

# THE LINK

50p

August 2024

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



Utkinton Saint Paul's Primary School; 1893 -2024  
Faithful servant to our community. Au Revoir.

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### Become a Tarporley War Memorial Trustee.



**TARPORLEY**  
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Registered Charity Number: 700338

After a period of significant change at TWMH, we are looking for new Trustees/Non-Executive Directors to help us shape and deliver our future plans. This a particularly exciting time to be part of the charity's journey as we embark on new and varied projects to achieve our goals.

Our new aim is to go above and beyond what the NHS is able to provide by fundraising to enhance facilities, services or equipment for the people of Tarporley and its surrounding communities. We want to support people of all ages, through every stage of life, and to make a difference to both the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our community.

We also want our Board of Trustees to represent the needs and interests of the whole community; therefore we would welcome applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds, skills and perspectives to join our team. If you are passionate about community engagement and fundraising in order to improve local health and social care services, we would love to hear from you. Specific expertise in fundraising or IT or estates management would also be helpful, though not essential.

This is an unremunerated role with a time commitment of five formal meetings per year, an additional online meeting during the other months, plus some email/reading. If you are interested in finding out more about the opportunity, please contact the Trust's Business Manager, Sarah Mills, in the first instance (email: [info@twmh.org.uk](mailto:info@twmh.org.uk)). Please note we plan to hold interviews during April/May 2024.

**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

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**Rector: Jim Bridgman, Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG** **01829732491**

Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com) 07526243702

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**Tarporley: St Helen**

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com) 07890470899

Treasurer Dave Smithson

email [tarporleyparishtreasurer@btinternet.com](mailto:tarporleyparishtreasurer@btinternet.com)

P.C.C Secretary Paul Emerson 01829290372

**Cotebrook: St John and the Holy Cross**

Wardens Walter Gibson

Peter Copland 01829732618

**Eaton: St Thomas**

Warden Amelia McCourty [aemccourty@btinternet.com](mailto:aemccourty@btinternet.com) 01829 730155

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Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

email [jobsonajpj@btinternet.com](mailto:jobsonajpj@btinternet.com) items for 'The Link' should be emailed to the above by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email [StHelenssafeguarding@outlook.com](mailto:StHelenssafeguarding@outlook.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

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To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries

please contact our Rector Jim by email on

Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.org](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org)

## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

### August 2024

<b>August 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Helen	9.30am	Café Church
	St Thomas	4.00pm	Holy Communion
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>September 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	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/ParishOfTarporley](https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley)

**If you have time, please stay for refreshments after the service. Every Sunday at St Helen's, 1st and 4th at St Thomas', 1st Sunday at St John's**



### The Rector Writes:-

I write this basking in the joy of England's dramatic semi-final win in the European Championships. Having played distinctly average for much of the tournament, they now find themselves 90 minutes away from lifting the trophy. Will it be another year of hurt and disappointment, or will 2024 be etched in our national sporting memory alongside 1966??



In years gone by, the success of a nation was considered to be an indicator of God's favour on that country: when the Spanish Armada was defeated by a combination of English naval ability and the weather, Tudor propagandists saw this as confirmation of God's favour on Protestant England over Catholic Spain: God was definitely an Englishman (or maybe Elizabeth I would have argued, an Englishwoman!). If we were to translate that thinking into the recent political or sporting situations over the past few generations, then God has been getting a new passport and identity from the UK for *quite* a while...!

I long ago realised that God did not really care about sporting results (or if so, certainly did not heed my prayers/or was not a fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers...), but it is curious to see how penalty shootouts or trailing in the final minutes of a game can lead to many fans caught on camera with hands clasped in prayer and glances to the heavens. Why? Well perhaps there is a recognition that when you need a miracle, there is only one sensible option for intervention – God! In times of direst need, even the least religious person will fall back on the cry of help to God, like a divine VAR, to give us a glimmer of hope.

And having a positive answer to prayer then helps to reinforce that God can be trusted and relied upon. This of course goes beyond sport (I'm not sure how many people have converted to Christianity after a miraculous ending to a football match...), but to the centre of what prayer is: a way of deepening our relationship with God, and a knowledge of what God is like. Our prayers won't always be answered in the way that we want, but even the act of asking is an

acknowledgement that there are things that we as humans can't control, but God can; it is a simple reaffirmation of who God is: the one who can do the impossible.

It is the moments in my life when the impossible happened, often after prayer, that strengthened my faith: the relatives and church members who were healed or survived against the odds; the safe return of an item which seemed to defy luck or probability; the call to ordination itself. All of them seemed impossible yet God seemed to respond. The heart of prayer, putting our lives, our present and our future in the hands of the God who does the impossible is a scary if liberating thing, because the impossible doesn't happen all the time; but when it does then faith blossoms again.

