

# THE LINK

50p

January 2022

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



*Throughout Advent we counted the weeks and prayerfully awaited His coming.*

# 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 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**

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**Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne**

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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

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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

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Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

email [jobsonajpi@btinternet.com](mailto:jobsonajpi@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 [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 Secretary: Kathryn Palmer 01829733040

To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries please

Contact Jan by email on: [admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk)

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## CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2022

<b>January 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>		
	St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
	This will be the only service in our Parish on January 2 <sup>nd</sup> .		
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b>		
	<b>Also THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b>		
	St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>February 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b>		
	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 said Holy Communion.

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

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**Our Assistant Curate Writes:-**

Happy New Year everyone!

In actual fact, with printing deadlines looming, I am writing this letter in the middle of storm Barra. I have been mulling over what to say at the start of a New Year for days now, and today, God has spoken in two very different, but linked, ways to help me put pen to paper.



Firstly, looking out of the window for inspiration and my eyes are drawn to the field of sheep who, seemingly unperturbed by the howling wind, contentedly munch on grass that is becoming less verdant by the day. At the edge of the field, I can see the sandy cliff, fragile and vulnerable to the driving waves beneath and the pouring rain above. Our sea view has improved over the years, as the cliff slides into the sea, and I think it will continue to do so as the planet warms. Further still, the three rugged granite hills known as The Rivals meet the sea where they engage in a never-ending elemental battle. The waves relentlessly pound the rocks, producing a spectacular display of spray and surf, but the rocks refuse to yield.



**Elemental forces.**

Secondly, He spoke in the words of Psalm 62, a set reading from today's Morning Prayer, which seem to put into words what I can see of God from my window today. Please take time to read these words, and as you do so, imagine the waves crashing against the rocks, driven on by gale force winds.

Picture the sheep, taking refuge, protected from the gale, resting, eating and patiently waiting for the sun once again to re-emerge from the clouds. Amid the turmoil of a storm, they have found peace and rest.

*Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
my salvation comes from him.  
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress; I will never be shaken.*

*How long will you assault me?  
Would all of you throw me down—  
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?*

*Yes, my soul, find rest in God;  
my hope comes from him.  
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.*

*My salvation and my honour depend on God;  
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.  
Trust in him at all times, you people;  
pour out your hearts to him,  
for God is our refuge.*

The last two years have been hard in so many ways for so many of us. Next year looks equally uncertain in many respects, for there are so many things that threaten to assault our health and happiness, that might overcome our already weakened fences. You hardly need me to remind you of that! What I hope will help us more is to reflect on the penultimate line of this beautiful Psalm which underscores the reason that we can face the New Year and everything that it brings with hope: -

*Power belongs to you, God,  
and with you, Lord, is unfailing love*

My hope and prayer for us all is that our souls will indeed find rest in our Lord God who loves us more than we will ever know, providing a fortress, a rock of salvation that will never be shaken.

Happy New Year .

*Julian*

**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?"

**Name: Phillip Posnett**



Church(es) and services attended in the parish: I regularly attend the morning services at St Helens Church

PCC role/responsibility: Churchwarden with responsibility for fabric and the Done Room. Also Lay Chairman of the Malpas Deanery Synod.

Current/previous Employment: Many years ago I used to work for the Co-op as a buyer and marketing manager. Currently I look after the Haughton Hall Estate and my big project has been opening up the Cheshire Green Industrial Park at Wardle between Tarporley and Nantwich. I am involved in a number of voluntary organisations which include being a trustee of the Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust which gives small grants to help with repairs to historic churches of any denomination. I am also a trustee of the Mrs D M France Hayhurst Foundation which gives grants to animal charities.

When I'm not at church, I spend my time... with my family. I am married to Becky and we have two teenage children Isabel and Edward. I also enjoy running, walking, skiing, gardening, reading, trees, forestry, jigsaw puzzles and being in Anglesey by the seaside.

Favourite hymn: Hills of the North, Rejoice – an advent hymn. I am not fond of All things bright and beautiful and Morning has broken!

Favourite verse/story in the Bible: John Ch1 vs 1 -18 and the parable of the lost sheep.

My journey of faith....

I grew up at Tiresford Farm just outside Tarporley where Dad had a herd of Guernsey cows and he was churchwarden of St Judes Church, Tilstone Fearnall where I was christened by The Revd Jimmy James. I attended church and in the early days Sunday School there. I was confirmed into the Church when I was at School in Buckinghamshire. I started attending St Helens from the early 1990's and since then have become more and more involved in the life of the church. Like Liz I have always had a firm faith in God and being at St Helens has given me a greater understanding of the Christian faith. Also I enjoy the friendship of everyone on the PCC and all those who attend St Helens Church.

**Name: Rosemary Lilley**

Church: St Thomas' Church Eaton

PCC role. Joint Warden at St Thomas' Church

Current/previous Employment: Currently happily retired. Formerly bank employee, potter's technician, book keeper and office manager.

