

THE LINK

50p

May 2022

Tarporley Parish Magazine

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Messy Church

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Messy Church has made a joyous and
welcome return to our calendar!

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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: revjim1017@gmail.com 07526243702

Assistant Curate: Julian Osborne

Email: revjulianosborne@gmail.com 07421323699

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

Wardens Rosemary Lilley

Michael Scott 01829733919

Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437

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

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 Secretary: Kathryn Palmer 01829733040

To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries please

Contact Jan by email on: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

Website: www.tarporleyparishchurch.co.uk Email: admin@tarporleyparish.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES MAY 2022

May	1st	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		St Thomas	9.00am	All-Age Worship
		St Helen	10.00am	All-Age Worship
		St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
	8th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
<p>Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 8th May in St Helen's Church. We will join for a parish Communion at St Helen's at 10am, followed by the meeting and refreshments</p>				
	15th	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
	22nd	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
		The Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church
	26th	ASCENSION DAY		
		St Helen	7.30pm	Ascension Day service
	29th	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
		St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
		St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
June	5th	THE DAY OF PENTECOST Whit Sunday		
		St Thomas	9.00am	All-Age Worship
		St Helen	10.00am	All-Age Worship
		St John	11.15am	Holy Communion



Each Wednesday at 10.00am at St Helen's: said Holy Communion.
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The Rector Writes:-

One of the mistakes that we often make when we come to the big festivals of the Church's year is to think that they are all over once the 'big day' has finished: come Boxing day, and Easter Monday, we can tend to assume that Christmas and Easter have been completed, and we are moving onto the next thing, just as the shops quickly replace their seasonal displays (I once saw Easter eggs on sale on Boxing Day!!).



However, the celebrations of both Christmas and Easter are actually long ones – 40 days. Just as we have spent 40 days preparing for Easter in Lent, we actually get 40 days to enjoy it too! The feasting is meant to be equal to the fasting that came before. So in the seven weeks that follow Easter day, we continue to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus and the joy and liberation from sin and death that he came to bring – we don't have to pack away the Easter garden or eat all the Easter eggs by Bank Holiday Monday (thankfully!!).

So how do we make the most of this time of celebrating?

The resurrection should leave us all with a big question to answer: so what? What difference does the resurrection actually make to me and my life? So what do we do now in light of the resurrection? It was a question that some of the followers of Jesus wrestled with, and in John's Gospel we read that after the events of Easter week Simon Peter and his friends decide to go back to how life used to be, by going fishing. It appears that nothing much has changed for them, as if Jesus returning to life hadn't made much impact on their lives; yet when they cast out, they find themselves unable to catch anything....until a familiar figure appears on the beach, and gives them a hand, and soon, because of Jesus' intervention, they have more fish than their nets can cope with. It strikes me that this can mirror our experiences: I am certainly guilty of not fully realising or appreciating just what a difference the resurrection has made: to human life in general, to my life, to the world around us. Jesus returning to life proclaims that the reign of death and sin is at an end: God has conquered!

As the theologian Herbert McCade wrote: 'The resurrection is a cosmic event, it means that Christ is present to the whole world whether believers or not. The

resurrection meant not just that a church was founded, it meant that the world was different.’ That is something that we can’t just pass over about we’ve finished our Easter Sunday dinner. The resurrection should stop us in our tracks and make us reassess everything.

We can quickly move on from the celebration of Easter without it really taking hold, so that we end up ‘going back to normal’, though we are soon jolted back to the realisation that the resurrection has actually changed EVERYTHING – normal no longer works, no longer exists, instead there is a new reality.

Perhaps after the past two years, we can relate to this; there was a lot of talk in the spring of 2020 of not going back to the way things were, to letting the pandemic reset our ways of living and being for the good, making those big changes; two years on, what has really changed for the better? Public trust in our leaders is at an all-time low, people are generally less tolerant and more argumentative, the world is back at war, the cost of living is a real worry and a desperate reality for many of us. Has anything actually got better? Lots has certainly changed, and while the pandemic has not been as totally life-defining as the resurrection, it has definitely impacted us all. Can we say the same of the resurrection? Has it turned our lives upside down?

