

THE LINK

50p

January 2021

Tarporley Parish Magazine



ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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Services: See Calendar page on the website or ‘The Link’ magazine.

Weekday Service St Helen’s Church, Holy Communion: Wednesday at 10.00 am.

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

Rector: **Vacancy, The Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG** **732491**

Assistant Curate: **Julian Osborne, 3 Dingle Way, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2UW 07421 323699**

e-mail: revjulianosborne@gmail.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
Reading Rota	Elaine Hulton Corner Lodgings, Forest Road, Tarporley CW6 0HX	732104
Co-ordinator		
Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412

Cotebrook:

St John Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Oulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336
	Peter Copland, Moss Cottage, Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	732618
Organist	Katrina Copland,	732618
Eaton: St Thomas Wardens	Rosemary Lilley, Windward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley CW6 9AG	732948
	Michael Scott, 39 High St, Tarporley CW6 0DP	
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
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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 Assistant Curate. 07421 323699
To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact Phillip Posnett. 260251

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 jobsonajpj@btinternet.com or posted to the Link Editor by the 16th of each month.

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2021

JANUARY	3rd	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
		St Thomas	9.00am Morning Prayer
		St Helen	10.00am Morning Prayer
		St John	11.15am Holy Communion
	10th	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST	
		St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.30am Holy Communion
	17th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
		St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am Holy Communion
	24th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
		St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am Holy Communion
	31st	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
		St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am Holy Communion
February	7th	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
		St Thomas	9.00am Morning Prayer
		St Helen	10.00am Morning Prayer
		St John	11.15am Holy Communion

There is also a short service of Holy Communion at St Helen's
at 10.00am every Wednesday

Please remember that face coverings are now mandatory in Church services.

Service times and formats are compliant with Covid regulations at the time of writing

The Curate writes.....

Happy New Year! I hope you had as good a time over Christmas and New Year as was possible under present restrictions. It was certainly different to any year that I can remember, particularly as our Christmas Morning service at St Helen's was Georgina's last as Rector. I for one shall miss her guidance, tuition and friendship enormously and I am sure that you will all want to wish her peace, health and happiness in whatever endeavour our Lord has planned for her.



Looking forward, the search for the 50th Rector is well under way. There is, as you might expect, a process to be followed. We are blessed in this Parish with a proactive and committed PCC, led by dedicated Church Wardens. Together they have worked to set the legal process in motion, appointing the requisite appointment committee and preparing the Parish profile.

You may be wondering how you can help during the transition period. There are three hugely important things that you can do. Firstly, support Phillip and Liz as far as possible, for as churchwardens the legal responsibilities fall upon their shoulders at this time, together with the accompanying stress! Similarly, Rosemary and Mike at St Thomas' and Bill and Peter at St John's. Secondly pray often and without ceasing that our Lord sends us the person that he knows will be the best fit. I have said many times before that my favourite Bible verse is "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6). I love the image of our prayers being a petition. We will not offend God by metaphorically signing a petition day after day until an answer is given. Let us not be timid in our prayers. Let us perhaps be a bit more demanding than we sometimes fear is right!

Finally, please continue to support our three churches, in accordance of course with current legal restrictions and any measures you should take for your own, and others', safety and wellbeing. I am licensed to the Parish and will strive to continue the established service pattern across all three churches, with the exception of Evensong, as we are still not permitted to sing. Phillip, Liz and I

have put together a service rota and whilst you will see a lot more of me, you will also see some much-loved faces returning to help on occasion.

