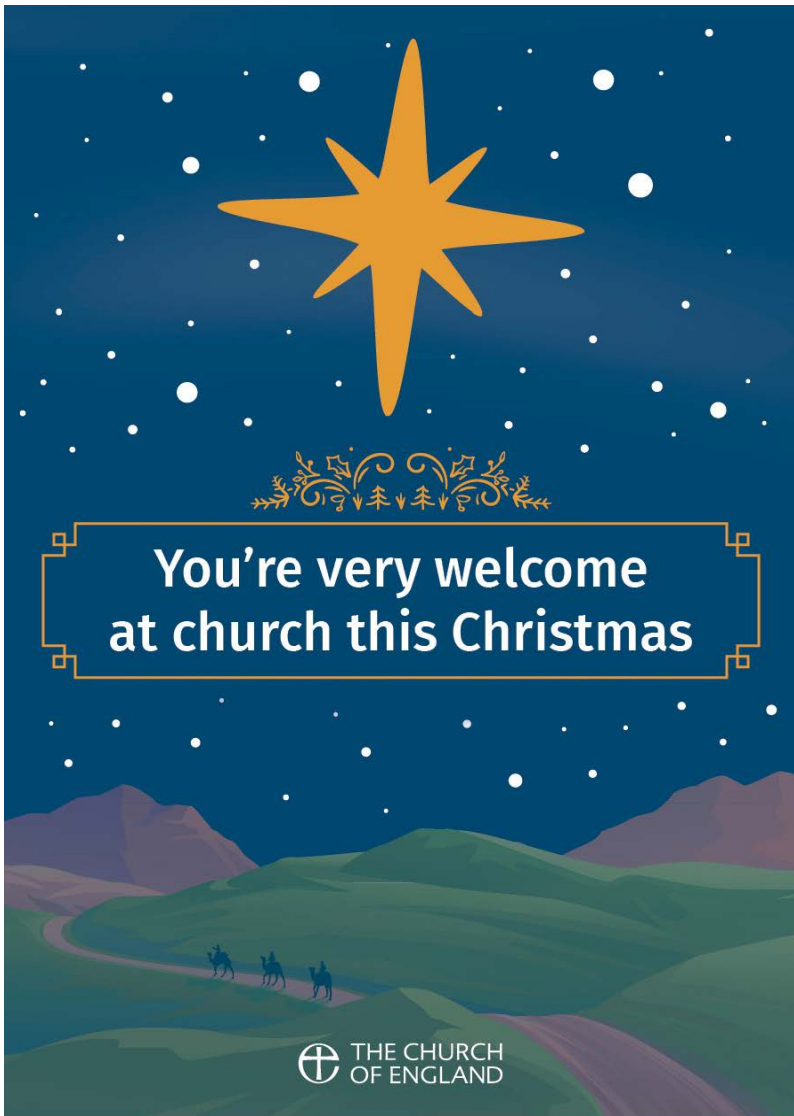


THE LINK

50p

December 2022

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 tab on the website or page 7 in 'The Link'

Weekday Service At St Helen's each Wednesday at 10.00am Holy Communion

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

Email: revjimb1017@gmail.com 07526243702

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: neelyeliza@hotmail.com 07890470899

Treasurer Anita Langford 01829458351

email 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 01829 730155

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

email jobsonajpj@btinternet.com items for 'The Link' should be emailed to the above by the 16th of the month.

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01829 733431

Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email 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 Jan by email on: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk Email: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

The Rector Writes:-

After the year that we have had, I think we are all in need of a bit of Good News. With all that's happening in the world, it's sometimes hard to see the positive aspects of life, and the good news of life. Crises and chaos tend to drown out the good news stories. So I want to



begin by rejoicing in good news: thank you to those who have so eagerly and energetically embraced some of the opportunities coming out of the Vision day – for those who have signed up to help serve refreshments on Wednesdays as we open St Helen's as a Warm Space between 10.30am-12.30pm, and for those who have offered to listen to children in our church schools read. It has been really positive to see this energy and enthusiasm, so thank you to those who have already embraced these opportunities.

Well thankfully, with Christmas coming, MORE Good News is on the way, in the shape of the baby born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. A clergy friend once told me the story of when they told their line-manager that they were expecting their first child, and the initial response was: 'Oh...well that's an unexpected expense'!

Thankfully, the response when many people announce a pregnancy is usually a lot more positive, and expecting a baby (although an overwhelming and life-changing experience) is cause for celebration.

