

THE LINK

50p

April 2022

Tarporley Parish Magazine



The carved wooden Angel at St Thomas' Church, Eaton. In 2022 this image will form part of the 'Pilgrim Porch' display at Chester Cathedral.

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 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 07526243702

Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne

Email: revjulianosborne@gmail.com 07421323699

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

Wardens Rosemary Lilley

Michael Scott 01829733919

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

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

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 Secretary: Kathryn Palmer 01829733040

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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2022

April	3rd	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Passiontide begins
		St Thomas	9.00am All-Age Worship
		St Helen	10.00am All-Age Worship
		St John	11.15am Holy Communion
		St Helen	6.30pm A service of Compline

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY

April 10th	PALM SUNDAY (services to include blessing of Palm Crosses)		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	6.30pm	A Service of Compline
April 13th	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
April 14th	MAUNDY THURSDAY		
	St Helen	7.30pm	Holy Communion
	(this service is followed by Vigil for those who wish to stay)		
April 15th	GOOD FRIDAY		
	Tarporley Chapel	11.00am	Ecumenical service
	St Helen	2.00pm	At the foot of the Cross
April 17th	EASTER DAY		
	St Thomas	9.00am	All Age Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	All Age Communion
	St John	11.15am	All Age Communion
	St Helen	6.30pm	A Service of Compline

April	24th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
		St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am Holy Communion
May	1st	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
		St Thomas	9.00am All-Age Worship
		St Helen	10.00am All-Age Worship
		St John	11.15am Holy Communion

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

Also in Lent we will be holding Lent Lunches on Wednesdays:- venues will be announced in church and via Jim's weekly email.

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The Rector Writes:-

A wooden angel, the Delamere horn, a painting from the studio of Anthony van Dyck. What do they have in common?



Well those three items were chosen to be the entries from the three churches in this parish for the Pilgrim Porch project at Chester cathedral. This is a collaboration between Chester Cathedral and esteemed Cheshire-based artist, Stephen Broadbent, which aims to capture a snapshot of worshipping life across the Diocese of Chester as part of a new permanent artwork to be installed at the west doors of Chester Cathedral.

The finished installation will be a sculptural bronze porch with ceremonial glass doors positioned at the west end of the Cathedral and every contribution will be permanently encapsulated into the new porch as part of a spectacular labyrinth design. It will be unveiled later this year as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and will involve an interactive element, where visitors can follow a web-link to allow them to see each image in its context and learn something about its story and the church it represents.

The contributions for Tarporley Parish can be also seen on our parish website, detailing why the images were chosen and what they say about our worshipping communities. Thank you to those who took the time to come up with ideas, took photos and added words to our images.

While those three items, a wooden angel from St Thomas', the Delamere horn from stained glass at St Helen's, a painting from the studio of Anthony van Dyck from St John and the Holy Cross, helped to say *something* about the worshipping life of the communities in this parish, I was aware that they only really scratched the surface. It was quite a difficult task to think of an image that summed up our worshipping communities, because what we are and what we do is hard to illustrate in a concrete physical object.

Because as we've all experienced over the last two years, 'the Church' is much more than just four walls and the beautiful objects that they house; the Church is really the *people* who gather in the name of God, revealed as Father, Son and

Holy Spirit. When the building is closed, the 'Church' isn't! Though those three artefacts help to point to things that are important in the past, present and future of our communities, they don't sum up what Church is.

The impact of our Church communities is hard to measure and capture in just one small snapshot: they are in the small deeds that we do, the love and care we share for neighbours, the worship we bring to God, the prayers we offer for ourselves, our community and our world, the ways that we act in a counter-cultural way. All this is hard to photograph! The Church is also the people, the collection of messed up individuals who realise their need of God, something bigger than themselves.

We are fast approaching Easter, the event that showcases the breadth of the Church in the reaction of the disciples to the death and resurrection of Jesus; we see faithfulness, treachery, remorse, doubt, faith, loyalty, steadfastness, rejoicing and love. We see humans reacting to God in their midst in a whole host of ways, and after despondency and defeat, we can see the joy in the victory of God over death and sin in the resurrection of Jesus. I wonder what image the disciples would have chosen for the Pilgrim Porch to sum up their walk with Jesus?!?

