

THE LINK

50p

December 2021

Tarporley Parish Magazine

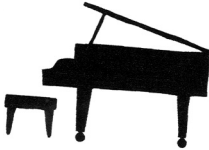


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PARISH DIRECTORY – TARPORLEY

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

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 Spiegelberg01829760336

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 SERVICE AND CELEBRATIONS FOR DECEMBER and CHRISTMAS 2021

Additional Advent and Christmas celebrations highlighted in bold

December 4th	Community Carol singing 4.00pm outside St Helen's Tarporley	
5 th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	St Thomas 9.00am	All-Age Worship
	St Helen 10.00am	All-Age Worship
	St John 11.15am	Holy Communion
	St Helen 4.00pm	Christingle Service
12 th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	St Thomas 9.00am	Blessing of the Crib
	St Helen 10.00am	Holy Communion
17 th	The Alvanley Arms Cotebrook 8.00pm Carol Singing	
19 th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	St Thomas 9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen 10.00am	Holy Communion
	St John 4.30pm	Carol Service
	St Helen 6.30pm	Carol Service
20 th	Dray's Coffee Shop, Eaton 7.30pm Carol Service	
	In an open sided marquee with refreshments afterwards	
22 nd	St Helen 3.00pm	Messy Church Nativity
24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	Tarporley High St 3.00pm	Community Carol Singing:-
	St Helen 4.00pm	Crib Service
	St Helen 11.00pm	Midnight Communion
25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	St Thomas 9.00am	All-Age Communion
	St Helen 10.00am	All-Age Communion
26 th	BOXING DAY	
	St Helen 10.00am	Holy Communion
January 2nd	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
	St John 11.15am	Holy Communion
	This will be the only service in our Parish on January 2 nd .	



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

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The Rector Writes:-

Advent. "What's it all about?"

Candles and calendars? Countdowns and chocolate? Shopping, shopping, shopping without dropping??



We know that Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas, to get ourselves ready, but it's not just a time to kill before we get to the main event. The season of Advent has importance of itself, as a time of waiting and watching for God.

Waiting is quite an alien concept to most of us and the world about us. How many adverts do we see or hear which say: you need to *wait* in order to get this product? Not many. In our society of instant messaging and fast food, we have little or no time for waiting. I once passed a tattoo parlour where the sign outside proclaimed 'Tattoos while you wait', which made me wonder if there was any other way to get a tattoo...

The past two years have perhaps forced us all to deal with waiting a bit more: waiting for the Lateral Flow Test to change, or waiting anxiously for the PCR test result to come back; waiting to know when it's safe and possible to see friends and family. In some ways we have been living in a perpetual atmosphere of waiting.

We easily get impatient and anxious. And these feelings can easily be replicated when we relate to God.

Waiting can feel like a very passive action; how often do we fill 'waiting' time with doing something else? Checking our phones while we wait for the bus to arrive, or just getting one more job done while we wait for a visitor to arrive? It's certainly something I struggle with: cramming one more thing into the time available. It's not easy to stop and actually invest in real, conscious waiting: no agenda, no activity, but giving space for ourselves, or for God.

In the book of the prophet Isaiah 64:4 we read that

*From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.*

Like the people of Israel, we can become impatient for God to act, to do something NOW, when WE want God to act. The people in Isaiah have come to see the world as empty of God. They complain that God has withdrawn from them – they remember when God made himself known to their ancestors in great ways, but now God doesn't seem to be there. But in the midst of this rant against God's inaction, they remember that God is the one who acts on behalf of those who WAIT for him, and they realise that this is exactly what they haven't been doing. Instead, they have been complaining, and sinning, turning away from God because they think God's gone missing. Finally, they realise that God acts for those who wait. Once they recognise this, they also see the sin that they've been caught up in – they haven't been searching for God, they have become filthy, doing the things God finds unclean. But now they have a moment of clarity, fully understanding who they are in relation to God: they are the clay, and God is the potter; he is the one in charge, not them. And once they have realised this, they are ready to wait for God, and accept God again, to say 'yes' to God.

We are all painfully aware of the all consuming busyness of life, especially as Christmas draws near. In such an atmosphere where is our time for listening? For prayer? For reflection? For simply waiting on God?

In the liturgy for Morning Prayer during Advent, the final prayer is this –

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

This is the heart of Advent – watching and waiting; being prepared and awake, ready to spring into action when we see God at work. What do we need to do, what time do we need to put aside in the next four weeks, so that when we arrive at Christmas Day we are found watching and waiting and awake to God? Do we need to say 'no' more, and leave more time for conscious waiting?