The Good News that the birth of Jesus proclaims is that 'Freedom is coming – God is on the way'. And this is the theme for the Advent Book that we'll be looking at this year: 'Freedom is Coming: From Advent to Epiphany with the prophet Isaiah' by Nick Baines, the Bishop of Leeds. This book looks at small verses of Isaiah for each day from Advent to Epiphany, with reflections for us to ponder on (see Walter Gibson's excellent book review in this edition of *The Link* page 12 for a further taste of the book). I encourage you to read the book, and journey along with others this Advent: if you'd like to join in discussing the book, we will be meeting at St Helen's on Wednesdays from 10.30am.

The premise of God's Good News is that we are all currently trapped, and in need of freedom – some of us will be physically trapped (by our health situation

or in a relationship or house that we can't escape from), while others of us will be trapped by addictions, the pressure of society or a sense of unworthiness, sin or lack of love. We all look for freedom from something. For the people of Israel of the first century, they were trapped by a Roman state that oppressed them (and had experienced exile and subjugation in a foreign country too); they were left wondering where God was, and when God would free them from their current shackles. The words of the prophets promised them that God had not forgotten them, or not heard their cry. Instead, help was on the way, freedom was coming!

However, this would be in a way that they were not expecting; it was not a show of divine strength on the battle field, or destroying the global power of Rome and re-establishing self-rule for Israel. This was to be a cosmic freedom: from sin, from death, from subjugation by all that was dark, and it was to come about through a baby, a baby born in a scandalous way. Despite its apparently strange beginnings, freedom was coming!

Freedom is coming for us too. In fact, it has already arrived, but often we don't realise it. As we journey to Bethlehem, let us embrace the freedom that the Christ-child brings.

May I wish you all a freedom filled Advent and Christmas!

Jim

Reverse Advent Calendar

During an Eco-church meeting recently, the Eco group talked about how the parish could continue to impact our communities in positive ways, and whilst talking about our continued connection with the Mid-Cheshire, we hit on the idea of joining with others in Advent in adopting a Reverse Advent Calendar: instead of getting a little gift/chocolate each day of Advent, we give a gift each day; in this case, collecting an item to give to the Foodbank, so that at the end of Advent each person or family group would have a box of essential items to give to the Foodbank.

Revd Jim rang the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank who warmly supported the idea, and added that as many people do give especially in the run up to Christmas, they

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

DECEMBER 2022

See Also Centre pages pull out and Reverse Advent Calendar

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| December 4th | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | All-Age Worship |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | All-Age Worship and Baptism |
| | St John | 11.15am | Communion for Advent |
| | St Helen | 4.00pm | Christingle Service |
| 11th | THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | The Blessing of The Crib |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion. |
| Friday 16th | Cotebrook | 7.00pm | Carol singing at The Alvanley Arms |
| 18th | THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| | St Helen | 6.30pm | Carol Service |
| Monday 19th | St Thomas | 7.30pm | Carol Service |
| Tuesday 20th | St Helen | 3.00pm | Messy Church for Christmas |
| | St John | 6.30pm | Carol Service by Candlelight |
| Friday 23rd | Eaton | 6.30pm | Carols on the Green |
| 24th | CHRISTMAS EVE | | |
| | Tarporley | 3.30pm | Carols on the High Street |
| | St Helen's | 4.00pm | The Blessing of the Crib |
| | St Helen's | 11.00pm | Midnight Communion |
| 25th | CHRISTMAS DAY | | |
| | St Thomas | 9.00am | All-Age Communion |
| | St Helen | 10.00am | All-Age Communion |
| | 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 Sundays at St Thomas'

