

# **Baptistry**

## **1. Baptistry**

Built	1931
Commemorates	The life and work of Canon and Mrs Jesse Hughes
Gifted by	Family of Canon Hughes, Rector of Tarporley 1888-1931
Architect	Sir Percy Worthington

## **2. Font**

The octagonal stone font is thought to be 15th century. It has not always been in the possession of St. Helen's Church. In the Parish Magazine of 1906, the Rector writes, '*The beautiful early English Font, which was cast aside to be replaced by the present one and was lost to the church for so many years; used as a flower pot in a private garden, has, by kind thoughtfulness of Mrs Sutton and Mrs Powell, been restored to the Church. It has been carefully restored, and is placed on the grass between the buttresses on the South side of the Church.*'

With the completion of the Baptistry, in 1932, the font was placed in its present position.

### **15<sup>th</sup> century Font**



### **Font Cover**

The wooden cover was made from the oak staircase which was taken from Arderne Hall after it was demolished in 1958. The cover was dedicated on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 1961 in memory of John James Daine and his wife Evelyn Anna Daine.

### 3. Baptistry Window



Subject	<b>Jesus Blessing the Children</b>
Date	1899
Gifted by	Friends and Family of Mrs Felicia Mann
Memorial to	Mrs Felicia Mann
Manufacturer	C.E. Kempe & Co

**Charles Eamer Kempe** 1837-1907, was a key figure in 19<sup>th</sup> century decorative art and produced some of the best stained glass windows of the time. The finely drawn facial features, the intricate detail in the background of the figures, the richness of the colours and the angels' peacock feather wings make Kempe's distinctive style. The studio's logo of a single golden wheat sheaf appears in the bottom right hand corner of the window.

The commemorative plaque for the window is on a pillar in the South Aisle. *The Brass is not placed under the Window, but on a pillar near where Mrs Mann worshipped for so many years.* Rev. Hughes.

**Mrs and Mrs Mann** resided at Bowmere Lodge in Tarporley. They were generous benefactors of the four churches and the schools within the Parish. The Rector writes in the Parish Magazine, January 1899 '*Mrs Mann has gone Home. She has left the Parish a large sum of money. Not quite in the way she chose, but we are grateful. £1000 to the Alms Houses, £2000 to the Curates Fund, to secure the Services at S. Paul's Utkinton, £1000 to S. Thomas Eaton for the same reason, £2700 to S. John and Holy Cross and a small sum for the poor of Tarporley.*' The total sum is the equivalent of over half a million pounds in today's money.

## South Aisle

### 4. South Door

The carved oak porch door was added in 1907, after much complaining from the congregation about the cold draught coming through the South Door, which also blew out the gas lighting. It was made by a local firm, Messrs Reece Bros, for the cost of £40. The Rector at the time hoped *'it will enable the nervous of colds to come to church in winter.'*

**5. The Roll Call** of the local men who died in WW1 hangs on the wall opposite the South Door. In 1919 the sum of £420 was raised by the Parish to build the War Memorial. It was decided it should be placed on the North side of the Church, to be visible from the High Street. Copies of some of the letters which were written by the local men, from the Front Line, are in a separate folder.

### 6. Stained Glass Windows



St. Alban St. Martin St. Maurice St. Oswald

Subject	<b>Warrior Saints</b>
Date	1890
Gifted by	Family and friends of William Baines Morris
Memorial to	Major William Baines Morris
Manufacturer	Messrs Heaton, Butler & Bayne

**Heaton Butler and Bayne** of London was one of the leading manufacturers of Gothic Revival stained glass.

**Major William Baines Morris** was killed in a hunting accident aged 37 years. In his memory his family and friends also gifted a beautiful green altar frontal to the church, which is still in use today.

## 7. Stained Glass Window



*St. Thomas St. John the Evangelist*

Date	1889
Memorial to	William Thompson Mann
Gifted by	Mrs Felicia Mann
Manufacturer	Hardman & Powell

### **Hardman & Powell**

John Hardman Powell was the chief designer for the Company and as a young man he assisted A.W. Pugin with his stained glass work, in particular for the Houses of Parliament.

## All Souls' Chapel

In the early part of the nineteenth century St. Helen's Church was considered to have become unsafe and so in 1861 an extensive programme of restoration work began. The first work to be carried out was the re-roofing of the original south chantry. In February 1934 the Parish Church Council met to discuss converting it from a chantry into a chapel with an altar which could then be used for 'week-day celebrations and other small services', which is its purpose today. In 1935 the restoration work was completed under the direction of the architect Sir Percy Worthington and the stone altar was installed.

