

# THE LINK

50p

August 2023

## Tarporley Parish Magazine



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**Weekday Service** At St Helen's each Wednesday at 10.00am Holy Communion

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**Rector: Jim Bridgman, Rectory, High St, Tarporley CW6 0AG** **01829732491**

Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com) 07526243702

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**Tarporley: St Helen**

Churchwardens Phillip Posnett 01829260251

Liz Neely email: [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com) 07890470899

Treasurer Dave Smithson  
email [treasurer\\_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:treasurer_tarporleyparishchurch@yahoo.com)

P.C.C Secretary Paul Emerson 01829733147

**Cotebrook: St John and the Holy Cross**

Wardens Walter Gibson  
Peter Copland 01829732618

**Eaton: St Thomas**

Warden Amelia McCourty [aemccourty@btinternet.com](mailto:aemccourty@btinternet.com) 01829 730155

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Link Editor Andy Jobson 01829732437  
email [jobsonajpj@btinternet.com](mailto:jobsonajpj@btinternet.com) items for 'The Link' should  
be emailed to the above by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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Electoral Roll: Mike Kiddle, 1 Woodlands Way, Tarporley, CW6 0TP  
01829 733431

Safeguarding Officer Liz Neely email [neelyeliza@hotmail.com](mailto:neelyeliza@hotmail.com)

**Contact points**

Please do not hesitate to report cases of sickness, pastoral need to the Rector.

To make arrangements for a Funeral please contact the Rector. 01829732491

Done Room Booking Phillip Posnett 01829260251

To ask about Wedding arrangements, Baptisms or general enquiries

please contact our Rector Jim by email on

Email: [revjimb1017@gmail.com](mailto:revjimb1017@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.tarporleyparishchurch.org](http://www.tarporleyparishchurch.org)

## SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

### August 2023

**August 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

St Helen	9.30am	Café Church
St Thomas	4.00pm	Holy Communion

**20<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**Evensong is a great way to end a Sunday**, with singing, ancient liturgy and prayers - if you've never tried it, why not give it a go?!

**27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

Each Wednesday at 10.00am at St Helen's: Holy Communion.  
Follow us on Facebook:- Search:- [facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley](https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfTarporley)

## The Rector Writes:-

Writing this I am looking out at the rain falling outside, and memories of those sunny June days feel a long time ago! But despite the liquid all around me, I'm feeling pretty dry: dried up of inspiration and original thought. A lot of this comes down to confidence. Confidence in what I am doing, in who I am, in what I feel I have to offer. As humans we are often drawn to confidence, and people who are confident, rather than those who aren't. Parents and teachers aim to increase the confidence of children, because we know that amazing things are possible when we are confident.



I think self-confidence might be one of society's hidden problems: one of the consistent threads in the 13 years of ordained ministry is realising just how many people I speak to struggle with a lack of self-confidence or low self-esteem, whether in the church, outside of faith, or even fellow clergy. It always amazes me that often the most outwardly competent and self-assured people are the ones crippled by nagging self-doubt.

Yet at the same time there is a vein of triumphalism and supreme self-confidence that is seen in certain church individuals, more often these days seen in the stark arrogance of comments made on social media, especially when trying to argue that my view is the view of God when talking about same-sex marriage, trans-rights or women in ministry. Over the past year or so, social media has not been great advert for the Church of England in the ways that members have argued on platforms such as Twitter. For me, this over-confidence is rather repulsive.

I recently went on a night's retreat and one of the books I took with me was a collection of poetry by the American poet Denise Levertov, whose work I've been introduced to in recent years. I randomly opened the book onto a poem entitled 'The Tide', and was struck by this stanza:

*How confidently the desires  
of God are spoken of!  
Perhaps God wants  
something quite different.  
Or nothing, nothing at all.*

As one who is expected to speak confidently of who God is and what God wants, Levertov's words were a very welcome reminder. Perhaps God's plans aren't the same as mine; perhaps God's priorities are not actually the same as the Church's; perhaps God wants nothing at all. It gives room to pause. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts are not the same as ours:

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*Isaiah 55:8-9*

Whilst there is a link between faith and confidence, it may be a good idea to embrace the possibility that we don't always know what God wants. Yes, having faith and confidence in God is a vital part of being a follower of Jesus, but it can be a fine line. To be so confident runs the risk that we tame God, put God in a box so that we can never be surprised by God. As C. S. Lewis memorably puts it in his Narnia series 'Aslan is not a tame lion'; God is not a tame God. If we think we know all about God, it might be time to start from the beginning again...! God's ultimate unknowability is not a reason for doubt, but for confidence, for how could finite minds fully comprehend the infinite?

So this may be why you may notice me pausing a bit longer before speaking (with confidence?! ) from the pulpit....! *Perhaps God wants something quite different...*

*Jim*

# Eco Church Newsletter – Reaching for Silver

Dear Friends,

Following on from last month's Café Church which got us thinking about our environmental impact and ways to reduce it, we'd like to keep the conversation going and find out what actions each of us are taking or thinking of taking to minimise our impact on the planet. We want to learn from each other and encourage and support one another on our 'green journey'.

Last year all three Churches in our Parish were able to achieve the Eco Church Bronze Award for the actions we had taken to both reduce our environmental impact and increase the benefits our activities could have on the environment. This year we want to reach for the Silver Award. This will entail investigating what further actions and behaviors we can take under the broad headings of, Buildings, Land, Community, Lifestyles and Worship. We will be asking for more involvement from our congregations and, where possible, try and co-ordinate our activities as a Parish as well as taking decisions for our individual Churches.