The question for us all to ponder over this Easter season is: so what?

How will the resurrection of Jesus affect our life in Cheshire in 2022?

How can we remain with the joy and victory of Easter with all that is happening around us and not just return to casting our fishing nets??

How will we make the most of the celebrations?

Let me know your answers!!

Jim

Overleaf we continue our feature:-‘Who are on our PCC?’

The Tarporley Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of our three churches. It consists of clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives elected from the parishioners. But: “Who are they?”

This month Paul Emerson introduces himself.

Name: Paul Emerson

Church(es) and services attended in the parish:

I attend services at St. Helens, Tarporley.

PCC role/responsibility:

I am the PCC secretary and am also involved with cleaning at St. Helens and delivery of the Tarporley Parish Magazine (The Link), as well as some administrative duties regarding the Done Room.



Current /previous employment:

I am a semi-retired geologist/sedimentologist with about 40 years' experience in the international oil/gas industry, working in many countries in Africa and the Middle East as well as NW Europe. Also I spent 2 years in Malawi, in East Africa, as a volunteer field geologist, with VSO, in the eighties.

When I'm not at church, I spend my time....

As I have recently retired I am still in that adjusting phase. I am an extremely lucky person who loves the subject he was trained in and enjoys walking and looking at the amazing geology in this country with my newly-married wife Chrissy, who I met through St. Helens. I generally love sport and enjoy watching football in particular (my playing days are long behind me!). This season I have been to Crewe Alexandra (not such a joyous activity!).

Favourite Hymn/ Carol:

'Lord of All Faithfulness' and 'O Come, O come Emmanuel'

Favourite verse/story in the Bible:

'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' The Road to Damascus. Acts 22:6-21.

My Journey of Faith: I was brought up in Hackney in East London by my Catholic Mother and largely agnostic Father and attended services at St. John's-at-Hackney. Later attended church in Southwater in West Sussex -Holy Innocents. After moving to Northern Ireland, with my late wife, we regularly went to our local church Devenish St. Molaise (Monea) in County Fermanagh.

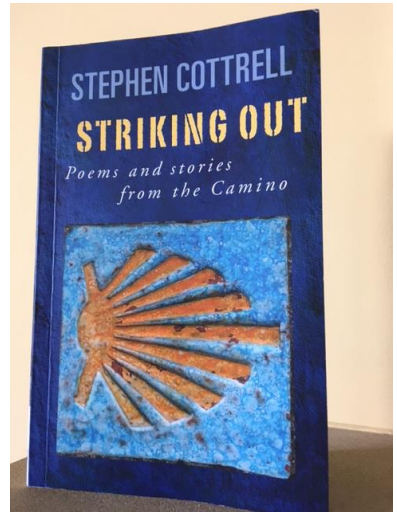
Paul Emerson.

Link Book Review
Striking Out
Poems and Stories from the Camino
 By
Stephen Cottrell

Here Walter Gibson kindly offers us his latest book review.

Thank you Walter.

How would you like to go for a walk with an Archbishop?! Perhaps you could debate some thorny theological issue, or mutter gently about the state of the church today, or maybe just engage in small talk about the view or the weather or your new boots that are killing your feet. Well, now is your chance. The author of this fine little book is the present Archbishop of York no less and you can join him as he walks the Camino del Norte to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.



This is a famous pilgrimage of course and the book is a discourse on the journey itself as well as journeys generally and what they can bring to us. It is a long walk (700 km) and there was plenty of time for reflection on life, faith, pilgrimage, nature and the act of walking itself. He undertook the journey during a sabbatical and goes from being a busy bishop (as he then was) to a humble pilgrim who isn't sure where his next bed is going to be.

You sense he is on a quest for stillness, and he has some profound and personal observations on how the walk helped him find it. Each day, despite the physical tiredness of long and arduous walking, he manages to produce a page of prose and a page of poetry to capture his thoughts and emotions on the day, and the spiritual as well as physical journey he is on. It took him 28 days to arrive at his destination, so this book could make a perfect companion for a month as you follow him on his journey through Spain. Some of his poems can be read and re-read.

