

THE LINK

50p

February 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 5 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: revjim1017@gmail.com 07526243702

Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne

Email: revjulianosborne@gmail.com 07421323699

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

Wardens Rosemary Lilley

Michael Scott 01829733919

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

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

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 Secretary: Kathryn Palmer 01829733040

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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

February 6th

THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	All-Age Worship
St Helen	10.00am	All-Age Worship
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
St Helen	6.30pm	Choral Evensong

A service of beautiful music and ancient liturgy led by the vocal talents of the Vox Vocavit singers. Everyone welcome!

13th

THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion

20th

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion

27th

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion

March 2nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

St Helen	7.30pm	Holy Communion For Ash Wednesday
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6th

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	All-Age Worship
St Helen	10.00am	All-Age Worship
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion

Each Wednesday at 10.00am at St Helen's there is a service of said Holy Communion.

We will continue to adhere to government and CofE guidance on COVID-19.

Follow us on Facebook:-Search:- [facebook.com/ParishOfTarpoley](https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfTarpoley)

The Rector Writes:-

Can you remember how were you feeling on Monday 17th of January? According to one psychologist Monday 17th January is the most depressing day of the year 2022, nicknamed 'Blue Monday'. Cliff Arnall deduced this from the following formula:



$$\frac{[W + D - d]T^Q}{MN_a}$$

Arnall calculated the date by using many factors, including weather conditions, debt level (the difference between debt accumulated and our ability to pay), time since Christmas, time since failing our new year's resolutions, low motivational levels and feeling of a need to take action. The outcome is that the third Monday of January is the most depressing day of the year. In many ways, it doesn't take a genius to realise that January can be a 'blue' time as it comes directly after the most celebratory and happy times of the year.

Although Christmas may seem like a distant memory, there should be something that lingers from the festive period – a sense of hope. Christmas reminds us that in the birth of Jesus, fully God and fully man, new hope entered the world. Hope that things could be different; hope that the God would intervene in human life in a new way, and this is continued into the season of Epiphany, as our Bible readings remind us of people who realised (or had an epiphany) of just who Jesus is. Even if the aroma of turkey and sprouts has long disappeared with the New Year, that sense of hope and a fresh start does not.

How does that help us with 'Blue Monday'? One of the points of the Epiphany season is to remind us that Jesus was God here on Earth, and that he went through all that we do, the joys and the sorrows, and can empathise with us in our situations. He promises that he will be with us and help us through the tough times. He also showed God to be engaging and caring for humanity: he had a plan for ordinary people and made them his disciples; he wanted people to rejoice and have fun, and ensured the wine didn't run out at the wedding; he came to bring fullness of life, which meant healing of bodies and minds. These three events illustrate that God offers us **all** new hope and new chances,

regardless of the time of year, a great thing to remember as January comes to a close! And despite the lingering effects of the pandemic, there is still much to be hopeful about: new signs of life in our parish, new opportunities to engage with those around us, new ways to draw close to God, with Easter, the ultimate season of hope, just around the corner.

I wouldn't go as far as to agree with Wizzard that 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday', but perhaps we need to keep hold of its message of 'God with us' during the darkness of 'Blue Monday' and beyond. I pray that your January has not been too blue, and instead we can all look forward to a brighter and more colourful spring, where hope will abound. I'll leave you with some beautiful words on hope by the poet Emily Dickinson:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers - (314) - EMILY DICKINSON

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Eco Church and our parish.

As Christians, care and responsibility for God's creation is one of the ways that we can show love for God, our neighbours and ourselves, so assessing our impact on the world as church communities and individuals is a good way to start.

The PCC wants to take that commitment seriously by evaluating the ecological impact of the parish and its buildings in order to become an 'Eco-Church'. By surveying our Worship, Buildings, Land, Community engagement and Lifestyles we can assess what the parish can do to be more responsible good stewards of creation. Upon completing an online survey, our church buildings can be awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco-award, and work towards doing more!

