

TARPORLEY PARISH

St Helen's, Tarporley
St Thomas', Eaton
St John and the Holy Cross, Cotebrook



Tarporley Parish

50p

The Link

Tarporley Parish magazine

April 2025



Ole! Great fun was had at the Spanish Wine and Tapas evening in March!

ANDREW P. DEAN

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

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

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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 April 2025

April 6th	PASSION SUNDAY	
St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
Tarporley Chapel	7.00pm	<i>Refresh</i>
April 13th	PALM SUNDAY	
St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tarporley Chapel	7.00pm	<i>Refresh</i>
April 20th	EASTER SUNDAY	
The Dray's	6.30am	Sunrise Communion followed by breakfast at The Dray's, Eaton
St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion
St Helen	4.00pm	Evensong
April 27th	EASTER 1	
St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
May 4th	EASTER 2	
St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St John	11.15am	Holy Communion

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

The Rector Writes:-

'Hello darkness my old friend'. So sang Simon and Garfunkel on 'Sound of Silence'. It may seem strange to be thinking about darkness when the days are getting longer, and the sun is shining brighter, but it is darkness that I am focusing on at the present, as I look towards Holy Week.



This year on Maundy Thursday we will have a special service called *Tenebrae* at St Helen's at 7.30pm. *Tenebrae* is the Latin word for darkness, and during the service as we listen to the story of the last hours of Jesus' life, so candles will be extinguished to symbolise the enveloping darkness that Jesus must have felt, as he was abandoned, betrayed, imprisoned, denied, beaten and crucified. The service contains portions of the Psalms sung by plainsong, speaking of lament and despair as well as and moments of silence.

However, as the church fades to darkness, and Jesus' abandonment seems complete, one candle remains: we do not extinguish the final candle, although we do cover it for a short time. It symbolises the hope that we find in the empty tomb of Christ: death could not bind him, even though, for a moment, he lay dead. In the smallest of lights we might find the greatest of hope: it's Friday, but Sunday is coming. As John writes in his prologue that we hear every Christmas: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

I find the service of *Tenebrae* a very vivid and poignant way to reflect on the darkness of Holy Week, and the bright light of Easter day seems even brighter after the darkness of what has gone before. Will you join me as we welcome my old friend darkness this Holy Week?? And perhaps in the darkness and the sound of silence, we might even hear God's voice...

Jim

Done Room official reopening!

As the building work on the Done Room is now finished, we will be holding an official reopening on **Sunday 27th April at 11.15am**, when The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Alexis Redmond, and Sir Phil Redmond will do the honours. You are all invited to join us for opening, with the chance to look around inside and see all the improvements, enjoy some light refreshments and say thank you to all those who donated towards the project. So please put the date in your diary and come along!



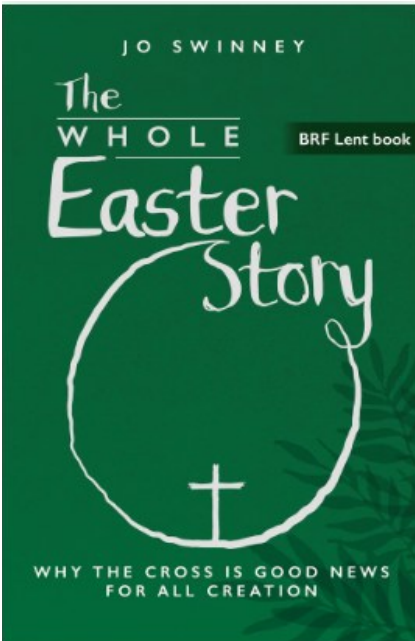
APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will this year be on **11th May at 11am** at St Helen's, after May's Cafe Church; this is the time and vote for church representatives for the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and look back at the life of our parish and its accounts for 2024.

All members of the Electoral Roll are able to vote at the meeting, as well as be nominated to join the Parochial Church Council (PCC) or stand as Churchwarden. We will have 3 vacancies for PCC this year so please prayerfully consider whether you could serve on PCC – if you want to know more, or hear about what being on PCC entails, please talk to one of the Churchwardens or Revd Jim.

Please remember to fill out your Electoral Roll form and return them either to church or to the Electoral Roll Officer at 32 Torr Rise, Tarporley, CW6 0UE by **Sunday 20th April 2025**. Full reports and information will be sent out to all members of the Electoral Roll in early May by email—if you would like a paper copy please contact Revd Jim

Book Review: *The Whole Easter Story* By Jo Swinney



By the time this is in print, Lent will be well underway. If you haven't tried it already, it is not too late though to look to our Lent book for inspiration, and join one of the weekly discussion groups (*Fridays at 10am at the Dray's in Eaton, or Wednesdays at 10.45am at St Helen's*)

Most Lent books focus on Jesus and his journey to the cross, and what that means for us. Lent is a time when we try and understand God's redeeming love for us more deeply. A time to deepen our relationship with our Father in heaven.

This year's Lent book reminds us that God's love is for the *whole* of creation: "and God so loved the *world* that he sent his only

begotten son ...". Jesus came to save all the world on the cross, not just humanity. What does that mean when we reflect on the power of the cross and the love of God?