One of my favourite Advent prayers is by the Puritan theologian of the seventeenth century, Richard Baxter, which reminds me about the importance of waiting, and its a prayer that I will be using throughout Advent. Maybe you will join me in waiting and watching this Advent?

Keep us O lord, while we tarry on this earth,
in a serious seeking after you,
and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives;
that when you come,

(continued overleaf)

we may not be found hiding our talent,
nor serving the flesh,
not yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,
but waiting and longing for our Lord,
our glorious God for ever. *Amen*

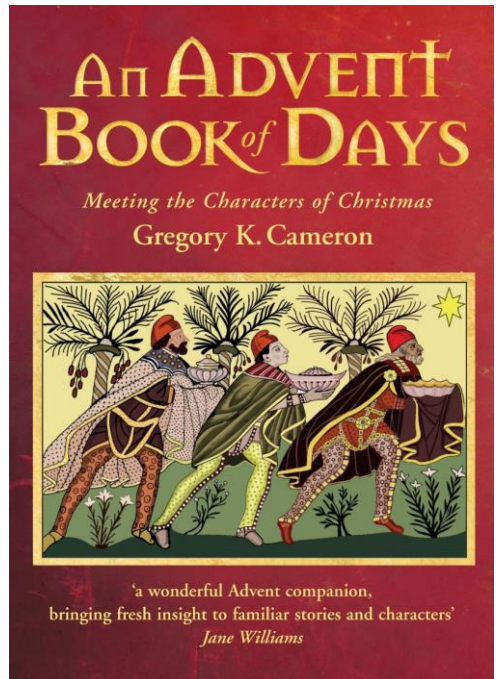
Jim

Advent Book Group

Join us through Advent, as we read 'An Advent Book of Days' by Gregory Cameron - a chance to reflect on the characters and creatures in the Christmas story.

For each day of Advent, we meet a character caught up in the drama of the nativity, from the archangel Gabriel to the ox and ass in the stable. We discover what their portrayal in scripture reveals about them, how they have been understood in history, what folk legends have accrued around them, and what their stories offer for faith and devotion today.

This is a book to engage all the senses and the imagination, to be enjoyed slowly and to shed new light on the most famous and familiar story of all. With short readings for each day, it's an ideal companion to prepare for Christmas.



Come along on **Wednesdays in Advent from 1st Dec**, to share and discuss what we've read over the past week – **Wednesdays at 7.30pm at St Helen's**.

Whether you just want to read the book alone as part of your Advent preparation, or want to join with the parish book group, I encourage you to make the most of this resource! *Rev'd Jim*

Buy the book here - <https://www.aslanchristianbooks.com/an-advent-book-of-days-meeting-the-characters-of-christmas-9781786222688/>

Walter Gibson kindly reviews our advent study book below:-

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation. There is so much we can look forward to – and have to get ready for – at Christmas. It may be some special food, or presents we long to give or receive, or being together as a family. But do we give the same attention and devotion to preparing ourselves to receive the Christmas message? This gem of a book can help to redress the balance. Beautifully illustrated by the author, who is the Bishop of St Asaph and a skilled artist and iconographer, it is based on the medieval books of the hours, with each day offering us new insights and scholarly meditations on the characters, places and stories associated with Christmas.

Here are all the familiar characters and some new ones (at least for me). The ox, the ass, the shepherds, the three wise men, and even the little drummer boy are all there. And of course Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But have you ever encountered St Lucy, and what is her association with Christmas? Each day there is a different character or place or event for us to read about and ponder in our hearts. The author brings his scholarship to shed new light on them all as we journey with him to the stable in Bethlehem. Traditions and theological concepts are explored, as well as how our understanding of the Christmas story has evolved through history.

In each short chapter we are given not just the historical and biblical background to each event, place or person: from there the author draws out insights and questions for us to consider, and makes it relevant to our lives today. And so the beautiful icons at the start of each chapter are brought to life in a powerful way, enriching our whole experience of Advent... and hence Christmas too.

Walter Gibson

**Also join us this Advent in Carol Singing at
The Alvanley Arms at 8.00pm on the 17th
and or:-**

**On Christmas Eve at 3.00pm on the High St
Tarpoley outside St Helen's Church.**



We congratulate and pray for those recently married:

Neil Richardson and Katie Oakes

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Sidney Gilman

Margaret Roberts

***And on Sunday
14th November***

We were blessed with wonderful sunshine as we stood in silence in Acts of Remembrance before our services in church.



