

February 2023

Tarporley Parish Magazine



Clockwise from top:- "Warm space at St Helen's", Messy Church and Carols at Eaton.

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 St Helen’s each Wednesday at 10.00am Holy Communion

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

Email: revjimb1017@gmail.com 07526243702

Tarporley: St Helen

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: neelyeliza@hotmail.com 07890470899

Treasurer Anita Langford 01829458351

email 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

Warden Amelia McCourty aemccourty@btinternet.com 01829 730155

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

email jobsonajpj@btinternet.com items for ‘The Link’ should be emailed to the above by the 16th of the month.

Electoral Roll: Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP
01829 733431

Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email 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 Phillip Posnett 01829260251

To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries

please contact our Rector Jim by email on

Email: revjimb1017@gmail.com

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.org

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2023

The start of our new Parish Service Pattern

February 5th

THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion

12th

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

St Helen's	9.30am	Café Church
St Thomas	4.15pm	Holy Communion.

19th

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	4.15pm	Evensong

22nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

St Helen	10.00am and 6.30pm	Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes
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26th

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

St Thomas 9.00am Songs of Praise;
this service will be followed by a light breakfast for the whole
community in the Jessie Hughes Hall.

St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
The Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church



March 5th

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion & baptism
Each Wednesday at 10.00am at St Helen's: Holy Communion.		

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On Sunday's if you have time, please stay for refreshments after the service



The Rector Writes:-

Whenever I visit people at home, I am a bit curious about the things they put on their walls – what pictures, photos or signs that they adorn their home with. Sometimes it gives quite a picture into who they are: for example having the front door surrounded by family pictures brings to mind a close knit, loving family. In one place, I saw a sign by the door which stuck with me: *Everyone brings happiness to this home: some when they arrive, others when they leave!!*

For a long time in our previous homes, we had a sign on the wall opposite the front door which read: *Christ is the head of this household*. This was a bit of an in-joke for Jenny and myself dating back to a time at theological college when some students were arguing that husbands must be the head of a household and even if their wife was ordained, they, as a man, would still be in charge. This debate was memorably shattered by our (female) parish priest who, when questioned about whether she accepted her husband's authority in the home, simply replied: "*Christ is the head of our house.*" Although the phrase transported us back to a memorable occasion, it was also a reminder to us of the unseen guest (and owner!) of our house – God.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus Emmanuel: God with us. *The Message* translation of the Bible coins part of John 1 as '*God moved into the neighbourhood*', and though that may jar at first, it does emphasise that in the birth of Jesus, God came to stay with his people; not for a fleeting visit, but to settle in.

With Christmas over, the decorations packed away for another year, we sometimes pack God away with the tinsel and the lights. We can forget that 'God with us' doesn't up and leave just after New Year! One of the ways that we can remember that is by 'Chalking the door', something we did this year across the parish at Epiphany. This is a church custom that is popular in Europe at Epiphany, as we remember the visit of the wise men to Jesus. A blessing is written in chalk on the door post, asking for God's blessing throughout the year ahead:

The three wise men Caspar Melchior and Balthasar, followed the star of God's Son who became man two thousand and twenty three years ago; May Christ bless our home and remain with us through the year.

I chalked each of the three church buildings, as well as our two church schools too (Tarporley CE Primary and St Paul's CE Primary Utkinton and Cotebrook) – look out for the chalked **20+C+M+B+23** by the doors. The C, M and B stand for the first letter of the reputed names of the wise men, but also for the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* – *Christ bless this house*.



There is something very special in blessing those buildings: it is not a guarantee that there will be no troubles or problems in those places, but it is a reiteration that God will be with us, whatever happens in church and school throughout the year ahead. And that is why I also encouraged church members to take some chalk and the words to ‘chalk the doors’ at your home too. Sometimes it is important to reiterate that God is welcome in our homes, and can be by the head of our house in the year ahead, helping us in the decisions we make, challenging us to live and serve as Christ did. So while we may have used Advent and Christmas to get ready for the coming of Jesus, perhaps we can use the rest of the year to ensure that Jesus stays with us?!

