

September 2024

Tarporley Parish Magazine



Children during the visit to St Thomas' Churchard. See page 10

ANDREW P. DEAN

Dip N.T.C., C.G.L.I., A.V.C.M.

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For more information, contact Revd Jim Bridgman

revjimbl017@gmail.com
01829 732491 07526243702

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 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 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.

Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email 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

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

September 2024

September 1st

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

8th

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St Helen	9.30am	Café Church
St Thomas	4.00pm	Holy Communion
St John'S Church Aldford	6.30pm	Deanery Evensong

15th

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	6.30pm	Evensong

22nd

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St Thomas	9.00am	Songs of Praise
Tarporley Chapel	10.45am	A joint service with our friends from the Chapel. See page 7
The Done room and St Helen's Church.		
	4.00pm	Messy Church

29th

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St Thomas	10.00am	Holy Communion
This will be a joint Parish Holy Communion Service		

October 6th

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.

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:- Heroes – you may be aware that I am partial to a good hero, especially a superhero from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Something about the extraordinary stories and powers helps to inspire and entertain me, particularly as I know that I will never be able to match their magnificent feats. After the fortnight of the



Olympics, I now have another set of heroes to look to – those fourteen days saw plenty of heroic performances, from the first medal (let alone gold!) for Saint Lucia from Julien Alfred in the women's 100m to the record beating exploits of Leon Marchand (winning gold AND breaking Olympic records in all four of his individual swimming events) and Simone Biles becoming the most decorated US gymnast in Olympic history, to the last gasp charges of Britain's Tom Pidcock or Alex Yee to secure golds in the mountain biking and triathlon. One of the traits that singles these athletes out is their focus on one objective, turning every decision on whether it will contribute to achieving that goal: the discipline of diet, training, rest etc.

In the autumn term, we will be thinking about some other heroes across church services: in Messy Church, the themes for 2024/5 will be Saints, different Christians throughout the ages who have lived out their faith, and act as examples to us. Following Spring's Worship feedback, in Sunday services from 8th September (and Friday small group sessions at The Dray's in Eaton at 10am) we will be looking at some of the big figures of the Old Testament, from David to Daniel and Esther to Deborah, many of whom were ancestors to Jesus, and all of whom were both flawed but faithful (at different times, and in different measures!).

Both the saints and the figures of the Old Testament give us pointers on how to put faith in God into practice, as well as often giving warnings and examples NOT to follow! It is their imperfections that encourage me the most: they were not perfect superheroes of faith who never made a wrong choice, yet they also often made brave and faith-filled decisions too when it mattered. Above all, they fixed their eyes on God, as St Paul described as he looked his own death in the face: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which*

the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

I pray that as we consider these figures in the autumn term, we too may have that singular vision, fixing our eyes on God and God's kingdom, as the things that motivate and encourage us; and who knows, by doing that maybe we too will become spiritual heroes, impacting those around us so that others will come to know God in their lives??

Jim

Joint service with Tarporley Chapel – Sunday 22nd September 10.45am

During June, we collaborated with Tarporley Chapel to bring a company called 'iSingPop' to Tarporley Primary school for a week of workshops where the whole school learnt new worship songs (with actions!) with the help of enthusiastic coordinator Jake. Then, on the Thursday, the school put on two concerts for parents to showcase the songs. Not only were the songs very catchy and the actions lots of fun, they all helped contribute to the pupil's spiritual growth and experience. We hope that school will continue to use these songs during daily Collective Worship, but we also wanted to share them with our congregations, to be used in church too. So we'll be joining with our friends at Tarporley Chapel on Sunday 22nd September at 10.45am for a special service to hear those songs sung, learn the actions and expand our experience of worship. Come along and join us! *Therefore on Sunday 22nd, there will still be Songs of Praise at St Thomas' Eaton at 9am, but NO service at St Helen's – please join us at The Chapel!*

Also a reminder that, following a break during the summer months, several of our regular services/events will be returning to their normal schedule in September. These are:-

Messy Church at St Helen's which returns on Sunday 22nd of September at 4.00pm; (Monthly)

Friday Social at Utkinton Village Hall which returns on Friday 13th September. Fortnightly

Songs of Praise service at St Thomas' Eaton; followed by Breakfast at the Jessie Hughes Hall will return on Sunday 22nd of September at 9.00am; (Monthly) . (continued overleaf)

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!

Jim

September is the start of a new academic year and Tarporley Primary School has recently been inspected by Ofsted :-

Mrs Forrester writes:

Tarporley Primary School had its most recent Ofsted inspection on 11th and 12th June 2024. This was an ungraded inspection so the outcome states that we continue to be a **good** school. Congratulations to Mrs Forrester and all the staff for their magnificent work!