While I won't be praying for an England win on Sunday, perhaps God will remember that she is an Englishwoman after all and once again do the impossible....and perhaps our collective national faith will revive too...! *Jim*

**News from St Thomas' Eaton.** Amelia McCourty writes:- St Thomas' church has had a busy couple of months.

In June we welcomed the Vale Royal Singers who enchanted us with an evening of beautiful music. Then in July we celebrated St Thomas' Day with our (now annual) bbq at The Drays. Thanks to Anne and Declan and despite the weather (it was 1<sup>st</sup> July and cold), 60 people joined in the fun, good food and entertainment.

Nick Parker led a fantastic team tidying the churchyard and levelling the graves to make mowing easier. The primary school have planted runner beans in two large tubs and Mike and Chris Scott got to grips with the ivy!



*Amelia McCourty*

## **TARPORLEY BELLRINGERS SUFFOLK RINGING TOUR 2024**

Once again a group of Tarporley bell ringers set off early on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June with the intention of ringing at seven towers in Suffolk before returning home.

We rang at two towers on Friday afternoon, namely, Little Thurlow and Great Thurlow. In fact Little Thurlow and Great Thurlow run into each other with a church at each end. The churches are less than a mile from each other and are situated some 8 miles south east of Newmarket.

Despite some minor navigation issues we all arrived on time at St Peter's Church, Little Thurlow. The church is largely of 14<sup>th</sup> century origin with 15<sup>th</sup> century embellishments and contains a maquette by sculptor Dame Elisabeth Frink who was born and grew up in The Thurlows, of St Edmund. The sculpture itself stands in the cathedral grounds at Bury St Edmunds.

There are only 5 bells at Little Thurlow with the heaviest bell (the tenor) weighing 12 cwt slightly heavier than the tenor at Tarporley. The ringing chamber at each tower is unique and this one was not the most spacious!

Moving on to All Saints Church, Great Thurlow accompanied by the keyholder from Little Thurlow as he has responsibility for both towers, a small number of our group had noticed a very attractive garden to the rear of the church belonging to Great Thurlow Hall and went to investigate. There they met Mrs Vestey wife of George Vestey who is patron of The Suffolk Guild of Ringers. The Vestey family were probably best known for their chain of some 1400 butchers shops trading as Dewhurst the butchers.

The tower comprised 6 bells with the tenor again weighing 12 cwt and as I recall the bells were quite easy to ring. Inside the church is a memorial sculpture to Ronald Vestey, again by Dame Elisabeth Frink, of a shepherd driving sheep.

After ringing we all took up the kind invitation from Mrs Vestey to view her beautiful garden, comprising some 13 acres, including a large walled garden and lawn and borders with the River Stour flowing through them. All maintained by 2 full time gardeners!!

Saturday morning saw us arrive at All Saints Church, in Mendham with its six bells. No parish church in Suffolk is closer to Norfolk than that of Mendham,



sitting as it does beside the River Waveney facing across to the northern county. The church proved to be a hive of activity with tea and coffee being served (not just for our benefit!), a book sale and a plant sale. Several ringers added to their reading material as well as partaking of the refreshments.

In the churchyard the western edge drops away to the River Waveney and against this edge is a pill box, a machine gun emplacement from the Second World War.

From Mendham we travelled just over two miles south east to the six bells of St. John the Baptist Church, Metfield. This is a large church in a large, curiously remote village. This 15<sup>th</sup> century church, in keeping with all seven churches we visited uses flint extensively in its structure. Flint being readily available in Suffolk during the construction period.

Leaving Mendham we headed due south, some eleven miles to the Crown Hotel at Framlingham where lunch was waiting for us. Following lunch and a small amount of retail therapy in the triangular shaped market square we drove some four miles due east to St. Mary's Church, Sweffling. Sweffling is a lovely little village in an area of lovely little villages. The church sits in hilltop splendour, clearly a successor to a fortified building, perhaps even a pagan site. Unfortunately this was as good as it got as the person appointed to open the tower for us failed to materialise (a not uncommon event when booking towers!)

Our final tower on Saturday saw us drive some six miles south to the church of St. Michael, Tunstall which is a mere six miles from the North Sea coast. This is a six bell tower with the tenor bell weighing 7cwt. A sobering inscription on the War Memorial reveals that of the 625 residents in Tunstall in 1914, no fewer than 131 went off to fight, but 18 of them never came back.

Our evening meal at The Fountain restaurant in Tuddenham St. Martin some 3 miles from Ipswich was, I felt, well earned.

Sunday morning saw us travel to All Saints Church in Ashbocking as in previous years. This is a ground floor ring of six bells with the tenor weighing 10 cwt. This church is situated quite literally in the middle of nowhere. (Even sat-navs struggle to locate it!) After enjoying refreshments we all set off in various directions, some returning to Tarporley and others extending their weekend break.

