

# THE LINK

50p

March 2022

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings

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

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**PARISH DIRECTORY – TARPORLEY**

**Services** See Calendar tab on the website or page 5 in 'The Link'

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

**Rector: Jim Bridgman, Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG** **01829732491**

Email: [revjim1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjim1017@gmail.com) 07526243702

**Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne**

Email: [revjulianosborne@gmail.com](mailto:revjulianosborne@gmail.com) 07421323699

**Tarporley: St Helen**

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com) 07890470899

Treasurer Anita Langford 01829458351

email [treasurer\\_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com)

P.C.C Secretary Paul Emerson 01829733147

**Cotebrook: St John and the Holy Cross**

Wardens Bill Spiegelberg 01829760336

Peter Copland 01829732618

**Eaton: St Thomas**

Wardens Rosemary Lilley

Michael Scott 01829733919

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

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

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 Secretary: Kathryn Palmer 01829733040

To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries please

Contact Jan by email on: [admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk) Email: [admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk)

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2022

<b>March</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
		St Helen	10.00am and 7.30pm
			Holy Communion For Ash Wednesday
	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
		St Thomas	9.00am
		St Helen	10.00am
		St John	11.15am
		St Helen	6.30pm
			All-Age Worship All-Age Worship Holy Communion A service of Compline (see page 10)
	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
		St Thomas	9.00am
		St Helen	10.00am
		St Helen	6.30pm
			Holy Communion Holy Communion A service of Compline
	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
		St Thomas	9.00am
		St Helen	10.00am
		St Helen	6.30pm
			Holy Communion Holy Communion A service of Compline
	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	
		St Thomas	9.00am
		St Helen	10.00am
		St Helen	6.30pm
			Holy Communion Holy Communion A service of Compline
<b>April</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
		St Thomas	9.00am
		St Helen	10.00am
		St John	11.15am
		St Helen	6.30pm
			All-Age Worship All-Age Worship Holy Communion A service of Compline



Each Wednesday at 10.00am at St Helen's: said Holy Communion.

We will continue to adhere to government and CofE guidance on COVID-19.

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## The Rector Writes:-

Growing up one of my favourite comedy programmes was *Father Ted*, the story of three priests (of varying levels of competency and stability!) ministering on an island off the Irish mainland. In one episode they are challenged by priests from another island to forsake their bad habits (cigarettes, alcohol and roller blading) for the whole of Lent and use the time to grow closer to God; however, for Father Ted the motivation is a little more earthly: *I'm not going to be beaten by them in a 'giving things up' competition....*



It's easy to think of Lent as akin to an extended giving things up competition, or the second chance to complete those New Year Resolutions. But Lent is much more than that; instead of being a time of abstinence and deprivation, it can be a time of growth and change. Lent is often seen as a time to give something up, to fast from something, or help break a habit. But it can also be a time to *take* something up and start a discipline that might encourage and reform us more into the likeness of Christ.

As you will read later on in this edition, on page 11, our resident book reviewer Walter Gibson has this month been delving into a real spiritual classic: *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. While this might sound a deep title, the practical side is very simple: Brother Lawrence simply longed to live each moment with an awareness of God and God's love; not just when in church or doing 'religious' things, but actually in the ordinary and mundane things of life – washing the dishes or walking the dog – and this was possible all through an attitude of constant communication with God, and seeing even a daily chore as an opportunity to commune with God.

I must admit that I feel inferior just reading Brother Lawrence's words, but there is also attainable wisdom and experience there, and so what better way to use Lent as an opportunity to engage with Brother Lawrence's experience, and try to encounter God in the everyday for ourselves? To that end, our Lent group this year will focus on his book, and an accompanying 40 day devotional, with the aim that we all may have the chance to learn to dwell in God's presence more and more. The book is *The Practice of the Presence of God: A 40-Day Devotion* by Brother Lawrence and Alan Vermilye and includes the full text of Brother Lawrence's book.

Our Lent group will meet on Wednesday lunchtimes in Lent, hopefully sharing a simple lunch (venues tbc!) and then, after lunch, a time to discuss our reading. If you would like to be involved, please contact me. Or if nothing more, do get a copy of Brother Lawrence's book: it is very short, but full of wisdom, and practice being in God's presence!

Also during Lent we will be holding special Sunday evening services of Compline, or Night Prayer, at 6.30pm, and using new material by the theologian Paula Gooder – *Women of Holy Week*, a reimagining of the experiences of nine different women in the lead up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. This will be a different way to experience Lent, to walk alongside those who walked with Jesus, and enter into the drama of the most important week in human history. This will be another way to practice the presence of God, and one which may resonate with many of you.

