

## TARPORLEY PARISH

St Helen's, Tarporley

St Thomas', Eaton

St John and the Holy Cross, Cotebrook



Tarporley Parish

**50p**

# The Link

***Tarporley Parish magazine***

**December 2025**



***Pat Harding (centre) receiving her Deanery Unsung Hero Award from Deanery Synod representative Elaine Meredith (right), with Churchwarden Liz Neely (left)—see page 12!***

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revjimb1017@gmail.com      01829732491; 07526243702

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*Items for 'The Link' should be emailed by the 16th of the month.*

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Fiona Kay      StHelenssafeguarding@outlook.com      07355988836

Done Room Booking Phillip Posnett 01829260251

To ask about Baptism, Funeral or Wedding arrangements, to ask for a pastoral visit or home communion, or general enquiries  
please contact Revd Jim

**Website: [www.tarporleyparishchurch.org](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org)**

**Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley](https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley)**

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR THE MONTH December 2025

<b>December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ADVENT 2</b>	
<i>Tarporley Christmas events—road closure in place</i>		
St John's	11.15am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	6.30pm	Holy Communion
<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ADVENT 3</b>	
St Thomas'	9.00am	Blessing of the Crib
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	6.30pm	Carol service
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>		
St Thomas'	7.30pm	Carol service
<b>December 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>ADVENT 4</b>	
St Thomas'	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	10.00am	Communion and baptism
St John's	4.00pm	Carol service
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion
High Street	3.30pm	Carols on the High St
St Helen's	4.00pm	Crib service
St Helen's	11.00pm	Midnight Communion
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
St Thomas'	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>December 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 1</b>	
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>January 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EPIPHANY</b>	
St Thomas'	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John's	11.15am	Holy Communion

Weekly Midweek Communion on Wednesdays  
at 10am at St Helen's

## **The Rector Writes:-**

### *Rediscovering the joy of Christmas*

As Christians we often talk about 'the *real* meaning of Christmas' and not losing sight of it in the decorations and presents and overeating. Jesus, God enfleshed, vulnerable in a animals' trough, is that real meaning, but what we may forget is the overwhelming emotion that his birth brought: JOY! The angels tell the shepherds that the birth is 'good news of great joy', and when the star leads the Magi to where Jesus is, they too are 'overwhelmed with joy'. When I think of Christmas, I have to admit that I don't often feel overwhelmed with joy—usually I just feel overwhelmed...



This year, the Church of England's Christmas theme is JOY; life currently feels a bit joy-less, whether that is looking at the state of the world, or the feeling of lots of people going through difficult times locally. The joy of Christmas is not trying to shrug off the difficulties and paper over the cracks of life with twinkly lights and festive food; this is not what Jesus brings, a temporary distraction before reality bites. The joy that Jesus brings is something that is much deeper and deep seated—a knowledge that God has broken through and come to live among us, changing the pattern of history, changing the pattern of life now, and the possibility of experiencing the love, forgiveness and joy of God eternally. It is an overwhelming joy, that can cope with everything else.

My prayer this Advent and Christmas is that we can all rediscover that deep joy that the birth of Jesus brings, and be overwhelmed by it!

*Jim*

### **Cost of The Link**

*As printing cost have risen recently, the PCC has made the decision to increase the price of the Link magazine, to ensure that we can keep a physical copy available. So from January, the cost of individual copies will now be £1, but for those who subscribe for the whole year there is a special offer—12 copies for the price of 10: so a year's subscription (and delivery) for just £10!*

## Cathedral Nave Choir

Many thanks to Chester Cathedral Nave Choir and the Vice Dean, Canon Rosie Woodall, for leading a beautiful service of Evensong during October at St Helen's. The choir sang the introit Holy is the true light by William Harris, with responses by Richard Shephard and Canticles were Hugh Blair in B minor. They sang Psalms 99 & 100 and finished with the anthem I will lift up mine eyes by Herbert Sumsion. The singing was superb, and well received by a large congregation, who also enjoyed a sherry and refreshments afterwards!!



## Pre Christmas Afternoon Tea

Thanks as ever to Elaine Meredith and her team for another amazing Pre-Christmas Afternoon Tea. As well as having some great fun, enjoying wonderful refreshments and spending time with friends, we also raised an amazing £660 towards the continued mission and ministry of the parish. Thanks to all who contributed!