The inspector praised many aspects of our wonderful school, including the following:

- *Pupils thrive and are happy at this caring and nurturing school. They noted that relationships between adults and pupils are strong and respectful.*
- *Pupils are curious and keen learners and they achieve well. By the time that they leave the school in Year 6, pupils are well prepared for the demands of the key stage 3 curriculum.*
- *The school prioritises reading. It helps pupils to develop a love of reading from an early age. Older pupils spoke enthusiastically about the books that they have read and enjoyed.*
- *Pupils behave well. In the early years, children settle quickly into school routines. Older pupils enjoy working and playing alongside younger pupils, acting as strong role models.*
- *Pupils benefit from the wide-ranging experiences that the school provides to enrich their personal development.*

- *Staff enjoy working at the school. They benefit from strong teamwork and support to fulfil their roles effectively.*
- *The school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.*

Such an outcome would not have been possible without the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff and governors and the support from our parents and carers. This report is a testament to the partnerships that make our school such a wonderful place for both children and staff to 'Let their Light Shine'.

If you want to read the full report, please go to:

https://www.tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/28327454

Please continue to pray for the whole school community as they embark on another school year! *Mrs Forrester*

As the new academic year 2024/2025 begins we follow the recommendation of Mrs Forrester and pray for all those continuing in, progressing in or moving on from their formal education in September 2024.

An update from the 'ECO team' : Just One Green Thing

Welcome to the new-look page from the Eco Church team! We covered a lot of ground in our 'Greener Life Style Hacks ' series and from now on we plan to focus each month on 'Just One Green Thing' we could all do to make a difference.

To kick this off, we're really pleased to share an idea from John and Elaine Meredith. They wrote to say, "We use the mobile library service at Drays which saves on buying books and of course they are re-used many times. If we do need to buy a book we try to buy a used book from a charity shop or book donation station at village halls / Drays coffee shop and other charity events." What a great idea! The Mobile Library is at Drays on Fridays 2-4pm, and of course we have the Tarporley Library too, open on Mondays and Thursdays 1.30-7.00pm.

The Eco Church Team is always keen to involve new members and

we are very pleased to welcome Netty Oakes. Netty writes, “ I am looking forward to joining Walter Gibson and Nick Parker on the Eco Church team focusing on St Helens. It is a good time to focus on what can be done to reduce our environmental impacts. I am certainly not an expert in all areas but I do hope that my background in teaching Biology and Environmental Science will help me to work with everyone to improve the biodiversity of our grounds and try to monitor this. Small, gradual changes can slowly have a big impact. “

Netty’s expertise will really help us across the Parish. Talking of improving biodiversity, Nick has been working hard at St Thomas’s to make the churchyard more environmentally friendly and to involve more of the community. He has teamed up with Eaton Primary School through Mrs Skellon (Head) and Mr Wright (Deputy Head) to get the children involved. Pupils were given pots and runner bean seeds, and in June the resulting seedlings were planted out by the children in pre-prepared tubs in the churchyard. They also saw the other things that were being done to increase biodiversity and attract pollinators. Each child has a plant to watch as it grows and they are looking forward to being able to pick some beans! Our thanks to Mrs Skellon and her staff, and to Christine Scott, Wendy Parker and John Earl for helping out.

And at St John’s the wildflowers we planted last year have flowered – ox-eye daisy, knapweed, hawkbit and bird’s-foot trefoil. Early days but encouraging!

The Eco Church Team

The beans are doing well!





TARPORLEY
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THE BIG LISTENING EVENT

One of our key objectives as a Trust is to actively listen to our communities and receive their feedback.

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End-of-Life Care Community Sessions.

But we know we can do more, and so, as we set our sights on the future, we are reaching out to you, our community, to tell us:

What specific service(s) or support would you like to see introduced by the Trust?

You can reply using any of the methods below:

Text to 07395798482 or
call and leave your voice reply on 07395798482 or
Pick up a hard copy at the Hospital reception or our Village Charity Shop
Your input is invaluable in shaping our upcoming initiatives.
Thank you. *TWMHT Trustees*

An addendum regarding the closure of Utkinton St Paul's Primary School

Your Editor writes:- In last month's Link I reported that unfortunately, due to falling pupil numbers, Utkinton Primary School would close at the end of the summer term 2023.

I am indebted to Maurice Hunt for further information which extends the history of formal education in Utkinton back to the early to mid-1840's when a single room school was opened at a location very near the current 1893 site.

My summary of the key events and dates derived from Maurice's information is as follows:-

February 1843: The Reverend Richard J Statham began the process of providing a C-of-E school in Utkinton. The scheme was costed at 183gbp (cf. 23,000gbp today).

January 1845: Built in stone with stone roofing tiles the school was ready to accept its first pupils (50 in total 40 primary age and 10 infants). It comprised a single room and at one metre squared per pupil was rather cramped! Parents paid 13 old pence per quarter.

By 1890: The building had become somewhat 'tired' and a completely new, and larger school was required on a different site. Land was offered 'across the road'.

1892: A contract for a school with provision for 120 pupils was signed for 1350 gbp. Designed by architect John Douglas and included cloakrooms, separate classrooms, a chapel of ease and a belfry with one bell.

June 1893: The 'new' school opened.

14th September is Holy Cross Day.

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph: as the sign of Christ's victory over death.

Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout

Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32).



St John and The Holy Cross, Cotebrook

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.

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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 membership@tastarporley.uk beforehand.



Volunteer to help older people in Tarporley!

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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