

THE LINK

50p

March 2021

Tarporley Parish Magazine



'How Great Thou art'

ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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Services: See Calendar page on the website or ‘The Link’ magazine.

Weekday Service St Helen’s Church, Holy Communion: Wednesday at 10.00 am.

(Note: all telephone numbers are area code 01829 unless otherwise stated).

Rector: **Vacancy, The Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG 732491**

Assistant Curate: **Julian Osborne, 3 Dingle Way, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2UW 07421 323699**

e-mail: revjulianosborne@gmail.com

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens	Phillip Posnett, Haughton Hall, Tarporley CW6 9RH	260251
	Liz Neely email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899
Treasurer	Anita Langford, 7 The Crescent, Utkinton, CW6 0LT	458351
P.C.C Secretary	Paul Emerson, Maple Bank, Eaton Road, Tarporley, CW6 0BJ	733147
Organist	Chas Hardern	732595
Reading Rota	Elaine Meredith Corner Lodgings, Forest Road, Tarporley CW6 0HX	732104
Co-ordinator		
Bellringers	Jenny Christian	732412

Cotebrook:

St John Wardens	Bill Spiegelberg, Oulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336
	Peter Copland, Moss Cottage, Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	732618
Organist	Katrina Copland,	732618
Eaton: St Thomas Wardens	Rosemary Lilley, Windward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley CW6 9AG	732948
	Michael Scott, 39 High St, Tarporley CW6 0DP	
Organist	Marjorie Rathbone	732655

LINK Editor	Andy Jobson, Plessington House, Huxley Lane, Brassey Green, Tarporley, CW6 9UG	732437
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Electoral Roll	Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP	733431
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Sunday Sheet	email jleaman@talktalk.net	
Tarporley C.E. Primary School	Mrs Kerry Forrester	01244 981230
Utkinton C.E. Primary School	Ms Lorna Pleavin	732322
Done Room Booking Secretary	Kathryn Palmer	733040

CONTACT POINTS:

Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness or pastoral need to the Assistant Curate. 07421 323699
To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact Phillip Posnett. 260251

To ask about Wedding arrangements, baptisms or general enquiries please contact Jan
email: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.org **e-mail:** admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Items for ‘The Link’ should be e-mailed to jobsonajpj@btinternet.com or posted to the Link Editor by the 16th of each month.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2021

At the time of writing our church buildings remain closed for public worship and we are therefore unable to provide a proposed service schedule.

Please refer to our church website www.tarporleyparishchurch.org for updates on this situation.

Until we are able once again to return to public worship Julian will continue to produce a detailed service sheet every Sunday to enable us to **'Worship together whilst apart'**. This pdf document will be emailed to those who have signed up to receive it and also will be available on our church website's Homepage.

The Church calendar this month is shown below:-

March	7th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
	14th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MOTHERING SUNDAY
	21st	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

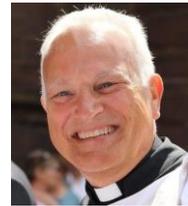
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY

March 28th	PALM SUNDAY
April 1st	MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2nd	GOOD FRIDAY
April 4th	EASTER DAY



When public services are able to resume we will continue to ensure that service times and formats are compliant with the current Covid regulations.

Our Assistant Curate writes.....



Dear Friends,

In January's Link Magazine we included a piece about climate change and the Church of England's stated aim to become carbon neutral. It struck me that such an ambition speaks directly into the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, portrayed and listed below.

The Church believes that we each have an important role to play as part of God's Mission in the world. The church is to be a signpost to the reality of God's Kingdom and God's Kingdom Values. We are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth



Our Five Marks of Mission

The five marks of mission were first developed by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984. Since then, they have been widely adopted as an understanding of what contemporary mission is about. The marks were adopted by the General Synod in 1996 and many dioceses and other denominations have used them as the basis of action plans and creative mission ideas.

Some churches abbreviate the five marks to five words: TELL – TEACH – TEND – TRANSFORM – TREASURE.

Having looked at climate change and attempts to safeguard creation with one member of our congregation last month, I have been speaking to some more members of our church family who are actively engaged in the reality of the 5 Marks of Mission, this time in the area of number 4, transforming unjust structures of society, expressed above as responding in loving service.

On page 8 is a summary of an interview I had with Fiona and Martin Buck about their role as Waterways Chaplains. I hope you find their answers to my questions as humbling and motivating as I did.

Lent and Lent Groups

In February we entered the season of Lent and we would normally be enjoying some fabulous soup, hospitality, learning and discussion in our Lent groups. This year is of course different for we are still not able to meet in person. I have therefore decided to host an on-line Lent Book Club as we did in Advent. The book I have chosen is called "Living His Story", and is written by Hannah Steele, a lecturer of mine from theological college. It is this year's Archbishop Lent book, so we will be reading it in esteemed company.

