

September 2023

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



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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

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

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

---

**Tarporley: St Helen**

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

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

Treasurer Dave Smithson  
email [treasurer\\_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com)

P.C.C Secretary Paul Emerson 01829733147

**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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Electoral Roll: Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP  
01829 733431

Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com)

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

## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

### September 2023

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Boniface, Bunbury	10.30am	Joint Deanery service at St Boniface, Bunbury
St John	6.30pm	Evensong

**Evensong is a great way to end a Sunday**, with singing, ancient liturgy and prayers - if you've never tried it, why not give it a go?!

**24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

St Thomas	9.00am	Songs of Praise: Followed by breakfast at the Jessie Hughes Hall, Eaton
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

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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### The Rector Writes:-

Unbelievably, we are back to September already! Once again, the summer seems to have disappeared too quickly for my liking, and the big C (Christmas) is already looming large on the horizon!



One of my personal joys each summer is that it is the time when the three cycling Grand Tours are held (Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and Vuelta a Espana), and I love watching the action unfold, as cyclists perform the ultimate endurance race: 21 stages over 23 days, each stage often 4 or 5 hours in the saddle, going up, down and through mountains, hills and sprint finishes. Watching the Tour de France especially was something I vividly remember in my early childhood and has stuck with me ever since.

Part of the fascination I have with it is that these events are simultaneously individual events as well as team efforts; while only one cyclist can win overall, they would not be able to compete without the sustained help of their teammates throughout the course of the three week race. And whilst the winners grab the headlines, the helpers (termed '*domestiques*', quite literally, servants!) play a vital role in delivering their leader to a stage - and race - winning position. Often it means looking after them, ensuring the leader has enough bottles of water and food over their own needs, sheltering them from the wind, setting the pace or even offering their bike in the case of mechanical for their leader. It is selfless and hard work, but necessary for the ultimate goal. And therefore it is no surprise that the winner's first thanks on the final podium are for the team: not trumpeting their own ability, but the work of those around them. For me it is a wonderful illustration of what groups of people can do when they come together and coordinate.

What has been so encouraging to me over the past few months is the realisation that the same sort of coordination and pulling together has been evident across this parish in a number of spheres: the willing volunteers who have stepped up to come together to help keep the churchyard at St Helen's tidy is one such example – many people giving of their time and skills to take responsibility for maintaining certain areas of the churchyard, mowing, strimming, raking, weeding, cleaning paths and graves, as well as planning what



to do for the future. Everybody has played a part, and focused on the common goal.

The same can be said of so many other parts of parish life: those organising Messy Church, those leading the Eco church initiative across the parish, people who serve refreshments at the Warm Space, Café Church and Songs of Praise breakfast, those coordinating the work and fundraising for the upcoming Done Room renovations and the teams cleaning the churches to name but a few more. Everywhere around I see talented *domestiques* all working for the same end: extending the Kingdom of God in this place.

You may remember that at the APCM, I referred to Martin Buck's wonderful term 'gongoozler', as someone who sits on the side of the canal offering advice/criticism but never getting involved. I am glad to say that I have seen very few gongoozlers here in the parish!!

St Paul talks in terms of the church as being a body, with all the different parts of the body playing a vital, but different role in keeping the body healthy. No role is more important than another – all have a place. We might think a little toe isn't very important, until we cut it off and realise that it is essential for balance! Perhaps if St Paul had been writing today, he may have used the image of a cycling team too...

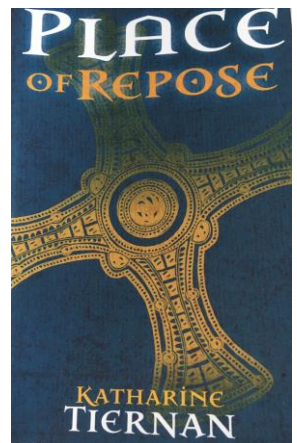
We all have a role to play in church, in furthering the Kingdom of God. If you haven't found yours yet, continue to pray about it, and then try your hand at getting involved. God wants more *domestiques* than gongoozlers!

*Jim*

**Overleaf;- Walter Gibson reviews:- 'Place of Repose'**

*St Cuthbert's Last Journey*

by Katharine Tiernan



A restful-sounding title. But the background to this book, the second in Katharine Tiernan's historical novel trilogy set in Northumberland, is anything but restful.