### 8. Lady Saints Window



St. Helen

Subject	<b>St. Cecilia, St. Helen, St. Catherine, St. Monica</b>
Date	1891
Gifted by	George Baillie- Hamilton, Earl of Haddington
Memorial to	Helen Catherine Baillie-Hamilton, Countess of Haddington
Manufacturer	Hardman & Powell

**Helen Catherine Baillie-Hamilton** nee Warrender was heiress of the Arderne Estate of Tarporley, Utkinton and Willington and through her mother was descended from the Done and Ardene Family. Her husband George Baillie-Hamilton was the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Haddington and by Royal License, in 1858, they added Arden to their name, becoming Baillie-Hamilton-Arden.

#### **Saint Helen**

The church is dedicated to St. Helen. She is depicted in the second light from the left, holding the True Cross. Helen was the mother of Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Emperor of Rome and it is said that in her later years she went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and discovered the True Cross.

Most of the monuments within the church are dedicated to the Done Family and their descendents, the Crewe, Arderne, and the Baillie Hamilton families. From the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Dones held the office of Master Forester of Delamere. Whether legal or not they had the power of life and death over the inhabitants of the Forest and the early Dones were deemed to be a '*rough and quarrelsome breed.*'

## 9. Sir John Done Monument (1577-1629)



Motto; Omnia mei Dona Dei  
(All my things are gifts from God)



A portrait of Sir John Done  
by Marcus Gheeraert

This marble half figure of Sir John Done was probably copied from his portrait, painted by Marcus Gheeraert. On his right side hangs the Delamere Horn and in his left hand he is holding a hunting knife' *couteau de chasse*' which were the symbols of his office as the hereditary Chief Forester of Delamere.

John Done was knighted at his home, Utkinton Hall, by King James 1 in 1617.

## 10. John Crewe Monument 1603-1670

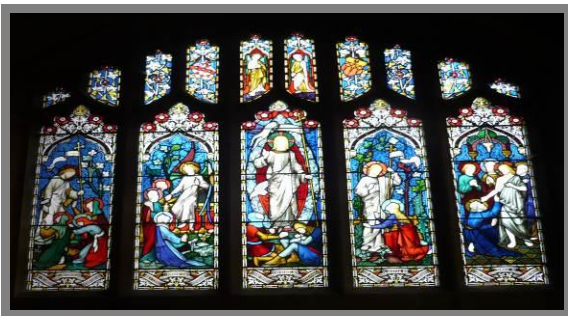
John Crewe was the son of Sir Randle Crewe. He married Mary, daughter of Sir John Done and died at Utkinton May 12<sup>th</sup> 1670. He was a barrister and was elected Member of Parliament for Cheshire in the first Protectorate Parliament.

## 11. Stained Glass Window



Subject	<b>Soldier Saints</b>
Date	1885
Gifted by	Helen Catherine Baillie-Hamilton, Countess of Haddington
Memorial to	Hon. Richard Baillie Hamilton
Manufacturer	Messrs Hardman & Powell

## 12. Stained Glass Window



Subject	<b>The Resurrection</b>
Date	1869
Memorial to	Henrietta Arden

Isabel Henrietta Baillie Hamilton Arden was the daughter of George, Lord Binning and Helen Catherine his wife. She died 17<sup>th</sup> November 1859, aged nine days. The church is also in the possession of a small silver font which was used at her Christening.

## The Altar



Agnus Dei

The altar in the Lady Chapel, with its central carved motif of the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) is a replica of the one in St. Mary's Church Whitekirk in Scotland. It was gifted by Henry R. Baille-Hamilton.

## Armour

Below the ceiling in the Lady Chapel can be seen armour which is said to have belonged to soldiers who took part in the battle of Tarporley in 1643. Most of the battle was fought a little way outside of Tarporley, but a skirmish is said to have broken out on the fields south of the Church.

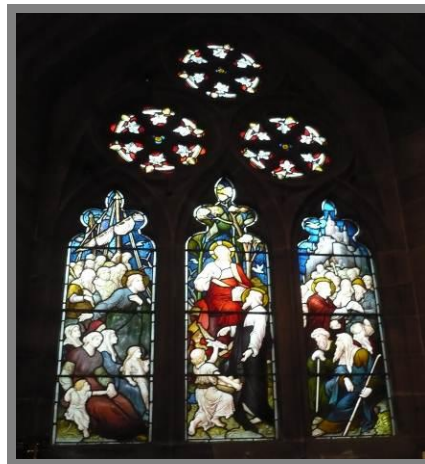


## The Sanctuary

At the East end of the church is the Sanctuary, separated from the Chancel by a brass rail. There is a replica of this Communion Rail at St. Helen's daughter church in Eaton. The Sanctuary is the most sacred part of the church, because it surrounds the High Altar, which is used for the celebration of Holy Communion. At the back of the Sanctuary you will see a carved chair which is reserved for visiting bishops and on either side, towards the front, are two priests' chairs, which are of a design by A.W.Pugin.