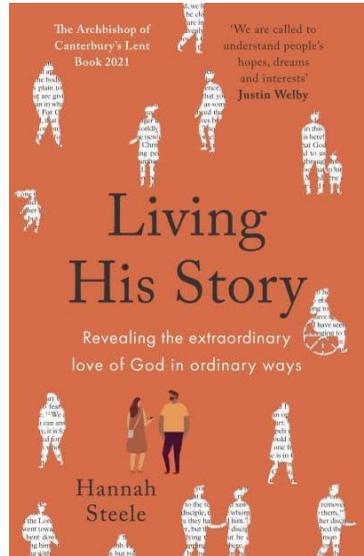


Whilst Hannah cannot resist using the odd theological word, her book is very readable, and looks at the tricky topic of our Mark of Mission number 1, to proclaim the good news. It is a vital subject and one well worth exploring. The book is available in electronic or paperback form from internet retailers. Whilst the first session will probably have taken place by the time you receive this month's Link, please feel free to join at any stage. I would be grateful if you could let me know, and also tell me if you are having difficulty obtaining a copy of the book.

(continued overleaf)

The schedule of Zoom meetings is as follows:

24 th Feb	7.30 pm	Chapters 1&2
3 rd March	7.30pm	Chapters 3&4
10 th March:	No meeting... a chance to catch up on reading!	
17 th March	7.30pm	Chapters 5&6
24 th March	7.30pm	Chapter 7 & conclude



May I close by wishing you every blessing during Lent. I hope and pray that it will be a time when we may draw closer to God and see how He is at work in our lives and our community.

Julian

Revd. Julian Osborne
Assistant Curate of Tarporley

07421 323699
revjulianosborne@gmail.com

Julian’s discussion with Martin and Fiona Buck relating their role as Waterways Chaplains to area four of the ‘Five Marks of mission’

Julian:

I remember very well the commissioning service in St Helens back in November 2018, remind me briefly how you came to be Waterways Chaplains?

Martin & Fiona: As you know, first and foremost we are both Christians, and have been on the



canal network for many years. We knew of a boater on our moorings who needed pastoral support but whilst we were members of the Boaters Christian Fellowship (BCF), we didn't know how we could best help her. They say God moves in mysterious ways and literally a few weeks later we were on the Oxford Canal, saw a Chaplain walking the towpath and spoke to him once he had dealt with a boater in need. He signposted us to the organisation and after a call with the Lead Chaplain we agreed to put theory into practice, and signed up to train as Waterways Chaplains. All you need is to be a Christian, to be able to give several hours a week and to own a good pair of wellies to walk a mile (or more) of your designated towpath.

You are expected to be sponsored by your local church (ours being St. Helens) and undergo DBS checks and have three referees, who are prepared to support any applications. All Chaplains undergo a Probationary period of training prior to licensing that normally ranges from 6 to 12 months, our training took a year prior to our commissioning.

Julian: *How have things changed over the last three- and a-bit years since you joined?*

Martin & Fiona: The biggest change is that when we started as Chaplains, there were only 4 covering every canal north of Birmingham, over a thousand miles of waterways. Happily, the Chaplaincy has grown and we have established northern regional hubs in Staffordshire, Lancashire, the North Midlands, and Yorkshire with around 30 Chaplains now walking the towpath regularly. Perception of the Chaplaincy has also grown within the boating community and referrals now come to us from the Canal & River Trust, the Police, Churches, Social Services as well as other boaters!!!

The number of problem cases we deal with are multiplying annually and we are witnessing more deprivation from all walks of life. For example, demographics show that the growth in single ex Service males becoming boat owners is the principal area of greatest need. There are more and more people buying boats to live on due to the current economic situation and the increase in this category of boater is becoming a serious concern to the authorities. The common denominator is that people do not understand the logistics of owning a boat, thinking that it a cheaper alternative to housing, not appreciating the need for expensive and regular maintenance.

(continued overleaf)

Julian: *One of the Church of England's Five marks of mission is "to seek to transform unjust structures of society".*

Could you share maybe three unjust structures that the chaplaincy organisation is trying to transform?

Fiona & Martin: The number one issue for any boater who is a continuous cruiser, is that they don't have a postcode or a registered address. So, if their health fails, they cannot receive even basic healthcare from a GP surgery without a postcode. The Chaplaincy is working locally with Healthwatch Cheshire in a pilot study for the NHS to encourage all Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) to acknowledge the pitfalls experienced by boaters and to offer training and guidance to all G.P. practices to manage registration of patients without a postcode. Also, the Emergency Services are being encouraged to adopt the "**WHAT 3 WORDS**" system that splits the entire globe into uniquely named 3m squares to act as reference points in times of rescue and response.

