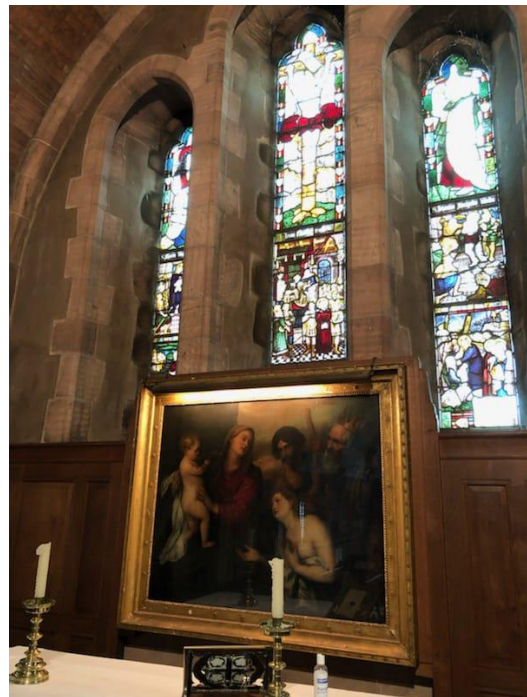


St John and the Holy Cross, Cotebrook *Forgiven and restored*



Behind the Communion table in a small Cheshire church is a painting to move the spirit and draw us closer to God.

St John and the Holy Cross was built between 1873 and 1875 as part of the parish of Tarporley, to serve the community of Cotebrook. The dedication to the Holy Cross links back to the parish church of Tarporley, St Helen's, and that saint's reputed discovery of the cross of Christ.

A more recent addition to the church is a painting is situated at the back of the communion table; it was given to the church by George and Fanny Spiegelberg, a local family much associated with the church, as a celebration of their Golden Wedding in 1950.

The painting dates from the 17th Century and is from the studio of Sir Anthony van Dyck. It represents the Petition of the Repentant Sinners – Mary Magdalene, King David and the Prodigal Son, all come to ask forgiveness from the infant Jesus.

This painting acts as a connection to the Spiegelbergs, a local family that had been a part of the church for over 100 years, being an important supporter and benefactor of the building, as well as members of the family serving as warden at the church. The subject of the painting itself speaks of the grace, love and

forgiveness of God that is offered to all, and a reminder that St John's church is made up of many Davids, Marys and Prodigals all searching for restoration and wholeness in Jesus, which is found when gathering around the Lord's Table together.