

THE LINK

50p

January 2023

Tarporley Parish Magazine



Tarporley Parish
Christingle Service at the
start of our Advent and
Christmas celebrations.

A Happy New Year to
all our Readers!

ANDREW P. DEAN

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 7 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: revjimb1017@gmail.com 07526243702

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: neelyeliza@hotmail.com 07890470899

Treasurer Anita Langford 01829458351

email 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

Warden Amelia McCourty aemccourty@btinternet.com 01829 730155

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

email jobsonajpj@btinternet.com items for 'The Link' should be emailed to the above by the 16th of the month.

Electoral Roll: Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP
01829 733431

Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email 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 Jan by email on: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk Email: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH JANUARY 2023

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|------------------------|
| January 1st | THE NAMING AND CIRCUMSICION OF JESUS | | |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion&baptism |
| 8th | EPIPHANY | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St John | 11.15am | Holy Communion |
| 15th | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| 22nd | THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 4.00pm | Messy Church |
| | Messy Church meets in the Done Room behind St Helen's Church. | | |
| 29th | THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| February 5th | THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT | | |
| | 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.

Follow us on Facebook:-Search:- [facebook.com/ParishOfTarpurley](https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfTarpurley)

If you have time, please stay for refreshments after the service

Every Sunday at St Helen's

1st and 4th Sundays at St Thomas'

1st Sunday of the month at St John's



The Rector Writes:-

The parish Advent Book group has recently been focusing on the book 'Freedom is Coming' by Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds. This book is a series of daily reflections from Advent to Epiphany using the book of the prophet Isaiah. It has certainly provoked much



challenge, encouragement and discussion among those who met on Wednesdays in Advent. One such occasion was looking at the meaning of 'comfort', especially in terms of Isaiah 40, made famous by Handel as the first aria in his great choral work 'Messiah'.

While we may automatically associate 'comfort' with being cushioned and protected, Nick Baines countered that the sense that Isaiah uses this word is very different, and more akin to an encouragement to 'gird up your loins and get stuck in' or in Nick's words: *get a grip, steel your back, change is coming and it will (as always) be costly as well as rewarding.* (p.19). This is a 'strong' use of comfort.

(If you didn't get a copy of the book, this is a copy to borrow on the parish bookshelf at St Helen's – it is well worth your time reading it!) These words have struck me afresh, especially when combined with words from later on in Isaiah (chapter 43:19), as God tells the people:

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

These words of strong comfort and reassurance are particularly helpful as we move into another new year. It is a time for resolutions and new starts, as well as plenty of national and global uncertainty. The temptation is to fear; but maybe God is calling us to take heart and trust?

In church too I perceive that as a parish we are entering a time of newness, seeing God at work in different ways; with any change or newness there are various options of how to react: to resist it, to ignore it or to embrace it. Change is an inevitable fact of life, and while we may not be authors of it, we are all

affected by it, and often the only thing we are actually in control of is our reaction to change.

Change is occurring at present in a number of ways throughout the parish: the establishment of St Helen's as a part of the parish Council's Warm Heart of Tarporley scheme, offering refreshments and a warm space each week; the progress of the Eco-Church initiative across the three buildings (see p10 further in this edition), the improving links with our church schools. All signs of life and newness.

Another big change is the new pattern for worship, that will be implemented from February, following feedback at the Parish audit and Vision day that saw a consensus of opinion to refresh the pattern of worship in the parish. This was focused particularly on the aims of providing **different ways of worship**, as well as **times to worship together as a whole parish**. At the PCC meeting in November Revd Jim confirmed a plan implement these wishes in a **new pattern of worship to be introduced from February 2023. The new pattern can be found on pages 8 and 9.**

There may still be some evolution and slight changes and tweaks to this plan, but the general overview will remain the same. Over the coming months, we will keep you updated with service times and styles, so keep an ear and eye out in the Link, on the Facebook page and in notices at church.

As always, comments and feedback are much appreciated: please contact me – while change is always a little scary and no pattern will suit every person, please don't make up your minds on services before you've even experienced them: you may find they are not what you imagine or fear! The aspiration is that throughout a normal month there are opportunities across the parish for different ways to encounter God and deepen our faith and worship.

Perhaps for all of us, whatever we are facing this New Year, we are being called to that strong comfort of God, preparing to embrace change – maybe that's a resolution for all of us to try for 2023!

Jim

Proposed New Pattern of Worship – from February 2023

Aims

To encourage worshipping together as a whole parish

To foster fellowship as a parish

To allow clergy time to stay for coffee and chat at St Thomas' some weeks

To try some new ways to worship outside of a usual communion service

1st Sunday of the month

9am Communion St Thomas'

10am Communion/Baptism St Helen's

11.15am Communion St John's

2nd Sunday of the month

9.30am New informal parish service St Helen's/Done Room

4pm Communion St Thomas'

3rd Sunday of the month

9am Communion St Thomas'

10am Communion St Helen's

[11.45am Baptisms at St Helens/St Thomas']

6.30pm Evensong [4.15pm in winter] Alternates between all 3 churches

4th Sunday of the month

9am Songs of Praise at St Thomas'

followed by a Community brunch at the Jessie Hughes Hall

10am Communion St Helen's

4pm Messy Church Done Room

[11.45am Baptisms at St Helens/St Thomas']

5th Sunday of the month

10am Joint Parish breakfast and service Alternates by each church with
useof Jessie Hughes Hall/Done Room/Cotebrook Hall

[11.45am Baptisms at St Helens/St Thomas']

Some months this pattern will vary (for example, around Easter), so please keep updated with service times in the Link, weekly email, Facebook page and at church.