Even if we don't have his actual company on our next walk, we can carry his thoughts with us on our journey ... and perhaps have an imaginary conversation with an Archbishop.

We congratulate and pray for those baptised:

Heather Nicholls-Blagg

Alex Pederson



We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Dilys Bentley

Keith Gott

Alistair King

Anthony Stokes

OUR CHURCHES - EASTER FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who has made the three church buildings look so beautiful over Easter with gorgeous flower arrangements, Easter gardens and clean and polished surroundings

Christian Aid Week will be from 15th -21st May 2022

If anyone is willing/interested in doing 'Door to Door' collections during CA Week please contact Elaine Meredith on 01829 732104



Pat Symms Describes a recent visit of Tarporley Primary School to Saint Helen's Church.

Year 5 and 6 of Tarporley Primary School visited Saint Helen's Church on Wednesday 16th March. They were introduced to the layout of the church in relation to the points of the compass before going on a scavenger hunt. In groups they looked for the main features which are found in all Anglican churches. They also looked for items which are unique to Saint Helens and reflect its history and links with the local community.

Some of the unique features included:

The Sienna gates.

The Rood screen.

The Coronation carpet.

The Done family memorials.

The Done window depicting the famous Hunting Horn.

The Soldier Saints windows.

The Female Saints window.

The unique feathers of the angels in the Baptistry window.



Readers are you familiar with all these unique features?

Pat Symms

Finally, looking back at our Lent Group

Over Lent, a number of parishioners took up the challenge to read 'The Practice of the Presence of God' by the seventeenth century French writer, Brother Lawrence; with small snippets of his writings to read and reflect on each day, and then a weekly time to discuss with others, it has been a challenging and interesting Lenten discipline. Here are some thoughts from those who participated:

Paul Emerson writes: *"Brother Lawrence seems to have suffered greatly as a soldier in the many religious wars that racked Europe in the 16th and 17th Centuries and was probably looking for sanctuary in the monastic life. This involved him seeking a closer direct relationship with God by including Him in everything in his everyday life, no matter how humdrum. What kind of shines through, I think, is the need to feel guilt and do penitence, probably because of his former life and thereby reach a higher level in his relationship with God. The need to suffer to reach this higher level is also mentioned which perhaps should be the antithesis of the Christian ethic, there is already enough suffering in the world! A contemplative blueprint or manual for a 21st Century life?.....Hmmm."*

Walter Gibson writes: *'Brother Lawrence's simple message of how keeping his attention on God in a loving way brought him joy and peace struck a chord with me. The challenge is how to practise that when there is so much else that demands our attention! I would like to try though as I feel there is room for me to make God more of a focus in my daily life. I found the group discussions really helpful and would like to thank everyone for sharing their perspectives on the book. I learnt a lot from all of you.'*

Alastair Findlay commented: *'At the end of the sessions, I was worried whether this was a truly Christian approach at all. Lawrence makes no mention of Jesus - how is that reconciled with John 14.6 "No one come to the Father except through me". I felt his approach was "Old Testament" and the daily comments in the lower sections were bravely trying to put an New Testament/Christian interpretation on it. Sometimes this strained the words -see day 31 where Vermilye comments "Brother Lawrence considered it an honour to suffer for Christ". He didn't say that he said "if I could suffer with my God". Perhaps I'm being pernickety!'*

John and Elaine Meredith remarked: *'We were very thankful for the group meeting each week to discuss Brother Lawrence as it encouraged us to keep reading. Our initial reaction was that we had nothing in common with Brother Lawrence and wondered whether to give up on him but as the weeks progressed we were able to reflect on his writings and adjust them to our daily active lives.'*

Angela Symes said: *'I am glad to have read the book and enjoyed the discussions. Unfortunately I never managed to relate to Brother Lawrence or be inspired by him as others in the group did. However the Bible quotes and some of the thoughts by the author really gave me thoughts to ponder. To me it was definitely better as a discussion than for me to read as an individual.'*

Thank you to all who contributed over Lent, and those who offered hospitality for us. Watch this space for news of further ways to deepen our discipleship as individuals and groups!

The participants at one of the lunches are shown in the photo below.





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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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