# THE LINK

# **April 2020**

# **Tarporley Parish**

# Magazine

### Hand-washing with the Lord's Prayer



**Our Father** in heaven,



Hallowed be your name.



come, Your will be done



on earth as it is in heaven.





Give us today our daily bread and



Lead us not

but deliver us

from evil,



for the into temptation kingdom,





sin against us.





the power,

#### and the glory are yours,

now and for ever.

Amen.

"...the righteous will hold to their ways, and those with clean hands will grow stronger" Iob 17:9

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	PARISH L	DIRECTORY – TARPORLEY	Page 4				
Services:	See Calendar page	on the website or 'The Link' magazine.					
Weekday Service	St Helen's Church, H	loly Communion: Wednesday at 10.00 ar	n.				
(Note: all telephone numbers are area code 01829 unless otherwise stated).							
Rector:							
	e-mail: revgeorgina						
Assistant Curate:		ingle Way, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2U	JW 07421 323699				
	e-mail: revjulianos	porne@gmail.com					
Associate Minister	: Trevor Davies, 5	Allansford Avenue, Waverton, CH3 7QH 01	244 332106				
	e-mail: etdavies1@	Detinternet.com					
Tarporley: St Helei	n						
Churchwardens	Phillip Posnett, Ha	ughton Hall,. Tarporley CW6 9RH	260251				
	Liz Neely email nee	elyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899				
Treasurer		he Crescent, Utkinton, CW6 0LT	458351				
P.C.C Secretary	Marion Moss, 2 To	rr Rise, Tarporley, CW6 0UD	733382				
Organist	Chas Hardern		732595				
Bellringers	Jenny Christian		732412				
-							
Cotebrook:							
St John Wardens		ulton Park House, Tarporley, CW6 9BL	760336				
	Peter Copland, Mo	ss Cottage,	732618				
	Utkinton Lane, Cot	ebrook, CW6 0JH					
Organist	Katrina Copland,		732618				
Eaton: St Thomas							
Wardens	• • •	indward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley					
	CW69AG Michael Scott Shir	e Barn, Moss Hall Lane, Rushton, Tarporley	732948				
	CW69GJ	e barn, woss nan Lane, Rushton, Tarponey					
Organist	Marjorie Rathbone		760750				
Organist	Warjone Ratibolit		732655				
LINK Editor		ington House, Huxley Lane, Brassey Green,					
	Tarporley, CW6 9U	G	732437				
Electoral Roll	Miko Kiddla, 1 Ma	odlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP	733431				
Safeguarding Office		email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890470899				
Sunday Sheet	EI LIZ NEETY	email jleaman@talktalk.net	07890470899				
Tarporley C.E. Prim	ary School	Mrs Kerry Forrester	01244981230				
	•	Ms Lorna Pleavin	732322				
Utkinton C.E. Prima			732322				
Done Room Bookir	ig secretary	KathrynPalmer	/33040				
CONTACT POINTS:							
Please do not hesit	tate to report cases o	of sickness or pastoral need to the Rector	732491				

Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness or pastoral need to the Rector732491To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact the Rector732491

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

**Website:** www.tarporleyparishchurch.org **e-mail:** <u>admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk</u> Items for 'The Link' should be e-mailed to <u>jobsonajpj@btinternet.com</u> or posted to the Link Editor by the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month.

#### The Rector Writes.....

As I write this we are all uncertain as to how our lives will be affected by Covid-19.

It presents health, logistical and financial implications for us all and threatens lives and livelihoods. Following Government and Church of England guidance, it is with great sadness that we are now longer able to hold Public Worship in our three Churches in the Parish until further notice. It will be a very strange Easter indeed not to be celebrating in Church. We must remember however, that there were no services on that very first Easter Day. Jesus was none the less risen, alive and present. So it will be this year.

We will continue to worship, even whilst we are apart. Every week I will endeavour to update our website (<u>http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org/</u>) with the Sunday Readings, sermon and prayers that we can share together. I can also email this to anyone on request and if you would prefer a paper copy either left in Church or posted through your letterbox give me a call.

St Helen's Church will remain open as usual during the day for private prayer and I will continue to say prayers on behalf of us all. Our efforts now go into being 'church' to each other and making sure our community is kept encouraged and supported. We can all keep in phone contact, send cards and notes and where appropriate leave gifts and necessary provisions on doorsteps. We are fortunate to be part of a community where we already watch over and help each other – this we will continue.

Should anyone who is staying at home, or feeling vulnerable or anxious, welcome a visit, phone-call or help with provisions please get in touch with me.

These are anxious times for everyone, but we face them together and firm in our faith in a God who continues to hold us in his everlasting arms.

I copy below the text of my sermon given on 15<sup>th</sup> March, which unbeknown at the time, turned out to be the last act of public worship in our Parish for the foreseeable future.