1st Sunday of the month at St John's



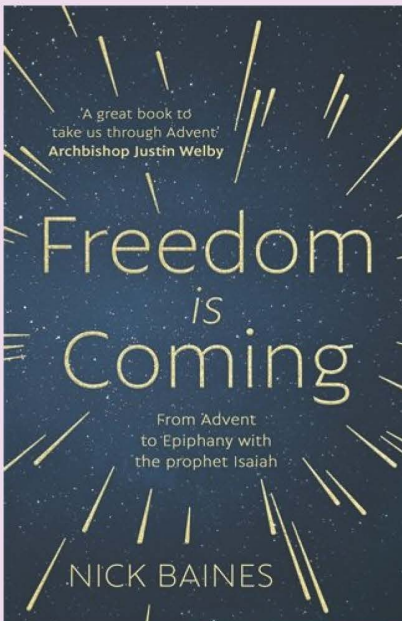
Reverse Advent calendar 2022

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 27th Nov <i>UHT milk</i> | 28th Nov <i>Toilet roll</i> | 29th Nov <i>Pot noodle</i> | 30th Nov <i>Sanitary towels</i> | 1st Dec <i>Jam</i> | 2nd Dec <i>Tinned veg</i> |
| 3rd Dec <i>Tinned fruit</i> | 4th Dec <i>Hot chocolate</i> | 5th Dec <i>Peanut butter</i> | 6th Dec <i>Fruit juice</i> | 7th Dec <i>Washing up liquid</i> | 8th Dec <i>Meat paste</i> |
| 9th Dec <i>Tinned meat</i> | 10th Dec <i>Gravy granules</i> | 11th Dec <i>Tomato sauce</i> | 12th Dec <i>Toothpaste</i> | 13th Dec <i>Cuppa Soup</i> | 14th Dec <i>Tinned fruit</i> |
| 15th Dec <i>Stock cubes</i> | 16th Dec <i>Tinned fish</i> | 17th Dec <i>Custard</i> | 18th Dec <i>Tinned meatballs</i> | 19th Dec <i>Pot noodle</i> | 20th Dec <i>Tinned soup</i> |
|  Tarporley Parish | 21st Dec <i>Cooking oil</i> | 22nd Dec <i>Deodorant</i> | 23rd Dec <i>Long life pudding</i> | 24th Dec <i>Long life sponge pudding</i> |  Mid Cheshire foodbank |
| | | | | | |

Add an item for each day in Advent. Box up your items ready to take to the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank in January



Advent Book Group



*Reading 'Freedom is Coming' by
Nick Baines - reflecting on the
prophet Isaiah*

**Join together on Wednesdays
at 10.30am at St Helen's to
discuss what we've read**

**30th Nov
7th Dec
14th Dec
21st Dec
4th Jan**

**For more information contact the Rector - Revd Jim Bridgman
revjim1017@gmail.com 01829 732491**

are consequently most in need of donations in early January and February. So if the run up to Christmas finds you extra frazzled, don't worry: you don't need to finish your calendar on 24th December!

In the (pull-out) middle page spread you will find the Reverse Advent calendar with ideas of what to get for each day of Advent. Please consider getting involved with the scheme, and gather your gifts ready to be delivered in the New Year.

We congratulate and pray for those baptised

JJ Craven

Rose Irving



We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

John Blagg

Gary Fisher

Lucy Vernon

Walter Gibson reviews 'Freedom is Coming' by Nick Baines

The words of Isaiah, written nearly three thousand years ago, are very familiar to us at this time of year. Think of Handel's great oratorio 'The Messiah' and all those wonderful, moving lyrics: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people", "Every valley shall be exalted", "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed", and many more. All from Isaiah. Yet how well do we understand what he was trying to say, what God was trying to tell his people at that time ... and us today?

Nick Baines is here to help. The sub-title of his book is 'From Advent to Epiphany with the prophet Isaiah'. And who better to guide us than the Bishop of Leeds, who is also a linguist, author and regular contributor to Radio 2 and 4. Communications are his strength, and that comes through in his writing. Over six weeks he gives us a daily reflection on a text from Isaiah, explaining the context at the time and making it relevant to our lives today. We might not be living in exile (although this is still happening today to many people in the world) but we live in turbulent times and, as his opening line says, "there is nothing new under the sun".

The big thought behind his book then is that we can learn from the ancients and find help and strength to face the challenges of today. Prophets like Isaiah challenge the way we think and offer a different perspective on who we are and

(continued overleaf)

what God is asking of us. Day by day and week by week Nick Baines puts a new spin on those familiar words and helps us re-think what they mean for us today.

If you'd like Isaiah and Nick Baines to be your companions this Advent, why not get a copy and join the Book Club to discuss it? You would be very welcome.

And Finally, Thank you to all those who attended and/or helped at the Christmas Afternoon Tea in the Done Room, through your efforts £645.00 was raised for St Helen's Church. It was very enjoyable. Thank you again. See below for some photos of the event.



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The hospital will become a rural hub for the following:-

- Rapid Response Team enabling people to receive care and rehabilitation in their own homes.
- REACT Hospital at Home Team enabling improved access to patients in crisis who might otherwise need to go to hospital to receive treatment in their home.

For further information or queries please email
fundraising@tarporleyhospital.co.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.
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 (except in January when the meeting is held
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