

TARPORLEY PARISH

St Helen's, Tarporley

St Thomas', Eaton

St John and the Holy Cross, Cotebrook



Tarporley Parish

50p

The Link

Tarporley Parish magazine

July 2025



Some of the parish's finest strut their stuff on the catwalk at the Fashion Show in May!

ANDREW P. DEAN

Dip N.T.C., C.G.L.I., A.V.C.M.

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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

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SUNDAY SERVICES FOR THE MONTH July 2025

July 6th

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

ST THOMAS/TRINITY 3

July 13th

Done Room	9.30am	Café Church
St Thomas'	4.00pm	Holy Communion

TRINITY 4

July 20th

St Thomas'	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	6.30pm	Evensong

TRINITY 5

July 27th

St Thomas'	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen's	10.00am	Holy Communion

TRINITY 6

August 3rd

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

TRINITY 7

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

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:



Jean Lawrie

Eva Markert

The Rector Writes:-

'A picture paints a thousand words'. So the saying goes, and as I help organise this month's *Link* I am encouraged by the number of photos we have been able to include in this edition. I'm not a big fan of having my photo taken (I don't think the one to my right is my *best* angle...), but it has been very useful over the past few years to record what happens in our parish in a visual way (and thanks to regular 'snappers' like Elaine Meredith and Charles Hardy for getting the cameras out!)



And what strikes me from seeing the various photos is the sense of togetherness and belonging that is expressed in them: from people coming together socially over entertainment or food to groups learning and growing in their faith and experience of God and life, from the youngest to the older. These photos are a reminder that we don't do life and faith in isolation, but in community and communion with God and others.

I know I am all too often guilty of being too individualistic about faith—*my* beliefs, *my* practice, *my* God; our current Friday Bible study on Acts has reminded me that God doesn't work in isolation and individualistic notions, but through community: the Holy Spirit in Acts falls on the gathered church, not just one person, and continues to then work in *all* the disciples, especially as they meet together. In a world that is becoming too quickly divided, the picture of a vibrant community with God at the centre and everyone welcomed is surely a picture worth treasuring.

I wonder what pictures God will paint through us in the month ahead? What will they show to those around us of who God is, and what we as God's followers are like?

Jim

St Helen's Day 2025

May 21st is St Helen's day, and once again this year we celebrated one of our parish saints in style! On the evening of 21st May, we held a special communion service, remembering St Helen and her life, as mother of the Emperor Constantine, and then in her 80s visiting the Holy Land to help widows and



the poor, and also managing to find the True Cross on which Jesus died. She also arranged for the establishing of churches that still stand today, at the reported place of Jesus' birth (the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem) and Jesus' death (the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem). We celebrated Helen, and all those in our parish who emulate her in faithful service, and afterwards shared strawberries and fizz! Then the next day, we welcomed all of Years 3 and 4 from Tarporley Primary to learn all about Helen, through quizzes and crafts—from making their own Lego saints, to making clay holding crosses, pilgrim badges and crosses made with wool! It was a great few days to give thanks for an amazing woman of God!



Fashion Show

In the middle of May, St Helen's was transformed into the cat walk for our Fashion Show in aid of the Done Room renovation, and the eco upgrade of the heating at St Thomas' - and what a night it was! On show was fabulous fashion, fantastic



food and lots of fun: it was a huge success! Some of the pews were moved from the middle aisle of church, food and drink was served in the side aisles and atmospheric lighting added throughout the building, while the side chapel was filled with local businesses showcasing their wares. Thanks to Jackie Wilson for sponsoring the event, Lynne at Lizella clothing for bringing her fabulous range of attire, the fantastic models (including some familiar faces from across the parish!) and of course massive thanks to event coordinator Jan Freeman and her team from both churches were fantastic: we raised an amazing £5214.01!

