

# THE LINK

50p

June 2021

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



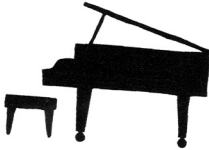
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**Weekday Service** St Helen’s Church, Holy Communion: Wednesday at 10.00 am.

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

**Rector:** **Vacancy, The Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG** **732491**

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

**e-mail:** [revjulianosborne@gmail.com](mailto:revjulianosborne@gmail.com)

**Tarporley: St Helen**

Churchwardens	Phillip Posnett, Haughton Hall, Tarporley CW6 9RH	260251
	Liz Neely email <a href="mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com">neelyeliza@hotmail.com</a>	07890 470899
Treasurer	Anita Langford, 7 The Crescent, Utkinton, CW6 0LT	458351
P.C.C Secretary	Paul Emerson, Maple Bank, Eaton Road, Tarporley, CW6 0BJ	733147
Organist	Chas Hardern	732595
Reading Rota	Elaine Meredith Corner Lodgings, Forest Road, Tarporley CW6 0HX	732104
Co-ordinator		
Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412

**Cotebrook:**

<b>St John</b> Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Oulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336
	Peter Copland, Moss Cottage, Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	732618
Organist	Katrina Copland,	732618
<b>Eaton: St Thomas</b> Wardens	Rosemary Lilley, Windward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley CW6 9AG	732948
	Michael Scott, 39 High St, Tarporley CW6 0DP	733919
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 <a href="mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com">neelyeliza@hotmail.com</a>	07890 470899
Sunday Sheet	email <a href="mailto:jleaman@talktalk.net">jleaman@talktalk.net</a>	
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

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Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness or pastoral need to the Assistant Curate. 07421 323699  
To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact Phillip Posnett. 260251

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

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.org](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org) **e-mail:** [admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk)

Items for ‘The Link’ should be e-mailed to [jobsonajpj@btinternet.com](mailto:jobsonajpj@btinternet.com) or posted to the Link Editor by the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## CHURCH SERVICE CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2021 OUR THREE CHURCHES ARE NOW OPEN\*

<b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	St Helen	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>July 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	St Helen	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
	The Wednesday morning 10am said Holy Communion Service at St Helen's has also resumed.		

*\* Please remember that face coverings are now mandatory in Church services. We continue to follow government and C of E guidance.*

## **Appointment of a new Rector for Tarporley Parish.**

Dear Parishioners, We are delighted to announce that:-

Following a process of discernment, prayer and interviews, the **Rev'd Jim Bridgman** has been invited by Bishop Mark to take up the post of Rector of Tarporley in the Chester Archdeaconry. Jim has accepted the invitation, which is subject to the completion of legal formalities.

*Phillip and Liz*

Wardens for Tarporley Parish.

### **Jim sends this message :**

*"I was ordained in 2010 and I am currently Vicar of Timperley Parish in Bowden Deanery (near Altrincham). I am married to Jenny and we have three primary aged children: Ben, Caitlin and Emily. I am also a trained Spiritual Director and I enjoy reading, films and getting outdoors. Jenny is also ordained and works for Chester Diocese training men and women for lay ministry. She will continue in this role after our move to Tarporley while also beginning a doctorate at Chester University.*

*I am really looking forward to joining you all in Tarporley and walking alongside you as we follow Jesus together. The past year has been quite a difficult time for everyone but, as we continue to recover and reflect, I am excited about the ways in which God is working in the parish, and the new challenges and opportunities that will arise as restrictions lift. I am especially looking forward to getting involved in the local schools, visiting parishioners, meeting the three different church congregations and getting to know the people, shops and communities of Tarporley, Eaton and Cotebrook.*

*We hope to make some trips over to Tarporley in the weeks ahead as we prepare for a move over the summer. Do say hello if you see us around!"*

*Rev'd Jim Bridgman and family.*

### **Our Assistant Curate writes:-**

The good news delivered above meshes well, I believe, with the text and sermon I delivered on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May as our churches re-opened. I reproduce them here:-



**The text is from John 15:1-8**

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**The sermon:**

**When we moved into our home** some 27 years ago, we inherited a large, wooden greenhouse that had seen better days. Growing inside it was a huge vine that had been allowed to grow unchecked, and which was now threatening to outgrow the greenhouse. I have no idea what variety of grape it produced; I have no idea if it produced any fruit at all, for I am ashamed to say that I cut it down! At the time we had two very young, active children who loved nothing more than a game of footy with their daddy when he came home, so a greenhouse was not the best makeshift goal in the world. It and the vine had to go.

