

November 2021

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



Messy (but not particularly muddy)  
Church returns.  
And reflects on God's creations.



The result



And the Days it took

# 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 Helen's each Wednesday at 10.00am Holy Communion

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

Email: [revjim1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjim1017@gmail.com) 07526243702

**Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne**

Email: [revjulianosborne@gmail.com](mailto:revjulianosborne@gmail.com) 07421323699

**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**

Wardens Rosemary Lilley

Michael Scott 01829733919

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.

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)

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk) Email: [admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk)

## CHURCH SERVICE CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2021

<b>November 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b>	
	St Thomas	9.00am All-Age worship
	St Helen	10.00am All-Age worship
	St John	11.15am Holy Communion

<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>	
	St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.30am
	Remembrance Parade and Service (for details see page 9)	

<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>CHRIST THE KING: THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT</b>	
	St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am Holy Communion

<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>	
	St Thomas	9.00am Holy Communion
	St Helen	10.00am Holy Communion

<b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
	St Thomas	9.00am All-Age worship
	St Helen	10.00am All-Age worship
	St John	11.15am Holy Communion
	St Helen	4.00pm Christingle Service



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

At all our Eucharist services we welcome everyone to come forward for a blessing or to receive communion.

*We will continue to follow government and C of E COVID-19 guidance.*

**The Rector Writes:-**



One of the resources used by the Church in this time of All Saints is known as the 'Thanksgiving for the Holy Ones of God' – this is a lengthy(!) prayer (known as a litany) used on All Saints day, which names and collates many important figures in the Bible as well as all the saints remembered by the Church of England during the year, grouping saints together by the similar impact or interests they had. Here is a small part of the prayer:

*For Mary the Virgin, the mother of our Lord and God, and all who obey God's call without question:*

*For Andrew and John and the first disciples, and for all who forsake everything to follow Jesus:*

*For Julian of Norwich, Bridget of Sweden and Teresa of Avila, and for all who renew our vision of the mystery of God:*

*For Thomas Cranmer and all who reform the Church of God:*

You get the gist! Now I have to confess that this is not a prayer that I have really used in the past, but this year I want to make an effort to use it, because it is a good reminder of all those who have shaped our faith and the living out of our faith over the centuries. There is much to learn from them, in how they lived their lives and much to imitate. And if you research them, they are a collection of very intriguing and interesting Christians!

But one thing that they are NOT is perfect. Although the word now has that connotation, saints aren't perfect people. Saints are women and men who were holy, or set apart (or set themselves apart) by the way they lived and the things they did.

But saints are not just these type of people, the names listed in The Thanksgiving – in fact, all Christians are known as ‘saints.’ Some of the early Christian writers, like Paul, labelled all believers as ‘saints’ – this was before anyone went around with a ‘St’ in front of their name, or any sense of ‘canonisation’. Ordinary, regular believers in Jesus were labelled as saints. They would have been just like us – imperfect, problematic, messed up, but trying to follow and believe in Jesus. These were the first kind of people described as ‘saints’ – not especially holy, not miraculous, not great academics, but ordinary folk, living out what it meant to follow Jesus.

You might not think of yourself as a saint, and there will certainly be times when you don’t feel or act like one (!), but **you** are a saint. You are a holy one in God’s eyes – set apart to serve God in your life.

The litany ends with these words:

*For all those in our own lives who have revealed to us the love of God and shown to us the way of holiness.*

There may be people in your life that as you look back were saints – people who revealed God’s love to us in the way they lived, their attitudes, their outlook on life, their behaviour and sacrificial or prayerful lifestyle. This season of All Saints to Advent is a time to thank God for them too, as much as the ‘famous’ saints who have churches or schools named after them or statues put up in their honour. Who has been a saint to us?

We are right to remember the ‘famous’ saints, for what they taught us, but it is also an opportunity to give thanks for those ‘ordinary saints’, the ones we lived with. And perhaps to remember that we will also be a saint for those around us, and those we nurture in the faith.

*Jim*

## Remembrance Sunday: Parade and Service.

Remembrance Sunday is on 14<sup>th</sup> November this year.

As usual, there will be a parade and procession through the village, though this year it will be slightly shortened. The parade will start at the top of the High Street at 10.30am, aiming to reach St Helen's for 10.45am, where we will gather outside at the war memorial for the reading of the names of the fallen, the laying of the wreaths and the two minutes' silence at 11am. After that, we will proceed into church for a time to think, pray and reflect.



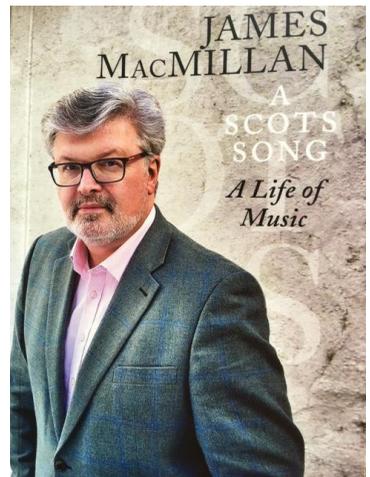
All are welcome at this special service.

### *From the Parish Bookshelf*

#### **Walter Gibson reviews:- "A Scots Song, A Life of Music", by James MacMillan**

Sir James MacMillan is an eminent composer and conductor. He was born and brought up in Ayrshire, part of a devoutly catholic family, and this, together with the amateur music-making in his family and local community, were major influences on him. This book is the story of how he came to be a composer and what he has learnt from that journey about music, religion and life – and their inter-relationships.

As a fellow Scot I will admit to a certain bias here, but I cannot recommend this book too highly. It is only a short book but it is filled with deep emotional and spiritual insights from a full life well lived. He has known both joy and tragedy, and you can sense his deep faith has sustained him and inspired him musically.



