

TARPORLEY PARISH

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



Tarporley Parish

50p

The Link

Tarporley Parish magazine

March 2025



Some of the young leaders from Flourish's first session on February 14th!

ANDREW P. DEAN

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

PIANO TUNING

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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 March 2025

March 2nd

SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

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

Wed 5th March Ash Wednesday

St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes
St Helen	6.30pm	Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

9th

LENT 1

Done Room	9.30am	Café Church
St Thomas	4.00pm	Holy Communion
Tarporley Chapel	7.00pm	<i>Refresh</i>

16th

LENT 2

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	4.00pm	Evensong
Tarporley Chapel	7.00pm	<i>Refresh</i>

23rd

LENT 3

St Thomas	9.00am	Songs of Praise
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
Done Room	4.00pm	Messy Church
Tarporley Chapel	7.00pm	<i>Refresh</i>

30th

MOTHERING SUNDAY

St Thomas	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Helen	10.00am	Holy Communion
Tarporley Chapel	7.00pm	<i>Refresh</i>

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>

The Rector Writes:-

Now slide part C into part B..

It sounded the easiest thing in the world, but after 45 minutes of trying to put the bed together, it was a lot harder than it sounded. The temptation to just give up was very strong! Often the easiest sounding things are not actually easy...



At the end of January it was a joy to have our friends from Tarporley Chapel join us for a special joint service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Revd Mark reminded us very powerfully of what our role is as the Church in Tarporley—we are to:

- ⇒ Love well
- ⇒ Preach the Gospel
- ⇒ Be one

As this edition of The Link lands through your door, we should be about to enter the season on Lent, preparing ourselves and souls before the joy and celebration of Easter. While we are often encouraged to 'give something up' for Lent, I wonder if perhaps we should instead return to Mark's words and make it our Lenten mission to put them into practice? Love well. Preach the Gospel. Be one. They sound easy to do, but putting them into practice is another thing!

To spend 40 days trying to love well: loving God, our neighbours, and even ourselves well. And not just say it, but really do it. Loving is hard! To spend 40 days preaching the good news of God: that love, forgiveness, mercy, hope are offered to all regardless of who they are and what they have done. This might be in what we say and do, the choices we make everyday. To spend 40 days being intentionally united with other believers: joining regularly to worship, or maybe even doing something different alongside other Christians (perhaps coming along to the session of *Refresh* on a Sunday evening at The Chapel, or taking up the challenge to read and discuss this year's Lent book, *The Whole Easter Story* on Friday mornings). Living up to the name of Christian is hard.

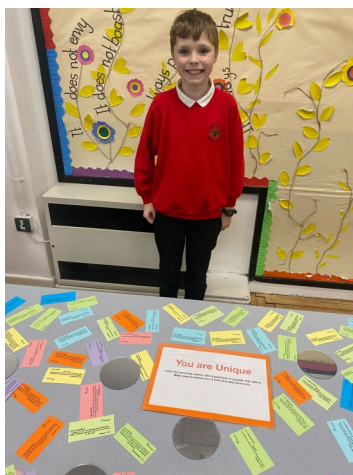
But better rather that we should try to do all those things than simply to give up....Sisters and brothers, let us not *give* up this Lent, but *live* up!

Jim

Flourish

On Friday 14th February, at the end of the school day, we held the first session of Flourish, the new worshipping community based at Tarporley Primary school. Flourish is a Church of England initiative designed to make the most of the connections between church schools and parishes, as well as being child-led and encouraging young leaders.

Based on the theme of love, the members of the school ETHOS group had helped to plan and deliver the act of worship, ably assisted by Flourish Children's and Families Worker, Debbie Wood. Overall 47 people came along, from children at the school and their parents, to teenagers and those in the community. There was time for refreshments, chat, singing and thinking about how much God loves us, all with the reminder of the story of the Good Samaritan. The young people did a fantastic job and are already buzzing for next time!



Flourish next meets on 4th April at 1.30pm—everyone is welcome to come along and worship!



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.

The Church of England's General Synod: Feb 2025

General Synod is the (largely elected) group who determine many of the rules and governance of the Church of England. Made up of Bishops, Clergy and Lay people, Synod gathers 2-3 times a year to make and revise policy and legislation. Much of this is uncontentious, but sometimes the work of Synod hits the news headlines. Key words at this group of sessions were "trust", "transparency", and "culture". The debates most picked up by the media this time were around the oversight and operation of the Church of England's safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

In the Diocese of Chester we are reliant on an army of Parish Safeguarding Officers - volunteers who ensure that we are following best policy and practice as we make churches as safe as they can be. They are supported by Diocesan Safeguarding Officers, who are paid professionals and incredibly skilled. Although PSOs and DSOs shape this work, safeguarding is all of our responsibility, and the question of how we take this forward was front and centre at Synod.

Last year, Synod were offered four models for safeguarding. We rejected models 1 and 2 as not containing enough radical change. Models 3 and 4 are both radical. Both call for independent oversight of our safeguarding work: the creation of an external body which will hold us to account in this work and increase consistency across the Church of England.