So whatever you do during Lent, I hope and pray that this Lent will not just be a 'giving things up competition' but instead be a time to change and growth, both as individuals and as a parish, as we encounter God in the ordinary things of life, and as we journey to the cross and the empty tomb. *Jim*

**Now: Continuing our feature:-'Who are on our PCC?'**

The Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of our three churches. It consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives elected from the parishioners. But: "Who are they?"

This month John and Elaine Meredith introduce themselves.

**Name: Elaine Meredith**

**Church(es) and services attended in the parish:** The majority of services that I attend are at the Parish Church with occasional worship at one of our daughter churches.

**PCC role/responsibility:** Representative on the Malpas Deanery Synod, Member of St. Helens Choir and Flower Design Team, Co-ordinator for Christian Aid Fundraising & for weekly Readings and Intercessions Rota. Also, a Messy Church helper. (cont o'leaf)



**Current/previous Employment:** Retired Legal Adviser for Cheshire Magistrates Courts

**When I'm not at church, I spend my time...** in voluntary service as a Justice of the Peace and currently I am the Chairman of the Cheshire Family Panel. My hobbies include flower design which is enhanced by my monthly attendance at Tarporley Flower Club. I like to keep fit by attending yoga, pilates and aqua-fit classes as well as walking most days from my home to my favourite café, Drays, Eaton. Being a keen skier, for many years I have enjoyed an annual ski holiday in Europe, with my husband John. Together we have travelled the world on exciting holidays abroad. I have three super step-children and I am proud to be Nan to four wonderful grandchildren. I am blessed also to have three supportive and caring sisters.

**Favourite hymn:** Immortal Invisible God Only Wise

**Favourite verse/story in the Bible:** So do not fear, for I am with you – Isaiah 41 :10

**My journey of faith....** I attended a Church of Wales Primary School which gave me a good grounding for weekly attendance at Anglican services in North Wales and Cheshire. As a teenager I was confirmed at St. Asaph Cathedral. I am glad that my journey of faith led me to our welcoming Parish where I have made so many friends including clergy and laity.

*Elaine Meredith*

**Name:** John Meredith

**Church(es) and services attended in the parish:** I attend St Helen's Church on most Sunday mornings, occasional Wednesday services and most festival services

**PCC role/responsibility:** Member of the Resources Committee. Previously, as PCC Treasurer for a few years I transitioned our accounts from double-entry to computerised! I currently look after the Gift Aid submissions to HMRC. I am a sidesman (meet & greet), lector and an assistant Verger.





**Current/previous Employment:** Having been born in our delightful rural village in 1945, and spending most of my life here I started gainful employment in the dairy industry. Most of my career though was in the financial world, specifically retirement benefits.

**When I'm not at church, I spend my time...** looking after my family! An active sporting life has slowly declined but holidays and socializing are enjoyable substitutes.

**Favourite hymn:** Guide me O thou Great Jehovah, as it contains so many elements of one's faith. I find it a wonderful hymn of praise for all occasions. Thirty thousand voices in harmony at Cardiff Arms Park when the Welsh rugby team are rampant on the pitch is enough to bring tears to the eyes of most onlookers.

**Favourite verse/story in the Bible:** The wedding at Cana. John 2: 1 - 11

**My journey of faith....** started with a Methodist upbringing, where I developed a love of music and enhanced my understanding of the Christian faith. I was confirmed as an Anglican in my 20's and have contributed a small part to St Helen's ever since. There have been many family weddings, christenings and funerals at our lovely Parish Church, God's house in Tarporley.

*John Meredith*

### **Lent Lunches and discussions 2022**

We would like to start a Lent lunch group this year, and look at the spiritual classic 'The Practice of the presence of God' by Brother Lawrence. Walter Gibson has reviewed the book for this month's 'Link' (see page 11) Revd Julian has found some good (and cheap!) material that we could use, that reflects on the book through 40 days, which can be bought here:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Practice-Presence-God-Devotion-Lawrences-ebook/dp/B08Y3WVWXH/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?crid=1KE0CZA66592&keywords=the+practice+of+the+presence+of+god+brother+lawrence&qid=1644317670&srefix=the+practice%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Practice-Presence-God-Devotion-Lawrences-ebook/dp/B08Y3WVWXH/ref=sr_1_4?crid=1KE0CZA66592&keywords=the+practice+of+the+presence+of+god+brother+lawrence&qid=1644317670&srefix=the+practice%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-4)

It would be helpful to read Brother Lawrence's very short book too, which is included in the second part of the book above. (continued o'leaf)

Becoming more aware of God's presence, and making regular communication with God a part of 'ordinary life' strikes me as a very good discipline during Lent (and beyond!), and something that should be practical and not just theoretical.