13



14

### 13. Subject - Jesus by the Sea at Tiberius

The window depicts the Risen Jesus appearing to his disciples, Peter, James, John, Thomas and Nathanael

*'Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.'*

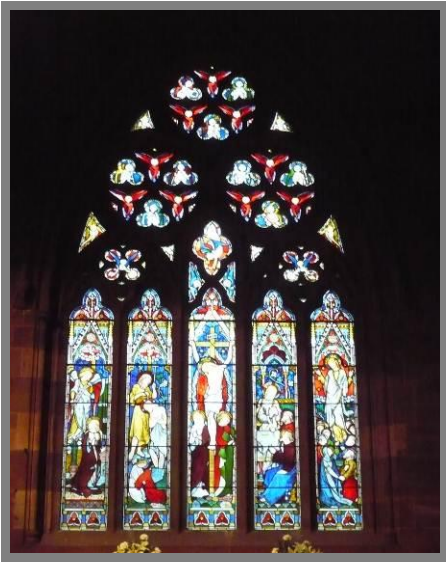
Date 1891  
Gifted by The Tenants of the Arderne Estate  
Memorial to Lady Helen Catherine Baillie-Hamilton, Countess of Haddington  
Manufacturer Hardman & Powell

### 14. Subject - Jesus Feeds the Multitude

The centre figure is of Jesus with his disciple Andrew and a young boy offering the loaves and fishes. *'One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?"'*

Date 1889  
Gifted by Mrs Felicia Mann  
Memorial to William Thompson Mann

## 15. Stained Glass Window



Subject (*from L to R*)

**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Baptism of Jesus**

**The Crucifixion**

**The Last Supper**

**The Ascension of Christ**

Date                      1871  
Gifted by                Miss Julian Warrender  
Memorial to            Sir John Warrender of Lochend 5<sup>th</sup> Bt.

In 1883 George Wilkinson, Bishop of Truro, with the help of Miss Warrender, founded the Sisterhood of the Epiphany, to help the poor and sick. She was installed as Mother of the Community. Along with their pastoral and educational work the Sisters were responsible for some very fine church needlework. St. Helen's Church received many gifts of embroidered altar linens from the Community.

Miss Warrender was the daughter of Sir John Warrender and sister of the Countess of Haddington.

## St. Helen's Church Altar Frontals

Altar Frontals are decorative covers for the High Altar



Date	1890
Memorial to	Major William Baines Morris
Gifted by	Family and Friends
Designed by	Lady Eden
Manufacturer	Messrs Helbronner, London
Executed by	Lady Mary Fielding's Art Guild, Brompton Road, London
Restoration	1954

The three centre panels each contain a six-winged angel embroidered in gold thread and holding a scroll with the word 'Sanctus'. The outer panels have the design of roses with the monogram of IHS in the centre.



Date	1901
Memorial to	Captain William Edward Clifton-Smith
Gifted by	Rev. Clifton Smith, Curate in the Parish of Tarporley
Designed by	James Powell and Sons. (Whitefriars Glass Co.)
Executed by	Lady Mary Fielding's Art Guild

The White Altar Frontal is used for the main festivals, such as Easter and Christmas. It is embroidered in coloured silks with a central figure of St. Helen holding the Holy Cross. She has a crown embroidered in gold thread and her dress and crown are decorated with pearls.

In 1900 it was shown at an exhibition in London; it was reported in the newspapers that Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, was at the exhibition and that she was so impressed by this piece of work that she took some of her friends to see it.

Note; Captain Clifton- Smith was killed in battle in 1897. Whilst under fire a Lieutenant Pennell attempted to save him and for his bravery he was awarded the V.C.



Date 1908

Executed by Lady Mary Fielding's Art Guild, Brompton Rd, London.

The Red Altar Frontal is used on Whitsunday and Palm Sunday. It is divided into five panels and is embroidered in gold thread on a background of silk damask. In an oval panel, in the centre, there is the 'Agnus Dei' motif, representing Jesus. The embroidery around the oval panel symbolises the flames of the Holy Spirit and the outer panels are embroidered with a sword, crossed palm leaves and a crown.