In fact the project itself was a good illustration to me of what the Church is and should be: I saw diverse people offering their gifts, time and wisdom, to work together for a collective goal, all to bring glory to God. For me, the act of being involved and participating together was just as illustrative of the Church as the images and words that we produced!

So when we next visit Chester cathedral, once the Pilgrim Porch is unveiled, we can look for our images on the doors and remember that those pictures speak much more about who we are as disciples of Jesus in this parish – may we continue to work together in our communities to show the transforming love of God and experience it for ourselves, this Easter and beyond.

Jim

HAPPY
EASTER



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 Alastair Findlay and Elaine and Marjorie Rathbone introduce themselves.

Name: Alastair Findlay

I am normally seen with my wife Henrietta at St Helen's, but we also go to St John's Cotebrook when there is a service there as we live in Utkinton.

I've been on the PCC since 2008 – we moved to Utkinton from west London in 1996. I've had several roles on the PCC over time including leading the (old) Worship Group, the Growth Action Planning Group and have been on the Resources Committee.



I was a merchant banker in London and we moved here when I took a job as finance director of Mersey Docks and Harbour Co. That ended in 2005 and since then I have had a number of non-executive roles including at a major building society and the Countess of Chester and the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt (Gobowen) hospitals. I am now a trustee of a pension fund.

My interests include family duties (three children and four granddaughters), golf, and gardening (cutting things down and burning them).

My favourite hymn is "Thy hand O God has guided..."

My favourite Bible passage is 1 Corinthians 13 ("Faith, hope and charity").

I've had a fairly conventional faith journey, growing up in a Christian based home and developing my faith as I attended school and university. I confess my faith wobbles around a bit. I have worshipped in London at St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea (where we were married) and then at St Mary's Twickenham when we lived in St Margaret's, west London.

Alastair Findlay

Name Marjorie Rathbone

I have attended St Helen's Church for 55 years, when I and my family came to live in Oathills Drive. I assist with the organ playing at St Helen's and Cotebrook and play regularly on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at Eaton, having first played there 52 years ago; I also played full time at St Helen's for 18 years

I was born near Wrexham. At four years old my parents, sister and myself moved to Padeswood near Mold. From 8 years old I went to Ponblyodyn Church that is where the firm foundation of my faith began. The vicar persuaded me at 15 years old to try the new organ, the only tuition I ever had!

I have over the years organised many concerts, 'Tarpoley Entertains' involving choir, congregation and the Chapel. Also a flower festival with Marjorie proudly displaying Cynthia Bigby involving most organisations and schools all making wonderful displays around church.

I was a member of the "Mothers Union" until it became too short of members, and secretary for eight years. I was also involved with the restoration of the church organ, making of tapestry kneelers, cooking hearty food for 'Messy Church'. I think I could write a book!

Two years ago I had the surprise of my life, an envelope arrived from Buckingham Palace saying that I was to receive a presentation of 'Maundy Money' from Her Majesty the Queen at St Georges Chapel, Windsor on April 7th 2020. All was arranged, but the restrictions caused by COVID lockdown intervened and the ceremony was cancelled. I did however receive the Maundy Money by post together with letters from the Queen, Bishop and Archdeacon.

I really feel so humble and honoured to think that I was appreciated by those who chose me to receive this honour.



My Family: Graham, my husband for 60 years, son Brian and Kay. Unfortunately our eldest son Paul and daughter Alison have both passed on. We have six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

My Favourite hymns: Well! Over eighty-two years attending church regularly I do enjoy so many but these are special:-

1st "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds". I have sung this hymn since I was three years old (the words came a little later but have meant so much)

2nd "Love divine all loves excelling"

3rd "Lord for the years, Your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way.

My favourite Bible story is "The Prodigal Son" and I like to read St Luke's Gospel and the Psalms.

