

THE LINK

50p

July 2023

Tarporley Parish Magazine



ANDREW P. DEAN

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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: revjimb1017@gmail.com 07526243702

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: neelyeliza@hotmail.com 07890470899

Treasurer Dave Smithson
email 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 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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01829 733431

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

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

July 2023

July	2 nd	St THOMAS' DAY		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
		St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
	9 th	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		St Helen	9.30am	Café Church
		St Thomas	4.00pm	Holy Communion.
	16 th	THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion and Baptism
		St Thomas	6.30pm	Evensong
	23 rd	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Songs of Praise; followed by breakfast at the Jessie Hughes Hall
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
		The Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church
	30 th	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		St Thomas'	10.0am	Joint Parish Communion followed by refreshments in the Jessie Hughes Hall
August	6 th	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
		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:-

This July sees the 13th anniversary of Jenny's and my ordination as Deacons at Chester cathedral. The date was 4th July, often known by our transatlantic cousins as Independence Day, and the irony was not lost on me: on the day other celebrated independence, we were pledging ourselves to a life a service!



The role of the Deacon is described in the ordination service in these terms:

Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible. Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

The role of the Deacon is one of service – to God, and to God's people. Amidst all the pomposity and self-importance which church life encourages in ordained ministers, the ministry of a Deacon is a very necessary puncturing of that; it is a reminder that at its heart, ministry is about serving others, in imitation of Jesus, the servant-king, who took off his outer robe to wash the feet of the disciples before his own death.

It's also a role that is complimentary – it's about teamwork; notice in those paragraphs the abundance of words associated with working together: *work with/share/accompany/assist*. Being a Deacon is about being part of something bigger than just yourself. Before being ordained, the bishop reminds the prospective Deacons:

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God.

That is certainly not a bad thing to be reminded of! The need for God's help in all of tasks of life and ministry. Your ordination does not turn you into superwoman or superman, as much as you or others might think it!!

While many people ordained as Deacon then are ordained a year later as a priest, there are some ministers who don't and they remain as 'Distinctive Deacons'.

Much has happened since that sweltering day in July 2010, both for us as a family, and of course in the world around us. But one thing remains the same – we are still Deacons. This was something impressed upon us at our ordination retreat leading up to the service, as well as during our first year of curacy: despite whatever happens afterwards (whether one goes on to be ordained as a priest, or rises to different roles within the Church hierarchy, or even if one is consecrated as a bishop), you still remain a Deacon. That never changes: you don't grow out of it! Instead, service is the bedrock of the role of the clergy.

I admit that I don't always succeed in this. It is easy to say 'that's not my job or what I'm here to do' when faced with apparently mundane or trivial jobs; but it is often in the stacking of chairs, the making of refreshments, joining in with the upkeep of the graveyard that the serving nature of Deacons is expressed, as we realise that we don't labour alone but part of a wider team, and it is in those moments that we follow in the footsteps of our servant-Saviour, Jesus. So I am also very thankful this anniversary of those in the parish who remind me of the Diaconal nature of ministry, as they perform those simple, often overlooked or untrumpeted tasks. Thank you for your service, and may we continue to be a community of deacons in this parish!

Jim

Evensong - Summer schedule. With the lighter nights and better weather, Evensong has returned and is now held at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month. We'll continue to worship round the parish at all three churches:-

July 16th St Thomas'. August 20th - St Helen's..

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?!

Messy Church updates:-

Over the past few months, Messy Church has continued to meet in the Done Room, looking at more of Jesus' miracles, such as the raising Jairus' daughter, Jesus calming the storm and the healing of the paralysed man, as well as learning about Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

The children (and parents!) have had lots of fun making all sorts of edible crafts, as well as trying their hand at origami, Lego and a multitude of crafts requiring colouring, cutting and gluing!

Also, for the final half-term of the year, Revd Jim and volunteers are taking Messy Church on the road, and running a lunchtime Messy Church club at St Paul's Church of England Primary School in Utkinton, looking at the theme of the Psalms: Songs for life. Looking at six Psalms with interested pupils, through crafts and games, these are then followed by whole school Collective Worship. Once again, Revd Jim's love of Lego seems to be coming to the fore!

We're always looking for more volunteers at Messy Church, so if you would like to know more, or can offer to help, please contact *Revd Jim*.

Results of Messy Church activities. (below)



St Helen's Day – Tarporley Primary school

It was a pleasure to welcome students from Tarporley Primary School classes Foxgloves, Bluebells and Snowdrops visiting St Helen's Tarporley for St Helen's Day (22nd May)!