Second, any application for, say Universal Credit, also fails at the first hurdle through lack of a postcode which triggers a blunt rebuttal of any application. We have encountered several local authorities with this mind set and we are trying to develop a level of understanding that will enable valid applications to proceed effectively.

Third, the process behind boat ownership and compliance to licencing requirements is unregulated and open to abuse. We have encountered people who have bought a boat for cash, with no system of checks or guarantees. In two cases the boats sank within hours! In others, only after the money had changed hands did the need for extensive repairs become clear.

Julian: *What have been your highlights? It all sounds a bit of an uphill struggle (if you can push water uphill that is!)*

Martin & Fiona: That's what locks are for!! Seriously though, highlights are the fellowship of the Chaplaincy, prayerful support within our group and the enrichment of those boaters we have been able to help and support. One example of many is that we were recently able to house a 77-year-old boater, who had fallen ill. Thanks to the wonderful teams at Shropshire Well-being and Wrekin Housing Trust, we were able to get this gentleman into safe and warm

surroundings after he had spent 19 years aboard his boat which was rotting away around him, and all within just six weeks of being contacted by him. When we met him, he said he was definitely a non-believer. Now he has turned back to God and says that he prays regularly for us. Truly humbling, and so uplifting!

We consider ourselves very fortunate to be involved with the boating fraternity that has welcomed the work of Chaplains with gusto and warmth. So much so that we were jointly nominated by the community for a Team of the Year Award. Having been short-listed into the final four, we were awarded a Commendation by the Adjudication Committee, and we were delighted to receive this accolade on behalf of all at Waterways Chaplaincy.

Julian: *What lessons would you say you have learned along the way?*

Fiona & Martin: Whilst the majority of our cases have had positive outcomes, there have been times when we have perhaps grown too close to boaters. Not all facts can be taken at face value and discernment is the overriding lesson that any Chaplain needs to practice. In particular, we have learned to seek help and guidance from others. Our ministry is only as strong as the team delivering it. At times we have sought strength and support within the Chaplaincy and importantly those at St. Helens where Georgina, Julian and Trevor have all emphasised that we cannot take on the world without the Lord or the body of the Church and the Chaplaincy being supporting us.

We have realised that what we do is not for us or humankind, but for the glory of God

Julian: *Is there anything more that we as your church family could be doing to help?*

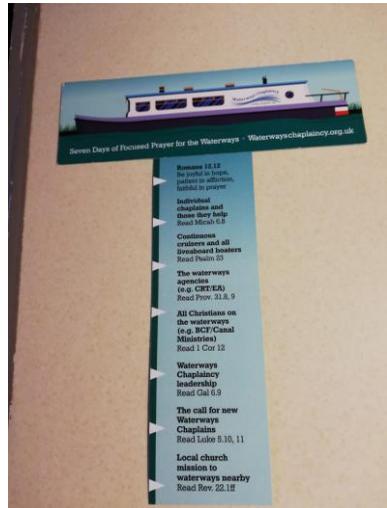
Martin & Fiona: Please pray for the work of the Chaplaincy. We have often wondered if some individuals would be willing to join a kind of Prayer Link or Chain to cascade specific prayer requests out to the congregations of Tarporley?

Like all charities we need financial support. Our parent body is Workplace Matters and inevitably their work is constrained by funding at times. On a local level, it is important to be able to provide food, fuel or clothing at short notice, so local benefactors would be good. (Continued overleaf)

Julian: *Could you tell us maybe three things we could be praying for?*

Fiona & Martin:

1. Pray that, as it says in Micah 6:8, we continue to Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk humbly with our God.
2. That we can continue to reach out to those in need as we remember we are Christ's hands and feet.
3. That with the help and support of others the Chaplaincy can grow in both numbers and strength. Boating is not always the sanctuary that people believe it to be. Hardship, poverty, loneliness, well-being, and mental health issues all need signposting. The demand for growth within the Chaplaincy is uppermost in our prayers.



A bookmark/Prayer Card for Boaters

Julian: Last question... What does it take to become a Waterways Chaplain?

Fiona & Martin: You do not have to be a boat owner. Just be able to walk a mile a week on the towpath to get to know your "patch". You also need to be able to devote some time each week. Please look at the Chaplaincy Website: www.waterwayschaplains.org.uk for more information.



Finally and in reverence-

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Hilda Joan Gregory

Mary Rogers

Samantha Stephens



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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.

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