

THE LINK

50p

December 2023

Tarporley Parish Magazine



Advent and Christmas
in our Parish

ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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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

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Cotebrook: St John and the Holy Cross

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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.

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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 our Rector Jim by email on

Email: revjimb1017@gmail.com

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.org

The Rector Writes:-

One of the disadvantages of the simplification of the Christmas story is that two very different accounts often get merged into one, not just in nativity plays, but on Christmas cards and in the popular imagination. So while we might be used to thinking of the stable in Bethlehem populated by a crowd of shepherds on one side, and a group of wise men on the other, the Biblical narratives are very separate – Matthew focuses on the wise men and doesn't mention shepherds, while Luke concentrates on the good news proclaimed to the poor shepherds, who visit the new family and nowhere relates the star and the journey of the eastern royalty. And no one mentions the animals popping their head in either...So when I see Christmas cards full of these 'mixed' scenes, I do inwardly despair!



However, in preparing for Christmas this year, I have found some comfort and challenge in these 'mixed' nativity scenes, because they become scenes of great inclusion: when we see ornately dressed kings/wise men standing shoulder to shoulder with poor looking shepherds, a fragile, frightened couple surrounded by the friendliest looking company of angels and beasts, all looking at a small baby, we get a glimpse of God's kingdom: here rich and poor, locals and foreigners, men and women (and animals) are altogether focused on God among them. All are drawn to worship God together. If they *had* have met across the manger, I wonder what they all would have thought of each other? Would they have been suspicious?? What we *do* see in both infancy accounts, is that Mary and Joseph welcome all into the excitement of the birth of their son.

Too often we fall into the trap of trying to work who is 'in' and 'out', who is or isn't part of our nation, our 'people', our church, whether this is government policy about immigration or the Church of England debating the place (or not) or LGBTIQ+ people and clergy in church, or even thinking who to send a Christmas card to this year. Do we work from a basis of exclusion or inclusion?

Advent is a time to enlarge our vision of the kingdom of God, one that is not narrowly defined. One way we can do that this year is by joining in with the Advent Book Group, reading 'Stick with Love: rejoicing in every tongue, every tribe, every nation' by Arun Arora (which Walter has kindly previewed in subsequent pages here). This is a book which explores the witness and

examples of Christians from across the globe, some famous, some not so, some that are like 'us' others who are not, and includes with it a realisation that all were able to share God's love; as the Archbishop of York says in his Foreword, *'their music is part of our own story and song: with joy and lament they enable us to encounter afresh the surprising, all-surpassing love of God.'* Our Christian family is one that is messy, different, varied. But all can find a place here. That is good news for us who feel left out by others, and it should be a challenge to those of us whose first reaction is to work out who is 'in' or 'out'.

This Advent, let's enlarge our vision of the kingdom of God as we join with the rag-tag rabble around the manger!

May your Advent be blessed, and your Christmas full of joy and peace! *Jim*

Remembrance Sunday On Sunday 12th November, Remembrance Services and Acts of Remembrance took place at St Helen's, Tarporley and St Thomas' Eaton in our parish. Here Amelia McCourty describes the scene at Eaton.

The terrible weather did not prevent us from gathering at the cross in the village after our service to lay a wreath and remember the fallen of Eaton.

With the aid of a mobile phone, we were able to listen to the Last Post being played by Mike Wilson's grandson, Joshua, simultaneously playing in his church in Sonning – very moving.

Amelia McCourty



Remembrance Sunday at Eaton

St Helen's Christmas Afternoon Tea

A fun afternoon was enjoyed at the pre Christmas Afternoon Tea held in the Done Room. Over £600 was raised for the fabric of St Helen's Parish church. Your donations and support are much appreciated. I have coordinated the fundraiser teas for many years and would like to thank the team of hard-working helpers who ensure the continued success. A first for me was to win the Heads and Tails game!

Elaine Meredith

SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

December 2023

December 3rd**ADVENT SUNDAY**

St Thomas	9.00am	Crib Service
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
St Helen	4.00pm	Christingle Service

**10th****THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

St Helen	9.30am	Café Church for Advent
St Thomas	4.00 pm	Holy Communion

17th**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	4.00pm	Carol Service
St Helen	6.30pm	Carol Service

18th

St Thomas	7.30pm	Carol Service
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24th**CHRISTMAS EVE**

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
Tarporley High St	3.30pm	Carol singing
St Helen	4.00pm	Crib Service
St Helen	11.00pm	Holy Communion

25th**CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

31st**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

St Helen	10.00am	Joint parish Holy Communion
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January 7th**EPIPHANY**

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.

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Reverse Advent calendar 2023

3rd Dec <i>Tinned fruit</i>	4th Dec <i>Hot chocolate</i>	5th Dec <i>Peanut butter</i>	6th Dec <i>Fruit juice</i>	7th Dec <i>Washing up liquid</i>	8th Dec <i>Meat paste</i>
9th Dec <i>Tinned meat</i>	10th Dec <i>Gravy granules</i>	11th Dec <i>Tomato sauce</i>	12th Dec <i>Toothpaste</i>	13th Dec <i>Cuppa Soup</i>	14th Dec <i>Tinned fruit</i>
15th Dec <i>Stock cubes</i>	16th Dec <i>Tinned fish</i>	17th Dec <i>Custard</i>	18th Dec <i>Tinned meatballs</i>	19th Dec <i>Pot noodle</i>	20th Dec <i>Tinned soup</i>
 Tarporley Parish	21st Dec <i>Cooking oil</i>	22nd Dec <i>Deodorant</i>	23rd Dec <i>Long life pudding</i>	24th Dec <i>Long life sponge pudding</i>	

Add an item for each day in Advent.

