

TARPORLEY PARISH

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



£1

The Link

Tarporley Parish magazine

January 2026



Our Café Church themes for 2026 will look at some of the parables of Jesus—they are not just memorable stories, but ways to understand more about who God is. All welcome in the Done Room from 9.30am on the second Sunday of the month

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

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR THE MONTH January 2026

January 4th

St Thomas'
St Helen's
St John's

THE EPIPHANY

9.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.15am	Holy Communion

January 11th

Done Room
St Thomas'

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9.30am	Café Church
4.00pm	Holy Communion

January 18th

St Thomas'
Tarporey Chapel

EPIPHANY 2

9.00am	Holy Communion
10.45am	Joint Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
4.00pm	Evensong

January 25th

St Thomas'
St Helen's
Done Room

EPIPHANY 3

9.00am	Songs of Praise
10.00am	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Messy Church

February 1st

St Thomas'
St Helen's
St John's

EPIPHANY 4

9.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.15am	Holy Communion

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

We celebrate with those who have been married in Church:



Stefan Palejowski and Lili Cooper

We celebrate with those who have joined the Church in baptism:

Hulton Reid

Reuben Oates

Finlay Oates

The Rector Writes:-

It may be strange to think of rest at the start of a new year, but maybe after all the busyness of Christmas, we need to find a more sustainable rhythm for life rather than the endless cycle of hustle and bustle.



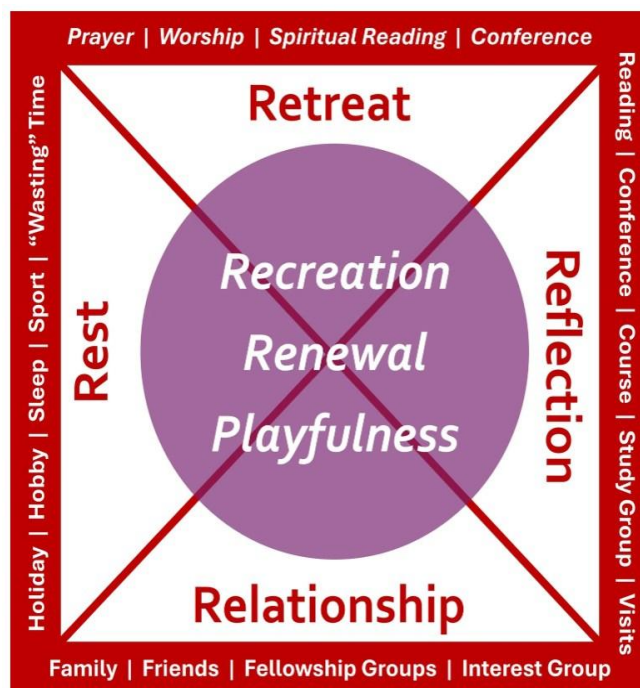
In that vein, from Easter Monday until the start of July I will be taking a sabbatical. In this Diocese, Licensed clergy are eligible to apply for a three-month sabbatical every seven years of service (with service starting after curacy has ended), so long as they have been in their present post for at least three years. Though I have been an incumbent since 2013, this will be the first sabbatical I've taken: due to COVID and moving parish, it's a little late!!

The point of a sabbatical is to have a dedicated time of Sabbath, of drawing aside to be with God. Just as the people of Israel were given the gift of Sabbath to rest from work and reorientate themselves in relationship with God on one day a week, so this rhythm of rest and worship seeped into the rest of their corporate life. Jesus himself often made Sabbath times in his life, drawing aside to rest, reflect, pray and be refreshed.

Chester Diocese sees sabbaticals as a healthy model of recreation and renewal comprising of four elements: rest, retreat, reflection, and relationship. During my three months, I will have the opportunity to go on retreat, and I am planning on visiting one of my favourite places—Lindisfarne, hoping to walk across the causeway and able to stay on the island for a few nights when all the tourists have departed, and reflecting again on the life of one of my favourite saints, Cuthbert. I'm also planning on doing some reading and research on one of my favourite poets, Denise Levertov, so this will give me a bit of focus to my time. Aside from this, there should be time for rest, relaxation and time to catch up with some friends.