Jim

Eco church update

Following some sterling work by the Eco church team, it is our pleasure to announce that all three church buildings have achieved the Bronze level award for Eco Church! This means that we have made some progress on assessing and changing how we as a parish use the Land and Buildings in our care, as well as how we connect care of the environment with our Local Community and in our Worship.

Some of the things that we have done to change the impact on our **Land** include changing the mowing regime in our graveyards, planting more wildflowers and bulbs, and making bird and bat boxes available. Within our **Buildings** and resources, we have committed to using recycled paper, (continued overleaf)

recycling the material used for refreshments, changing lightbulbs for more eco-friendly alternatives, and we have assessed our energy consumption.

But as well as doing things on a parish macro-level, there is a section on our individual **Lifestyle** too. Here are the statements linked to the Lifestyle part of the Eco Church survey, which can be answered in Yes/No or Often/Occasionally/Never:

- *Our church has appointed an individual or group to champion the cause of our church community becoming more environmentally sustainable*
- *Walking and cycling to church services and events is promoted in our church*
- *The reduction of car use is encouraged in our church*
- *The members of our church receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit*
- *Our church encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption*
- *Our church encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle*
- *Our church hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes)*
- *Our church operates a communal Christmas and/or Easter card scheme among the congregation*
- *Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods is promoted in our church*
- *Our church encourages members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade)*
- *Our church runs or partners with other organisations in running a food cooperative that enables members to bulk buy ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices*
- *The ethical investment of personal savings is encouraged at our church*
- *Our church funds are ethically invested (e.g. current account and/or investments)*
- *Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth are included in our church newsletters/on our church website*
- *As part of our life together, the members of our church undertake an environmental lifestyle audit*

Although through the answers we've given, we *have* achieved Bronze in this section, there is lots here that is due to personal choice; so the Eco Church group would like to encourage as many church members as possible to undertake some of these simple things (if you haven't already done so!), and let us know when you have done so – if more people do this and tell us, we can change the answers to our survey and potentially progress from Bronze to Silver or Gold for this section!

1. Consider walking to church or car sharing
2. Reduce your energy consumption
3. Undertake a personal carbon footprint audit
4. Live by the mantra reduce, recycle, reuse
5. Check whether your personal savings are invested ethically
6. Commit to buying LOAF (Local, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade) wherever possible
7. Take an environmental lifestyle audit

Links to the audit can be found on the weekly email from the parish – or let Revd Jim know and he can send it direct.

And as ever, we'd like to hear your tips for being greener, so we can share good ideas and good practice. If you do anything special, please let one of the Eco church team know.

Bronze is a great achievement, but it's not the end goal – we can still do more, and would need to do more in order to achieve Silver or Gold level. Thank you for all your continued help to make the parish greener! *Jim*

We congratulate and pray for those baptised

Charlotte Brown Barnaby Fryer Adeline Jeannie Woodley-Shepherd



We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Freda Henderson

David Mason

Graham Rathbone

William Stokes

Elisabeth Wheeler

Advent and Christmas round-up.

December was a busy month in the parish with plenty of Advent and Christmas focused activities. Throughout the month a small group met at St Helen's on Wednesdays during the Warm Space to journey with Nick Baines' book based on Isaiah 'Freedom is Coming'. There was plenty of food for thought, and much to discuss and share on some of the themes of exile, hope and freedom.

There was a good crowd at the start of December to sing carols on the High Street in Tarporley, accompanied by the Silver Band and the choir from Tarporley Primary, as the crib was blessed. It was great to join with members of the community and those from Tarporley Chapel too.