It would be great to get all three church buildings up to at least Bronze level if possible! More information can be found on the Eco-Church website.

If you would be interested in being part of a group to help bring about that change, please join a meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 16th February at 7.30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83056431056?pwd=NEpZU0h3all4cmN6S0hmNXRwRDB1dz09>

Meeting ID: 830 5643 1056 Passcode: 134307

Jim

Now: Continuing our feature:-'Who are on our PCC?'

The Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of our three churches. It consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives elected from the parishioners. But: "Who are they?"

This month Anita Langford and Bill Spiegelberg introduce themselves.

Name: Anita Langford

Church(es) and services attended in the parish:

St Helen's and St John's – Communion services and special Christmas services. I have also attended Lent Groups.

PCC role/responsibility: Treasurer – being one of the three PCC members originating from Yorkshire, you could say this is very appropriate as I try to keep a tight rein on the purse strings! I have previously produced the weekly news sheet. I am also a reader for St Helen's and more importantly on the refreshment rota.



Current/previous Employment: I worked in finance for 30+ years, mainly for an insurance company but also in local government and the health service. I was Parish Clerk for a few years for Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council. Now retired from paid employment.

When I'm not at church, I spend my time... volunteering for various local organisations – Church Treasurer, Business Secretary and Website Manager for Tarporley Community Centre and Membership Secretary for Tarporley and

District u3a. Volunteering is very rewarding and I would encourage anyone to get involved in their local community.

I have two dogs and enjoy being with them and also going to Legacy gym. I'm trying to improve my fitness.

Being a displaced Yorkshire person, I try and spend as much time as possible back in God's Own County and when Yorkshire gets home rule, I'll be back in a shot!

Favourite hymn: I have two – most people's favourite 'Jerusalem' and also 'For All the Saints. It's a shame I don't get much opportunity to sing it much.

Favourite verse/story in the Bible: I don't have one but would like to read Revelations this year.

My journey of faith.... Sunday School where my mum was a teacher and then monthly church parade as a Guide. When we moved to Tarporley I started attending St Helen's initially as a way to meet people and then found I enjoyed coming to services. I was at the first confirmation classes which Georgina held and was then confirmed.

Anita Langford

Name: Bill Spiegelberg

I have been Churchwarden at St John and the Holy Cross Church, Cotebrook and a member of the Tarporley P.C.C. for sixty years except for six years from 1973 when I was first married and lived away.

I have been retired since 1998 after nearly thirty years with The Greenall's Group plc, the last 18 years as Company Secretary. In 1955 I did my National Service with a commission in a cavalry regiment and then joined the Cheshire Yeomanry.



When not in church, I spend my time with my wife Rosie, walking my two Jack Russell terriers, gardening, watching horse racing, keeping in touch with my children and grandchildren and a bit of golf and bridge.

My favourite hymns are 'Immortal Invisible God only Wise' and 'Thine is the Glory'.

My favourite Bible story is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. (Continued Overleaf)

My Journey in Faith began with my Baptism at St Mary's Church, Bowdon and Confirmation in the Marlborough College Chapel.

I am very proud of the fact that my German Grandmother's ancestors, the von Recklinghausens, were some of the original supporters of Martin Luther in the 15th century. *Bill Spiegelberg*

Some 'thank you's'.

Thank you to Anita and Bill and all other PCC members who are sharing their journeys with us.

Thank you also to all who donated money to the Christmas flower decorations fund and to the teams involved for giving their time to ensure St Helen's Parish Church and our daughter churches were adorned with beautiful floral designs for all the Christmas Services.

Pat Symms writes:- The Children's Society.

Thank you to all those who raised money for the Children's Society in 2021.

The Christingle service raised £280.61 and the box collections £364.09. This is a little lower than previous years as the Service congregation was smaller and the number of box holders has reduced.

The Children's Society is a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. The Society support them through their most serious life challenges and campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. They been doing this for 140 years and they will not stop until they have built a society where hope is alive in every child.