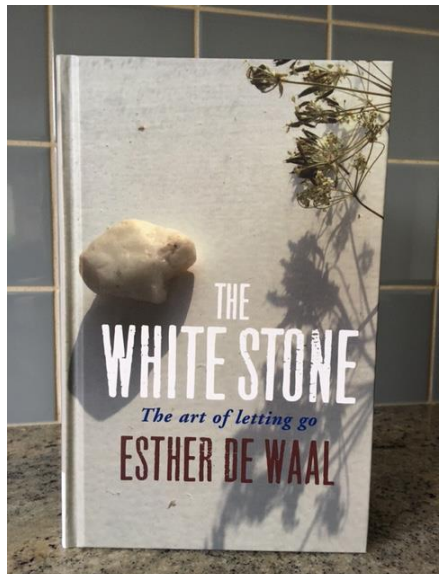
And now, I sincerely hope I may do my best whatever the task for a few more years (God Willing) and serve our Church Family.

Marjorie Rathbone.

From the Parish Bookshelf

The White Stone *The Art of Letting Go* by
Esther de Waal

The title of this book attracted me as I am currently in the process of winding up the company that I started 15 years ago: it is time to move on but I thought the book might help me let go of something that was such a big chunk of my life. It is a gentle book dealing with very profound feelings and life transitions, and draws on the author's deep faith and spirituality. There were many things that resonated



with me and I found it very helpful. I hope Link readers will too.

Esther de Waal wrote this book late in life, in her late eighties or early nineties. That alone is very inspiring. She is one of the foremost thinkers, teachers and writers on spirituality, having had a long fascination for the Rule of St Benedict and what it can teach us about living our lives today. The main theme of the book is about her leaving the cottage that had been her much-loved home for about 50 years, a huge loss, but one that she faces with the insights she has gleaned from a lifetime of study, prayer and experience. She shows us how to honour the past and see the opportunities in the future, but above all, how to live in the present.

Although that is the core of the book she writes beautifully about a wide range of topics, about nature, homes, nostalgia, possessions and people. There is a beautiful chapter on the psalms which I think would encourage anyone to read them.

The 'White Stone' in the title refers to a stone she took from the stream that flowed near her cottage. She keeps it with her always: touching it reminds her of where she came from and all that it meant, but also that she is here and now in the present.

In a way I think this book is a sort of autobiography, one that puts down all the things that matter to her, all the things that have inspired her, all the things that have nourished her, and all the things she has learnt that help to cope with the changes that life inevitably brings. And about how she is living her life to the full now. I think it will touch a great many people: how wonderful that from her own pain she has been able to reach out and offer such wise advice to others.

Walter Gibson

We congratulate and pray for those baptised:

Noah John Lowsby

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Elizabeth Vernon



Elaine Meredith describes a World Day of Prayer Evening Service – Friday 4th March, at The Chapel. This service was written by women of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The theme was HOPE. To symbolise HOPE seven candles, which were individually lit during the service, allowing it to symbolically move from darkness into light. The illustration of the front cover of the service booklet depicts the theme to include Freedom, by an open door to a pathway, Justice, by broken chains, God’s Peace and Forgiveness by the Dove of Peace and a lily breaking through the pavement. Also, a Rainbow as a sign of unity between different sections of our modern society. Small bags of seeds were distributed to the congregation. A seed being full of potential and hope. Verse 11 of Jeremiah 29 was quoted “For Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear You.” The congregation was asked to plant their seeds as a reminder of God’s constant love and of their hope. The theme centred around the true stories of three British women. Their personal sufferings of living in poverty, fear of domestic abuse and discrimination had been eased by the hope contained in God’s promises of freedom, forgiveness, justice, and peace, being fulfilled in Jesus. It is through Jesus that we can come close to God and learn of God’s plans for us. The evening service was shared with our friends from The Chapel and the Catholic Church with an opportunity to chat after the service over refreshments. There was praise for the ladies who had written this year’s service, knowing that it would have touched the lives of people throughout the world all day long.

Elaine Meredith

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 16th 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.

Advanced notice

Christian Aid Week will be from 15th -21st May 2022





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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:-

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).

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

New members and visitors are most welcome, there is an admission fee payable.

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