So when I read this passage, I always feel a touch of guilt. I chopped Jesus down!!

This passage from John’s Gospel comes just before he and his disciples move on to Jerusalem and certain death. Jesus is seeking to reassure his followers that all will be well. I am the true vine is one of the seven “I ams” that he says throughout John’s Gospel, and were these normal times, I might well hold a quiz to see if you can name them all. Well, these are not normal times, for I can’t move around and you can’t shout out, or even write things down, so it would not be much of a game!

Instead, perhaps I should make it your homework to e-mail me with the other six “I ams” There will be clues scattered in the sermon!

Back to the metaphor of the vine, which works on many levels. In the Old Testament, the Jewish nation was described as the vine, with lines from a Psalm saying “You, O God brought us from Egypt like a grapevine; you drove away the

(cont o'leaf)

pagan nations and transplanted us into your land, and we took root and filled the land". The Bible goes on to tell the story of Israel's fractious relationship with the Lord, culminating with the vine suffering a fate similar to the one that once grew in my garden!

The disciples listening to Jesus reassuring them would therefore understand what he was saying on a macro level. Jesus is the true vine; He is the way back to relationship with the father. He is truth. But Jesus takes the vine image in quite new directions by introducing a new element, that of abiding. Jesus imagines and promises a dynamic and changing life for the group of disciples that results from abiding in Christ, as he does for us down the centuries. How appropriate then that we are looking at this concept today. The day when we can (praise God) come together once again in our familiar church communities. But, says Jesus, vines are pruned and cleansed by an expert gardener who knows exactly what is best for the vine. Branches that wither and die are removed, something that points towards a constantly changing community that is called to be up and doing. Rectors go and new rectors come; Curates come and curates go. Things change for a purpose. For us as a community, abiding in Christ is a relationship of purpose and power. Six times in this brief passage, the image of "bearing fruit" is mentioned.

But if bearing fruit is that important, how do I measure up as an individual. Is Jesus saying that I must be fruitful to be a Christian? If I am not fruitful, do I risk being chopped off and burned? Doesn't that conflict with Jesus being the light of the world, the resurrection? I thought all I had to do was believe and I would be saved. If I have to be fruitful now as well, I am a little worried. I understand the concept, for we in the west are people of productivity. It is, for the most part, the standard by how we live and how we measure our success. It is built into our lives everywhere. Productivity is the basis of our economic system. Those who produce are rewarded and get more. Those who do not produce are supported, yes, but on the breadline. Within our educational system, students who do well and produce good grades are recognized and supported while those who do not produce can get lost in the system. Careers and promotions are based on productivity. It is understandable, therefore, that we think the same way about our spiritual lives. If I am not a good Christian, if I doubt, if I fail, if I sin, I risk being pruned and cast away.

Understandable but wrong. That is not what Jesus is saying at all. He is simply describing how life is. Jesus is life. God is the only source of life. (cont o'leaf)



