

THE LINK

50p

September 2021

Tarporley Parish Magazine

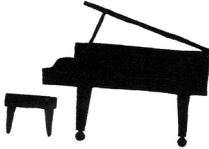


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Weekday Service St Helen's Church, Holy Communion: Wednesday at 10.00 am.

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

Rector: **Jim Bridgman, Rectory, High St, Tarporley, CW6 0AG** **732491**
 e-mail: revjimb1017@gmail.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	07890470899
Treasurer	Anita Langford, 7 The Crescent, Utkinton, CW6 0LT	458351
P.C.C Secretary	Paul Emerson, Maple bank, Eaton Rd Tarporley, CW6 0BJ	733147
Organist	Chas Harden	732595
Reading Rota	Elaine Meredith, Corner Lodgings, Forest Rd, Tarporley CW6	
Co-ordinator	OHX	732104
Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412

Cotebrook St John

Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Oulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336
	Peter Copland, Moss Cottage, Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	732618
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, CW60DP	733915
Organist	Marjorie Rathbone	732655

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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 email admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Items for 'The Link' should be emailed to jobsonajpi@btinternet.com or posted to the Link
 Editor by the 16th of each month

CHURCH SERVICE CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

September 1st St Helen 7.00pm The Institution Service
For Rev'd Jim Bridgman as Rector of Tarporley Parish

5th THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

These will be Jim's first services as Rector of Tarporley Parish

12th THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

19th THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

26th THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

October 3rd THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

We will continue to follow government and C of E COVID-19 guidance.

Our Rector, Jim Bridgman writes:-

It's great to be finally here in Tarporley! It feels like a long time ago since my interview in April.



Many of you will see Jenny and myself on the school runs to and from Tarporley CofE Primary, or out and about in the area. Do say hello and introduce yourselves if you see us, and we will try our best to remember your names. Jenny will be taking up a new role overseeing curate training for the Diocese (alongside her existing role training Pastoral Workers), and will be based at Church House in Daresbury. When her duties allow she will endeavour to worship in the parish churches, and she's looking forward to meeting you all.

Thank you for your warm welcome to us all over the past few weeks. As well as getting to know some of the local shops and parks, I have been doing a bit of reading about the history of the church and the place; History was my first undergraduate degree, so I enjoyed learning more about the changes in this place, and about some of my predecessors: from the Rector who was known as a keen crossbowman, to one who was in trouble for killing a buck with a catapult and taking the meat, to the Rector who was also Archdeacon of Middlesex (and didn't commute!), to the Puritan Rector who was described as a 'painful and pious preacher'! Certainly a mixed bunch, and I'm sure many of you have seen an assortment of Rectors come and go from the parish, with equal measures of sadness and relief. For myself, I'm not an accurate shot with catapult or crossbow, and would hope not to be described as either painful or pious! But it has left me wondering about how to begin to be a priest in this place.

And I'm being drawn back time and again to a notion of curiosity. Just as reading about the locality and history has begun to help make sense of where things are and why, so inquisitiveness and questioning seems a good place to start in ministry here.

During these first few months, I want to be curious about this community, both inside and outside of church, so I will probably be asking 'W' questions – 'Why do you do things this way? What is important to you? Where do you find God in the people and places around you?' These questions are a way for me to get to

know you as people and as a community; a way for me to hear you tell your story.

Questioning and listening are two of the themes that were found in the Bible passage I chose for my Institution: the story of the disciples meeting the resurrected Jesus on the road to Emmaus. In that episode, Jesus comes first and asks the disciples a question: 'What are you talking about?', and then listens to their answer, hearing their hopes and fears, and then helping them understand the truth about him as they all journey together.

This passage sums up for me what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, and is a source of inspiration for me as a priest: to do what Jesus did: asking, listening and then walking alongside people in their journey. I can't admit that I will have all the answers, but I am willing to walking alongside you all as together we journey nearer to God, and find that God is walking with us every step of the way too. So let's begin the journey together!

Jim

Editor's note:-

As Jim and family leave Timperley Parish to join us here in Tarporley Parish it is interesting to note that the parishes are linked by having churches dedicated to 'The Holy Cross'.

Timperley has Holy Cross Church, a modern church dedicated in 2001 and Tarporley parish has the Church of John and the Holy Cross at Cotebrook which dates from 1875.

September is, co-incidentally, also the month in which Holy Cross Day is celebrated; so here are a few notes about this 'Saint's Day'.

14th September: Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. (continued overleaf)

Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

Singing and celebrations at St Thomas Eaton

The gradual covid-secure move towards resuming normal business continued on 25th July at St Thomas' with our first Sung Eucharist for over twelve months led by Richard Tuckwell.

Our suitably distanced ladies choir and congregation took part and we treated ourselves afterwards to self-service coffee and biscuits in the open air.

We hope and pray we are allowed to continue with this initiative until our new Rector, Revd Jim Bridgman, preaches his first service at St Thomas' on 5th September following his formal "Institution and Induction" at St Helen's on Wednesday 1st September.

On Friday 3rd September we are holding a fund raising and social Summer Evening with refreshments to be attended by Jim and his family. A poster with full details is printed with this Newsletter and tickets will be on sale shortly. We do hope our faithful congregation and supporters in the village and beyond will come along and enjoy a lovely evening at what has to be Eaton's finest location with a fabulous view.