If you would like to know more about their work, please visit their website <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>

There are three ways in which you can offer your support:

Attend the annual Christingle service and give to the collection.

Visit the website and donate online.

Be a St Helen's parish box holder. To do this please obtain a registration form from Pat Symms (01829 759120) and she will provide you with a box. These are

usually emptied annually either in December or January. The Children's Society will welcome your support.

Pat Symms St Helen's Parish coordinator

News from St Thomas'

Our outdoor Carol Service was to have been held at The Drays Coffee shop in their marquee this year. We were grateful to Declan and Anne for agreeing for us to use their premises. The much practised carol service 'flew away' when the marquee that was to house us blew off in the gale!! But undeterred the choir led the singing of carols to over 40 villagers on the village green. We were very grateful to Mike Wilson who provided the music from his ipad!!

St Thomas' looks forward to a more settled 2022 and take this occasion to wish all a very Happy and Healthy 2022. **Rosemary Lilley and Mike Scott**

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Dorothy Edwards

David Jones

Michael Markert

Patricia Millington

Malcolm O'Prey

Betty Roberts

James Williamson



Finally:-

Walter Gibson writes:-

An update on the Parish Bookshelf and our series of book reviews.

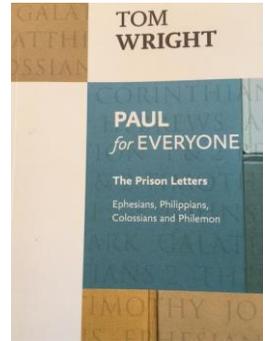
'The Link' started running book reviews in 2019 and to date some 20 books have been reviewed. One aim of these reviews was to increase my own and others' awareness of what is out there in terms of Christian writing and to encourage all of us to benefit from it. To this end we are planning to create an *actual* Parish Bookshelf in St Helen's, where all the books that have been reviewed will be kept and made available to borrow by anyone in Tarporley Parish who is interested in reading them. Jim is looking for a suitable spot and I will put together a suitable borrowing scheme and catalogue of titles and reviews. In the meantime I have all the books at home and if anyone wants to borrow one please contact me at waltergibson@bearvalleyventures.com . *Walter*

See overleaf for the latest review

'Paul for Everyone The Prison Letters' by Tom Wright

This book is part of a series of New Testament commentaries¹ written by Tom Wright, Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St Andrews.

Observant readers will recall that one of his other books, a biography of Paul, was reviewed for 'The Link' by Julian in 2020. He is clearly one of the leading scholars at work today. And he writes very well.



I think it was the title of this book that got me interested, a bit like choosing a bottle of wine because the label looks appealing. It is the phrase 'for everyone' which did it. I find that Paul's letters, while full of the most beautiful, almost poetic writing about the Christian faith and how to live it, can be a bit dense and hard going in places. So I thought, perhaps this book can make them more accessible?

Does he succeed? Absolutely. Everything about this book has been designed to help us understand what Paul is driving at in these letters (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon), all written while he was in prison: he has made a completely new translation of each of them and broken them into short passages which are followed by a commentary which explains clearly and simply what they mean. Usually there is background information to help us understand the context and a modern day analogy to help the reader understand what Paul is saying. I found myself thinking 'Ah, that's what it means' quite a lot. And there were several places where the author drew attention to something quite profound that I'm sure I would have missed otherwise.

The combination of the new translation and the accessible commentary also seemed to bring me closer to Paul the man. You get a real sense of the emotions he must have felt as he was writing these letters while imprisoned and in chains. And yet 2000 years later we are still reading them!

If you feel like diving into Paul's letters in more depth than this book, or one of the others in the series, would make a good companion.

¹ The full list of titles is available at www.spckpublishing.co.uk



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A request for volunteers.
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OPAL Clubs are social clubs for older people who need support to get out and about.

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.

New members and visitors are most welcome, there is an admission fee payable.

Annual membership fee is £40.

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