If you pick flowers, they die. The Bible tries to explain it by using the image of humanity being ejected from the garden of Eden. Separation from God resulted in death entering the world. It is not a punishment as such, it is just a fact of life. True life is only found by us being grafted into the one true vine, Jesus Christ. It is a relationship of union even as a branch is united to the vine. We live our lives as one. This is not just about relationship with Jesus; it affects our relationships with one another as well. Love for Jesus, love for one another, and love for ourselves become one love. We soon discover that we are living one life and the fruit of that life and love is abundant, overflowing, and Father glorifying. Look at Phillip in our reading from the Acts of the Apostles. He was grafted to the vine, open to the Holy Spirit's leading and direction. So it was that he found himself alongside a fabulous chariot, full of treasure, hearing a high-ranking official reading the book of Isaiah of all things! Be prepared for the unexpected. Abide in Jesus, in the community of fellow Christians and anything can happen. After baptising the eunuch (who incidentally is believed to have spread Christianity into Africa), Phillip found himself 60 odd miles from home and on the journey home, he told people about his experiences. Phillip did not act out of a grudging sense of duty, trying desperately to be fruitful. No, this was just the natural result of abiding with Jesus, of being a part of the true vine. I can hardly wait for the day when we may sing hymns together. One of my favourites is Abide with me. It has come to be associated mainly with funerals these days, but the words by Henry Lyte are not at all morbid.

Listen to verses 3 and 4:

- 3            I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
               What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
               Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
               Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
- 4            I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
               Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
               Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
               I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

As we celebrate communion and remember the bread of life, let us abide with Jesus, and invite him to abide with us.

Amen.

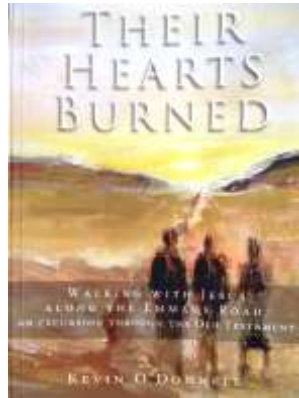
*Julian*

**From the Parish Bookshelf** : Walter Gibson continues his series of book reviews.

**'Their Hearts Burned'**

*Walking with Jesus along the Emmaus Road:  
An Excursion through the Old Testament*

**By Kevin O'Donnell**



I think it was a sermon by Julian last year about the encounter of the two disciples with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus that gave me pause for thought: what exactly were the passages of scripture that he explained to them which were about Jesus? I had to confess I could only think of a few and I was curious to learn more. I must also confess to having shown much less interest in the Old Testament of late and so an 'excursion' seemed like a good idea.

This is indeed a well-informed and lively guided tour: in the hands of the author we are taken from Genesis through to Malachi, pointing out all the references which either predicted Jesus or were fulfilled by him. Like any good tour guide, we also get stories to help explain what is meant and make it relevant to our faith today. Where there is a New Testament reference to which they are linked, these are also mentioned so making the connection more apparent.

The first Christians had no gospels or other New Testament books: their scripture was what we now call the Old Testament. Seeing Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecies and promises in the Old Testament must have been very powerful for them, in a way which is perhaps difficult for us to fully understand today. No wonder then that the hearts of the two disciples were burning as their eyes were opened to the truth by the Lord in person.

Reading this book has certainly opened my eyes to the scope, variety and meaning of all the different allusions to Jesus in the Old Testament, and made me think in a new way of the words in John's Gospel : "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us " .

*Walter*

### **Delivery of, and Subscriptions to, the 'Link'.**

**Delivery.** Hopefully, this edition of the Link has been professionally printed and then delivered to subscribers by Angela Hick's faithful band of volunteers. A welcome move towards 'normality'. Thank you to the delivery team and to the printers at NMS Design and Print in advance.

**Subscriptions.** During the past year, during lockdowns to reduce risk, we have not always printed and or delivered 'The Link' to subscribers. There has always been an electronic version available by email or online. Apologies to those who have not been able to access our magazine every month as a result. To recognise this we suggest a two tier annual subscription rate for this year only of £4 or £6 (at the subscriber's discretion). To observe social distancing we will not be asking our deliverers to collect subscriptions so will instead be asking subscribers to leave the money (with your name) in an envelope marked 'Link subscription' in one of our Churches. We appreciate that some subscribers have already paid: please do not pay again! Thank you for supporting our Parish Church magazine.                      Andy Jobson (Editor).

**Following the Holy Communion Services on the first Sunday of May we say:  
indeed we proclaim:                      *All three Churches are now open Halleluya!***

Here Judith Jones describes a happy return to services at St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook and announces the re-opening of Cotebrook Village Hall.