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Applicable COVID rules will apply

From the Parish Bookshelf

Our prolific bibliophile Walter Gibson

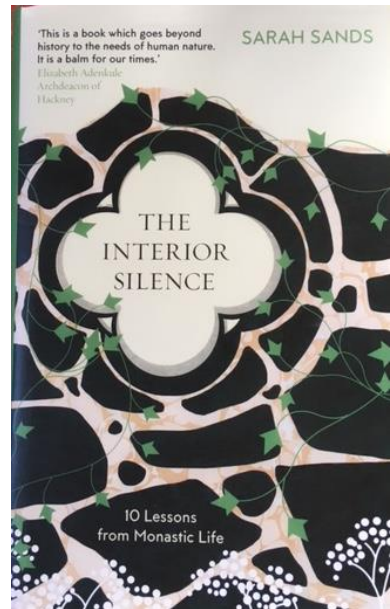
Reviews:-

THE INTERIOR SILENCE

10 Lessons from Monastic Life

By Sarah Sands

This is a recent book, written during the pandemic, which added to the stresses the author was dealing with through her high-profile role as Editor of the Today programme on Radio Four. Her search for inner stillness, so difficult to find in the world of round-the-clock news, takes her to monasteries and nunneries around the world, and makes her reflect on her own path. She has now left the BBC and this book is her first step on the way.



The journeys themselves seem quite frantic and complex too, flying around the world for just a couple of days' stay in a particular community she has chosen to experience. She is always welcomed and takes us to some quite beautiful and remote places such as Bhutan. The contrast is marked at times between her own 'busyness' and need for connection to the world, and the profound calm and contentment with isolation that the monks and nuns display. She is aware of this and honest about it, genuinely seeking answers to how she can claim some of their stillness.

Each community is chosen to help her explore a particular dimension of monastic life and its contribution to 'interior silence'. Along the way she tells us something of the history of monasticism, its evolution from the early desert fathers who cut themselves off from the world, the important figures in its development, and some of the challenges it has faced through the ages. She is curious about the contrast between the serenity of monks and nun and the apparent (and sometimes very real) hardships of their existence. And she learns above all that stillness comes from within, quoting Petrarch, who wrote 'We look about us for what is to be found only from within'.

So, between them, perhaps Petrarch and Sarah Sands save us the trouble and expense of jetting round the world in search of stillness, and point towards a different sort of journey to find it. *Walter Gibson*

We congratulate and pray for those baptised:

William Carl McLeod Collier-Jervis

Ella Rose Cooke



We congratulate and pray for those recently married:

David Irving and Alison Rosenburgh

Thomas Halpin and Jennifer Skirving

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Jacqueline "Jackie" Carole Roper

Mary Priscilla Smith

Finally

As well as welcoming Jim and family to Tarporley Parish we also congratulate the Revd Tim Hayward, Vicar of St Boniface's Church Bunbury who has taken on the additional responsibility of being Rural Dean for Malpas Deanery.

Elin Meredith attended Tim's commissioning and describes the service below:-

It was a pleasant Summers evening on Wednesday 14th July for the special service that had been arranged at St. Boniface Parish Church, Bunbury for the commissioning of Revd Tim Hayward as Rural Dean for the Malpas Deanery. The invitations to attend the service were limited to allow members of the congregations from all over the Deanery to attend, keeping to the Covid Restriction rules. Tarporley Parish was well represented.

After the service conducted by the Bishop of the Chester Diocese, Mark Tanner, I was able to take the photograph shown overleaf, with permission for it to be published in the Link magazine.

Even though the congregation and Clergy were distanced from each other there was a feeling of warmth for Tim at the service as he was officially commissioned and welcomed by each of the Parishes.

The first Reading chosen for the occasion was from

Exodus 3.1-6,9-12 *'Moses at the Burning Bush'*

The Gospel Reading was from Matthew 11.25-27 *'Jesus thanks his Father'*.



Revd Tim Hayward and Bishop Mark Tanner

Whilst we were not allowed to sing along, we listened to John Mason, the Treasurer of Bunbury Church and Member of Diocesan and General Synod, playing two beautiful hymns on the organ.

Be still for the Presence of the Lord, and How Great Thou Art

We were delighted when Tim's young daughter, a very accomplished pianist also played a special piece during the service.

Bishop Mark administered the communion bread to every communicant whilst remaining in his/her seat. It was a very moving and sincere gesture ensuring everyone's safety.

During his sermon the Bishop reminded us all that in these strange times we need to be playful and have fun.

Phillip Posnett, The new Chairman of the Deanery Synod came forward to lead us in prayer on behalf of the Parishes in the Deanery.

Elaine Meredith

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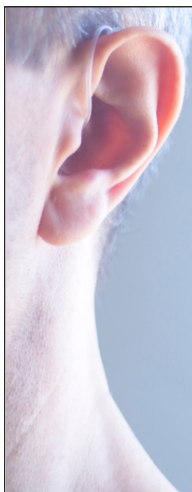


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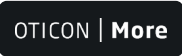


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Sam Moggan mob:07856 095 611
sam.moggan@opalservices.org.uk

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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