Box up your items ready to take to the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank in January



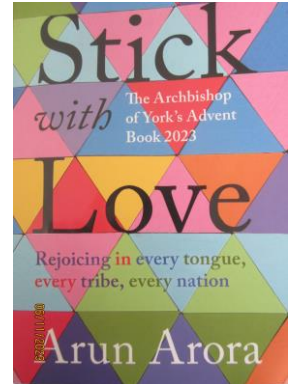
From the Parish Bookshelf

‘Stick with Love’ by Arun Arora

Rejoicing in every tongue, every tribe, every nation

The Archbishop of York’s Advent Book, 2023

Arun Arora is Bishop of Kirkstall in the Diocese of Leeds. He was born in Birmingham and came from an Indian family, with a Sikh father and a Hindu mother. He became a Christian at the age of 16 and when his mother questioned his decision he reminded her – and us – that Christianity goes back further in India than it does in England, that there are more Christians in India than there are in England.



It’s easy to think of the Church of England as, well, the Church of England. Part of the purpose of this book is to open our eyes and help us realize that we are part of a global church, richly diverse in culture and experience. Yet we all share the same faith. One of the most moving passages in the book is where he describes bishops from all around the world praying the Lord’s prayer together in their mother tongues at a Lambeth Conference.

He is a natural storyteller, and each day of Advent brings us a story of a Christian life: lives lived (and in some cases still living) in many different nations and facing many different challenges as they try to ‘stick with love’ and hold fast to their faith and calling. Some of them are saints of old, some of them are much more recent, and some of them will surprise you. There are stories of hope, stories of waiting, stories of fighting injustice, stories of courage, from all around the world: from Cardinal Van Thuan in Vietnam, to Asia Bibi in Pakistan, to Leah Sharibu in Nigeria, to Stormzy at Glastonbury, these are stories that can inspire us all and make us reflect again on what Advent means to us.

This book has much to commend it, and much to give us. *Walter Gibson*

News and an update from Utkinton St Paul's CE Primary School.

St Paul's CE Primary School has been on quite a journey over the last few years and we are excited that the last 12 months, culminating in our recent Ofsted inspection have created some solid foundations once again for the school, the community and most importantly the children who come here.

A little bit of history about our School.

The school dates back to the early 1900s where it was originally a chapel. Over the years there have been modernisations to the building and ethos of the school.

At the end of 2020 we joined CDAT (Chester Diocese Academy Trust) and in 2021 a new leadership team was brought in. Since then, Mrs McLean (our Executive Head Teacher) and Miss Simcock (our Head of School) have worked incredibly hard along with the rest of the staff to transform the school back into the beating heart of the community that it once was.

We have a new look, a new uniform, and a new vision for the school where we pride ourselves on the wellbeing needs of the children who attend which also includes weekly in-house Forest School lessons led by our very own Mrs Chaloner.

At the end of the 2022/2023 Academic Year, we had our first Ofsted Inspection as part of CDAT and we are thrilled to advise that we received an outcome of "Good":

"This is a small school with a big heart." – Ofsted, July 2023

What our parents say:

"My two daughters joined St Paul's Primary School two years ago and they fell in love with the setting from day one. They moved from a large school and I believe the family atmosphere and caring staff made this difficult transition extremely smooth for them.

Since joining the school my girls have become confident - in the large school they used to be "in the shy kids group" - now they are encouraged to speak up every day and this made a huge difference.

The children receive enormous amounts of attention and they are treated as individuals. The teachers know their abilities so well and tailor teaching to

children to bring the best possible results. What I love about this school is that I can ask the teacher every day about my daughters and they simply know how they are getting on, if there is anything they are great at or maybe struggle. This is simply not possible in large settings.

The Headteacher goes above and beyond to secure the best possible learning environment for the children. We are very lucky our children joined St Paul's".
Parent of Year 2 and Year 4 pupils.

What we offer:

- Tours of the school during the day when the children are in and engaged in their learning
- Free stay & play sessions for toddlers and their caregiver with our EYFS & Forest School teacher Mrs Chaloner
- Toddler parties hosted here –Christmas: 11th December
- Stay & Play holiday sessions and holiday club – Friday 3rd November for the introductory price of £5 per child

If you would like to book any of the above or have any further questions after you have left, please email our school office –

admin@utkintonce.cheshire.sch.uk

We hope you enjoy your visit!

We look forward to seeing you soon.



*All the staff and pupils at St Paul's CofE Primary School,
Utkinton & Cotebrook.*

Register:- We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Peter Armitage

Roger Barnes

Dorothy Leaman



Friday 8th December 2003
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Judith Walters 01829 760513, Jane Thompson 01829 760549
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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 /Autumn 2022)

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
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There is no meeting in August).***

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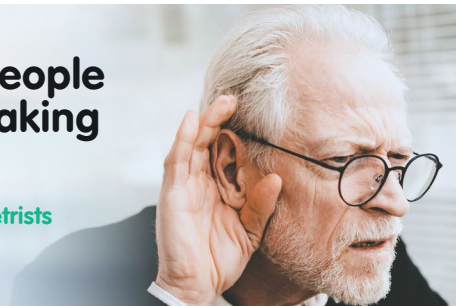
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