

DECEMBER 2020

Tarporley Parish Magazine



The Nativity Scene at St John and The Holy Cross (complete with camel)

*Wherever our journeys have taken us this year, however long
and hard they may have been, this Christmas may we like
the Kings find our destination, purpose and peace in Christ.*

**“They saw the young Child with Mary His mother, fell
down and worshipped Him”**

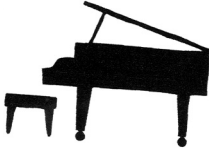
Matthew 2:11

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: **Georgina Watmore, The Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG 732491**

e-mail: revgeorgina@me.com

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	Marion Moss, 2 Torr Rise, Tarporley, CW6 0UD	733382
Organist	Chas Hardern	732595
Reading Rota	Elaine Hulton 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,	732618
	Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 0JH	
Organist	Katrina Copland,	732618

Eaton: St Thomas Wardens	Rosemary Lilley, Windward Mark, Eaton Lane, Eaton, Tarporley CW6 9AG	732948
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	Michael Scott, 39 High St, Tarporley CW6 0DP	
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Organist	Marjorie Rathbone	732655
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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
Safeguarding Officer	Liz Neely email neelyeliza@hotmail.com	07890 470899
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 Rector To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact the Rector. 732491

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.

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF SERVICES and CELEBRATIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2020

To make printing deadlines this magazine was prepared in November. We are hopeful that lockdown will be lifted and that we will be able to worship in Church in December but all the details below are provisional and dependent on the restrictions in place at the time.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE MANDATORY, THAT WE CANNOT SING CAROLS, AND DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, SOME OF THESE SERVICES MAY HAVE TO BE CANCELLED.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR UP-TO-DATE DETAILS

I pray this will not happen but please understand that in order to keep you safe it is possible that we may not be able to accommodate everyone at our Christmas services. **We fully understand and support all those who, to keep themselves safe and enjoy Christmas with their loved ones, are not able to join us for services this year.**

Sun 6th Dec	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St Thomas' Eaton
	10.00am	Morning Prayer at St Helen's Tarporley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at St John's Cotebrook
Sun 13 th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
	10.00am	Holy Communion at St Helen's
Sun 20 th Dec	9.00am	Blessing of the Crib & Nativity* at St Thomas'
	10.00am	Holy Communion & Nativity* at St Helen's
	4.00pm	Blessing of the Crib & Nativity* at St John's
Thurs 24 th Dec	4.00pm	Blessing of the Crib and DIY Nativity at St Helen's
	11.30pm	Holy Communion at St Helen's
Friday 25 th Dec	9.00am	All Age Holy Communion at St Thomas'
	10.00am	All Age Holy Communion at St Helen's
Sun 27 th Dec.	No Services: <i>As this Sunday falls so close to our celebrations of Christmas Eve and Day the Bishops have given blanket permission for no services to be held.</i>	
Sun 3 rd Jan	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St Thomas' Eaton
Epiphany	10.00am	Morning Prayer at St Helen's Tarporley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at St John's Cotebrook
	<i>There will be no Wednesday Communion service on 30th December</i>	
	<i>*Some of the Nativity services may involve chocolate!</i>	

Regardless of how long it takes for us to navigate our way through COVID-19, I pray that, as individuals and a community, we will find the space and time to heal all that has harmed and hurt whilst carrying forward and building upon all the blessings we have found.

The Rector Writes..... *And remembers*



Gracie Fields famously sang “Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye”. I hope that as I leave at the end of this month, we will go one better and hold each other in our prayers as we wave each other ‘goodbye’ meaning God Be With You! It will not be an easy thing to leave. You have given me so much in my time with you. You have shared your lives and your stories, your laughter and your tears, and gifted me your time and the benefit of your wisdom and skills. I thank you for this generosity but most of all I thank you for loving me and allowing me to love you.

Ordained ministry is a strange beast. It asks us to love people and then leave them. This is hard for everyone, but it is the way Christ himself worked - he did not stay in one place. You must know by now how much I love stories. I would like to leave you with a story someone wiser than me used to illustrate the nature of the ministry to which I am called and in which you have helped me grow so much:



A man died and left his 17 camels to his 3 sons. The instructions were to divide them according to age. The eldest son was to have half of the camels, the middle son a third of them, and the youngest son a ninth. The sons were troubled because they could not fulfil their father’s wishes, the camels could not be split according to his instructions. Their Uncle had an idea. He lent the three brothers his own camel. Now there were eighteen camels. The oldest son took half, nine camels. The next took a third, six camels and the youngest took a ninth and received two camels. And yet there was still a camel left at the end to return to the Uncle.

