

THE LINK

50p

MAY 2020

Tarporley Parish Magazine

He is Risen Indeed



Our beautiful church buildings are closed
We shall Worship Him from home.
'Together whilst apart'

ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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(Note: all telephone numbers are area code 01829 unless otherwise stated).

Rector:	Georgina Watmore, The Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG	732491
	e-mail: revgeorgina@me.com	
Assistant Curate:	Julian Osborne, 3 Dingle Way, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2UW 07421 323699	
	e-mail: revjulianosborne@gmail.com	

Associate Minister: Trevor Davies, 5 Allansford Avenue, Waverton, CH3 7QH 01244 332106
e-mail: etdavies1@btinternet.com

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens	Phillip Posnett, Haughton Hall, Tarporley CW6 9RH	260251
	Liz Neely email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899
Treasurer	Anita Langford, 7 The Crescent, Utkinton, CW6 0LT	458351
P.C.C Secretary	Marion Moss, 2 Torr Rise, Tarporley, CW6 0UD	733382
Organist	Chas Hardern	732595
Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412

Cotebrook:

St John Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Oulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336
	Peter Copland, Moss Cottage,	732618
	Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	

Organist	Katrina Copland,	732618
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Eaton: St Thomas

Wardens	Rosemary Lilley, Windward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley CW6 9AG	732948
	Michael Scott, Shire Barn, Moss Hall Lane, Rushton, Tarporley CW6 9GJ	760750
Organist	Marjorie Rathbone	732655

LINK Editor	Andy Jobson, Plessington House, Huxley Lane, Brassey Green, Tarporley, CW6 9UG	732437
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Electoral Roll	Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP	733431
Safeguarding Officer	Liz Neely email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899
Sunday Sheet	email jleaman@talktalk.net	
Tarporley C.E. Primary School	Mrs Kerry Forrester	01244 981230
Utkinton C.E. Primary School	Ms Lorna Pleavin	732322
Done Room Booking Secretary	Kathryn Palmer	733040

CONTACT POINTS:

Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness or pastoral need to the Rector 732491
To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact the Rector 732491

To ask about Wedding arrangements, baptisms or general enquiries please contact Jan
email: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.org e-mail: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Items for ‘The Link’ should be e-mailed to jobsonajp1@btinternet.com or posted to the Link Editor by the 16th of each month.

WORSHIP FROM HOME RESOURCES FOR THE MONTH

As noted on the Front Cover of this magazine our beautiful church buildings are now closed so :-

We Worship from home and remain 'Together whilst apart'

We can do this in many ways using old and new technologies; some developed millennia ago and some which have emerged only in the late 20th and early 21st century of our Lord.

On Paper, e-mail or Web.

Georgina and her team are producing printable forms of worship available on the Homepage of our website

www.tarporleyparishchurch.org as follows:-

Home Worship for each Sunday of the Month.

A daily '**Morning Prayer and Compline**' (e-mail only)

Also Available are:-

P's in Our Time; A collection of uplifting thoughts and pictures (weekly)

The latest copy of the **Link Church Magazine** (monthly) (Website only)

To sign up for receipt of the P's and Daily and weekly services please email revegeorgina@me.com to be added to the circulation. (see more details on page 11)

On Television Songs of Praise Sundays at 1.15pm on BBC 1

On Radio Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on Radio 4 Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4 Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4 Longwave and DAB

Daily Prayer services can be found on the Church of England Website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer>

The Curate writes...

I am from a generation that was taught always to write thankyou letters every Christmas, birthday and (sometimes) Easter, acknowledging and expressing gratitude for a gift. Usually I needed some nagging before pen was put to paper (yes it was that long ago). My handwriting was truly awful and I always struggled to string a sentence together. But that was never the point about a thankyou letter. The point was about communicating with a distant relative whom you rarely saw, yet who faithfully sent a gift, to acknowledge the bond of family, the bond of love.

Pictured right is St Paul completing one of the many letters he wrote from prison. I like to imagine this is him signing off his letter to the Colossian church. In typical Paul fashion, he writes a list of final greetings, concluding with the words "I Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you." Certainly, a powerful way to end a letter, but what strikes me even more is the way Paul, confined as he is, starts his letter with a list of reasons to thank God for the people, the church in Colossae:

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith and of the love you have for all the saints – the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the world of truth, the gospel that has come to you." (Col 1:3-5)

These days we have a bewildering choice of ways to communicate. I almost feel sorry for youngsters today who must decide how to express their thanks to Grandma. Should it be a message on Facebook, TikTok, a video call with the family on Zoom, a mobile phone call or that thing called a letter? I for one am so grateful that our Rector, Georgina is sticking to the written medium to lead our church family expressions of thanks to God via our (now daily) acts of worship, for in so doing, it remains accessible to all.