Worship for February 2023

5th Feb

| | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| 9am | Communion | St Thomas' |
| 10am | Communion | St Helen's |
| 11.15am | Communion | St John's |

12th Feb

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 9.30am | New informal parish service | St Helen's/Done Room |
| 4pm | Communion | St Thomas' |

19th Feb

| | | |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| 9am | Communion | St Thomas' |
| 10am | Communion | St Helen's |
| 4.15pm | Evensong | St Helen's |

26th Feb

| | | |
|------|---|------------|
| 9am | Songs of Praise – followed by Community brunch at the Jessie Hughes Hall | St Thomas' |
| 10am | Communion | St Helen's |
| 4pm | Messy Church | Done Room |

We congratulate and pray for those baptised

Noah Threadgold Bailey

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

John Williamson

Jessie Winstanley



Eco Church Update



Back in February 2022 Jim signed us up to join the Eco Church programme, which aims to encourage churches to consider ways they can do more to protect and encourage the natural world around them. It is run by a charity, A Rocha and you can read more about it on their website at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Each of the three churches has now completed the Eco Church survey. There are five categories to be considered – worship, land, buildings, communities and global, and lifestyle. The survey provides a baseline for each area, to show how well we are doing currently. As an incentive to improve it is possible to go for an Eco Church award if you gain enough points – at bronze, silver and gold levels.

At the time of writing, all three churches are very close to achieving the Bronze award, which is a fantastic achievement! Recent efforts have concentrated on re-thinking churchyard maintenance, and rewilding to encourage wildlife at St John's and St Thomas's, and in December we got permission for the installation of bird boxes and new memorial benches, to make our churchyards recreational spaces. Watch this space for announcements of our progress!

But attaining the Bronze award, though a great achievement, is not the end goal – there is still more to do to assess our green impact, especially as individual church members; Jim has been encouraging us all in the weekly newsletter to think about how our own lifestyles and choices can help, and filling in a Lifestyle audit or personal Carbon Footprint would be a great start. Please consider doing so, and sharing your results with the Eco Team, and seeing if or how you could change your lifestyle to be more eco-friendly. If you've been doing something or have ideas that you'd like to share, the Eco Church team and the Link would love to hear from you. They could be about recycling, helping wildlife, saving energy, anything that would help all of us to tread more lightly in the world.

If you'd like to join the Eco Church team or want to know more, please get in touch with Jim, who leads it, or one of the members –Andrew Needham, Nick Parker and Walter Gibson.

ADVERT FOR VOLUNTARY PARISH TREASURER

Tarporley Parish is one parish with three churches – St Helen’s in Tarporley, St Thomas’ in Eaton, and St John and the Holy Cross in Cotebrook. You can read more about its activities on the Parish website at <https://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org/>. It has an exciting vision for the future and an active and welcoming community.

We are looking for a new Parish Treasurer - so :

Do you have a few spare hours each month?

Do you want to develop/enhance your skills and experience?

Would you like to find out how Church finances are managed?

Would you like to meet new people?

Would you like to support your local churches?

Would you like to help manage finances to support the work and mission of the Parish?

If the answer is yes to any of the above, why not apply as our current Parish Treasurer is retiring next year. The Treasurer plays a vital role in the life and work of the Parish and is at the heart of many of the most important decisions that are taken each year. The Treasurer works closely with the Rector, lay church leadership and the Diocese to ensure that Parish resources are carefully stewarded and reported.

You don’t need to attend any of our churches and there aren’t any age restrictions, making this ideal for teenagers wanting to add skills to their CV, retired people with a few hours to spare or anyone wanting to give something back to the local community.

This could be an ideal opportunity for someone studying for a Finance qualification to get hands-on experience to support this.

The duties involved include the following:

- Book Keeping
 - Paying Wages & Staff Expenses
 - Preparing gift aid information
 - Managing investments
 - Preparing reports for the Parochial Church Council (this is the Management team for the Church who are also the Trustees)
 - Preparing year end accounts
 - Attending meetings
 - Liaising with Diocesan Finance Managers
- Continued Overleaf

Skills Needed

- Attention to detail
- Communication skills
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Accuracy
- Numeracy skills
- Ability to use a computer

This role is currently done by one person but could be shared between a number of people.

Time commitment -average 9 hours per month but some months require more time (eg at year end) for the complete role.

Full training and support given.

Please contact Anita Langford if you're interested or wish to know more :
0781 4089666 or treasurer_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com .

Finally: A date for your diary:

Saturday 4th February 11.00am to 2.00pm at St Helen's Church

Tarporley St Helen's Church Tower Open Day

[Come and Have a Go!](#)

You've seen the church tower, you've heard the bells ringing, so why not come and see how it is done at our tower open day.

St Helen's Church, Tarporley

Saturday 4th February 11.00am to 2.00pm at St Helen's Church

All ages are welcome

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Tarporley War Memorial Hospital

A quick reminder of the new services to be offered from Tarporley War Memorial Hospital (Phase 1.) (Late Summer /Autumn2022)

The hospital will become a rural hub for the following:-

- Rapid Response Team enabling people to receive care and rehabilitation in their own homes.
- REACT Hospital at Home Team enabling improved access to patients in crisis who might otherwise need to go to hospital to receive treatment in their home.

**For further information or queries please email
fundraising@tarporleyhospital.co.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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A request for volunteers.
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OPAL Clubs are social clubs for older people who need support to get out and about.

Tarporley OPAL Club runs once a week on a Friday and we are currently short of volunteer drivers. The commitment would probably be once a month.

If you feel able to help or would like further information please contact:-

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