

# THE LINK

50p

April 2023

Tarporley Parish Magazine



# EASTER

Alleluia -  
Jesus is risen!

# ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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## PARISH DIRECTORY – TARPORLEY

**Services** See Calendar tab on the website or page 7 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 Anita Langford 01829458351

email [treasurer\\_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com)

P.C.C Secretary Paul Emerson 01829733147

**Cotebrook: St John and the Holy Cross**

Wardens Bill Spiegelberg 01829760336

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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Electoral Roll: Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP  
01829 733431

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

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## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

### April 2023

<b>April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
		St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	4.15pm	Compline and Reading of the Passion
	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>		
		St Helen	7.30pm	Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altars
	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>		
		The Done Room	10.00am	Messy Church for Good Friday
		St Helen	2.00pm	Good Friday service
	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EASTER DAY</b>		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
		St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
		St Thomas	4.15pm	Evensong
	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Songs of Praise to be followed by a simple breakfast at the Jessie Hughes Hall
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
		Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church
	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion and APCM
<b>May</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
		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.  
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**The Rector Writes:-**

One of the things you may have noticed about me in the 18 months since I've been here in Tarporley parish is that I see food and drink as an essential part of church life – I'm happy to use any excuse for food or drink to be a part of any church gathering, whether that is at a business meeting, a church service or just a pastoral chat (in the local pub or café...!). Hopefully many of you will have been able to experience this in the new services in the parish over February and March: Café Church at St Helen's and the Songs of Praise service and breakfast at St Thomas'; if you haven't, do come along!



Partly, this is because I certainly enjoy eating and drinking (and I'm certainly spoiled for choice in this parish, with lots of excellent bakers in the congregations, as well as fine establishments on the doorstep where I'm on first names terms with the staff!); but aside from my own predilections, I think there is something deeply important for us as humans, and as Christians, about sharing food together.

Whatever our own likes and dislikes, intolerances or dietary requirements, barriers are broken down when we sit alongside and opposite someone else over a meal or a drink. There is a mutual acceptance that part of our humanity is the need to be fed and sustained. And in the sharing of a meal, bonds are formed and memories made. To offer, and receive, hospitality is a way to encourage and cement friendship and community. Some of the most positive comments about Café Church and Songs of Praise are the opportunities that both services and their extended times of refreshment have given to talk at a deeper level to those we know well or have never met before. It has been while gathered around tables with food and drink to hand, rather than partitioned in pews, that bonds have been made.

As Christians, we are 'people of the table', just like the people of Israel were before us. One of the basic tenets of Judaism is the obligation to show hospitality to guests, something seen clearly in the story of the three visitors to Abraham at Mamre (Genesis 18): the first thought on meeting a stranger was to offer hospitality in terms of water, food and shade/shelter. Then of course there is the pivotal story of the Passover, built around the special meal to both

remember their slavery, celebrate their freedom and look ahead to the final restoration of all things. Around that Passover table, the people of Israel shared life.

As a priest, over the coffee table people break open their lives, sharing their pain, questions, or joys as I listen to their responses to a serious diagnosis, the death of a loved one, the prospect of a baptism for their children or their forthcoming wedding. We share life at that table. Then round the Lord's table, as a priest I prepare a table where God breaks open the divine life, that we may partake. We share life at that table: God's life and our life. It is open to all, and a foretaste of the eternal banquet laid for us.

In Holy Week, some of the most profound moments in all the drama are centred on the meal table – around it the disciples argue, Judas absents himself, Jesus acts as both master and servant, the host of the meal as well as the slave who washes feet. Jesus turns convention on its head as he kneels to clean the feet of those who follow him. There is a sharing at the table – of life, death, hopes and fears, grace and love, of God and humanity.

It's only when we are invited to sit and eat that we share deeply in the lives of others, and of God. Can I encourage you all to continue to do this deep work of staying at the table together, both in church and outside – to be people of hospitality, people of the table? It may look like a simple sharing of food and drink, but more is shared than we think. Wherever you meet around tables this Holy Week and Easter, may you be blessed with the presence of God.

*Jim*

**Book review:**

Here, Walter Gibson provides us with his review of this month's book:-

**God's Smuggler**

By Brother Andrew

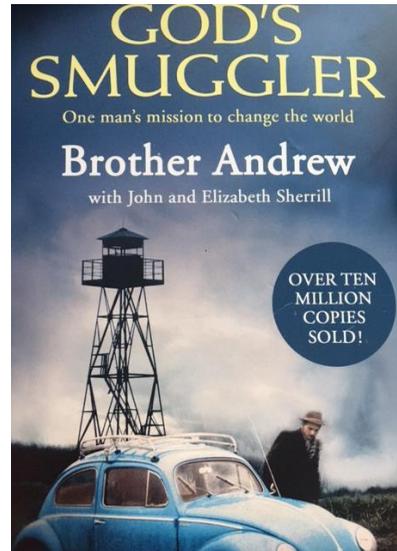
With John and Elizabeth Sherrill

This is a real classic of Christian literature. It was lent to me by a member of the St Helen's congregation, who wanted it to be shared through the Parish Bookshelf. A very kind gesture, and one I hope will be repeated by others: it would be great to hear about your favourite book, and more recommendations would be very welcome!

God's Smuggler was first published in 1968. It tells the story of Brother Andrew, a Dutch Christian, who finds he is being called to take bibles to countries behind the Iron Curtain, where they are in very short supply because of Communist restrictions. The authorities take a dim view of religion and do their best to ridicule and suppress it. Not only that, importing bibles is against the law. At this distance, after the fall of Communism in so many countries, it may be hard for readers under the age of 40 to appreciate just how much of Europe was in the grip of rigid and at times harsh state control: East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, to name but a few.