Model 4 is more radical, because it also requires all of the Church's safeguarding professionals to be redeployed to an external charity, who will operate independently of the Church. This model is complex, and in the end Synod was unsure of whether it would be achievable without causing further harm to those who are most vulnerable. Instead, we settled on a "Model 3.5" – independent oversight followed by further work towards Model 4 – independent operation.

Of course, the reports of these debates in the press lacked nuance, and failed to reflect the thoughtfulness and prayer which was evidence through the debate, and the compassion and repentance which ran as a theme through these debates.

Nevertheless, as a church, we have failed, and sometimes continue to fail, the most vulnerable among us. The Diocese of Chester gets this more right than many other places, but there is no room for complacency. The work approved at Synod this week will take time to enact, perhaps years. Safeguarding remains all of our business – all of us have a responsibility to do better. At Synod we spent some time in prayer for those who have been harmed by the Church, and I ask you to join with me in continuing to pray for all who have experience church-based abuse, and those who care for them.

***Revd Jenny Bridgman,
General Synod member***



refresh

Join us this Lent as we look at the foundations of the Christian faith with time to chat over coffee and cake.

Subjects include: Conversion, Bible, Prayer, Service, Fellowship, and Sharing our Faith

Starting Sunday March 9th,
7-8:30 pm at Tarporley Chapel

Speakers include: Bishop Mark Tanner,
Rev. Jim Bridgman, Rev. Jenny Bridgman,
Rev. Mark Elder

for more information, contact
mark@tarporleychapel.org.uk

COME AND BE REFRESHED

One Green Thing



With spring just around the corner, you might be thinking about getting out into your garden and planting some seeds. Did you know that the soil you choose to plant your seeds in can have wider impacts on the environment?

Why use peat free composts?

Peatlands are home to many species of plants and animals. They store carbon which is released when peat is harvested to be used in bags of compost. It renews at only 1mm per year and so peat is essentially a non-renewable resource. You can make an easy switch by choosing peat free compost. If we all choose to use it, we will reduce the demand for peat and so protect precious peatland habitats. All the garden centres offer peat free compost, and it is easy to spot PEAT FREE written on the bag.

How good are peat free composts?

Peat free composts have been refined over the years to provide a good growing medium for growing on and for mature plants. In the past there have been some reports of bad outcomes for seedlings in peat free compost but I think things have improved. I have had success with John Innes no.1 Peat Free. Why not give it a try and please let us all know how you get on?

Just One More Green Thing...

Since 2007, **Earth Hour**, has been known for the “lights off” moment with people from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

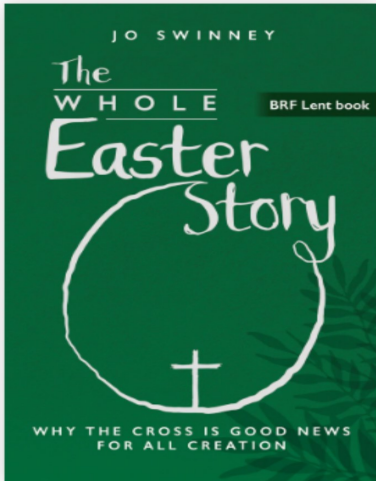
Earth Hour 2025 is on Saturday 22nd March between 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Are you going to switch off?

If you would like to know more about Earth Hour look at: www.earthhour.org



Tarporley Parish

Lent Book 2025



*Join in discussion
groups on*
**Fridays from
7th March
10am at
The Dray's, Eaton**
or
**Wednesdays from
12th March
10.45am at
St Helen's**

*Enjoy something to eat and drink and time to talk and pray.
Come along and share the journey this Lent!*

EVERYONE WELCOME!



We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:

Emily Mason

Stanley Downham

Godfrey Roberts

Margaret Heath

Tarporley Parish Health and Safety Officer

We are looking for someone to join our Fabric Team and work with all three churches in the Parish to keep our buildings and churchyards safe for congregations and visitors alike.

This important role would suit someone with experience of risk assessment and healthy and safety management, but it is not essential as there are already risk assessment documents in place. It would entail an annual inspection of all three churches, identifying any risks and making recommendations for any actions required to the Fabric Team and Churchwardens.

If you are interested in knowing more please contact Phillip Posnett.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 16th May 2025

FUN, FUNDRAISING FASHION SHOW

at

St Helen's Church, Tarporley

Raising funds for

*****The Eco upgrade heating project at St Thomas', Eaton
and**

*****The Done Room renovation project, Tarporley.**

Full details to follow in March

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Meetings at Tarporley Community Centre
on 2nd Thursday, September to June at
12.0pm. Coffee from 12.30pm. If you'd like
to come as a guest, please contact
membership@tastarporley.uk beforehand.



**Volunteer to help older
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Working to reduce loneliness and isolation,
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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
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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
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There is no meeting in August).*

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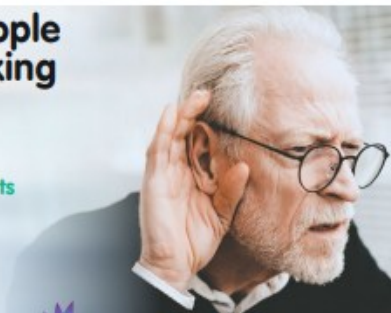
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