**We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:**

Chrissy Gaskill

Stephen Allen

Gladys Betty Hoskison

# JOY

St Helen's Tarporley

**Sun 30th Nov 4pm**

*Christingle*

**Sun 14th Dec 6.30pm**

*Carol service*

**Christmas Eve**

**3.30pm** *Carols on the High Street*

**4pm** *Crib service*

**11pm** *Midnight Communion*

**Christmas Day 10am**

*All Age communion*

For more information contact the Rector - Revd Jim Bridgman  
[revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com) 01829 732491



# JOY

## St Thomas' Eaton

**Sun 14th Dec 9am**

*Blessing of the crib*

**Thurs 18th Dec 7.30pm**

*Carol service*

**Mon 22nd Dec 6pm**

*Carols on the Green*

**Christmas Day 9am**

*All Age communion*

For more information contact the Rector - Revd Jim Bridgman

[revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com) 01829 732491



THE CHURCH  
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# JOY

## St John and the Holy Cross Cotebrook

**Sun 7th Dec 11.15am**  
*Communion for Advent*

**Fri 19th Dec 7pm**  
*Carol singing at The Alvanley Arms*

**Sun 21st Dec 4pm**  
*Carol service*

For more information contact the Rector - Revd Jim Bridgman  
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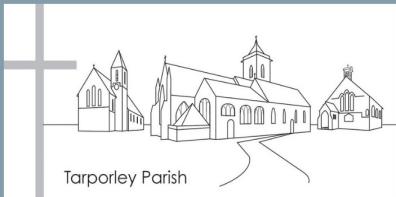
## Unsung Hero—Pat Harding

This year the Rural Dean, Revd Tim Hayward, has introduced a Deanery 'Unsung Hero' award, for people who go about quietly doing enormous amounts of work in parishes without recognition. One of our Deanery Synod representative, Elaine Meredith, nominated Pat Harding from our parish—Pat has acted as sacristan at St Helen's for 19 years, setting up and putting away the communion table for services, changing the colours of church with the seasons, ensuring we are stocked with candles, wine and wafers, and keeping our linen and altar frontals clean and in beautiful condition. She has also served as Churchwarden, Sidesperson and ran the kitchen for the Afternoon Teas for many years. Elaine said of Pat 'Pat conscientiously carries out the daily duties of the sacristan in a quiet and efficient manner. When the Unsung Hero Award was announced I immediately thought of Pat, who carries out her essential work with complete selflessness.'

Pat said 'I love the church, it has never been a chore to help out and after 19 years I seem to have got the hang of it!'

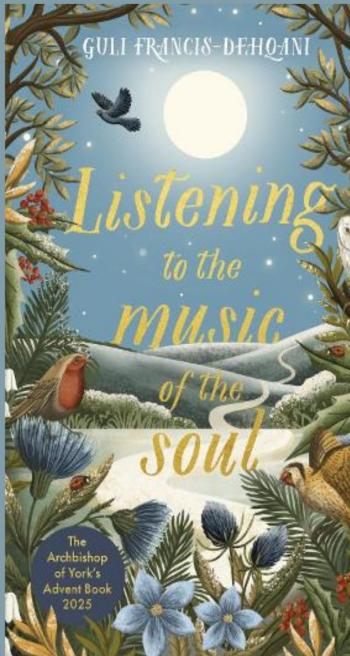
With the help of husband Peter (pictured below), she goes about her work without fuss or complaint: she is one of many indispensable members of the parish and a thoroughly worthy recipient of this award!





# Advent Book Group

Reading 'Listening to the  
music of the soul'  
by Guli Francis-Dehqani



*Join together on Fridays in Advent at 10am  
The Dray's Coffee Shop, Eaton  
to discuss what we've read*

**5th December**

**12th December**

**19th December**

**ALL WELCOME!**

For more information contact the Rector - Revd Jim Bridgman  
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Meetings at Tarporley Community Centre  
on 2nd Thursday, September to June at  
1.20pm. Coffee from 12.30pm. If you'd like  
to come as a guest, please contact  
[membership@tastarpoley.uk](mailto:membership@tastarpoley.uk) beforehand.



Volunteer to help older  
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Working to reduce loneliness and isolation,  
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### THE BIG LISTENING EVENT

One of our key objectives as a Trust is to actively listen to our communities and receive their feedback.

We aim to understand the requirements and main priorities for services we could potentially support in the community, including physical and mental health and overall well-being.

We are reaching to you, our community, to tell us:- "What specific service(s) or support would you like to see introduced by the Trust?"  
Thank you.



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### 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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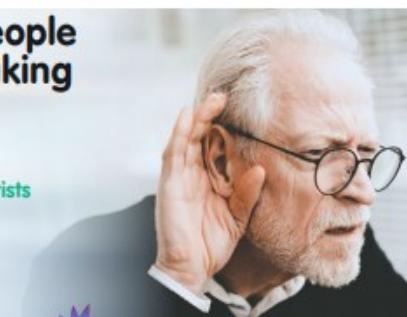
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