When you have been away from home for a few days one of the most common phrases you hear is “you can’t beat your own bed”. Similarly with ringers nothing beats getting back to your own tower. Ringing is so much easier after years of familiarity with your “own bells”.

Once again many thanks to Simon Christian for organising this annual pilgrimage and also to members of Simon’s family who supplemented our ringers at various towers. *Arthur Wycherley*

### **The Parish Bookshelf**

At the back of St Helen's Church is the Parish Bookshelf, a collection of books that are free to borrow, made up of books we have we've studied over Advent and Lent, as well as the books that Walter Gibson has reviewed in the Link. It is a great resource, with all different types of book to inspire, challenge and develop our understanding of life and faith, from daily devotions to fictionalised accounts of religious figures: something for everyone, wherever you are on your journey.

### **Some dates and date changes for your diary:- Summer holidays**

A reminder that some of our parish's regular fortnightly/monthly events/services will be taking a summer holiday break for the months of July and August.

They include in particular:-

**Messy Church at St Helen's** which returns on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at 4.00pm; (Monthly)-

**Friday Social at Utkinton Village Hall** which returns on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. (Fortnightly )-

**Songs of Praise service at St Thomas' Eaton; followed by Breakfast at the Jessie Hughes Hall will be replaced by a Communion Service also at 9.00am during July and August.** The Songs of Praise and Breakfast will return on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at 9.00am; (Monthly) .

**PCC Vacancies.** We currently have two vacancies on the PCC (The Parochial Church Council). Being a PCC member helps in the smooth running and decisions of the parish, and is open to anyone who is on the Electoral Roll from any of the three churches in our parish. To learn more, please contact Revd Jim or the churchwardens.

If you could offer your time, energy and skills we'd be very grateful!

### **Tarporley Carnival Day.**

Despite the showers there were fun times for the children (and adults) who visited the St Helen's Church stall at the Tarporley Carnival on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Our stall offered three games and prize treats.



Good shot!

St Helen's stall also advertised Messy Church which recommences (as noted above) on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September between 4 pm and 6 pm. at the Done Room.

An enthusiastic team will give a warm welcome.

*Elaine Meredith*



**Will the quoit land  
around a peg?**

## **Bidding Utkinton St Paul's Primary School a fond farewell.**

In the June 2024 edition of "The Link" it was reported that unfortunately, due to unsustainable pupil numbers, Utkinton St Paul's Primary School was likely to close in July this year.

This closure has now taken place but not without due celebration of the impact and contribution that this 'Small School with a Big Heart' has made since its inception in 1893.

A service of celebration was held at St Helen's Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> July and then on the 19<sup>th</sup> we gathered (see right) on a lovely sunny day, at the school, to share memories, play games and reminisce.



And when the school finally closed its doors, at the end of the academic year on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024, parents, grandparents and friends gathered in the playground to applaud each pupil and member of the school staff as they exited the school door for a final time. The applause was in recognition of each individual's contribution to the school and to wish them every success in the years to come.

### ***Finally***

***We congratulate and pray for those baptised:***

*Olivia Shackleton*

*Arthur Nielsen*

*Evie Nielsen*

*Sidney Birch*



***We congratulate and pray for those recently married:***

*Richard Gouland and Nicola Christian*

***We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:***

*Doreen Ray*

*Keith Mosely*

*Andrew Remelie*



# TARPORLEY

WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TRUST

Registered Charity Number: 700336

## Tarporley War Memorial Hospital Trust update.

We are pleased to announce that the Tarporley War Memorial premises have become a rural hub for the provision of health and social care services in the community. Our strategic clinical partner, the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust, has been welcoming and treating patients at the hospital and feedback is extremely positive.

The list of services provided continues to evolve and here is a reminder of the services now available:

Ultrasound, Physiotherapy, Children's therapy team, Neurotherapy team, Podiatry, doppler, leg ulcer and dressing clinics, Community midwives' and health visitor open advice clinics, Diabetes education group, AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm) screening, Private counselling/therapy services, Autism and ADHD assessments, Pelvic floor clinics, Rapid Response and Hospital at Home.

All clinical services are provided by the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust and access to the services is usually arranged by your GP practice or following a hospital referral.

For all clinical queries - 01244 364620 [coch.tarporleyenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:coch.tarporleyenquiries@nhs.net)

For all charity enquiries - [info@twmh.org.uk](mailto:info@twmh.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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# Jacqueline Wilson Page 15

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Meetings at Tarporley Community Centre  
on 2nd Thursday, September to June at  
1.20pm. Coffee from 12.30pm. If you'd like  
to come as a guest, please contact  
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