That weekend also saw the Christingle service at St Helen's, where we encouraged those who came to engage in DIY Christingle making (otherwise known as CCC- Chaotic Christingle Construction!), which proved to be a real hit! As Advent progressed, we welcomed all classes from Tarporley Primary for their nativities and carol services, the Done Room pre-school for the 'Wriggly Nativity' and had both a matinee and evening performance from Tarporley High school, which included readings, choir items and a variety of instrumental performances. All the children did so well and were a real credit to their settings!

We held carol services at all three churches in the space of three days, again with some fantastic singing and Bible reading. The service at St Thomas' was followed by refreshments at the Jessie Hughes hall and the conclusion of a fundraising Silent Auction which was very successful. And there was still time for EVEN MORE carol singing in the community: joining with patrons of The Alvanley Arms for pub carol singing, with villagers in Eaton on the Green on Friday 23rd, and then again on the High Street in Tarporley on Christmas Eve just before the Crib service, where Revd Jim led us in a superhero-themed re-telling of the Christmas story, with plenty of bad puns and chocolate prizes.

Then followed the joyous celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – same again next year?!?

Jim

Messy Church

At the end of 2022, Messy Church met twice – in November the session was held on Advent Sunday, and our crafts and games picked up on the theme of Advent, preparing for Christmas, and especially looking at the symbolism of light and candles. Among the crafts that we made were Advent wreath decorated biscuits, a springy paper candle, an Advent prayer wreath (to add a prayer to everyday in Advent), and pictures to add to the Advent tree in the children's corner at St Helen's, marking off the days until Christmas.

Then during the run up to Christmas there was a special Messy Church session on Tuesday 20th December all held in St Helen's church, as the Done Room was having a new heating system installed. There were a number of different crafts spread throughout church, each telling a part of the nativity story – we made paper plate angels, reminding us of Gabriel who gave Mary the news of her pregnancy; the first people to hear of the birth of Jesus were the shepherds in the fields, and so we made some very colourful shepherds out of old loo roll holders, and they were accompanied by large painted pine cone sheep; we all joined together to make a large fingerprint paint collage of the stable, and even had time to make a couple of Christmas cards to send to friends and relatives. We ended with a Christmas buffet tea, and were soon even more ready for the big day to arrive!

January's Messy Church returns to the main theme of the Miracles of Jesus, before looking at Lent in February.

Messy Church is an ideal way for families to grow, play and learn together about the Christian faith – so if you haven't yet tried it, why not do it as a new thing for 2023?!

Warm Space at St Helen's

As part of the parish council's 'Warm Heart of Tarporley' scheme, St Helen's has been open every Wednesday morning from 10.30-12.30pm offering a place to have company and free refreshments in a warm space. Since we started, we have had a number of volunteers from across the parish giving their time to serve refreshments to those who come through the doors, and a number of people have made use of the facility, from those who attend the 10am Communion beforehand, local walkers having a well deserved pit stop, and during Advent, our Advent book group members. (continued overleaf)

Then in January we had a presentation from DC Andy Kevan who spoke to over 30 people about Cyber crime and being safe online.

If you'd like to volunteer to help serve refreshments, or if you just want a bit of company in a warm space, please contact Revd Jim, or come along on Wednesday mornings.

Knitted Bible Exhibition at a Cheshire Primary School.

More than 30 scenes and stories from The Bible have been skilfully recreated in wool by a knitting group and are on display at St Paul's CE Primary School, Utkinton.

The exhibition will be open on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th January 2023 (after school:- 3.30 – 4.15pm) and Head of School, Sian Simcock, is keen for members of the local community to come and see the wonderful display.

"This is a very special celebration of the Bible and we would like to welcome everyone to the school to see the display. We believe the exhibition is a wonderful way to spread the stories of Jesus and the Bible."

Eye-catching displays, include The Last Supper, Joseph and his Brothers, Noah's Ark and Jesus Heals the Paralysed Man.

Saturday 4th February 2023. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

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Tarporley Flower Club

*Members of the Tarporley Flower Club
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