This eighteenth camel was lent for a time; it enabled the family to do what they needed to do; yet when that task was done, the loaned camel was free to go. It was a part of the work, an important part, but it was not left tied up in it.

Rectors are the eighteenth camel - called to be a part of, to facilitate, to help the work of the church. But the work itself is always God's and has to be that of the whole body of the church - the community that will be there long after the minister has moved on. So, don't get the hump that we have to leave: clergy are valuable, but not indispensable; useful but never the person upon which everything should hang; a part, but only for a time, because the work of God goes on without, and far and way beyond them.

As we welcome the Christ Child yet again into our homes and hearts it is time for this 18th camel and 49th Rector to wave you a fond goodbye.

I will be praying for you as you journey to find the 'next camel' and will always hold you in my prayers;

And until we meet again, I wish you every joy and blessing.

Georgina

Favourite Things

Although I am leaving as Rector at the end of this month, I will carry you with me in my heart. I will continue to hold you all in my prayers and I hope we will not lose touch. But I am aware that any sort of change heralds a time of uncertainty which can make us anxious or troubled. In the film 'The Sound of Music' Maria (Julie Andrews) advocates that when something troubles us, we should think of our 'favourite things' and so in this spirit I leave you with a few of mine!

My favourite bible verse - there are so many I could choose but in times of uncertainty and anxiety **Exodus 19:4a** always comes to me:-

"I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."

The picture of God protecting and sheltering us beneath his wings is a well-known image in the bible but less so this one of God carrying us on eagles' wings to bring us safely home to him.

I love this idea of movement and journey and being carried safely homeward to God.

(continued overleaf)

My favourite hymn – another difficult decision as there are so many I could choose, and different hymns will resonate in differing situations. I shall cheat here and pick two. First, ‘Be Still for the Presence of the Lord’ – which I love because every time it calls me back to the power and presence of God and fills me with peace. Second: ‘Tell Out My Soul’ which is based on the Magnificat that Mary Sings and which reminds me that we too are charged with carrying Christ’s love and work out into the world.



My favourite festival – although I love Christmas and need Easter, my favourite festival is Candlemas. It might be that it falls the day before my birthday, but I hope it has more to do with Simeon waiting all those years and then taking the Christ-Child in his arms and singing the most wonderful song of praise: the Nunc Dimittis. What an encouragement for us all.

My favourite psalm – I love the psalms, there is something within them for every emotion and situation but one that I return to frequently is Psalm 51. Tradition has it that this was written by King David after he had sinned greatly by committing adultery with Bathsheba and arranging the death of her husband. It is a psalm of penitence often used on Ash Wednesday but when I feel weary or overwhelmed, I often find myself using v10-12 as a personal prayer: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51 v10-12)

My favourite anthem – “I was Glad” written in 1902 by Hubert Parry for the coronation of Edward VII is majestic and truly beautiful. I love this piece so much that I chose it to walk down the aisle when I married Ian. The lyrics are based on Psalm 122, one of the Psalms of Ascent sung as pilgrims reached Jerusalem. They sing of joy at entering the House of God: “I was glad when they said unto me : ye will go into the house of the Lord”.

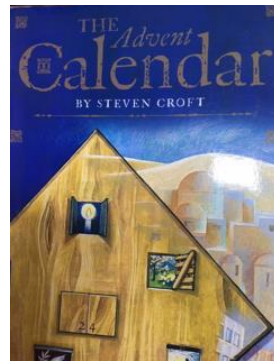
My favourite Gospel – again it is hard to choose. Matthew bridges the Old and New Testament stories so well, Mark is short and easy to read, and John is poetic and full of imagery! But I would choose Luke because he is the ultimate storyteller!

My favourite memory from the last six years – there are too many wonderful ones from which to choose and besides as I write this, I am still making them! I thank God for all you have given me and all we have shared.

Georgina

Advent Book Club

There is still time to join our Virtual Advent Book Club! The Advent Calendar by Steven Croft (the current Bishop of Oxford) takes us through the same journey as a traditional lessons and carols service albeit in a far more contemporary and easier to understand way! Given we cannot hold lessons and carols services this year this seems to be a wonderful alternative. It will also link in with the 'big story' idea of the readings we have followed.



The book is easily purchased new or second-hand or can be read on electronic devices. If anyone wants to take part but is struggling to order a copy of the book, or afford one, please let me know and I would be delighted to help as I have some spare copies to give out or can order a copy for you.