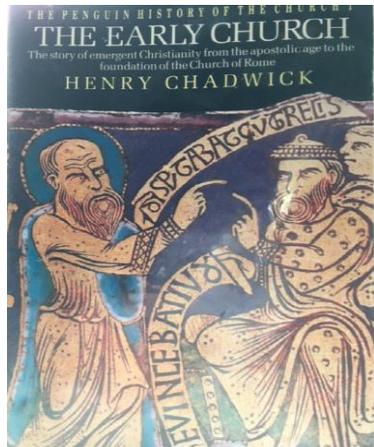
I know that many of us will be happy to see the back of 2020, and we are hopeful of a return to normality in 2021 as the vaccination programme is successfully rolled out. We continue to have so much to thank our Lord for, even in seemingly dark days, for we know how the story ends. Let us press on this year and continue to petition the Lord, with thanksgiving, and may we all enjoy his peace that is beyond our understanding.

Julian

Walter Gibson reviews:-

‘The Early Church’ by Henry Chadwick

For anyone interested in how the church evolved in the first four centuries AD this is probably the definitive work of scholarship. I say probably because I have not read any others and I am most definitely not an expert, but it would be difficult to imagine a more authoritative account. Almost every sentence written, every event described, every person characterized is based on detailed study of ancient letters and books which have remarkably survived, sometimes only in fragments. It is a wonder that we know so much. And what a story it tells....



...Of how the gospel spread like wildfire across the Roman empire, through missionaries, yes, but also by ordinary people sharing their experience with others. Of how the books of the New Testament came to be chosen and assembled into the collection we know today. Of how heresies and controversies sprang up and were resisted and defeated. Of how the ministry took shape and roles within the church evolved. Of how the pattern of worship and the liturgy was established – and appears so familiar! Of how all the debates and challenges to the faith influenced the development of doctrine and the language of the Nicene Creed.

(continued overleaf)

Of how dangerous it was to be a Christian for much of that period with ordinary people risking their lives every week to worship together.

I am struck by how much we owe to those early Christians who followed on from the Apostles, whose teaching and first hand witness to Jesus's life and ministry were the main source of authority in the early years of the church. By staying faithful to that teaching they were able to overcome the many challenges they faced and build a strong foundation for the church.

There are parts of this book that are quite theological and that I found difficult to follow. But there are others that reveal little details that will stay with me: like the description of how Justin the Martyr, a leading early thinker, was converted by an old man as they sat by the sea together. Both part of a chain of events that revolutionized the world... and shaped what we believe and how we worship to this very day.

Walter Gibson

Climate Change and the Church of England.

Julian Osborne writes:-

I have been in dialogue with Andrew Needham, a long-standing member of the congregation, about his desire to generate discussion of climate change and in particular how the Church of England is engaging with the subject and how it might affect individual churches like ours. There follows an interview style article, where Andrew has made the greater contribution, for which I am very grateful.

Julian: "Andrew, what experience do you have in the field of climate change and the environment?"

Andrew: "I worked for a while as an energy consultant carrying out energy audits in the UK and overseas. Some of my assignments were in the former Soviet Union (Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Belarus). Under communism, energy conservation was not really a consideration and there were examples of inefficient use in industry. There were also examples in the domestic sector. For example, I was asked to dinner at the home of a local official (borscht

and vodka) and offered to help with washing the dishes, of which there were several. Filling the bowl with hot water, they said “niet Andreos, niet – dirty!” Their method of washing up was to have the hot water running continuously.”

Julian: “Ok, so you clearly have expertise in the area, but what is it that you want us to think about as a Parish right now?”

Andrew: “Did you know that the Church of England is calling on us to plan towards being carbon net zero by 2030?”

Julian: ... Actually, I did not know and so went away to see what the Church of England had said, and the following is a verbatim copy of their statement:

At its February 2020 meeting, members voted in favour of a revised date encouraging all parts of the Church of England to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce emissions. A motion approved today called for urgent steps to examine requirements to reach the new target, and draw up an action plan.

An amendment by Canon Prof Martin Gainsborough (Bristol) introduced a more ambitious target date of 2030, fifteen years ahead of the original proposal.

The motion follows the launch of the Church of England’s first ever Green Lent (#LiveLent) campaign for 2020, featuring 40 days of prayers and actions to encourage care for God’s Creation.

The Church of England has also announced an energy foot printing tool for parishes to calculate their carbon footprint.