The group would meet on **Wednesday lunchtimes in Lent, at about 12.15pm**, for a simple lunch and a time to discuss and share.

If you would be interested in joining in, please let Revd Jim know and order the book!

### **Lent Sunday evening services**

During Lent and until Easter Day, there will be services of Compline (or Night Prayer) on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm at St Helen's.



In our services, we will also be using material found in the new book by theologian Paula Gooder *Women of Holy Week*, reimagining the events of Holy Week through the eyes of nine women who were a part of the drama.

It should be a thought-provoking and challenging re-evaluation of how we see Holy Week, through the eyes of women who were there, but whose voices are seldom heard in the biblical narrative.

Everyone welcome to journey with us.

***We congratulate and pray for those baptised:***

*Bryony Tabb*



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

*Alice Churton*

*Margaret Snelson*

**From the Parish Bookshelf;** On the page opposite Walter Gibson reviews the book which we will use in our Lent Courses

## The Practice of the Presence of God

### By Brother Lawrence

There cannot be many books written over 300 years ago that are still in print today. Those that are – such as Shakespeare and the Bible – still speak powerfully to us (and would accompany us to a desert island with our favourite discs). This small book by Brother Lawrence is in that category, and I am grateful to Trevor for drawing my attention to it in one of his sermons last year.

Who was Brother Lawrence? Like me, you may not have come across him before. As a young man he was a soldier and nearly came to an untimely end when he was captured and treated as a spy. He was released but later was wounded and during his recovery he decided to leave the military life behind and spent time seeking God in the desert. Doubts about such a solitary life began to creep in and eventually he joined a Carmelite monastery in Paris as a lay brother. He would spend the rest of his days there, undertaking simple, humble daily tasks, but devoting himself to what he saw as his life's work – practising the presence of God. And, thankfully, writing about it.

The book contains his words in the form of letters, conversations and maxims which bring Brother Lawrence and his message to life. We can hear him explaining why he feels this practice is the most important thing Christians need to learn. We read examples taken from his own daily life offering insights into how to go about it and the benefits it will bring. For him, being in God's presence was not limited to times of prayer or worship: it was constant throughout the day, always talking to God about what he was doing or about to do or had done, and always trying to keep his heart on pleasing God.

Brother Lawrence died in 1691. His writings still have much to teach us today about how to live our lives. This is a short book that will only take a few hours to read, but a lifetime to practise its message.

*Walter Gibson*

<sup>1</sup> The full list of titles is available at [www.spckpublishing.co.uk](http://www.spckpublishing.co.uk)



## **Elaine Meredith describes local services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2022**

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 I attended the special Call to worship service at St Helens Church at 6.30 pm. The heading on the order of service was ... **We saw his star in the east.** It was a joint worship with friends from the Chapel, held in the Choir pews with Rev Jim conducting the service. Mark, the minister at the Chapel assisted with the readings and prayers. Isaiah 9:2-7 and Ephesians 5:8-14. The Gospel reading was Matthew 2 :1-12. Chas played the organ for our singing of hymns, O worship the King, Brother, sister let me serve you, I worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and ending with Jesus shall reign. Reciting the Nicene Creed, we were reminded that this creed is the traditional creed of Eastern churches. The Prayers of Intercession including the Taize chant... O Lord Hear my Prayer, when I call answer me, Come and listen to me. The sending and blessing was ..... Go now and Live as Children of Light.

Prayers for the unity of Christians across the world continued over refreshments at The Chapel on Monday and Tuesday lunch times at 12 noon. I was able to join the Tuesday gathering sharing thoughts on **Light** with my group and singing a hymn accompanied by Mark playing his guitar. My week certainly started on the right path as a Child of Light.

*Elaine Meredith*

Finally, advanced notice of a request for help decorating St Helen's Church for Easter.

### **OUR CHURCHES - EASTER FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

St Helen's. You are invited to assist the usual team of flower arrangers and helpers to decorate the church and prepare Easter floral arrangements from 9.00am till 12.30pm, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers it would be gratefully received by John Meredith.

Arrangements for decorating St John's and St Thomas' will be announced later.





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**Sam Moggan mob:07856 095 611**  
[sam.moggan@opalservices.org.uk](mailto: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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