**" We were truly blessed by glorious sunshine to greet us as we arrived at St John`s Cotebrook, on May 2nd, for our first service since December.** Claire Rees and I were there the day before as it was our turn to clean the church, a good thing that we don't mind spiders, cobwebs and bugs as they were there in abundance. We decided to use anti bacterial spray to dust the pews rather than polish and that worked a treat. We ensured that hand sanitisers were strategically placed by the entrance and every other pew were signed with a cross to facilitate social distancing.

The congregation were all clearly thrilled to be there for a very welcome return to near normality. We were greeted by our ever faithful sidesman, Walter Gibson, who also sensitively led the prayers of intercession. Julian was inspiring in leading the service that lifted all our spirits, his words were warm and comforting bringing a sense of calm. His thoughtful sermon was based on St John`s gospel "I am the true vine and you are the branches". It was very moving to be able to exchange the peace , albeit at a distance by signing, with people we hadn't seen for months. The congregation appreciated being able to take communion , although in our pews, giving us all a personal (cont o'leaf)

sense of spirituality. At the end of the service, Bill Spiegelberg announced that he and Rosie plan to hold a garden party on Sunday July 4th to raise money for the Church. *Judith* p.s. Cotebrook Village Hall is also opening.

### **A warm expression of thanks from the Parish to Julian and Carolyn:**

**During the vacancy** the Rev'd Julian Osborne has taken on the duties of Parish Priest in Tarporley Parish, visiting parishioners, conducting services and producing service sheets online while the churches have been closed and so much more. We in this parish owe both Julian and Carolyn a huge debt of gratitude and thanks for their commitment to the church and continuing ministry during this time of transition and hope you will keep them in your prayers as we continue to worship together. *Phillip and Liz*

Eventually I have found and here are the answers to April's quiz about nursery rhymes!

Question	Answer
Why was Polly Flinders whipped? Which creatures sailed away to the land where the Bong Tree grows? Who was pecked on her nose by a blackbird? Who sings for his supper? Who jumped out of a rotten potato?	For spoiling her nice new clothes.  The Owl and the Pussy Cat. The maid. Little Tommy Tucker. The butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker. Sugar and spice and all things nice.
Of what are little girls made? What did the old woman use to sweep the cobwebs from the sky? What were lost by the three kittens? Who would sit on a cushion and sew a fine seam? Who licked the platter clean? What will the Robin do when the north wind blows? What saw Cock Robin die? What shines like a diamond in the sky? Who lost her sheep? What did the king of Spain's daughter come to see?	A broom. Their mittens. Curly Locks. Jack Sprat and his wife. Sit in a barn and keep himself warm and hide his head under his wing.(Poor thing). The fly. A star. Little Bo Peep.
What had fleece as white as snow? What are one-a-penny, two-a-penny? Where would you see a lady who has a white horse? What colour did Hector Protector wear? For what were the lion and the unicorn fighting? What said, "You owe me five farthings."? Who went to bed with his trousers on? Who wore rags, tags and velvet gowns? Who stole a pig?	The Little Nut Tree. Mary's Little Lamb. Hot Cross Buns.  Banbury Cross. Green. The Crown. The Bells of St Martin's. My son John. The beggars. Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son.

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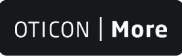


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Tarporley OPAL Club runs once a week on a Friday and we are currently short of volunteer drivers. The commitment would probably be once a month.

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

**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).

Each month spectacular floral designs are created by a skilled demonstrator on the stage before an audience of members, guests and visitors.

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ADDITIVE FREE HOME PRODUCED BEEF  
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### TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

We are a small farm producing 'Additive free, home produced, top quality beef' All our meat is professionally prepared on our premises to suit all requirements from your weekly joint to larger freezer orders.

**Selection of 35 British  
Farmhouse Cheeses**

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

AMPLE PARKING

**Home Cooked Meats  
Beef - Ham - Turkey  
100% Meat Content  
TASTE THE DIFFERENCE**