

# THE LINK

50p

November 2024

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



# ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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## TARPORLEY PARISH

St Helen's, Tarporley  
St Thomas', Eaton  
St John and the Holy Cross, Cotebrook



## Posada 2024—adults

Mary, Joseph, the donkey and the star leave on Advent Sunday (**Sunday 1st December**) following and return to St Helen's in time for the **Crib service at 4pm on Christmas Eve.**

Revd Jim Bridgman 732 491  
revjimb1017@gmail.com

[facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley](https://facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley)

**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

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**Rector: Jim Bridgman, Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG** **01829732491**

Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com) 07526243702

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**Tarporley: St Helen**

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com) 07890470899

Treasurer Dave Smithson

email [tarporleyparishtreasurer@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:aemccourty@btinternet.com) 01829 730155

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Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

email [jobsonajpj@btinternet.com](mailto:jobsonajpj@btinternet.com) items for 'The Link' should be emailed to the above by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email [StHelenssafeguarding@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.org](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org)

## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

### November 2024

<b>November 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>All Souls' Day</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	St John	11.15am	
			Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	
			Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance
	Tarporley High Street		
		10.25am	
			Parade down Tarporley High Street
	followed by-		
	Service of Remembrance at St Helen's Church Tarporley		
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>		
	St Helen	11.00am	2 minutes silence and Act of Remembrance
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	4.00pm	Evensong.
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Songs of Praise
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	The Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Blessing of the Crib
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	4.00pm	Christingle Service

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

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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:-

I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 5 of Tarporley Primary School at the start of October for the annual 'Pilgrim Day' at Chester cathedral. As well as learning about prayer, listening and seeing how the cathedral organ worked, and experiencing what life as a monk at mealtimes would have been like, the pupils also learnt about the patron saint of Chester, St Werburgh, and why people might have travelled to Chester to pray at her shrine.



If you don't know much about St Werburgh, she was a princess, her father being King Wulfhere, a fierce pagan king of Mercia. Despite a privileged upbringing, Werburgh rejected the trappings of the royal family, and devoted herself to a life of service as a nun, and later Abbess, in Weedon, Northamptonshire.

One day a gaggle of geese landed on a field owned by the Abbey and started eating the seeds of the crops that were to be grown for relief of the poor. Werburgh upbraided the birds, and shut them away in a pen – she promised them safety for the night in return for not eating the seeds again. However, unbeknownst to Werburgh, the Abbey steward took the plumpest goose that evening, and cooked it for his dinner. In the morning when Werburgh found one was missing, she was horrified and found out what had happened. Telling the steward to gather together all the parts of the goose that he had left over, Werburgh prayed, and miraculously the goose was returned to life and health. So now, Werburgh is often portrayed with a goose, and her pilgrim badge was a flock of geese.



**Saint Werburgh**

Resurrecting geese aside, the main theme of Werburgh's story is one of the sanctity of hospitality, and the promise to keep those in her care safe. She was mortified that the security she had promised had been undermined, and she did all she could to make up for that.

The Church of England has designated Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November as Safeguarding Sunday, a chance to reflect on the Church's failures in the past and present to care for the most vulnerable among us, and to inspire and encourage us as followers of Jesus to create and maintain churches as safe places for all people. November is usually a time of remembrance: for those who have died (at All Souls' time) and those who fought and sacrificed their lives for peace (at Remembrance), and so it is also fitting that in that season of remembrance, we remember our calling to be a people and place who care for all around us.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – not just church officers and those in leadership. ALL followers of Jesus are asked to be vigilant, compassionate and take the lead in creating a safe place for people to experience God. Too often the very places that should be safest have been found to be dangerous. If you haven't already done so, please consider taking the Church of England's online Safeguarding training courses: they are very accessible and give practical guidance, and should only take an hour to complete. Please sign up at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

We might not be able, like St Werburgh, to resurrect a goose, but surely spending an hour educating ourselves about safeguarding is manageable for saints like us, and a way to start creating and maintaining safe places in our parish.

*Jim*

Editor's note:- Please see the note on page 10 regarding the new head of Safeguarding for the Church of England

## The poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, World War 1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. (see page 12).

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

**Thank you to** all those who came to or otherwise supported the Bellringer's Quiz at Tarporley Communiy Centre on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2024.

We all had a grest time and also raised £1820.00 from the proceeds. This sum has been split equally between St Luke's Hospice, Winsford and the P.C.C. of St Helen's Church Tarporley, with each organization receiving a cheque for £910.00 to help them fund and continue their endeavours.



Again, Tarporley Bellringers offer their thanks to all those who contributed so generously of their time, presence, gifts for the raffle or in any other way to make the evening so enjoyable and worthwhile.

*Tarporley Bellringer's.*

### **October's Crossword**

#### **:- Here are the answers to October's Crossword**

**ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

**DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

## **New independent chair for Church of England's National Safeguarding Panel**

Nazir Afzal, the former chief crown prosecutor, known for his work in the Rochdale grooming gang cases and tackling gender violence, has been appointed as the next independent chair of the Church of England's National Safeguarding Panel (NSP)

Mr Afzal, a practising Muslim, and founder chair of the Catholic Church's safeguarding body in England and Wales, took up the role in September. The appointment was made through an independent recruitment process.

The NSP was set up in 2014 to provide vital reference and scrutiny from a range of voices, including survivors, on the development of policy and guidance. Its first independent chair was appointed in 2018. The work of the NSP is separate but complementary to work on wider independence in Church safeguarding.

Speaking on his appointment, Nazir Afzal said: "I am pleased to take on this important role to lead the continuing work on scrutinising and providing challenge to the Church of England's safeguarding governance, particularly its policy and guidance. The Church of England has a presence in every community across the country and with that comes huge responsibility. I look forward to playing my part in holding the Church to account by bringing my professional experience to the work of the Panel."

### ***Register***

***We congratulate and pray for those baptised:***

*Ava Lowsby*



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Cotebrook

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## In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915





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Meetings at Tarporley Community Centre  
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