829 759120 and we can discuss an alternative way of giving.

Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Pat Symms

Charity Christmas Cards from Cards for Good Causes

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we will not be able to operate our annual Christmas Card shop in the Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church. However you can still support Cards for Good Causes by visiting our Chester shop which this year will be in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, at 15 St Michael's Row.

Alternatively cards can be bought on line at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk

Charities have had a very difficult time raising much needed funds during this pandemic. Over 70% of our sales goes directly to the charities and so do please support us by buying your cards from either the Chester shop or on line. Stay safe. All enquiries Mary Thompson 01829 733642.

The winners of the October 200+ club draw are:

First Prize	£100	No. 163 – Mr I Mullock
Second Prize	£20	No. 30 – Mr A K Shepherd
Third Prize	£10	No. 145 – Mrs W B Stewart

CLOSURE OF THE 200+ CLUB

Thank you for your loyal support of the 200+ club over the last 10 plus years. It has been a 'Fun' way of raising funds for the fabric of the Parish Church of St. Helen, Tarporley. **It has been agreed that the 200+ club cease at the end of December 2020.** If you currently pay your subscription by standing order please arrange to cancel it, if you do not cancel your standing order we shall assume that you would be happy for your payment to be treated as a donation to Tarporley Parish Churches.

Thank you once again for your support.

Dianne Ouseley

Membership Secretary

Finally. The Advent Calendar by Steven Croft: Georgina's first two suggested quotes to ponder each day. (The remaining quotes will be in December's Link) Days are accurate but page numbers referred to may vary between editions.

30th November "What on earth has an Advent Calendar got to do with religion?" P9

1st December "Remember the City of Choshek and the promise of light. Carry the hope within you" p20. Are Sam and Alice's lives full of darkness or light? Do any of the characters resonate with you?

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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 Tarporley Community Centre between 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month (except in January when the meeting is held on the second Tuesday. There is no meeting in August).

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