The first in the series ('Cuthbert of Farne', available from the Parish Bookshelf) described the life and work of St Cuthbert and the establishment of the monastery at Lindisfarne. Now it is a hundred years later in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and the monks at Lindisfarne are caring for the relics of St Cuthbert against a backdrop of the Viking invasion, which brought war and terror across Anglo-Saxon England.

The fragile peace in Northumbria is destroyed as the Danes seek to quell an uprising, unleashing a violent reprisal. In fear for their lives and the Saint's relics, the monks flee, not knowing where to take his coffin, their most precious possession. The story, based on an early historical account, follows the seven-year journey of the coffin-bearers across the north of England as they seek to avoid capture and find a resting place for him. They have no food, no maps, only the clothes they had on when they left. It is a journey where their faith and for some, their vows, are tested. Their experiences along the way change them in ways they did not expect.

For others – the Bishop of Lindisfarne and the Abbot of Carlisle – it is a journey in quest of peace and to find the final resting place for the Saint. They too find themselves led to surprising decisions. Katharine Tiernan weaves all of these strands into a compelling and hugely enjoyable read, with wonderfully drawn characters living out their faith in a turbulent and fast-changing world.

*Walter Gibson*

**Some dates for your diary:- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.**

**Postponement of planned walk.**

Three churches parish walk. Sadly, this planned three churches walk has had to be postponed. It is hoped that it will be re-arranged in the not too distant future.



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at St Helen's Church : 7.00pm**

### **TARPORLEY THROUGH TIME**

*Tarporley Through Time, the first in a series of lectures, presentations, displays and field trips, exploring the history of Tarporley and District.*

We are pleased to announce that the first presentation will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 with the theme, *Our Photographic Heritage*, embracing Tarporley and District. Given by Maurice Hunt, it will be a full evening's event with doors opened at 7pm and attendees requested to be seated by 7:15pm. Light refreshments will be included.

Entrance will be by ticket only, with high demand expected, and made available on a first-come-first-served basis at St. Helen's Church from 6pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. To ensure a fair as possible distribution, tickets will be issued at the rate of no more than two per person. They will be free of charge with donations welcomed on the evening directed towards the upkeep of the three churches and churchyards in the parish, (St. Helen's Tarporley, St Thomas' Eaton and St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook.) A reserve list will be opened to fill any late cancellations.

Please note that seating numbers are being restricted by clear viewing capabilities.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **The Bellringers' Quiz. Tarporley Community Centre**

7.30 for an 8.00pm start; the famous "Bell Ringers' Quiz"

Tickets are £10pp, with teams of up to 8, and are available from Jenny Christian at [christian908@btinternet.com](mailto:christian908@btinternet.com) or on 01829 732412.



Proceeds will be split equally between St Helen's Church and St Luke's Hospice.

Tickets go fast so don't delay.

**Please join us; it is great fun!**

### **Registry**

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

Joyce Austin

Audrey Butcher

John Nilsson

Peter Norman

Elaine Parker



## **Ding dong merrily near Eye!**

Tarporley bellringers describe their trip to Suffolk.

Once again in early June, nine of St. Helen's bell ringers travelled to Suffolk for a weekend of ringing. Since 2015 this has become an annual event (Covid years aside), and has enabled us to engage in what is known as "tower grabbing". This year we rang at 7 different towers bringing our total of Suffolk towers to 48 – there are 400+ churches in the county, which leaves plenty more to keep us going !

When arriving at a church where you have not rung previously, you are always faced with new experiences and some surprises. Over the weekend we accessed the towers in a variety of ways: through trap doors, up steep ladders or via narrow and winding stairs. Some we were able to just walk into and ring from the ground floor, but this generally means that the ropes are long and can present a different type of challenge.

We began our weekend on the Friday afternoon at St Mary's in Old Newton, just outside Stowmarket. Unusually this tower has only 5 bells as most have either 6 or 8. In the graveyard we discovered the grave of Edward Falconer, who died in 1946, while Vicar of Old Newton, at the age of 98. He was vicar for over 50 years and an inscription on his gravestone reveals that he was known as Britain's oldest working clergyman.

St Peter's in Copdock, was 2<sup>nd</sup> on our list. This has a very small ringing room, meaning that ropes had to be kept under tight control. The main entrance to the church is still locked with its foot long original key. Here, John Marven, a celebrated bell ringer is buried. He died in 1798 at just 34. He is remembered as being one of the early composers of the change ringing method, which is how we still ring today.

