

TARPORLEY PARISH

St Helen's, Tarporley

St Thomas', Eaton

St John and the Holy Cross, Cotebrook



Tarporley Parish

50p

The Link

Tarporley Parish magazine

June 2025



***The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Alexis Redmond, and Sir Phil,
officially reopening the Done Room***

ANDREW P. DEAN

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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 June 2025

June 1st

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

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

June 8th

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

PENTECOST

June 15th

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

TRINITY SUNDAY

June 22nd

St Helen's	10.00am	Confirmations with Bishop Sam
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TRINITY 1

June 29th

St Thomas'	10.00am	Joint service of Holy Communion
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ST PETER AND ST PAUL/TRINITY 2

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

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

The Rector Writes:-

Since I last wrote a Rector's letter, one Pope has died, and another has already been chosen, whilst the search for a new Archbishop of Canterbury continues slowly and quietly....



As the papal conclave convened, I saw a quotation from Pope Benedict XVI, who was asked (some years before he was chosen) whether the Holy Spirit was responsible for the choice of the new pope: *"I would not say so, in the sense that the Holy Spirit picks out the Pope... I would say that the Spirit does not exactly take control of the affair, but rather like a good educator, as it were, leaves us much space, much freedom, without entirely abandoning us. Thus the Spirit's role should be understood in a much more elastic sense, not that he dictates the candidate for whom one must vote. Probably the only assurance he offers is that the thing cannot be totally ruined."*

That last phrase stuck with me: *Probably the only assurance he offers is that the thing cannot be totally ruined.*

At the start of this month, we again celebrate the birth of the Church, on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples, giving them an experience of God that both encouraged them, and drove them to spread the message of Jesus throughout the world. And later in June, we welcome a group of people coming for Confirmation, confirming their belief in that same Jesus, and asking for God's Spirit to continue to confirm that faith and lead them into new life.

For both the Church and individual believers, there is no guarantee that life will be stress free or without challenges. Yet with the Spirit there is hope and confidence of God's presence, and the assurance that (despite our best, human intentions) things won't be completely ruined...that's probably good enough!

Jim

Done Room reopening

On Sunday 27th April we had a fantastic gathering to celebrate the official reopening of the Done Room, after the recent renovations. The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Alexis Redmond, and Sir Phil Redmond unveiled a new plaque to commemorate the work, and thanked the generous donors and supporters of the project, with especial thanks to Phillip Posnett for heading up the project, and Stephen Wright for his sterling work in helping to secure grants for the work. Thank you to those who came along, and all who have supported the project in any way: it has made a huge (if sometimes invisible!) difference to the Done Room, and will keep the building in good stead for the coming years!



l-r: Stephen Wright, Sir Phil Redmond, Lady Alexis Redmond, Phillip Posnett and Revd Jim at the reopening

We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Adrian Roberts Marjorie Ridgway
Arthur Roberts Joyce Piercy



We pray for those who have been baptised:

Sienna Braithwaite Jett Braithwaite

We pray for those who have been married:

Nick Strong and Louise Holt

New Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

After 9 years of service as PSO, Liz Neely has decided to step down, after finding a very suitable replacement: Fiona Kay. Liz writes: *'I appeared in The Link as PSO for Tarporley Parish in June 2016 though an awful lot of reading manuals and chats with another PSO (now head of the Safeguarding Team for Chester Diocese) came ahead of that closely followed by a course for new leaders at Church House. Before that, I had to decide if I could take on the responsibility of being the lead person for safeguarding in our churches but, knowing there was full support from the Rector and a whole office of people at Church House, I decided to jump in and see what happened ... firmly believing that perhaps this is where I was being led and 'someone had to do it anyway'! During the last nine years we are fortunate to have been free of any serious safeguarding issues. Careful monitoring of church activities where children have been involved has always been first and foremost but reaching out to the wider church family and asking for their support, watchfulness and care of their neighbours has been important too. Now it is time for fresh eyes, new ideas on how we can each play a part in keeping all our church families safe and someone else leading that. However, safeguarding doesn't go away ... It's like breathing and you look out for your friends and family every day just the same.'*



Incoming PSO Fiona Kay (pictured left) introduces herself: *Hello. I'm Fiona Kay! I have lived in Eaton for 25 years and attend St Thomas' Church. I live with my husband and we have two grown children. I retired from teaching a few years ago after 30 years in the classroom. I now do some tutoring and enjoy walking, travelling and reading 'cosy' crime in my leisure time. As the new PSO I am looking forward to meeting more people in the Parish and helping them on their safeguarding journey. Safeguarding is important to protect, and look out for, the young and vulnerable in our Parish. Whilst safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, the PSO, along with Jim, acts as a point of contact for parishioners who have safeguarding concerns. I will be on hand to help with the DBS completion process and to encourage you to complete the online safeguarding modules. So I thank you in advance for your cooperation with these.*

Eco Church Biodiversity Loss: what can we do about it?