Although the book starts on 30th November it can be read as a novel and there is plenty of time to 'catch-up'. I have prepared some questions for each day/chapter, that we can ponder together whilst apart. I will leave some paper copies of these in St Helens (let me know if you would like one delivered or if more are needed).

We are holding a virtual 'zoom' session to discuss the book and have a chat on Monday 7th December at 6:30pm. If this is of interest please get in touch and I can explain how to join. (Continued overleaf)

Whether you decide to zoom or not I pray that you might be able to read this book at home and is so doing continue to build not just your own faith and understanding but also the spirit of our church community. I also sincerely hope you will enjoy it! *Georgina*

Reflections on the meaning of ‘Words’

Sadly this year because of the restrictions on singing we will not be able to hold a traditional Lessons and Carols service where, through the words of scripture and song, we journey through the bible story that leads to, and explains, the birth of Jesus. This service always culminates with the first 14 verses of John’s Gospel which famously begin “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. In naming Jesus as the Word of God, John attests to both his divinity and purpose in becoming flesh and so the truth that as God incarnate, Jesus is the clearest image of God we have. One of the main ways we communicate is through the use of words, so it makes perfect sense to call Jesus the Word of God. I have always loved ‘words’ believing they hold immense power, allowing us to make connections, build relationships, weave stories and poetry and make meaning of our lives and world and it has been a privilege whilst Rector to be able to share my words with you. I am thankful to whoever wrote the poem below for being able to express all of this and, like St John, draw attention to the source of all life and words: The Word of God.

Gratitude for Words

The poetry exercise says to “find 50-100 words you like.”

Words in books, notes, brochures,
on signs, and rolling off of people’s tongues.

Words that catch my attention.

Words that make me feel . . . something.

Words that sound the way they should
against my ear.

So I’ve been looking and listening

And, God, there are so many.

“Thistle” and “shallow”



“Habitat” and “dragonfly”
“Sweet” and “sharp” and “dusk” and “rest”
Each word signifying something beyond itself;
Each word a way to share the world with other people— including:-
Those I’m with
those who write words I read
those who read words I write.
So today, God, I am feeling the privilege
Of carrying words and placing them—
In prayers and sermons and conversation;
On paper and computer screens and through sound waves.
Tending words is difficult and delicate and beautiful.
I hope my tending is faithful and fruitful.
From one who loves words
To You who are The Word:
Hear these syllables of gratitude;
Speak your words of grace.
Amen

Georgina

Charity Christmas Cards from Cards for Good Causes

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we will not be able to operate our annual Christmas Card shop in the Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church. However you can still support Cards for Good Causes by visiting our Chester shop which this year will be in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, at 15 St Michael’s Row.

Alternatively cards can bought on line at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk

Charities have had a very difficult time raising much needed funds during this pandemic. Over 70% of our sales goes directly to the charities and so do please support us by buying your cards from either the Chester shop or on line. Stay safe.

All enquiries Mary Thompson 01829 733642.

Christingle Service cancelled and the collection of the Children's Society boxes postponed until 2021. (But you can still support The Children's Society)

Sadly, because of current restrictions and the measures we need to put in place to keep everyone safe, St Helen's will not be able to hold a Christingle service this year.



The Christingle service and the Children's Society collection boxes form part of our annual contribution to help with the very important work of the Children's Society. The Society supports young people through their most serious life challenges. Covid 19 has increased these challenges and the number of young people whose lives have been affected and income for the charity is now more important than ever.

In light of all of this, I urge you to consider making a contribution to the Children's Society via their website, where you can read about the important work that they are doing. Just click 'donate' and you can choose the amount you would like to give.

If anyone who would like to donate is unable to use this method, please contact me on 01829 759120 and we can discuss an alternative way of giving.

Thank you in anticipation for your support. *Pat Symms*

Finally. We did not gather in St Helen's Church or in the streets or by the War Memorial but, thanks to the good work of Tarporley Royal British Legion and many others, we were able to observe Remembrance Sunday "Together whilst Apart" at 11 o'clock on the 8th November. Before the two minute's silence we heard young people living in Tarporley today read out, in reverence, the names of those who lost their lives in conflict so many years ago.



Crosses by our War Memorial

The winners of the November 200+ club draw are:

First Prize	£100	No. 116 – Mr R Bolt
Second Prize	£20	No. 192 – Mr P Emerson
Third Prize	£10	No. 136 – Mr N Parker

Thank you once again for your support for the 200+ club and St Helen's over the years. The results of the final draw will be announced in our January 2021 edition of the Link. *Dianne Ouseley* Membership Secretary.

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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).

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