I won't be completely absent (I'll only be physically out of the parish for about a week, so I'll be seen around the place and at school!), and there are one or two things that I am coming back for. I recognise just how much of a privilege and a luxury it is to go on sabbatical, so thank you all for your support and prayers as I prepare.

As I was reflecting with my spiritual companion, the sabbatical will be an important moment to reflect on my identity: as I stop being 'on duty' for three months, who am I? How does status and importance, busyness and 'doing' shape who I am?? The life of the parish will continue without me there, and perhaps it will be a useful moment to realise that I am not indispensable! There may be some uncomfortable truths to face!



In the meantime, there is a lot of sort out before I go: rotas to fill, so that services will continue, other things to prepare in advance. I am grateful as ever to colleagues who will cover services, and you as church members who will be picking up the slack temporarily. And before then there are still the small matters of Christmas and Easter to attend to...

While we might not all be as fortunate as to have a sabbatical, perhaps it is a good reminder for us all at the start of a new year to think again about implementing for ourselves a more life-giving rhythm of rest, retreat, reflection and relationship in our lives, that brings the fullness of life that God wants for us. If you would like to think about that for yourself, and speak with me about that, do get in touch...ideally before Easter!!

Jim

Tarporley Community Christmas 2025



On Sunday 7th Dec, with the High Street closed in Tarporley, St Helen's was still open for children's crafts, interactive trails, Christmas refreshment and free present wrapping (see above Jane doing her best wrapping!!) Later in the day, there was also the blessing of the crib on the High Street, led by Revd Jim and Revd Mark from Tarporley Chapel, ably assisted by the Tarporley Silver Band as we sang carols and remembered those who gathered at the birth of Jesus. Despite the weather, it was a great way to welcome the festivities into the village!



Eco Church - Film night: 'Ocean'

The last Film Night of the year in November featured 'Ocean' with David Attenborough. It was a powerful film, highlighting the beauty and intricacy of life in our oceans, and how vulnerable it is to threats such as overfishing and climate change. It also illustrated just how important healthy oceans are in combatting global warming. Some of it made difficult viewing: seeing bottom dredging for scallops for example and how it destroys everything in its path. Huge changes have occurred in the ocean in the past 50 years, and this film shone a light on them. It also gave a message of hope for the future. As ever with an Attenborough documentary we can be astonished by the facts, perhaps the most arresting statement was; *"we have just discovered that ocean plankton remove over one third of our carbon emissions. We now know that they produce more oxygen than all the trees on Earth combined, this is equal to half of the air we breath."* Furthermore, scientists have discovered that given the chance marine life can recover very quickly. Marine protected areas allow restoration of abundant life once more. And this spills out to the seas around them, providing renewed fishing opportunities. Every country in the world has signed up to an agreement to designate 30% of the ocean as MPAs by 2030. This is the minimum for a sustainable ocean. David Attenborough's challenge to all of us is to make that happen. He finished with the line; *"if we save the sea, we save our world"*.