The text set for the day was Chapter 4 of St John's Gospel. I repeat it here because I believe it speaks into the anxiety we are all feeling, far better than a regular opening letter to our magazine.

(15<sup>th</sup> March Sermon overleaf)





"We are living in anxious times. We watch the news each day and see statistics climbing for a virus the world knew nothing of a few months ago. We are unsure what plans we should make and whether we can commit to the plans we have made. The whole world is feeling uncertain, vulnerable and anxious.

It is into this context that I approached the gospel reading set for today: the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. Samaritans were deemed infectious by Jews because they were ritualistically unclean. Moreover, this is both a woman, and a woman who, rightly or wrongly, carries shame with her, good reasons, in the culture at that time, for Jesus to have nothing to do with her. This woman must have been uncertain, vulnerable and anxious

And yet, in the largest individual exchange Jesus has anywhere in the gospels, uncertainty, vulnerability and anxiousness are laid aside as the woman finds Hope. This woman goes to the well to get the water she needs to survive. Yet, interestingly, towards the end of the story, we hear she leaves without her water jug. It is a little like us leaving the chemist without the hand sanitiser we went looking for. But the Samaritan woman took away from the well something far more precious, something that ensures not just survival, but life, and life in all its fullness: living water. Jesus says: the water I ... give will become... a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

Several years ago on pilgrimage in Israel, Ian and I bought a sculpture in Bethlehem (see photo on page 7) : Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well. For me, what stands out is the body language of the characters. Jesus is open, turning towards the woman, his hand held out in invitation. Conversely, the woman is defensive, turning away as she clutches her water jar tight. At its heart, this story, is all about letting go and accepting God's ever-present invitation into His love and life. Essentially that is what faith is all about. It is accepting that there is more to life that we see or know, accepting that we are not in full control of everything. One of the scary things about Covid-19 is realising how little we are in control and the uncertainty that lies ahead. Faith asks us to trust God..

The encounter between Jesus and the Woman at the Well shows us that God is always there, waiting for us to show up, holding out his hand in invitation hoping we will bring to him all we are carrying and accept from him all he has to give. And when we do, like the Samaritan Woman, we find we are recognised, loved completely just as we are, and given, not just the water we need to survive, but the living water that enriches and enables a full and eternal life. Because that is what Jesus promises. He does not say all your problems will disappear. He does not say I will protect you from death. What he offers is His, God's, presence. As his meeting with the Samaritan shows, He forgives the past, He is with us through all we currently face, and the future is in His safe hands

I hope you might revisit the whole of this bible reading and find personal reassurance and strength in these uncertain and anxious times, to trust in the God who doesn't just hold out his hand to us, he offers to hold us firm in his hands for all eternity.

For those who feel it sensible to stay safe at home for the time being, know our love and prayers are with you. We will continue to follow advice from the Church and Government to keep everyone as safe as possible which might mean we have to make further changes to how we do things. But whatever happens, we will carry on trusting and praying and worshiping God by helping each other as much as we can.

We may all be feeling uncertain, vulnerable and anxious. We may not, at present, be sharing the wine here in Church, but let us continue to come to God to drink the living water of eternal life, trusting that while the hand sanitiser and loo rolls, may run out on us, GOD NEVER WILL.

Amen".

My prayers and God's blessing are with you

Georgína



The Woman at the Well

#### For Times of Worship at Home.

These are anxious times and to protect ourselves and others we may have to spend time at home that keeps us away from worship and other daily activities.

This could make us feel isolated and alone. But we are never alone.

The Bible tells us that: "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be dismayed." (Deuteronomy 31:8).

God is always with us and we can remain part of our worshipping community even if we have to stay at home.

"For God has said, 'I will not leave you or forsake you' so we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear'." (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)

#### A Reflective Service: For Worship at Home.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. We are never alone, nor do we pray alone. We join with others in this community and around the world Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart.

As God's people we have gathered; Let us worship God now together, Across the miles yet joined

#### Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation.

Keep a short silence, leave your sins at the cross Confession: God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations:





Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Absolution: May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son, and strengthen us to live in the power of The Spirit all our days. **Amen.** 

#### Find a bible reading for today on ENews, the Sunday readings opposite or the Church of England Website as below, or choose your own Take a few minutes to reflect on your reading

#### We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. *cf Philippians 2.6-11* 

We pray in the quiet of our hearts: Lord, meet us in the silence and hear our prayer.

#### Silence for prayer is kept

Pray for yourself in your isolation, that God would sit with you. Pray for others in their loneliness, anxiety and suffering. Pray for all affected by illness and our emergency services. Pray for our country. Pray for the world.