Not all the steps we take towards the silver Eco Church award are going to be easy, we are aware that we need to get the balance right between following a greener agenda whilst taking a practical approach. A good example of this would be how we manage our Churchyards.

To this end, look out for a **short lifestyle survey** which will be coming your way soon from the Eco Church team. It will be available as a link in the newsletter or as printed copies in church. It will give us a snapshot across the parish of our collective lifestyles and identify where more support, resources and information are needed to help us make further changes.

Please take time to fill it in and expect to see more from the Eco Church team over the coming year in response as we go for Silver!

*Walter Gibson, Nick Parker and Revd Jim*

July 2023

### **The three churches at Tarporley Carnival on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July.**

On Carnival day the High Street in Tarporley was closed to traffic and the pavements lined with people watching the procession of floats move through the village toward the playing field for the official opening of the carnival.

The bells of St Helen's rang out to announce widely that the procession on its way; but the ringing may well have been drowned out locally by the joyful music of the marching bands and the cheering and chatter of the crowd.



**Having fun at Tarporley Carnival.**

**The view from the Church Tent at the Carnival**

**Some dates for your diary:-**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

**Three churches parish walk.**

A fairly leisurely circular walk of about 7.5 km (4.5 miles) through the Parish's glorious countryside visiting our three churches en-route with byo coffee and lunch breaks.

Please register your interest to the joint organisers-Gill Ellison, of Eaton Ramblers, 01829 782693 or Mike Scott , [hollybankscott@btinternet.com](mailto:hollybankscott@btinternet.com) 01829 733919, as soon as possible as numbers will be limited.

Full details will be provided to all interested parties shortly, and will be published in the Rector's weekly worship circular and the Eaton Village's August newsletter.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at St Helen's Church**

**TARPORLEY THROUGH TIME. Part one of a series of lectures/events.**

**FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER - SAVE THE DATE**

This is an early notice to announce that commencing from September 2023 the Parish will be hosting a series of lectures, presentations, displays and field trips exploring the history of Tarporley and District.

Running under the banner of ***Tarporley Through Time***, they will be held at St. Helen's Church, with Part One on Friday 22nd September 2023. Full details of Part One (including the theme and how to obtain tickets) will be given in the September ***Link***: watch this space!

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**The Bellringers' Quiz. Tarporley Community Centre**

7.30 for an 8.00pm start; the famous "Bell Ringers' Quiz"

Tickets are £10pp, with teams of up to 8, and are available from Jenny Christian at [christian908@btinternet.com](mailto:christian908@btinternet.com) or on 01829 732412.



Proceeds will be split equally between St Helen's Church and St Luke's Hospice.  
Tickets go fast so don't delay. Please join us; it is great fun!

### Registry

***We congratulate and pray for those baptised:***

Olivia Cooke

Freddie Farmer

Georgia Forth

Roman de Gaunza-Clays

Phoebe Hallett

Cerys Vanderpump

Jacob Williams



***We commend to God and pray for those who mourn:***

Lady Margaret McNeill

The photo below shows the proud parents as they watch Phoebe and Jim test the water prior to Phoebe's baptism.

We warmly welcome Phoebe and all those baptised into the church family.



# Mid-Cheshire Foodbank

At present, Mid-Cheshire Foodbank is running short of these long-life items

**Tinned potatoes / instant mash**

**UHT milk**

**Washing up liquid**

Keep praying for the Foodbank, its volunteers and its users.

There is a **collection point for the Foodbank at the back of St Helen's**

**church** just to the right of the main doors: two boxes labelled 'Foodbank'. St

Helen's is open most days from 9am-5pm, so please bring donations to church.

There are also **collection points at the back of St Thomas' and St John and the Holy Cross churches** - do bring along items on a Sunday.

## **Finally: Cotebrook Village Hall**

Cotebrook Village Hall, seek a Self Employed individual to assist in the general organisation and operation of a busy hall. Earnings £15 per hour for variable hours up to maximum of 25 hours per month.

Flexible hours, including working from home but some evening/weekend work required.

Individuals with administrative experience submit cv to [judithmjones@hotmail.com](mailto:judithmjones@hotmail.com) or for more particulars ring Judith Walters on 01829 760513.

## **Tarporley War Memorial Hospital**

**A quick reminder of the new services to be offered from Tarporley War Memorial Hospital (Phase 1.) (Late Summer /Autumn2022)**

The hospital will become a rural hub for the following:-

- Rapid Response Team enabling people to receive care and rehabilitation in their own homes.
- REACT Hospital at Home Team enabling improved access to patients in crisis who might otherwise need to go to hospital to receive treatment in their home.

**For further information or queries please email  
[fundraising@tarporleyhospital.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@tarporleyhospital.co.uk)**

## ***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).***

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# Jacqueline Wilson

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Working to reduce loneliness and isolation, Tarporley OPAL Club runs every Thursday with a hot lunch, entertainment and fun activities. We are looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team in a range of roles, from chatting and helping with activities, to driving or running errands.

No experience is necessary, we care a lot more about a smile and a desire to help others. To find out more, contact [janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk)

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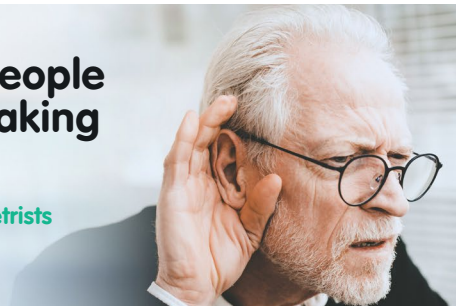
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