The crucial thing, at a time when we are physically separated from each other is that we continue to communicate with each other and with God. We must continue to express that bond of family and of love, to each other and to God, particularly in these unsettling days.

Julian

Further effects of Covid-19 Lockdown and Social Distancing.

Sadly because of the restrictions placed on us by the threat and impact of Covid-19 all meetings, physical church services and planned events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

The Celebratory Parish Service (APCM) is also now suspended and I am awaiting clarification on how and when we proceed with the APCM but it will not take place on the date, or in the way advertised.

Also deferred is the service and celebration associated with Julian Osborne's Ordination to the Priesthood originally planned for late June. A new date has been set for 5pm on Saturday 3rd October at Chester Cathedral.

We can however still, as described on page 5 of this magazine, –

'Worship together whilst apart'

These notes give an update on certain other regular events.

200+ Club:

Unfortunately due to St Helen's being closed we are unable to do the 200+ club draw which is always done on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We will now do the draws once church reopens for the months that have been missed.

Christian Aid week 10-16 May 2020 will be different:

The exact local arrangements are not yet (at the time of writing)
determined but :- (continued overleaf)



**We made such a difference together last year.
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together we raised this incredible amount to help poor communities

We stood together 57000 This is how many of you gave your time to take part in Christian Aid Week

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Visit the link below if you would like to donate.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



Mid-Cheshire Foodbank modified arrangements.

Mid Cheshire Food bank is the food bank that the Parish has supported for many years.

I know that many of you, even while isolated, wish to help those who are suffering most.

For everyone's safety food banks are no longer accepting physical donations (other than through supermarkets) but they do need our support and we can make bank transfers.

Should you wish to do this the details are:

Barclays Bank Northwich sort code:20-24-09. account number: 93319415

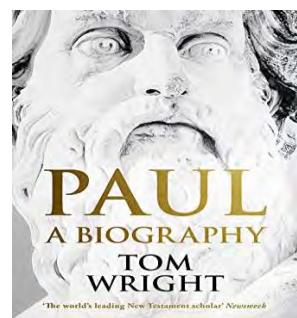
Further details are on the web site: www.midcheshirefoodbank.org.uk along with standing order forms and gift aid forms for UK taxpayers ,so they can claim 25% extra.

Another way to donate is via just giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/midcheshirefoodbank>

Curate's Blog/Book review. From Julian Osborne.

This month's "first" is a bit different.

I have just finished the first academic book that I have read from start to finish for a long time. After being ordained, my training continues for years with a mixture of practical skills



and theological input provided by the Diocese (and Georgina of course!). Curates are also encouraged to join a Book Club that meets three times a year to read a theological tome and to discuss it in what is meant to be a relaxed atmosphere. The fact that either a Bishop or an Archdeacon heads each group adds a certain piquancy to proceedings!

This current book is “Paul, a Biography”, written by an eminent theologian called Tom Wright. It is, as the title suggests, a biography of St Paul, the man who as Saul so zealously persecuted early Christians and who had a miraculous encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. After that experience, he fell off the radar for ten years before embarking upon a number of journeys, planting churches along the way. Paul, as he became, subsequently corresponded with the churches he had founded and with others that he wanted to visit, and the letters that have survived the centuries now constitute many of the Epistles in the New Testament. The biography that Tom Wright has written is really very readable, and not at all what you might expect a theology book to be like. He speaks with an informal voice, sometimes imagining what probably happened, making considered assumptions that are backed up by his years and years of study.

He starts by placing Saul (before he became Paul) in his own context, in his own world as a talented and zealous Pharisee, tent maker and Roman citizen. He writes engagingly about what life was like in those days, about what made Saul tick. He ponders what his family situation might have been. Might he have been engaged to be married before that fateful trip to Damascus changed his life? Was that why he had to take himself off for ten years? Where did he go and what happened? What did he really think about Jesus being the Messiah? Did he give up on his life-long Jewish beliefs or did he see Jesus as the fulfilment of everything that he already believed?