Following the debate, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the Church of England’s lead bishop on Environmental Affairs said:

“Synod has set an ambitious target for the whole Church of England to respond to the urgency of the Climate Crisis. To reach Synod’s target of 2030 will not be easy, and requires each of us to hear this as an urgent call to action. But this is a clear statement of intent across the Church and to wider society about our determination to safeguard God’s creation. (cont. overleaf)

This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order.

There is no serious doubt that climate change is happening, and that people are causing it, so it is very encouraging that Synod is grappling with one of the most urgent issues of our time.

We will now need to work out a plan to ensure we do everything possible to meet this target."

Julian: "So do you think the target is achievable Andrew?"

Andrew: "Let me answer it this way. The Climate Sunday service was held this year at St Chads in Tushingham. It is in an elevated position with lovely views all round. It is an isolated church in the scattered community of Tushingham. The only approach to the chapel is on footpaths across fields from the A41 road. It was rebuilt in 1689–91 and has been little changed since. It is on the Sandstone Trail, which is the best way to approach it.

It has no heating or lighting, apart from candles. This is unchanged since 1690, when it was built. At the time the congregation would have worn warm clothes and would have been glad to be shielded from the wind and rain.

This could be one of the first Churches to achieve this ambitious target of a zero-carbon footprint by 2030!

Julian: "So are you saying that the Church of England's target is too ambitious?"

Andrew "I am saying that it is not as easy as one might think and it is something that we all need to engage with and talk about. The first step in energy management is to monitor consumption. Here in Tarporley, an appropriate system has been set up."

Julian "...yes and I understand that the PCC has agreed to take advantage of a free energy audit for the church. Andrew thank you for your work in this area and for wanting us all as a community to engage in a real debate about how we play our part."

This is a topic that affects us all and is one that even now is taking centre stage in the USA following the recent election, and our own PM's ambition to fuel (in a carbon neutral way!) a "green industrial revolution" in this country.



If anyone has any views on the subject, please do get in touch with Andrew, myself or Andy as Editor of the Link magazine.

Julian

Epiphany and the Star of Bethlehem.

Did you see the 'grand conjunction' at the Winter Solstice in 2020?



Did the wise Men see something similar in about 5 BC?

Throughout November and December 2020, in the early evening and just after sunset if the clouds and weather permitted, it was possible to see the planets Jupiter and Saturn shining in the low South-western skies. The planets were relatively close together and drawing ever closer until on December 21st they were separated by less than the apparent diameter of a full moon. Jupiter was the brighter with Saturn above and to the left at about half the luminosity. Conjunctions of these two planets are not rare but such a close one is and 2020's was the closest for about 800 years. And happening at Christmas!

There was such a conjunction in about 5BC and on that occasion Mars was involved as well. Was this what drew the Wise Men to Bethlehem? We do not know: and there are other theories as to what the 'Star of Bethlehem' was. However it was enthralling to observe and brought a fresh perspective to the events of 2000 years ago. The skies then were much less light polluted than they are now. Herod, who was alive at the time of Jesus' birth, is believed to have died in about 4BC so the date is quite feasible.

6th Jan: Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as known today, southern Arabia. (cont)

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

Finally:- Pea Sea: from a friend in Norley

Thinking of the joys and sorrows of modern technology, a little poem.

It's called 'Spell Check':

*Eye halve a spelling Chequer, it came with my pea sea.
It plainly marques four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a quay and type a word, and weight four it to say
Weather eye am wrong or right, it shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid, it nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite, it's rare lea ever wrong.
Eye halve run this poem threw it, I am shore your pleased two no,
It's latter perfect awl the weigh, my chequer tolled me sew.
Sauce unknown.*

200+ an apology from your editor. To meet publishing deadlines I cannot wait for the final 200+ draw. So, surprisingly and perhaps reassuringly, I cannot publish the results this month as I promised. Andy Jobson.

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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.

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