Our first port of call on Saturday was St Peter's in Cretingham, a village which in 1887 was the scene of a dreadful crime. The vicar's throat was cut at 12 o'clock one night as he lay sleeping in his bed. His curate was accused of the crime, and found guilty, although no-one appears to know his motive. He could have hanged, but the jury ruled he was insane and under the Criminal Lunacy Act of 1884, he escaped the noose and was sent to Broadmoor.

And so onto St Mary's, Worlingworth . This was the only 8 bell tower of the weekend. The church has a wonderful 15<sup>th</sup> century double hammer beam roof and the glorious towering font cover is of particular note.

Lunch was at a hostelry in Framlingham (home to one Ed Sheeran) and where some engaged in a spot of retail therapy.

A drive through the quiet, narrow lanes of Suffolk saw us arrive at St Mary's Monewden, a particularly remote spot. Ringing took place on a balcony in this delightful 14<sup>th</sup> century church.

St Mary, Clopton was the final church of the day. A metal grid covered by glass, lay in the centre of the ringing room floor, which for some was a little disconcerting. It was placed there to provide ventilation as the room is without windows. The 1841 Census tells us that the number of dwellings in the village was 81, and it has only risen to about 140 today.

After all this ringing, we enjoyed tea and cakes in a pretty tea shop garden in Grundisburgh and green-fingered ringers purchased plants from a plant sale on the village green. An evening meal followed at another of our favoured hostelrys "The Fountain" at Tuddenham.

Ashbocking, as tradition dictates, was the final tower of the weekend. This is another remote church as it is located a mile outside the village. This year, our visit coincided with the Sunday service and subsequently we were able to ring beforehand. Above the south door of the church there is a rare set of Charles I Royal Arms. They are dated 1640 and lettered *God Save the King*. This is a remarkably late date for such a public statement of support for the crown. The vicar of the time, Theodore Beale was, as were several others in Suffolk,

drummed out as a scandalous minister and died in prison. This is in marked contrast to the recent "Ring for the King" campaign to recruit new bell ringers to ring for the coronation of Charles III.



Tarporley ringers with some of Simon's family at Ashbocking.

After yet more refreshments, some of us made our way home, whilst others chose to continue their break in the local area, Thank you to Simon Christian for arranging yet another great weekend.

Thank you, Tarporley Church Bellringers.

We always welcome new learners and should you be interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Helen's, please contact our Tower Captain, Jenny Christian .

[Tel:01829 732412](tel:01829732412).

Finally, please see the notice below regarding an opportunity available at Tarporley War Memorial Hospital.



### **Become a Tarporley War Memorial Hospital Trustee**

After a period of significant change at TWMH, we are looking for two new Trustees/Non-Executive Directors to help us shape and deliver our future plans. This is 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.

This is an unremunerated role with a time commitment of five formal meetings per year in person, 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)).

## Mid-Cheshire Foodbank

At present, Mid-Cheshire Foodbank is running short of these long-life items

Tinned potatoes / instant mas,UHT milk,Washing up liquid.

Keep praying for the Foodbank, its volunteers and its users.

There is a collection point for the Foodbank at the back of St Helen's church just to the right of the main doors: two boxes labelled

'Foodbank'. St Helen's is open most days from 9am-5pm, so please bring donations to church. There are also collection points at the back of St Thomas' and St John and the Holy Cross churches - do bring along items on a Sunday.

## Tarporley War Memorial Hospital

### **A quick reminder of the new services to be offered from Tarporley War Memorial Hospital (Phase 1.) (Late Summer /Autumn2022)**

The hospital will become a rural hub for the following:-

- Rapid Response Team enabling people to receive care and rehabilitation in their own homes.
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**For further information or queries please email  
[fundraising@tarporleyhospital.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@tarporleyhospital.co.uk)**

## ***Tarporley Flower Club***

*Members of the Tarporley Flower Club  
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*meeting which is held at the*

***Tarporley Community Centre between  
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No experience is necessary, we care a lot more about a smile and a desire to help others. To find out more, contact [janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk)

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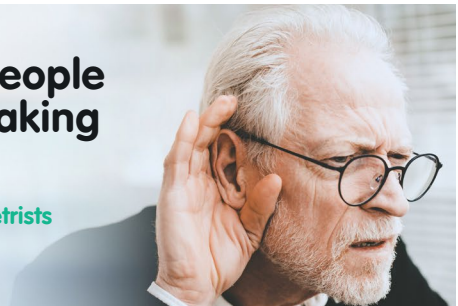
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