The decline of biodiversity in Britain is disturbing: Out of 10,000 species (animals, plants etc) in the UK – 16% are at risk of becoming extinct. The worst examples are a 54% reduction in flowering plants, 43% reduction in our bird population, (we have 30 million less house sparrows than in 1970). Butterfly species have been reduced

by 50%. Hedgehog numbers have declined by 75% since the year 2000. Of our bees, wild, solitary and bumble 13 species have become extinct and another 35 are under threat.

What are the main causes of Biodiversity loss?

Loss of habitat, the use of pesticides and other chemicals, unfriendly gardens, increased traffic, climate change, pollution and plastics.

What can be done?

Whilst many issues are out of the control of local communities, we can get involved at all levels. There are actions we can take as individuals or communities, in our own gardens or on community land such as village greens, churchyards, schools, picnic areas.....the list goes on.

Nationally

June 7th – 15th is the annual Great Big Green Week, the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. During the week, communities, schools, businesses, places of worship and more join together in a wave of support for action to protect the planet. If you would like to find out what is happening in our area look at: www.greatbiggreenweek.com Locally Chester Green Weekend is happening on 7th and 8th June 2025. For more information see: chestergreenweekend.co.uk

At a Community Level

During Great Big Green Week the Church of England are running an initiative called "Churches Count on Nature" when hundreds of church communities across the country take part in a week-long nature count to monitor and celebrate the biodiversity in churchyards this takes place from Saturday 7th June to Sunday 15th. In Eaton we have invited the pupils and staff of Eaton Primary School to spend time in the Church yard to make their own observations and count the different types of flora and fauna that they see.

Eaton Community Initiative

Mike and Mary Wilson with Lindsey Worrall and Nick Parker are looking for volunteers to join the Eaton Gardening Club, with ideas and suggestions as to how we can increase the biodiversity within the parish. Please email Mike with ideas, suggestions, and comments on mike.marywilson@btinternet.com

Our own Gardens

Here are ways we can help to increase biodiversity in our own gardens: Let grass grow longer in places, embrace decay try not to tidy up too much, give up chemicals, be more tolerant of weeds as they all provide nectar, seeds and shelter, (butterflies love nettles), choose plants with wildlife in mind to provide nectar, pollen, seeds and berries, encourage native trees, ensure soil is healthy, use peat free compost or make your own, provide water with a small pond or container, allow access to your garden, (hedgehogs can roam an area of between 10 and 20 hectares), note the changes and spread the word by taking part in national surveys such as The Big Butterfly Count or The Big Garden Bird Watch.

There's plenty we can do to make our own positive impact on biodiversity!



Infrared heater trials at St Thomas' Eaton

St Thomas' Heating

Church heating is often a contentious (and expensive!) issue, but a team at St Thomas' Eaton have led a successful project to provide a more eco-friendly and more efficient system for Eaton's church. Led ably by a group of engineers, Mike Wilson, Mike Tough and Brian Purchas, from autumn 2023 trials took place to ascertain the current output of the oil-fired boiler (which struggled to get the church up to 14deg during cold spells despite switching on 2.5 hrs before the service) and looked at alternative options—from heated pew cushions to air and ground source heaters and large electric wall radiators. There was a balance between trying to heat the people not the building, whilst also ensuring no lasting fabric damage, and above all creating a warm and welcoming church!

After visits to other churches, and even a heated pew test drive, the best system was found to be a combination of hybrid spec of blowers and infrared heaters: 5 blower heaters (switched on 2hrs before the service in winter), plus 8 infrared units, some or all switched on as the congregation arrived. After rigging up a trial heater and then getting the requisite permission from PCC and Diocese, local electrician Brian Rathbone completed a very high quality rewire/installation and all units have now been purchased and installed. The electrical spec was very comprehensive as the whole church needed re-wiring and we took the opportunity to replace the old lamps with modern dimmable LED's.

The cost is circa £9,000 the majority of which pays for the rewire and lighting. We have raised money over the past 2 yrs. with special events like "rock pop" and together with diocese grants and a gift from Jonathan Palmer MSV Oulton Park, we are just about there.



So all we need now is some cold weather!!

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Meetings at Tarporley Community Centre
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Tarporley Flower Club

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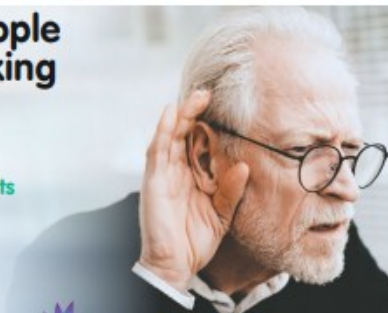
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