Date 1890

Executed by Lady Mary Fielding's Art Guild, Brompton Road, London

The Violet Altar Frontal is used during Lent and Advent. It is embroidered with a passion flower motif which symbolises the Passion of Christ. The flower's different parts all have meanings. The ten petals represent the ten faithful disciples, the three stigmas the nails, the five anthers the wounds, the tendrils the whip and also the colour purple is the colour of mourning. The Cross is also incorporated in the design.

## North Chapel

### 16. The Done Monument



The Done Monument



Triple portrait of Mary Done (Crewe)  
C1635

This monument is thought to be by the sculptor William Stanton 1639-1705. The figures, in white marble, are of Jane Done and Mary Crewe, daughters of Sir John Done, and of Mary Knightley, the granddaughter of Mary Crewe. You will see that Mary Knightley is holding a bunch of flowers. It is said that the little girl drowned at nearby Utkinton Hall whilst gathering flowers.

Mary Crewe was the second daughter of Sir John and Lady Dorothy Done. She was born in 1604 at Utkinton Hall, near Tarporley, and was baptised at St. Helen's Church. In 1636 she married John Crewe M.P. the second son of Sir Ranulph Crewe of Crewe Hall. Mary Crewe died in 1690 at Utkinton and her son, Sir John Crewe, wrote on her death;

*"This day died my mother, the best parent, the truest friend, the greatest housekeeper of her rank, and the most pious Christian of her time."*

On the floor, in front of the Done Monument, are the monuments of Crewe Arden, Rector, 1778-1787 and Rowland Sherrard, Rector 1661-1695

## 17. Stained Glass Window



*St. Francis of Assisi*

Date                    1949  
Memorial to        Henry Robert Baillie Hamilton Arden  
Gifted by            Sisters of H.R. Baillie Hamilton

## 18. The Organ

The organ was installed in 1884 and was made by the firm of Henry Willis & Son. It cost about £500. It was completely overhauled in 1968-69.

## 19. Sir John Crewe Monument



Sir John Crewe



Sculptor; Andre Carpentier

### **Sir John Crewe 1641 - 1711**

Sir John Crewe, born in Utkinton and baptised in Tarporley Church on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1641, was the son of John Crewe and Mary Done and the grandson of Sir Randolph Crewe who was Lord Chief Justice. He inherited Utkinton Hall from his mother.

Towards the close of King Charles II reign some members of the Whig party formed the Rye House Plot for Charles' assassination. At the discovery of this plot orders were given that houses of those who were suspected to be Whigs should be searched and all weapons removed. Among the Cheshire Whigs, Sir John Crewe was prominent. Equally prominent on the Tory side was Sir John Arden, close friend and first cousin of Sir John Crewe. Arden was ordered to go to Utkinton Hall and to remove all arms which were found there. Following the raid, in February 1684, Sir John Arden wrote to Sir John Crewe apologising for the action that he had taken, ending the letter with;

*Maye wee returne to ye old habitt of friendship. Maye our different sentiments of publikque affaires never swell to ye heate of an argument; & soe burst into a passion wich always leaves us worse than it found us;*

*Yours to love and serve you*

*Witsoever you thinke of*

*J. Arderne*

St. Helen's Church has in its possession a silver tankard, chalice and paten, which were the gifts of Sir John Crewe.

*The gift caused much rejoicing in the Parish that all the bells were rung out in honour of the gift.' (Rev. Cooper)*

## **20. North Chapel Screen**

Date	1910
Memorial to	Rev. James Cooper
Gifted by	Curates of the Parish, past and present
Manufacturer	Hart Peard & Co

## Chancel

### **21. Chancel Screen**

Date	1891
Manufacturer	Hart Peard & Co
Designer	Sir A. Blomfield

### **22. Chancel Screen Gates**

Date	16 <sup>th</sup> century
Gifted by	Countess of Haddington in 1899
	The gates were purchased in Venice and are believed to have come from a church in Sienna

### **23. Brass Eagle Lectern**

Date	1904
Gifted by	Henry Stephen Grocott
Memorial to	Mary Chadwick Grocott

## The Bells

The earliest bells, notes A, B, and C were originally cast in 1591, the Tenor A Bell having the inscription, " God Save His Churche, our Queen and Realme". The further bells were added in 1636, 1712, 1877 and finally in 1896 when these bells were recast, two more were added. The bells were once again recast in 1931 when much of the ironwork was found to be corroded.