**Remembrance
Sunday morning
outside St
Helens**

**Now: A new feature in 'The Link'
'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?"

Following a suggestion by our Rector, Jim, each member has agreed to supply a short description, in a standard format, to introduce themselves.

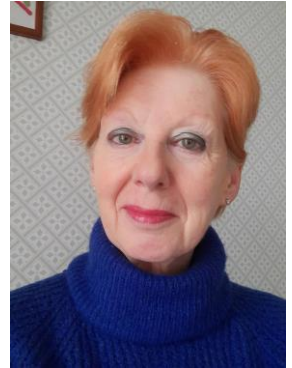
Mike Scott and Liz Neely are the first. Here are their 'biopics'.

Liz Neely : wife, mother and grandmother.

Churchwarden and Safeguarding officer for the parish, sidesperson and on the rota for readings and intercessional prayers.

Attends St Helen's Parish church usually to be found at Wednesday and Sunday 10am services.

When I'm not in church I like to walk in the countryside, visit National Trust properties and parks and RHS gardens, get out in my own garden, visit family, cook, do jigsaw puzzles, crossword and codeword puzzles, read (usually cunning murder mysteries) and listen to Classic FM, go for picnics and I am a Sudoku fanatic!



Trying to decide on a favourite hymn is too difficult I love the musical version of Psalm 23 but I also love We Plough the Fields and Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Come Down Oh Love Divine and Silent Night and so many more, now do you see my problem? However, from Psalm 23 I do not think I need more than the first verse The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

I do not remember a time when the church wasn't part of my life. The vicar and his wife were familiar figures in our village community where we would have fetes and bazaars to raise funds for our church (mum was a great baker of cakes and her's were always sold out before any others went off the cake stall which meant we didn't get cake that weekend!) and dear Rev'd Bradshaw was a regular visitor to the village school, sometimes taking on the story telling role on a Friday afternoon. I was taken to church even before I could read the hymns, Sunday school was a large part of my 5 to 13 years and even afterwards I assisted the 'teachers' with the little ones' class. I was a member of the choir for several years too. So God has always been a part of my life and I know he always will be.

Michael (Mike) Scott. I regularly attend morning Services at St Thomas' where I have been a Warden for 15 years

My present role on the PCC is Chair of the Resources Sub-Committee, with a special interest in the fabric of our churches.
(continued overleaf)



I gained a BSc degree in Rural Estate Management at London University before joining Denton Clark & Company, Chester, in 1966, as a Rural Practice Chartered Surveyor and retired as Senior Partner in 2013.

When I'm not at church, I spend most of my time with my family--wife Chris, sons Andrew and Tom, their wives Lesley and Elsa, and their three lovely grandchildren. We aim to visit our daughter, Sara, and our two grandsons in Melbourne, Australia, for six weeks every year.

I tried my hand at golf and salmon fishing on retirement and enjoy walking with friends, foreign holidays abroad, and exploring the as-yet unvisited parts of the UK and Eire.

My favourite hymn is "How Great Thou Art" and my favourite Bible text is "First Corinthians, Chapter 13".

My journey of faith began with a happy and fulfilling Presbyterian upbringing in my home town of Sheffield followed by 12 years in the wilderness through university and whilst I was forging my career before being confirmed into the Church of England prior to marrying Chris in 1978.

Editor's note Thank you to Liz and Mike (and to my other contributors) for their welcome contributions to the Link. You may have tried Liz's recipes in recent months and Mike's latest is below.

----- **Just a thought**----.With all the high-profile talk in the Church of England about carbon neutrality by 2030, the recent Global Warming Conference, and gas, electricity, and oil price increases and shortages, is it not time for the C of E to be encouraging us to "go solar and ground -source"?

---- And what better locations do we have for solar panels than our three churches?

The Link's front cover this month shows their steeply sloping roof elevations with open, south facing aspects and no nearby buildings to shade them.

---- And what better positions for the batteries that will inevitably be required to store the surplus electricity generated, given the few hours each week heat and light is needed, than the high-level open spaces in our churches?

---- And what better sites for ground -source heating systems than the extensive footpaths and open areas around our churches?

----- **Just a thought**----.

Mike Scott

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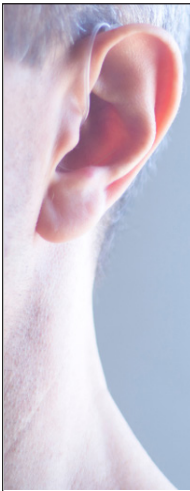


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OPAL Clubs are social clubs for older people who need support to get out and about.

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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