Despite the risks – and they were very real – Brother Andrew made trip after trip in his little VW beetle, miraculously getting across border posts where the guards seemed not to notice that the car was full of bibles. He preached to and encouraged Christian communities in their darkest hour, and gave them hope. He did it all on a shoestring, never knowing where the next donation was going to come from but trusting that it would. And it always did.

This book rattles along with a real sense of mission and purpose. From small beginnings his work and impact grows and grows. It is an inspiring example to all of us of how prayer and faith can bring about real change in the face of seemingly impossible odds.



## **This Time Tomorrow (TTT)**

*As part of each Café Church, every month one member of the congregation is asked: 'What will you be doing This Time Tomorrow?'. This is a way of hearing and supporting each other as we live out our Christian faith during the week. February's answers came from Sara Diggle.*

### **Who are you?**

I'm Sara Diggle. I live in the village with my husband Tim, and our two boys aged 5 and 7, who attend Tarporley primary school

### **What will you be doing This Time Tomorrow?**

I'm very lucky in that I don't usually work on Mondays, and if I do then I am catching up on meetings or admin, so I get to start my week walking my 2 boys to school. We'll talk about how they can let their light shine that day. Charlie has a lot of curiosity, and will usually ask lots of big questions about God during this time.



I'll then go home, and that's my reading time, where I'll read either the bible, bible companion book, or a book related to evidence around a creator etc, which I'll then discuss with my colleague at work on Tuesday!

### **What are the joys and challenges in being a Christian in this work environment?**

Challenges - I'd hope in my work I am kind, and listen to all my patients concerns, but I definitely find the NHS frustrating at the moment, with conflict between the managers who run what is essentially a business that needs to make enormous cost savings to balance it's books, and us as clinicians, who don't consider costs, and just want to provide the best care we can to our patients. Inner Manchester has a lot of poverty, which leads to health inequality, and these patients often need more time and patience then the managers will give us time for, so the constant pressure from them is difficult.

The joys are definitely working with our registrar Samuel, who shares my office. I really look forward to returning from clinic, as Sam is also a Christian, and is also possibly the most intelligent person I have ever met! We have weekly long chats discussing questions my boys have asked that week. As scientists we both look for evidence in our work, and do the same with both our own, and Charlie's questions! Sam is a big fan of a book called I don't have enough faith to be an atheist, whereas I love Lee Strobel and books like *Cold Case Christianity* and *Man Myth, Messiah*. All these books are really good for our questions, but the Lee Strobel books have version written for younger people with lots of different versions for different age ranges, so these have been really helpful for explaining difficult concepts to the boys.

**How can we pray for you?**

As mother – that I can guide the boys and God helps us to give them a solid faith based background,

In my job - pretty much everyone has heard of long covid, but my patients have weaknesses in their immune systems that they were born with, and so have spent the last 3 years too afraid to leave the house, and, for a lot of them, too afraid to come to clinic. This clearly has had effects on their mental health as well as their physical health, so ask God to help me remember this when planning their care with them, and to continue to advocate for them, rather than bowing to the pressures of management.

*Sarah*

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

Ritchie Pape

***We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:***

Howard Paul

Mary Williamson



**Elaine Meredith describes the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 - designed by the Christian Women of Taiwan entitled –**

*'I have heard about your faith'*

The World Day of Prayer service this year was held at St Helen's Church, Tarporley. St Helen's organist, Chas, accompanied the singing of hymns and songs. During the service members of the congregation from the Chapel, the St Thomas Becket Catholic Church and our three Parish churches read the poems, readings and reflections from the especially designed service booklet.

Taiwan has worldwide reputation as the Kingdom of Orchids allowing beautiful orchid blooms to set the relaxed scene for our evening. Refreshments including a pineapple cake baked by Pat Symms were enjoyed . The same format for this service was used all over the world as we were together in prayer and praise for our dear Lord Jesus Christ. Including the pineapple cake!!

*Elaine Meredith*



**Images of the 2023 World Day of Prayer Service, held at St Helen's Church Tarporley on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

## Crossword Answers

Our March issue of the Link contained a crossword and our editor has miraculously remembered to give the answers

The crossword grid and clues can be found in the March 2023 issue of 'The Link'. Available on line at [Tarporleyparishchurch.org.uk](http://Tarporleyparishchurch.org.uk) .

Here are the answers.

**ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

### The chocolatey side:- Happy Birthday, Cadbury Crème Egg

Cadbury Crème Eggs celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this Spring. They have a lot to celebrate: the Crème Egg is the best-selling confectionery item between New Year's Day and Easter in the UK, with annual sales of more than 200 million eggs, worth about £55 million. Cadbury Crème Eggs were first created by the British chocolatier Fry's in 1963, before being renamed by Cadbury in 1971.

## Finally.

### Tarporley Parish Warm Space

Although we hope that Spring and the warmer weather is around the corner and we can see fresh leaf buds on our hedges, winter was still clinging on in early March and caused the postponement of our 'Afternoon Tea in The Done Room'. So don't forget Tarporley Parish Council's 'Warm Space' at St Helen's from 10.30am - 12.30pm on Wednesdays.



Apologies for the postponement of  
'An Afternoon Tea in the Done Room' in March  
due to inclement weather.  
it will be re-arranged!



### Tarporley War Memorial Hospital

**A quick reminder of the new services to be offered from Tarporley War Memorial Hospital (Phase 1.) (Late Summer /Autumn2022)**

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# Jacqueline Wilson

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