Finish with the prayer that Jesus, Our Saviour, taught us: The Lord's Prayer

#### Silence is kept

May God give to us, and all for whom we pray, His blessings of comfort peace, light and joy, in this world and the next Amen

#### Let us bless the Lord Thanks be to God.

Daily Prayer services can be found on the Church of England Website: https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-dailyprayer

### Bible readings and Collects for Sundays March 29<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Date	Readings	Collect Prayer
Sun 29 Mar 2020 The Fifth Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37.1- 14 Romans 8.6-11 Psalm 130 John 11.1-45	Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Sun 5 Apr 2020 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11 Psalm 31.9-16 Matthew 26.14 – 27.66	True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen
Sun 12 Apr 2020 Easter Day Principal Feast	Acts 10.34-43 Colossians 3.1-4 Psalm 118.1-2,14-24 Matthew 28.1-10	God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen
Sun 19 Apr 2020	Acts 2.14a,22-32 1 Peter 1.3-9 Psalm 16 John 20.19- 31	Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen
Sun 26 Apr 2020 The Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14a,36-41 1 Peter 1.17- 23 Psalm 116.1-3,10-17 Luke 24.13- 35	Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen
Sun 3 May 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.42-47 1 Peter 2.19- 25 Psalm 23 John 10.1-10	Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

The wi	The winners of the March 200+ club draw are:			
First Prize	£100	No. 137 – Mr J Faulkner		
Second Prize	£20	No. 90 – Miss P Symms		
Third Prize	£10	No. 132 – Mrs S Coates		

#### "The Things He Carried" by Stephen Cottrell. A book review for Easter

This is another book from the Rector's extensive collection. It is a meditation on the crucifixion of Jesus, trying to go deeper into the nature of the burdens he carried to and on the cross. It is a powerful book, short enough to read in one go, but it leaves a lasting impact on the reader. The author – who is the new Archbishop of York – opens our eyes to what it meant for Jesus to suffer as he did, not just in a physical sense but also emotionally, spiritually and mentally. He invites us to stand beneath the cross and consider anew what happened there. He brings home the enormity of it and as such this is a good book to read in Holy Week.

This is a work of the imagination, but based on scripture. It will take you out of your comfort zone and make you think not just about how much Jesus carried on the cross, and why, but also the different burdens he had to shoulder: the weight of the cross, the sharpness of the crown of thorns, the hopes of God, our sorrows and our sins. It is overwhelming at times and yet there is gratitude and wonder that He was able to carry all this for us and hope at the end that God's purpose was fulfilled.

There are questions at the end of each chapter to aid contemplation, either individually or in groups. The text itself does that too though so the book can be read and used in different ways to suit the reader.

#### Walter Gibson

*We congratulate and pray for those baptised: Olivia Eleanor Osumare Lewis* 

Arthur Daniel Woods

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Alan Latham

John Cheshire

#### **Events Cancelled**

Sadly because of the restrictions placed on us by the threat of Covid-19 all meetings and events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. This includes our Lent Group, Afternoon Tea and Reflection Group.

Our Easter services will not now be able to take place, but I shall put together resources for Holy Week and Easter that can be used at home.

The Celebratory Parish Service is also now suspended and I am awaiting clarification on how and when we proceed with the APCM but it will not take place on the date, or in the way advertised.



#### **Planned events**

We are uncertain how long restrictions will be in place. Advertised below are events in May and June but please keep in touch as these too may have to change.

#### Guest Performance Evensong St Helen's Church, Sunday May 3rd 6:30pm

**IF SERVICES HAVE RESUMED BY THEN** we welcome the return of Vox Vocavit, a choral group that specialises in Evensong services after their very successful service with us last year. Evensong is one of the oldest services in our church and this will be both a spiritually uplifting service and an occasion to relish beautiful and ancient prayers and music.

# Julian's Ordination to the Priesthood Chester Cathedral Saturday June 20th at 5pm

Our Curate Julian will be priested at this uplifting service which lasts about two hours. All are welcome but because the Cathedral is always full there is a ticketing system. If you would like to go to support Julian, then please either speak to him or email him about tickets: revjulianosborne@gmail.com

#### June 21<sup>st</sup> First Services and Brunch Done Room. All Welcome

Having been priested the evening before, Julian will celebrate his first Eucharists on Sunday June 21st at 9am at St Thomas and 10am at St Helen. And to mark this very significant step we invite everyone to join together and congratulate Julian and his family over a light brunch that will be served immediately after the St Helen's service (around 11am) in the Done Room.

#### Finally and importantly. KEEP IN TOUCH

Things are changing fast and we cannot guarantee that all events will be able to go ahead as planned – do check if you are unsure. You can sign up for ENews by emailing admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk We will endeavour to update our website regularly <u>http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org/</u> so please check that, or if still uncertain call me.

Whether you need to stay at home or not it's important to keep in touch. If you would like a chat over the phone, or a visit, or if we can help with shopping or practical issues please contact me

Georgína

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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).

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