This book unpicks this novel angle for us. The author, Jo Swinney, is well qualified to do so: she is the daughter of one of the founders of the Christian eco charity A Rocha, and is presently their communications director. Her whole life has been spent in nature conservation. The book is structured so that there is one chapter for each day of Lent. One of the delightful features of this book is that each chapter ends with a drawing of a creature that A Rocha has helped to save. Each day has a different theme and starts with a relevant piece of scripture, followed by a reflection, some questions to think about, and a short prayer.

Engaging with conservation and caring for our planet is increasingly recognised as a form of mission. This book reminds us it is also part of God's good news for us in Jesus.

Walter Gibson



Spring-time
Afternoon Tea
in the Done Room

Saturday 26th April, 2.30 - 4.00pm.

**Cake and gift stalls, raffle, tombola,
children's activities and games.**

**All are welcome at this Social Afternoon,
raising funds for St
Helen's Church repairs
and maintenance.**

**Please come
along and enjoy!**



**Admission £3 adults, £1 children
includes Tea/Juice and Cake**

**Many stalls to buy from and games to enjoy as
well as delicious refreshments!**

Chester North East Wales Organists and Choirmasters Association (CNEWOCA) are paying a visit to St Helen's Church for their monthly meeting on **26th April at 1.00pm**. There will be a short talk on the history of the church and of our pipe organ, followed by a demonstration of the capabilities of this lovely instrument. Following this, Association members will be let loose to try out the organ. There should be a lot of good music!

Visitors are most welcome to come and listen, or to join in with the playing if they feel brave enough. I (Chas) intend to remain in the church after the members have departed for St Boniface Church, Bunbury (approx 2.30pm). I would LOVE to introduce any interested persons from our parish to the organ, with a personal hands on explanation on how it works, how it is played, etc.

Why not make an afternoon event of this, combined with the Done Room Afternoon Tea (2.30 – 4.00pm)?

For more details, contact Chas: 07874280112

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.

One Green Thing



On Friday 28th February we held our second Eco Church film night. In all, 36 people

attended the screening at St Helens. Welcomed with a glass or two of Fairtrade wine and snacks (thanks Netty), our generous audience not only ensured we covered our costs but enabled us to raise over £200 for our adopted overseas Eco good cause Smart Havens Africa (SHA). this amount including sales of the book "Six Inches of Soil". Having listened to our audience from our first screening in October 2024 we had a break in the middle for comfort, socialising and refreshment. Introduced by Walter, the film was preceded by a thank you message from Anna Rweyora founder and Managing Director of SHA, followed by a short CNN film explaining what their work in building climate-smart homes for women to end poverty

Six Inches of soil starts with the arresting line below, a very sobering thought : *"Despite all our accomplishments, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact it rains."* (Paul Harvey (1978) U.S. radio broadcaster). The film is the inspiring story of three British farmers standing up to the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food – to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. It is a story of courage, vision and hope. The message is about reconnecting with our food, regenerating our soils, ourselves and our communities, and benefitting everyone. It is not just for farmers but needs everyone to be involved. As Walter summarised, the film was inspiring and thought-provoking with a strong message that regenerative farming can be made to work commercially. Thank you to all who came to support the event.

<https://groundswellag.com/> is the web address for the agricultural show that promotes regenerative farming. Our own Peter Jones has a presence there. Keen to find out what the Church of England are doing with their own land, Walter found a paper from the Church Commissioners about their approach to sustainable farming - please get in touch with Walter for the details.

Our next Eco Church film night 25th April – watch this space!

Just one green thing: try making your own compost to put on the garden instead of fertiliser, use manual methods to remove weeds, and try and avoid pesticides

HOLY WEEK

13th April - Palm Sunday

9am Holy Communion *St Thomas' Eaton*
10am Holy Communion *St Helen's Tarporley*

17th April - Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Tenebrae - a service of darkness
St Helen's Tarporley

18th April - Good Friday

10am Messy Church *Done Room*
2pm Meditations at the Cross
St Helen's Tarporley

20th April - Easter Day

6.30am Sunrise Communion followed by breakfast
The Dray's, Eaton
9am Holy Communion *St Thomas' Eaton*
10am Holy Communion *St Helen's Tarporley*
11.15am Holy Communion *St John and the Holy
Cross Cotebrook*
4pm Evensong *St Helen's Tarporley*

*All welcome as we journey to the
cross and the empty tomb of
Jesus*



We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Elizabeth Ann Posnett

We pray for those who have been baptised:

Lily Luna Lamont

FUN, FUND-RAISING FASHION SHOW

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Meetings at Tarporley Community Centre
on 2nd Thursday, September to June at
12.00pm. Coffee from 12.30pm. If you'd like
to come as a guest, please contact
membership@tastarporley.uk beforehand.



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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.

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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).

Each month spectacular floral designs are created by a skilled demonstrator on the stage before an audience of members, guests and visitors.

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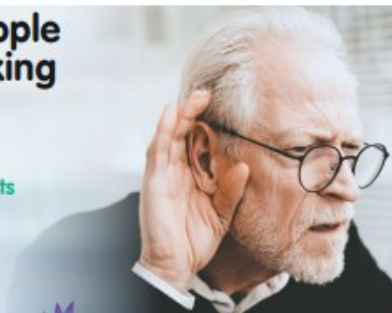
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