Let me confess that I have for many years myself had a bit of a problem with St Paul and his letters. I had always thought of him as a bit of a cantankerous, grumpy fanatic with misogynistic tendencies. He seemed to me to revel in his own suffering and beatings received for the Gospel. He made me feel either inadequate or guilty in equal measure as I read his letters.

As I studied for ordination, I began to realize that I had him all wrong, that I was reading him in the wrong language because I had the wrong context. I was looking at him through contemporary eyes, judging him on contemporary values. To make matters worse, we are often reading just one side of a debate or an argument. We often don’t know the question that Paul’s letter was answering, and yet we are quick to build whole Theology on such fragments. It is also easy to underestimate just how long St Paul was active for, how long it took him to develop his own beliefs. The book of Acts makes it feel like six months.

(continued overleaf)

In reality, it spans thirty or more years of Paul travelling on foot and by boat, spreading his views of Jesus as the fulfilment of God's interaction with humanity, honing his beliefs through experience, modifying his style to suit the situation.

For me, this book brought together all the disparate bits of learning that I had picked up about Paul into one place, helping me to understand him and his beliefs so much better. It helped me to get inside his head, to appreciate his unique context and to better understand what drove him to keep going in the face of fierce opposition from all sides. Paul, at different times and to different extents, managed to upset the Jewish establishment, the early Christian church and the Roman imperial masters. It is hardly surprising that he suffered so much, but where would we be as Christians today without his zeal, without his dogged determination and without his deep, deep knowledge of Jesus?

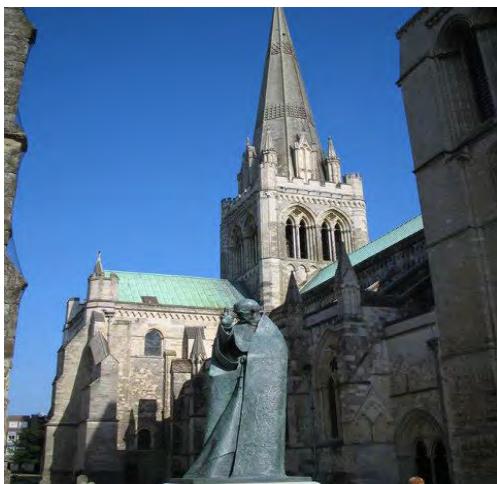
It is a great read. I have a copy to lend, but you may have to wait a while until I can get it to you!

Julian

Julian writes:-

Someone asked me recently what was my favourite prayer. After some deliberation, I decided that it had to be the prayer written by St Richard of Chichester. There are several reasons. One is the special place that Chichester cathedral holds in my heart, for I was educated at the cathedral school from the age of 7 to 13. It was there that the foundations of my faith were laid, even though I was unaware of it at the time.

Another reason is the language which, although around 800 years old voices how I think of Jesus today. Yes, he is my Lord and my merciful redeemer but he is also my friend and my brother. How often do I stop and take in the sheer, mind boggling simplicity of those words, those facets of Jesus. Life is complicated. More so today than it has been for a very long time. Nevertheless, as I carry with me the thought of Jesus being my friend, brother, redeemer, lord and benefactor who has borne my pains and insults already, things start to



Statue of St Richard at Chichester Cathedral
become a little less troubling.

A Prayer by St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

Julian

We pray for the families and remember with thanksgiving the lives of

Bernard Burton

Bernard Langley



PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

Things are changing fast and we cannot guarantee that all events will be able to go ahead as planned – do check if you are unsure. You can sign up for Home Worship notices and P's in our time by emailing revgeorgina@me.com

Please check our website at

<http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org/> or, if still uncertain, call me.



Whether you need to stay at home or not it's important to keep in touch. If you would like a chat over the phone, or a visit, or if we can help with shopping or practical issues please contact me

Georgina

01829 732491 revgeorgina@me.com

Finally some extracts from P's in Our Time



Xyna and Ezra Siddorn made and share an Easter cross from fallen flowers and weeds. (Above)

A miniature Easter Garden made by Elaine Hulton. (Left)

And a reminder of times from earlier this year that will return again.



Messy Church March 2020

Here is a wordsearch based around the Church calendar for May.

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Grid is on the next page. Good Luck!



The words to search for are

Ascension, Blessed, Taken, Jerusalem, Wait

Prayer, Power, One, Room, Disciples

Tongues, Flame, Joy, Praise

Confusion, Languages, Earth

Peter, Holy, Spirit

Trinity, Father, Son, Triune

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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).

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New members and visitors are most welcome, there is an admission fee payable.

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