There was lots of fun had making pilgrim badges, Lego saints, holding crosses and learning all about St Helen and other saints who let their light shine.

Thanks to the teachers and pupils, as well as the band of volunteers who helped run the craft activities!



Light shining through the windows and on crafts on St Helen's Day in St Helen's Church

The Church and Agriculture:

As this article is being written on the 20th June people will hopefully be thronging to the Cheshire Show ground at Tabley for the first day of the 2 day 2023 show and, hopefully, avoiding the showers. The Church has a strong association with agriculture in Cheshire both through the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy and the annual Royal Cheshire Show.

This year's well attended opening service was conducted by Rev'd Anne Lawson, Chaplain to the Cheshire Agricultural Society, and the showground blessed by the Rt Rev'd Mark Davies, Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury.

The Macclesfield and Winsford Salvation Army band and the Condote Singers from Northwich led the music for the service.



The Church tent at the Royal Cheshire Show on 'set up' day (19th June) before the show's opening service. The Messy Church tent can be seen on the left of the picture, the main church body in the centre and the 'mobile' bell tower on the right.

The Cheshire Agriculture Chaplaincy.

The Rev'd Anne Lawson who conducted the opening service is one of several chaplains throughout Cheshire who together form the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy. Through their work they help strengthen the bond between church and farming throughout Cheshire.

In the summer newsletter of the organisation it is announced there are two more agricultural shows to come in the near future.

Nantwich Show is on Wednesday, 20th July at Reaseheath College and the Cheshire Ploughing Match is on Wednesday, 27th September at Ashley Hall, Altrincham.

Continuing the rural connection theme Walter Gibson reviews:-

'Village Hours' by Ronald Blythe

This is a little gem of a book for all those who love the rhythms of life in the country and the church year. The author, who died recently at the age of 100, was steeped in knowledge and love of rural life, its history, buildings and people. He is best known for his book 'Akenfield' which became a classic. He was also a lay reader in the Church of England.

He weaves both these strands of his life together in this book, which is a series of reflections, month by month, on his world: the old farmhouse where he lives

in Suffolk, the land around it, his friends and memories, the seasonal rituals in the church and village life. It goes at a gentle pace and meanders like an old river. It is beautifully written, almost poetic.

He recalls the past vividly and observes changes happening in the present, but there is little apprehension about the future. Somehow there is reassurance from looking back that the cycles of life will go on and that beauty will still be there to be found in nature, traditions, and friendship. He finds joy in the small things that happen around him.

This is a book that can be read in different ways: you can dip in and out, or read a chunk at a stretch. Either way it is one to take time over, to travel at the author's pace and let yourself be entranced by the images and learning he displays. It was written in his late eighties so it draws together a lifetime of wisdom and knowledge to inspire and enlighten us. *Walter Gibson*

Register

We congratulate and pray for those baptised:

Hollie-Mae Walker

We congratulate and pray for those recently married:

Jamie Ball and Camilla Barge



Christian Aid Week – 2023 We are pleased to share with you that this year the churches together in Tarporley raised £3,927.17 for Christian Aid Week. We would like to thank everyone who made this possible, those who went door to door collecting envelopes and those who came to the quiz and brought friends. Our collectors at St Helen's raised £648.63 from door to door collections. We are very blessed here in Tarporley to have such generous and willing volunteers who have a heart for helping those in need. Many thanks

Richard and Catharine Line



Elaine Meredith and Catharine

Finally a date for your diary: 2nd July 12.30 for 1pm.

St Thomas' Church

BBQ

✦ *for St Thomas' Day!* ✦



EVERYONE WELCOME!

2nd July
2023
12.30pm
for 1pm

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purchase

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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 /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.
- 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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Working to reduce loneliness and isolation, Tarporley OPAL Club runs every Thursday with a hot lunch, entertainment and fun activities. We are looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team in a range of roles, from chatting and helping with activities, to driving or running errands.

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

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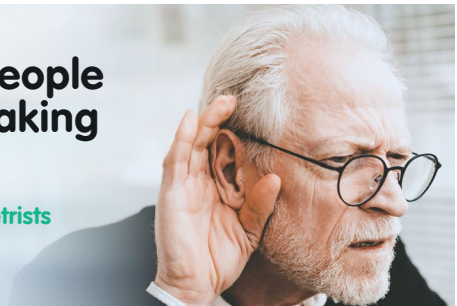
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