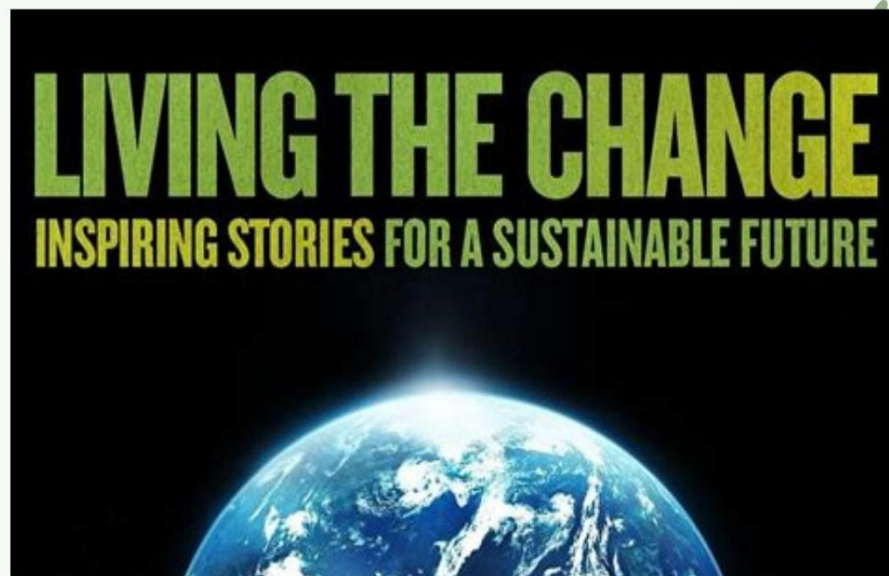


What can we do in the face of such a huge challenge? We can all take a closer look at where our seafood comes from and support fishermen who practice sustainable fishing. We can write to our MP to ask what the government is doing to implement the 30/30 agreement. And we can check out the organisation called Revive Our Ocean, who brought us the film, to find out what they do and how we can support their work. Go to <https://reviveourocean.org/> if you want to find out more about their work.

Watch this space for 2026 Film Nights! They will be on the last Friday of the month in February, May, August and November.

Tarporley Parish Eco Church - Film Night

*Friday 27th February 6.30pm
St Helen's Tarporley*



*This month, we will be showing
'Living the Change:
Inspiring stories for a sustainable future'*

Free entry: donations on the night to Smart Havens
Africa

Fair Trade refreshments available

RSVP if you're thinking of coming:
waltergibson52@gmail.com

Eco Church - Top 10 Ways to Save Energy This Winter*



As we are now in the depths of winter we thought we would issue a short reminder on ways to save energy. So here are the Top 10 Ways to Save Energy This Winter* and what you could save per year

- * Installing draught proofing could save up to £85 p/a.
- * Avoid using the tumble dryer could save you up to £50 p/a.
- * Switch off appliances on standby could save up to £45 p/a.
- * Take a 4-minute shower could save you up to £45 p/a.
- * Top up your hot water insulation could save you £40 p/a.
- * Do not overfill your kettle and use a tap aerator could save you £30 p/a.
- * Use fewer, colder laundry cycles could save £27 p/a.
- * Fill your dishwasher and use less often could save you £11 p/a.
- * Swap one bath per week for a shower could save you £10 p/a.
- * Turns off the lights when you leave the room could save £8 p/a.

Although I'm sure we're all doing most of these things you could save £351 per year. For more ideas on saving energy check out www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

**Figures correct as of July 2025 (GB), based on a typical three-bedroom semi-detached house in England, Wales or Scotland on a standard energy tariff and paying by direct debit.*

Gift Aid

Did you know, that if you are a tax payer, you can increase your weekly donation by 20% and it won't cost you a penny more? Simply sign up to Gift Aid and we can claim back the tax that you have already paid. Please consider this, you will find forms in your place of worship. This financial year, we are forecast to gain £15,000 through Gift aid. You might also consider giving your donation by standing order. Cash is sometimes in short supply these days, so giving by standing order is more convenient and by giving regularly, the treasurer can forecast our incomings more accurately. Standing order mandates will be in your place of worship. Thank you!

History Presentation

On Sunday 14th February 1926, St. Valentine's Day, people in Tarporley, Little Budworth and district had made their ways to mid-morning church and chapel services. No one was aware that events were already unfolding which were to cause so much distress and hardship and that would quickly grip the nation's attention. Fire bells announced an emergency at Oulton Hall, Little Budworth, with four fire brigades, including Tarporley's, responding to the call. It ended in disaster claiming the lives of six people. In its coming centenary year, we shall be holding a commemoration presentation on the evening of **Friday 13th February 2026** at St Helen's Tarporley. Given by Maurice Hunt, it is expected to be in great demand with admission by ticket only; details of which will be included in next month's magazine. Donations will be appreciated and directed jointly towards St Peter's in Little Budworth and Tarporley Parish.

Churchyard Noticeboards



Thanks to Councillor Charles Hardy for the grant that helped us to purchase noticeboards for the three churches to help keep people updated with what we are doing to be more eco-friendly in our churchyards!



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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
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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
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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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