You don't need to know or admire the work of the author as a composer to find it engaging and compelling reading. I'll be honest and say that I am largely unfamiliar with his music, but this book has made me want to explore it.

Much of his work flows from his faith and the liturgy, and he writes beautifully about how the person and life of Christ has inspired music for centuries and continues to do so even in our 'post-religious' age.

His passion for social justice and his local community are infectious and inspiring. His own journey from humble origins began through free music lessons at school and from his family's love of music. Through his words we can begin to how the power of music goes beyond mere enjoyment: it can become a life, a career, it can bring people together, and it can move us emotionally and spiritually.

He also helped me to understand a little more the mysteries of modern music. So, if like me you have sat through a concert wondering what it all means and why it is so discordant, you should read this book. One of many reasons!

*Walter Gibson*

### **Two requests for help**

#### **Firstly:- St Helen's Church Choir**

##### **A request to all you wonderful singers out there-**

Following the lifting of restrictions imposed due to Covid 19, we are now inviting more voices (complete with bodies, I hope) to join us at the front of St Helen's Church, to enrich the singing and worship, to learn new hymns, songs, and anthems and to lead singing at Weddings and other special occasions. There is absolutely no commitment required to sing on a weekly basis, but it obviously helps if you can attend a choir practice before a Sunday Service or a Special Occasion, to learn the music.

We are also very happy to have you on a 'Special Occasion' basis only.

Our immediate forthcoming commitments include:

'A Service of Remembrance for All Souls,' 31<sup>st</sup> October at 6.30pm

Our annual Carol Service on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm

We will be resuming choir practices mid October in time for the All Souls Service. These have previously been on a Wednesday evening, but this is open to review depending on demand.

Please contact me-

Chas Hardern (Organist and Choirmaster) Phone 01829732595 / 07874280112

Email 'chasboats@aol.com' (Subject "Church Choir" )

**Secondly, a request regarding our Parish Finances ----Anita Langford writes:-**

We appreciate that the last few years may have been difficult for everyone on a personal basis due to COVID19 but it has also been difficult for our parish.

During the pandemic, our churches were forced to close for several months and fund raising events had to stop. This means that like personal finances, Churches finances have decreased.

Our regular giving, cash given at services and donations was only £51,000 for the first nine months of this year as opposed to £64,000 for the same period in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Our bills for 2021 were £72,000 which was only £4,000 less than in 2019. Like yourselves, we are facing large increases in gas and electricity costs and we need to ensure our Churches are warm, inviting places for you to come to worship or pray.

You may not be aware but we do not receive any funding from Central Government or the Church of England, so your kind donations have to pay for all our running costs for the mission and ministry of the parish, as well as one off items like mending the stained glass at St Helen's.

Therefore, we would like to ask you to kindly review your giving to our parish and, if possible, to increase that giving.

We are very thankful for your continued support over the tough last eighteen months, and thank you especially to those who continued to give via Standing Orders over the pandemic. Without that support, we would not be in the position we are today. But we also believe in a God who gives us all that we need (and more!), and who calls us to use our money in a similarly generous way. Please prayerfully consider if you could increase your giving, or set up a regular payment to the parish.

If you would like to make your donations by standing order, please contact me, Anita Langford (Treasurer) on [treasurer\\_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com) or collect a standing order form from any of our Churches. Also, if you haven't already completed a gift aid form and pay tax, would you please consider gift aiding your donations so that HMRC increase your donation by 25%.

Many thanks *Anita Langford* Parish Treasurer

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

*Ava Grace Lawledge-Evans  
Elsie Kate Lloyd  
Harry Daniel Lloyd*



**We congratulate and pray for those recently married:**

*Louis Johnson and Victoria Charles*

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

<i>William Basnett</i>	<i>Vera Biggins</i>
<i>Mary Johnson</i>	<i>Ian Richardson</i>
<i>Della Thelwell</i>	<i>Ken Warburton</i>

**In October we gave thanks for God’s gifts with Harvest Celebrations and Services at our three churches and the welcome return of Messy Church..**

**Messy Church**

Messy church returned on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October, with a ‘Welcome back’ party! Twenty children and their adults met outside St Helen’s and used the natural resources around church to think about the natural world that God made.

After using up some energy with some games, Revd Jim reminded those present of the creation story found at the start of the Bible, and all the things that God made in six days, before taking a well-deserved rest on the seventh.



The Collage “Let There Be....”

Then we had some time to be creative, as we helped make a giant Creation mobile, as well as scavenging in the graveyard and the area at the front of church for some natural art implements to make a large collage (see above) with some of the elements of the creation story: (continued overleaf)

with plenty of leaves, twigs and the addition of some shells and feathers, the children very creatively brought to life the sun, the trees and fields, butterflies, elephants and fish (to various degrees of anatomical correctness – which were not bad at all considering the resources to hand!).

Then it was time for some hot dogs, jelly and cakes, before a final action prayer and some chocolate to go home with. All in all, it was a fun and action-packed return.

Thank you to the whole team and all those who helped before, during and after the session. It was great to see children and families back at church, and engaging with God's creation!

Messy church hopes to return for another special event before Christmas, and then on a more regular basis in the New Year. Keep connected via the Facebook page and website for more details!

**Our three churches were also each warmly decorated in Autumn colours.**

And we all, old and young as God's children, joined together in acts of worship to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest and God's gifts.

Thank you to all who supported so generously with time, effort, Food Bank and monetary donations to achieve such wonderful results. Some of the decorations and gifts are shown to the right and below



**Some of the Harvest gifts and decorations**

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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).

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

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