Christian Aid Week 2025

This year we raised £2,678 for Christian Aid during the week in May and with the Quiz, which was £281 more than last year! The Christian Aid team would like to thank all those who gave generously whether it was supporting the quiz or giving through the red and e-envelopes. Supporting Christian Aid really embraces Jesus' teaching of loving thy neighbour. The



money will make a real difference to those living in poverty or suffering the effects of war and natural disasters. Next year's C.A. week is 10-16th May 2026—put the date in your diary, and keep praying for the work of Christian Aid

Eco Church - Love your Burial Ground/ Churches Count on Nature 2025



The week 7th-15th June was both Love your Burial Ground Week and Churches Count on Nature 2025— part of the Big Green Count. The idea is for churches across the country to observe and record the wildlife on their land. During the week, **Walter Gibson** took a walk through the churchyard at St John and the Holy Cross...

I recently went on a nature recording workshop run by Cheshire Wildlife Trust and learnt how to use the iNaturalist app. If you are interested in identifying and recording plants or insects or animals you see this is a great and simple way to do it. You can upload your observations and if they are verified they can be used to help conservation scientists. So armed with my app, I walked round St John's churchyard and observed. It was a good time to do it as a lot of wildflowers are out at the moment. I uploaded all my observations to iNaturalist, and also 'Beautiful Burial Grounds', a project run by Loving God's Acre, who help to organise this weeklong event. So these will be added to those of other churches around the country. This is what I found:



Above, Foxgloves at St John's

WILDFLOWERS

Planted

Ox-Eye Daisy

Rough Hawkbit

Knapweed

Birds-foot

Trefoil Red Campion

Foxglove

Not Planted (already present or self-seeding)

Common Sorrel

Cow Parsley

Germander

Speedwell

Nettles

Cat's Ear

Lesser Stitchwort

Buttercups

Common Ramping Fumitory

Orange Hawkweed ('foxes and cubs')

Willowherbs

Not Identified as yet

Member of the carrot family

Member of the Sunflowers, Bellflowers, Fanflowers and Allies family

ANIMALS AND INSECTS

Toad

Bees

Black Aphids

I would urge you if you are passing and have time, to take a walk around yourself. There are many plants which have just appeared where we have left the grass uncut. At the back of the churchyard is some beautiful speedwell and stitchwort. To the side, along the village hall, there is some kind of wild carrot, and a lovely pink fumitory, which is quite unusual. The big surprise was a very large toad under one of the reptile shelters. So far this year I've seen field voles and a shrew under these but no lizards. There is definitely life in the churchyard!

Also during the week, pupils from Eaton Primary visited St Thoams' churchyard to do their own Count on nature: and they also enjoyed themselves whilst finding some wildlife, as the pictures below and overleaf show—thanks to the staff and members of church who made that possible!





Pupils from Eaton Primary helping to count nature at St Thomas'

Link Editor - could this be you?

After 11 years of faithful service, our Link Editor Andy Jobson has decided it's time to hand over the responsibility to a fresh set of eyes. Andy has done an amazing job of keeping communication within the parish going, even through the tricky times of COVID, and we thank him for all he has given. We are hoping that a gradual handover with a new Editor could take place over the next few months, so his expertise can be passed on! The Link provides regular comment and communication across the parish, and we want to see it continue to flourish for many years to come - would you be able to be a part of that journey?

We are looking for someone who is good at proof-reading, adept at formatting and editing on word-based documents, and can work to deadlines. If this is you, or someone you know, please get in touch with Revd Jim or Andy to find out more.

Bible study @ The Dray's

Since the start of autumn last year, a group from across the three churches has been meeting at The Dray's Coffee Shop in Eaton for Bible study—beginning by looking at the Heroes of the Old Testament, then reading our Advent book, before moving onto a selection of the Psalms, we are currently making our way through the Acts of the Apostles. It is an informal way to learn, encourage one another and share our



joys, struggles and wisdom of following God. There are no experts, and no question is a silly one! So if you want to learn a bit more, come and join in on a Friday at 10am!

St Thomas' Church

BBQ

✦ *for St Thomas' Day!* ✦



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*Members of the Tarporley Flower Club
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***Tarporley Community Centre between
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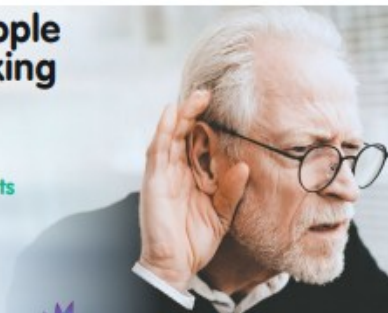
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