I enjoy playing golf, playing bridge and am a member of Eaton Ramblers. We walk/amble once a month. I love to read and while away many an hour with a jigsaw. I am an apprentice gardener..now known to have passed my first lock down gardening exam!! I am married to David and have three children and five grandchildren with whom I love to spend time. I adore to be by the sea and in the sea! Our daughter lives in Australia and we have enjoyed many a visit there. I am a keen member of St Thomas' choir.

It's hard to choose a favourite hymn but my favourites are: Jerusalem the Golden, O let the son of God enfold you.

Favourite verse/story in the Bible: The Incarnation. John 1 verses 1-14

My journey of faith....started at a very young age.

I attended Sunday school at Mount Pleasant Congregational church in Pontypool. The organist who played at my christening also played at my wedding to David! I became involved in a youth group who would hold services in small country churches where there were no ministers We moved to Cheshire where I had a several years not going church. I started attending St Thomas' 25 years ago and found a wonderfully friendly church family and continue to do so.

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

Dorothy Edwards

David Jones

Malcolm O'Prey



**A look back 2021; A year of change.**

Starting this review unconventionally on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December with (very soggy and hardy souls), *'just singing (carols) in the rain'*,

whilst the High Street lights were turned on to announce the run up to the celebration of Christmas in Tarporley.

During the previous week Jim and Julian had visited our Primary Schools to explain the work of the Children's Society and to distribute Christingles (chocolate and collecting box varieties) ready for the service at St Helen's on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Clockwise from right; three photographs showing Julian and Jim visiting schools and happy faces at our Christingle service at St Helen's.**



Continuing our review and working backwards through the year. On September 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed Jim Bridgman and his family when Jim was instituted as the 50<sup>th</sup> Rector of Tarporley Parish. A lovely service attended by two Bishops, and announced to the village by the ringing of all eight Tarporley St Helen's bells.

During the first eight months of the year the parish was in a 'vacancy'. This simple phrase could be taken to imply that nothing was going on from January until September. But, in fact, a tremendous amount of work was needed and willingly undertaken by many people.

Especial thanks are due to our Churchwardens, Wardens, PCC and, of course all the clergy who together ensured that our services and events continued; apparently completely effortlessly. Whether there was turmoil below decks in the engine house or on the bridge is unknown but, on the deck, the ship was sailing serenely on calm seas. As indeed it is now.

**Thank you all.**

**Elaine Meredith describes one of the weddings during 'the vacancy' below:-**

**It was a lovely Summer day on the occasion that:-**

PCC Secretary Paul Emerson married Chrissy Croucher on 24<sup>th</sup> August at St Helens Church, Tarporley. Reverend Julian Osborne welcomed the couple and their guests and conducted a beautiful marriage ceremony. The photo shows Paul and Chrissy being guided by Rev Julian in the taking of their vows. Organist Chas Hardern played a medley of Beatles Songs during the signing of the register and accompanied the guests singing the wedding hymns, Lord of the Dance and Give me Joy in my Heart. Paul's sister read The Art of Marriage and I read the Bible reading 1 Corinthians Chapter 13.



The prayers and blessings so appropriate for a couple who found love by being introduced to each other because of attendance at our Parish Church. (cont)

Hearing the bells sound as the wedding party left church brought joy to my heart as I had played Cupid introducing my sister Chrissy to Paul with their first date being at The Chocolate Shop!

I thought this love story would bring warmth to readers of the Link in this Winter season. *Elaine Meredith.*

### **Eaton Leaf Fest**

Rosemary and I are truly grateful to the twelve kind souls who joined us in the churchyard on Day 2 of Eaton's Leaf-Fest weekend in November to make short work of bagging up leaf litter, cutting path edges, pruning the yew trees, weeding some long-neglected graves, relaying kerbing at the steps, and generally tidying up before the winter whilst Pauline was busy polishing the brass in the church.

Ian and Barbara then turned from their endeavours to playing hosts at the Old Smithy where we were treated to some very tasty mulled wine and mince pies followed by coffee and biscuits.

It's a joy to work with such a willing band of volunteers.

With many thanks to everyone. *Mike and Rosemary.*

**Finally: Elaine Meredith writes:- Happy New Year readers.**

I am writing to encourage attendance at the Lay Conference in March 2022. I had the pleasure of attending a few years ago representing our wonderful Parish. It was a planned weekend, well balanced with services, presentations and creative activities. Much laughter and fun meeting parishioners from Churches all over the Diocese. The Centre is set in lovely gardens ideal for a stroll after lunch. Refreshments were on tap and meals served in a large restaurant. The professional Speakers were inspirational. We even had a comedian as our Saturday evening entertainment. If you wanted to chat to me before considering applying please phone. **Elaine Meredith - 01829 732104**

**Diocese of Chester - Lay Conference 2022 Not Just Sunday: #EverydayFaith**  
**WHAT IS IT:** Lay Conference

**WHEN IS IT:** The weekend of 25 to 27 March 2022

**WHERE IS IT:** The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO:** Consider going along as a representative from our parish!



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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](mailto: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.

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